



Annual Awards (2025)

Astronautical Society of India

(ASI)

Annual Awards

2025



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ASTRONAUTICAL **S**OCIETY OF **I**NDIA

(Regn. No. 317/90-91)

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1. About Astronautical Society of India

The Astronautical Society of India (ASI) was set up in 1990 to foster the development of astronautics in the country. ASI is engaged in the dissemination of technical and other information related to astronautics by conducting technical meetings, bringing out technical publications, and organizing exhibitions. The society is also playing an active role to promote the interests of other developing countries in the field of astronautics through the International Astronautical Federation, Paris, of which ASI is a voting member.

ASI has eminent personalities in the field of astronautics as Distinguished Fellows/Fellows on its roll. A Programme Council consisting of elected Distinguished Fellows/Fellows with Chairman, Space Commission, as its Ex-Officio Chairman, oversees the functioning of the society. An Executive Council consisting of nine members including the President and Vice-president, Executive Secretary and Treasurer, elected by the General body, looks after the day-to-day functioning of the Society.



2.Details of ASI Awards

Aryabhata Award, ASI Awards, ASI Space Gold Medals Awards

The Aryabhata Award, which is named after the fifth-century Indian Astronomer and Mathematician and also in commemoration of the first Indian satellite, Aryabhata, launched on 19th April 1975, is presented annually to an individual for outstanding lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India. The award consists of a citation and Rs. 2,00,000/- in cash.

ASI Awards are presented annually to individuals in recognition of their significant contributions made in India in the fields of [a] Rocket and Related Technologies [b] Spacecraft and Related Technologies [c] Space Science and Applications and [d] Space Systems Management. Each of the ASI awards consists of a citation and Rs. 1,00,000/- in cash.

ASI Space Gold medals for meritorious service are presented annually to the personnel who have made an outstanding contribution to the Indian Space Programme. ASI instituted this award from the year 2000 onwards, for which the corpus fund has been contributed by an eminent space scientist. The donor desires that the interest accrued on the corpus fund be used for awarding four gold medals annually.

An award committee is constituted each year by ASI for the selection of individuals for the awards evaluates all the nominations received. The committee may consider for the awards, persons who, in their opinion, have made outstanding contributions to the development of astronautics, apart from the nominations received.



3.Citation of Awardees

3.1 Aryabhata Awardee 2025



Shri Rajarajan A
Aryabhata Award – 2025



Shri A. Rajarajan, Distinguished Scientist and former Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), has made outstanding contributions to India's space programme through exceptional leadership in launch vehicle infrastructure, solid propulsion, and space technology. He played a pivotal role in advancing Gaganyaan, SSLV, Chandrayaan-3, and the country's first private rocket launch, **VIKRAM-S**, while strengthening India's self-reliance in space technology. His vision in developing launch infrastructure, fostering industry participation, and advancing composite technologies has significantly enhanced ISRO's launch capabilities and India's growing commercial space ecosystem.



3.2 ASI Awardees for the Year 2025



Shri Biju S R

ASI Award 2025- Rocket and Related Technologies



Shri Biju S.R., Director (Projects), Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), also serves as Programme Director for Gaganyaan and the Advanced Technology Systems Project. As Project Director of PSLV (2019–2024), he successfully led landmark missions, including Amazonia-1, RISAT-2B series, and Aditya-L1. He pioneered the operationalization of the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM), enabling space-based experiments for start-ups, industries, and academic institutions, and played a key role in PSLV productionization through industry participation. His leadership in developing critical avionics, the Integrated Vehicle Health Monitoring System, and indigenous onboard technologies has significantly strengthened India's launch vehicle and human spaceflight capabilities.



Shri Himanshu Shukla

ASI Award 2025 - Spacecraft and Related Technologies



Shri Himanshu Shukla, Senior Scientist at the Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, has made significant contributions to advanced surface engineering for spacecraft payload manufacturing. He developed India's first indigenous copper plating process for the Tungsten-Rhenium helix used in Travelling Wave Tube Amplifiers (TWTA), improving Ku-band TWTA efficiency and earning an Indian patent. He also developed and qualified ten vacuum-grade surface coating processes, strengthening indigenous TWTA manufacturing capabilities. His patented contamination-free anodizing process for 3D-printed spacecraft structures has enabled critical hardware for SPADEX, BHUTANSAT, Oceansat, and Gaganyaan missions. He is currently serving as Project Manager for GSAT-N3, CARTOSAT, MICROSAT, and G20 satellite projects.



***Shri Korada Hari
Venkata Durgarao***

ASI Award 2025 – Space Science and Applications



Dr. K. H. V. Durga Rao has made exceptional contributions to the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, through his leadership in disaster management and hydrology programmes. He played a key role in developing the Spatial Flood Early Warning System, National Water Resources Assessment, National Flash Flood Vulnerability Assessment System, and the National Database for Emergency Management. He also established the Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response at the Ministry of Home Affairs. A recipient of the prestigious Satish Dhawan Award and four ISRO Team Excellence Awards, he continues to strengthen national disaster management through space-based applications and international collaborations, including Sentinel Asia.



Shri Bijaya Kumar Behera

ASI Award 2025 – Space System Management



Shri Bijaya Kumar Behera is a senior executive at ISRO Headquarters, currently serving as Associate Scientific Secretary, Director (Administrative Services), and Director, Office of Budget & Economic Analysis. With nearly three decades of experience, he has made significant contributions to strategic planning, space policy, public administration, financial management, and institutional governance. He has played a key role in Department of Space budget formulation, Five-Year Plans, Vision 2047 initiatives, project appraisal, parliamentary affairs, and implementation of space sector reforms. He has also led policy initiatives on technology transfer, export controls, and institutional reforms, providing strategic support to ISRO's top management.



Ms. Arnika Verma

ASI Utkrishta Antriksh Nari Vaigyanik - 2025



Ms. Arnika Verma, Scientist/Engineer 'SE' at Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), ISRO, has made significant contributions to the design, development, and qualification of high-reliability flow control components for spacecraft and launch vehicles. She has played a key role in developing mission-critical propulsion hardware for the Gaganyaan programme, including the L110 stage, Orbital Module Propulsion System (OMPS), and Cabin Pressure Control System (CPCS). She also contributed to Chandrayaan missions by developing flow control systems for critical orbital and descent operations, and engineered propulsion components for POEM, GEOSAT, and Orbital Re-entry Vehicle applications. Her research publications and patent filings reflect her commitment to advancing indigenous aerospace propulsion technologies.



Mr. Vatyam Sai Kraanthi

ASI Udeeman Yuva Vaigyanik Awards– 2025



Shri Vatyam Sai Kraanthi, URSC, ISRO, has made significant contributions to the design of advanced antennas and electrical systems for satellite communication. He developed novel antennas for Gaganyaan, Bharatiya Antariksh Station, SPADEX, MICROSAT, Chandrayaan-4, and LUPEX missions, achieving high performance in compact, lightweight configurations. He also developed the first Reflectarray antenna at URSC, offering improved efficiency with reduced weight. He served as Project Manager for INS-2TD, INS-2B, INSAT-3DS, and MICROSAT-2C missions, and contributed to antenna analysis for NISAR, Chandrayaan-3, and Aditya-L1. He is currently responsible for electrical system engineering for the Bharatiya Antariksh Station.



Shri Vishal Latha Balakumar

ASI Aravamudan Memorial Awards– 2025



Vishal Latha Balakumar, Vice President of Micro Satellite Systems at Dhruva Space Private Limited, has played a pivotal role in advancing India's private space sector. He led the development of India's first indigenous private-sector satellite separation systems, successfully flown on six PSLV launches. He also established a space-grade solar panel programme, reducing critical import dependency, and developed modular satellite bus platforms that now support over 15 active commercial, hosted payload, global, and strategic missions. As the founding head of the Microsatellite Systems Business Unit, he has institutionalized these capabilities, significantly strengthening India's self-reliance and global competitiveness in the emerging private space ecosystem



Dr. Biju Prasad B & Team

**ASI Sarvshreshtha Team
Achievement Awards – 2025**



Dr Biju Prasad B



Muraleedharan P



Sandeep R



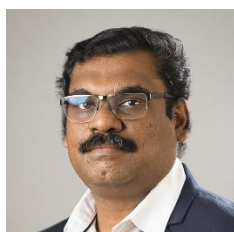
Prasad R



Nirmal Dev



Dr Aravind



Dr Anish Gopinath



John Kutty VS



Praveen TU



Sudheesh R



**ASI Sarvshreshtha Team
Achievement Awards – 2025**

The team is recognized for the successful design, development, qualification, and flight induction of the world's most powerful fault-tolerant **Electromechanical Actuator (EMA)** for the **LVM3** launch vehicle, marking a major milestone in India's space technology and **Atmanirbharata**. Developed to meet the stringent **Fail-Operate-Fail-Safe (FOFS)** requirements of the **Gaganyaan** mission, the indigenous EMA significantly reduces system mass, enhances reliability, and increases payload capability. With over **90% indigenous content**, its successful flight validation on **LVM3-M6** has established advanced high-power actuation technologies, paving the way for next-generation launch vehicle and human spaceflight missions.



3.3 ASI Space Gold Medal awardees for the Year 2025



Smt. Arpana Aravindakshan

ASI Space Gold Medal-2025



Mrs. Arpana Aravindakshan has been an integral member of the Star Sensor Systems Group (SSSG), LEOS, ISRO, since October 2008. She made significant contributions to the Rendezvous Processing Unit (RPU) of ISRO's Spacecraft Docking Experiment (SPADEX) by developing advanced image processing techniques, pattern-matching algorithms, and onboard software for accurate Relative Position and Attitude (6-DOF) estimation. She also developed a prototype Optical Navigation Sensor for autonomous orbit determination and contributed to the onboard software for the Fiber Optic Gyro (FOG) and MEMS Accelerometer Package (MEMSAP) flown onboard GSAT-19, enhancing spacecraft attitude determination and autonomous navigation capabilities.



Shri Prashanth Gantla

ASI Space Gold Medal-2025



Shri Prashanth Gantla, Scientific Officer–D, ISTRAC, is recognized for his exceptional contributions to ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command (TTC) ground systems. He played a key role in supporting Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, Aditya-L1, and multiple PSLV, GSLV, and LVM3 missions. His notable achievements include the indigenous Helical Antenna Control System (HAC), development of the 18 m Deep Space TTC Station (TARANG), and modernization of critical TTC infrastructure. His technical innovations have significantly enhanced the reliability, capability, and self-reliance of ISRO's ground segment.



Dr Chiranjeevi Phanindra B

ASI Space Gold Medal-2025



Dr. Chiranjeevi Phanindra B (Chiran), Founder and CEO of Cosmoserve Space, is recognised for his outstanding contributions to India's space endeavours and pioneering leadership in space sustainability. An alumnus of IIT Kanpur and IIT Madras, he contributed to ISRO programmes, including the Gaganyaan human spaceflight initiative, and represented India at the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee. He founded Cosmoserve Space to address orbital debris through the innovative Reviver robotic servicer and Mothercraft refuelling depot. Under his leadership, Mission Embrace was successfully launched on 18 July 2026, demonstrating rapid development of an indigenous in-space debris removal technology.



Shri. Abhishek Kunal

ASI Space Gold Medal-2025



Mr. Abhishek Kunal is recognised for his outstanding contributions at the Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, towards the realization of advanced digital systems for microwave RADAR missions and the Gaganyaan programme. He serves as Deputy Project Director for MDASAR and RISAT-2B series, leading the realization of advanced digital systems, including edge computing. He is the focal person for the On-Board SAR Processor for the Venus Orbiter Mission and led the design of the Audio-Video Processing System for Gaganyaan. He also delivered compact Solid-State Recorders for Gaganyaan, QuTDS, and several PSLV missions, and received the ISRO Team Excellence Award for RISAT-1 Payload.
