

# INDIAN SOCIETY OF GEOMATICS



## National Geomatics Award for Excellence CITATION

Dr. Baldev Sahai, born on October 24, 1934, in village Malsian, District Jalandhar, Punjab, joined the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Bombay in 1956 after getting his M.Sc. (Honours School) in Physics from Panjab University. He pursued studies in Experimental Nuclear Spectroscopy and Nuclear Reactions during his tenure (1956-73) at TIFR. During 1961-65, while on Study leave from TIFR, he obtained his Ph.D. degree in Physics from University of Chicago, Chicago, USA.



Dr Sahai joined the Space Applications Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad, in October 1973. He built up an applications group of multidisciplinary resource scientists and other technical personnel from scratch to operationalize remote sensing in India. Remote Sensing Applications Group (RSAG) grew to be the largest such applications group (more than 100 scientific/technical personnel) not only in India but also probably in the world. As Group Director, RSAG, he was responsible for planning, guiding and execution of the activities of the RSAG which included system definition for specific earth observation applications and experiments, space-based earth observation systems utilization, satellite meteorology and atmospheric remote sensing, microwave remote sensing applications and support to **National Natural Resources Management System**. The Group, under his guidance, played a pioneering role in the applications of remote sensing technology for surveying, mapping, inventorying, monitoring and management of earth resources - agriculture, land use, forestry, water resources, mineral resources, marine resources, environment etc. As **Associate Director, Indian Remote Sensing Satellite Utilization Programme (1983-90)** he was responsible for carrying out successfully 8 experimental and techniques development projects in collaboration with 34 user agencies spread across the country. As **Mission Director, Remote Sensing Application Missions (1988-94)**, he guided execution of 15 national-level projects and initiated 4 more such projects in collaboration with user ministries/departments and use agencies. At the time of superannuation, October 31, 1994, Dr. Sahai was Deputy Director, Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad, heading the Remote Sensing Area.

He has published more than 170 scientific publications and has edited many books/Conference Proceedings etc. He was **President of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing** during 1987-1990, and **Chief Editor of the Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing** for (1990-1995). **Recognising his lifetime outstanding contributions to Remote Sensing in India, he was awarded the Bhaskara Award for the year 2000.**

He was Chief Editor of the **ISG Newsletter** during 1990-2008 and also the Founder Chief Editor of the **Journal of Geomatics**, during 2007 and 2008. He is a **Fellow** of the Indian Society of Geomatics, Indian Society of Remote Sensing, Gujarat Science Academy and Indian Geophysical Union.

In recognition of his life time contribution towards development of largest applications group in field of Remote Sensing and Geo-informatics, executing many National level projects under remote sensing programme and contributing towards growth of professional societies like ISG & ISRS, the Indian Society of Geomatics confers with honor the National Geomatics Award for Excellence for the year 2014 on Dr. Baldev Sahai

(N.S. Mehta)  
Secretary, ISG

(A.S. Kiran Kumar)  
President, ISG

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Hyderabad