

Earth System Sciences Organisation (ESSO)
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL METEOROLOGY, PUNE
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India



THE FOURTH GOLDEN JUBILEE AWARD 2018

To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Institute, the Governing Council established in 2011 a biennial Golden Jubilee Award for the outstanding contribution in the field of Atmosphere, Weather and Climate Science.

The award presently carries a cash reward of Rs.1,00,000/-, a Gold Medal and a Citation.



The pioneering research done by Dr. Govindan Pandithurai on aerosol-radiation interactions has led to setting up an exclusive High-Altitude Cloud Physics Laboratory for the first time in the country for better understanding on aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions. His research has remarkably advanced the nation's capabilities towards implementing advanced measurement facilities for better understanding on the role of aerosols on radiation, cloud and precipitation processes. Dr. Pandithurai has significantly contributed to research activities in this direction and was instrumental in establishing cloud and precipitation radar facility, the first of their kind over Western Ghats for unraveling orographic convection. His work on complementing passive remote sensing in addition to LIDAR remote sensing of aerosol measurements and estimates of direct and indirect radiative forcing using radiative transfer models also deserves special mention.

A talented researcher, Dr. Pandithurai has an excellent contribution to the advancement of atmospheric science through carefully planned experiments, publications and has contributed to human resources development in the field. He is an elected member of International SKYNET committee.

November 17, 2018

Prof. Ravi S. Nanjundiah Director, IITM

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Dr. Thara Prabhakaran has made outstanding contributions in Atmospheric Sciences, especially in the aerosol cloud precipitation interaction studies and boundary layer physics. She has given excellent leadership for the National experiment: Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement EXperiment (CAIPEEX). For the first time, integrated ground campaigns together with in situ airborne observations and numerical simulations were conducted as part of CAIPEEX for new insights on monsoon cloud processes. Scientific evaluation of cloud seeding is carried out by establishing the state of the art observational facilities such as dual polarized C-band radar. Dr. Prabhakaran has planned and successfully conducted several comprehensive airborne observations to understand cloud and precipitation microphysics of monsoon clouds. Her research unraveled several fundamental aspects of cloud microphysical processes, including that of mixed phase clouds during monsoon. She strives to make advances in cloud and precipitation science for the societal applications and contribute to human resource development and capacity building. CAIPEEX datasets are used by several researchers worldwide and are instrumental for advancing process parameterization development in numerical models. She is an elected member of the International Commission for Clouds and Precipitation (ICCP) and a member of WMO expert team on Weather Modification.

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