

Jaidutt Saraswati Sodha PSSI Plasma Award

1. Objective:

Prof. Mahendra Singh Sodha, popularly known as Prof. M. S. Sodha, is an eminent Indian physicist specialising in Plasma, Optics and Energy. He was the former Vice Chancellor of Lucknow University, Devi Ahilya University as well as Barkatullah University and he has instituted this award from 2021 for exemplary research work carried out in the area of plasma physics. The idea of this award is to recognize Indian scientists who have made significant research contributions in the field of plasma physics (ranging from fundamental phenomena to novel applications, thermonuclear fusions etc.).

2. Nature of the Award:

The award shall consist of:

- Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000 (Rupees Ten Thousand)
- An Award Citation

Note: The award shall be presented during the annual Plasma Symposium of the Plasma Science Society of India (PSSI). The winner of the award will be offered to make a presentation regarding his/her work for which the award was presented.

3. Eligibility:

The nominee must satisfy the following conditions:

- PSSI membership is mandatory at the time of nomination.
- Must be an Indian Researcher, below the age of 50 years (as on 1-January of the year of award) and holder of a Doctoral degree in subjects related to Plasma Science and Technology.
- Must have made significant research contributions through publications in reputed journals in plasma physics (ranging from fundamental phenomena to novel applications, thermonuclear fusions etc.) while working in India.
- The nominee may alternatively have contributed by commendably disseminating the knowledge and potential of the plasma science and technology, either by training (designing and teaching courses), Supervising students (leading to impactful PhD theses).

4. Criteria for Evaluation and Selection Process:

- The committee will exercise its mandate to evaluate all the valid nominations based on the Eligibility criteria described in Sec. 3 and will produce its recommendation referring to the relevant bases for the selection of awardee for the year. A brief citation will separately be prepared and submitted by the committee.

- The recommendation shall be approved by the PSSI Executive Council.
- The decision of the Society shall be final and binding.
- One award shall normally be conferred each year.
- If no suitable candidate is found, the award may be withheld for that year.

5. Nomination Process:

1. Nominations shall be invited annually through announcement on PSSI website.
2. A nomination must be submitted by:
 - Researchers affiliated with of Indian Universities or Institutions who are either members of PSSI or have a PSSI member to co-submit the nomination.
 - Self-nominations are accepted by members of PSSI.
3. The nomination need to be made by submitting following documents in reference to the nominee, (1) Curriculum Vitae with details required to establish the eligibility of the nominee (2) Complete list of publications with h-index citation. The documents, along with a brief covering letter, must be communicated by email to PSSI <pssi@ipr.res.in> on or before Aug 31 of the respective year. The subject of the email should mention "Sodha Award YYYY" in order to minimize the chances of the email being missed. The acknowledgement of the nomination, if not received, must be secured by making a personal contact with one of the PSSI office holders.
4. Please refer to the PSSI website for further details on the method of nomination submission.

6. Selection Committee:

- The PSSI Executive Council shall constitute a Selection Committee consisting of:
 - At least three active researchers of national standing in Plasma Science and Technology
 - Vice-president/Secretary, PSSI, Member Convenor
 - Nominees, any holder of conflict of interest, and those submitting nominations must recuse from the Selection Committee
 - The names of the members of the Selection Committee shall remain confidential during the evaluation process and will be disclosed only after the announcement of the award at PSSI Website.

7. Presentation of the Award and Obligations of the Awardee:

1. The award shall be presented at the Annual National Symposium of the Plasma Science Society of India (PSSI).
2. The awardee shall deliver the offered presentation during a designated session of the symposium.
3. The awardee shall submit a short article based on his/her award-winning contributions, research achievements, or perspectives on Plasma Science and Technology for publication in the PSSI Newsletter, Proceedings, or any Journal published or sponsored by PSSI.
4. The lecture and article shall form part of the archival record of the Award and may be disseminated by PSSI for educational and scientific purposes.

8. Confidentiality:

All nominations, referee reports, deliberations, and recommendations of the Selection Committee shall remain confidential.

9. Interpretation and Amendment of Guidelines:

- Any matter relating to the interpretation of these regulations shall be decided by the Executive Council of PSSI, whose decision shall be final.
- PSSI reserves the right to amend these guidelines with the approval of its Executive Council.