



Science for Society

Science for Man

Science in Thinking

BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY

All India Committee

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Registration No. S/86180 of 1996-97 under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961

A Voluntary Organization Committed to the Cause of Science, Culture and Scientific Outlook

OBITUARY

Breakthrough Science Society mourns the sad demise of Dr Nandivada Rathnasree

The Breakthrough Science Society mourns the sad demise of Dr Nandivada Rathnasree, Director of the Nehru Planetarium, Delhi, on 9 May 2021 due to COVID-19.

Dr Rathnasree did her PhD from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and postdoctoral research from the University of Vermont, USA. She made seminal contributions in many areas of observational astronomy, particularly on pulsars and binary stars. In 1996 she joined the Nehru Planetarium, Delhi and served there for the rest of her life, the last 21 years as its Director. Her untiring effort in popularising astronomy with an aim to inculcate scientific temper in the society, her gentle demeanour, and her humility won the hearts of thousands of students and youth who visited the planetarium.

She was instrumental in the restoration of the masonry-based observatories (Jantar Mantars) of Delhi and Jaipur, thus resurrecting the Indian legacy in observational astronomy. She also advised the National Council of Science Museums on the astronomy-related exhibits at its science centres. She was also the chief editor for class VI textbooks for NCERT.

With her death, we have lost an enthusiastic popularizer of science.

Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay
President

Soumitro Banerjee
General Secretary