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Prof. Mangalathayil Ali Abdu is a senior researcher at the National Institute for Space Research - INPE. He has been pursuing research in space and atmospheric sciences areas focusing in the field of Aeronomy and ionospheric physics. He has been active in several international collaboration projects, and has made important contributions to our understanding of the interactive processes in the Earth's atmosphere-ionosphere-magnetosphere system. Through over 280 articles published in refereed journals and books, his research contributions have advanced our understanding of the many outstanding issues in solar-terrestrial physics that are of current concern to the scientific community. Among the most note-worthy of his findings concern the mechanisms to explain the generation and space-time distribution of plasma structuring of the earth's low latitude ionosphere, and their variabilities arising from direct solar forcing and from upward propagating wave disturbances originating from lower atmosphere sources. In recognition of his innovative research and active collaboration with international scientific groups, Prof. Abdu was awarded the COSPAR-ISRO Vikram Sarabhai medal in 2008. He has also received recognition form American Geophysical Union for excellence as a reviewer, form ELSEVIER publisher for two of his publications as the most cited ones during the period 2005-2010, and from INPE as an outstanding researcher.