

JITENDRA NATH GOSWAMI

Prof. J. N. Goswami was born in 1950 in Assam, and obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Physics from the Gauhati University, Assam, before joining the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for his PhD work. His PhD work dealt with studies of cosmic ray records in lunar sample and meteorites. He moved to the Physical Research Laboratory in 1973 and hold different positions and currently the Director of the laboratory. He spent several years at the University of California, Berkeley, and at San Diego, for post-doctoral research. Over the years he has visited Washington University, St. Louis, Vernadsky Institute, Moscow, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, and Max-Planck Institute, Mainz, for extended periods for conducting collaborative and independent research.

Prof. Goswami's research encompasses studies of the origin and early evolution of the solar system, solar stellar relationship, energetic particles in space, evolution of moon, asteroids and meteorites and geochronology. He was a co-investigator of the Indian cosmic ray experiment conducted on-board Space Shuttle Spacelab-3, and is a Principal Investigator of Lunar samples. He set up an ion microprobe laboratory in India and along with his team contributed fundamental new ideas regarding the origin and early evolution of the solar system and provided a geochronological framework for some of the earliest archean crustal components in the Indian shield. He has more than a hundred and fifty publications and a dozen invited review articles in peer reviewed journals. He is currently shouldering the responsibility as the Principal Scientist of the Chandrayaan-1 mission and also contributing towards planning of future Indian planetary missions.

Prof. Goswami has received various awards and honors that include INSA Young Scientist award, Young Associate of Indian Academy of Sciences, the NASA group achievement award and the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in earth and planetary sciences. He is currently a fellow of all the three science academies in India and also a council member of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore and National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad. He is an elected fellow of several international forums that include Meteoritical Society, Geochemical Society of USA, European Association of Geochemistry and International Astronautical Academy. He has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 2008. He is currently the President of the Astronomical Society of India and is a council member of several premier research institutes and organizations in India.