# Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

## Colloquium 16-02

**Speaker:** **Dr. Meenakshi Wadhwa**

**Director, Center for Meteorite Studies and Professor, School of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University,USA.**

**Title:** **"From Dust to Planets: The Cosmochemical Perspective"**

**Time:** **Wednesday, 27 January 2016, 16.00 hrs.**

**Venue:** **K. R. Ramanathan Auditorium, PRL**

### Abstract

The earliest history of our Solar System is literally written in stone ‹actually, meteorite. Meteorites are an amazing treasure trove of information about the beginning of our Solar System, how the terrestrial planets accreted and then differentiated to form core-mantle-crust, what the source of water and other volatiles was on these planets, and perhaps even how life may have emerged on our planet. In this talk, I will touch broadly on these themes, and will discuss how the methods and the powerful toolkit of cosmochemistry are allowing us to gain a better understanding of the natural world around us and of our place in the universe.

### The Speaker

Dr. Meenakshi Wadhwa received her M.Sc. (Hons.) in Geology in 1989 from Panjab University, India, and Ph.D. in Earth and Planetary Sciences in 1994 from Washington University, St. Louis. She is a cosmochemist interested in the origin and evolution of our Solar System and the terrestrial planets. As Director of the Center for Meteorite Studies, she oversees the curation of the one of the largest university-based meteorite collections, as well as a variety of research and educational activities conducted in this Center. She has participated in two meteorite collection expeditions with the US Antarctic Search for Meteorites (ANSMET) Program, been involved with NASA missions such as Genesis and Mars Science Laboratory, served on numerous NASA committees, and is currently a member of the US National Academies Space Studies Board. She has received a number of awards including the Nier Prize of the Meteoritical Society (2000), the Guggenheim Fellowship (2005) and, most recently, the Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award (for which she is currently in residence at the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad, India). Her contributions to planetary science have also been recognized by the International Astronomical Union by the naming of asteroid 8356 Wadhwa.

**Tea at 15:30 hrs.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**