
National Award for Geoscience & Technology

Prof. Sunil Bajpai



Prof. Sunil Bajpai is a Professor in IIT Roorkee and currently the Director of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, (BSIP) Lucknow. His areas of research interests are Paleontology, Biostratigraphy, Paleoclimatology, Paleobiogeography and Paleoecology. He has worked on tertiary vertebrate faunas of India, including mammals, their evolutionary and biogeographic implications and integration with floral proxies; Integration of faunal and floral fossil data with stable isotope geochemistry and strontium isotope stratigraphy. Professor Sunil Bajpai research contributions address fundamental issues

concerning the origin, evolution and dispersal of biotas in geodynamic setting.

He has about 107 publications in peer-reviewed national/international journals with more than 2500 citations, h-index is 26 and i-10 index is 62 to his credit. He is recipient of National Geoscience Award in 2012 and Ramana Fellowship from DST for the period 2008-2011. He is a Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Sciences. He is a Member of the Editorial Board and Editor of national and international journals. He is also serving as a member of many academic committees. He has guided 5 students for PhD award and 4 more are working currently under him.

His major contributions in the field are :

- Establishment of India as the centre of origin and early evolution of modern marine and terrestrial mammals
- Development of a new biogeographic perspective (ocean isolation) for the terminal phase of India's drift history (~65 Ma)
- Discovery of a diverse fauna of early Neogene marine and terrestrial mammals
- Discovery of a major marine seaway at the K/T transition in the Deccan volcanic province central India
- Establishment of Link between the Deccan volcanism and JK/T boundary mass extinctions

In recognition to his outstanding contributions in the field of Geoscience and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) honours Prof. Sunil Bajpai with the "National Award in the field of Geoscience and Technology" for the year 2018.