

Indian Scientist

Dr. Ritu Karidhal Srivastava



(Born on 13 April 1975)

Space exploration is often associated with rockets and satellites, but at its core, it is about people who plan carefully, solve complex problems, and make precise decisions. One such inspiring Indian scientist is **Ritu Karidhal Srivastava**, a senior scientist at the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, whose work has played a major role in India's journey to space.

Ritu Karidhal Srivastava is widely known as the "Rocket Woman of India." She served as the **Mission Director of Chandrayaan-2**, India's ambitious second mission to the Moon. As Mission Director, she was responsible for planning mission operations, coordinating teams, and ensuring that each stage of the mission worked smoothly. Although the Vikram lander could not complete a soft landing, the mission successfully placed an orbiter around the Moon, which continues to send valuable scientific data. This experience became a learning milestone for future missions like Chandrayaan-3.

Before Chandrayaan-2, she played a key role as Deputy Operations Director of the Mars Orbiter Mission (**Mangalyaan**).

This historic mission made India the first country to reach Mars orbit on its first attempt, earning global appreciation for India's scientific capability and efficient engineering.

Ritu Karidhal's work involves applying **physics, mathematics, computer science, and systems engineering** to real-world challenges. Her career shows students how classroom subjects are used together to solve practical problems, such as navigating spacecraft, managing fuel, and communicating with satellites millions of kilometres away.

Her journey is especially inspiring because it reflects years of discipline, teamwork, and calm decision-making under pressure. She joined ISRO as a young scientist and steadily grew by learning from every mission and challenge. She has often spoken about the importance of focus, consistency, and confidence in one's abilities.

For school students, Ritu Karidhal Srivastava's life teaches important lessons. She shows that success in science does not happen overnight, that mistakes are part of learning, and that teamwork is essential in big projects. Most importantly, her story proves that dedication and curiosity can take students from classrooms in India to missions exploring the Moon and Mars.

