

Prof. Anil Bhardwaj, PhD

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After M.Sc. from Lucknow University, and PhD from IIT-BHU, Dr. Bhardwaj joined the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in 1993 at Space Physics Laboratory (SPL) of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Trivandrum. He was the Director of SPL-VSSC during 2014-2017. He worked at NASA Marshall Space Flight Centre for about 2 years during 2004-2005 as NRC-Senior Research Associate on the Fellowship of US National Science Academy.

His primary research field is Planetary and Space Sciences and Solar System Exploration. He was Principal Investigator (PI) of SARA experiment on the first Indian Lunar mission *Chandrayaan-1*, and MENCA experiment on the first *Indian Mars Orbiter Mission*. He and his team have PI-lead experiments on *Chandrayaan-2* orbiter, and *Chandrayaan-3* Lander-Rover missions, the first Indian Solar mission *Aditya-L1*, as well as upcoming space missions. He has also used space-based (Chandra, XMM-Newton, Hubble), and ground-based (GMRT) Telescopes for studying solar system bodies.

Prof. Bhardwaj has published more than 200 peer-reviewed research papers in international journals and chapter in Books, and has supervised several Ph.D., M.Tech., M.Phil., M.Sc., B.Tech. students and PDFs. His research findings led to several Press Releases by NASA, European Space Agency, ISRO; Cover pages of American and European journals, and media highlights. He has been the Editor/Editorial Board Member of several international journals, member of Governing Council of a number of elite research institutions in India, and Chairman and Member of many National and International Science Committees. He was President of *Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) Planetary Sciences* during 2006-2010, *Vice-Chair of COSPAR Commission B* during 2012-2020. He is the Founding-President of *Indian Planetary Science Association (IPSA)*, and Board of Trustee of the *International Academy of Astronautics*, since 2023.

Prof. Bhardwaj is an elected *Fellow* of all the *three National Science Academies* in India, and of many other Academies/Societies, and has received recognition at both national and international level – including two most coveted science awards – *Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize* (2007) and *Infosys Prize* (2016). He is also a recipient of *INSA-Vainu Bappu Memorial International Award* (2016), *Decennial Award of Indian Geophysical Union* (2017), *J.C. Bose National Fellowship* (2019), *Prof. M. G. K. Menon Lecture Award* of NASI (2021), *AOGS Fellowship* and *INSA Distinguished Lecture Fellowship* (2023), to name a few.

A *Distinguished Alumni Awardee* of IIT-BHU (2015) and of Lucknow University (2022), Prof. Bhardwaj is revered by ISRO in 2017 with *highest in-service award – The Outstanding Achievement Award*.

A Chapter "A Rocket to Poke Martians" on *the Life and work of Prof. Anil Bhardwaj* is published in Children's Book "They Made What?" (2021).