

1. Chairman, ISRO /Secretary DOS Shri Kiran Kumar, Prof U R Rao, Dr K Kasturirangan, Sri Aravamudan, Dr SK Sivakumar, Dr. Y S Rajan, Dr V Jayaraman, Senior Colleagues from ISRO / DOS units, ISACians, Invitees, Awardees, ladies and gentleman - **a very good morning to you all.**
2. Today we have gathered here to commemorate 40th year of Aryabhata satellite launch, the first satellite built in the country, which heralded India's emergence in space era. I am delighted, excited, honoured, humbled and at the loss of adjectives while standing here and seeing the galaxy of pioneers of Indian Satellite Programme.
3. The strong foundation for satellite technology in the country was laid from the day Indian Scientific Satellite Project was started in the sheds of Peenya during 70's under the leadership of Prof U R Rao, along with those younger lots of yester years.
4. It is the vision of Prof U R Rao that has led to the establishment of ISRO Satellite Centre which has now successfully realised 75 satellites, making Indian Space Program unique in terms of application orientation and touching the lives and hearts of common man.

5. Satellite Programme has matured from experimental phase in 80's, to operational phase in 90's and today has entered into consolidation, expansion and exploration phase. From a humble beginning in the Peenya sheds we have now established a world class satellite realisation campus. The well established INSAT programme, application oriented IRS Programme, navigation programme, Deep space & Space science missions are the testimony to this fact.
6. Today, here I am seeing the eminent Aryabhata team which had worked as a team to design , develop and operate a spacecraft from the scratch. It is due to those toiled effort we are today confident of realising earth observation spacecraft with finer spatial, spectral and temporal resolution capabilities, high throughput communication spacecraft and landing indigenous rover on the moon. I am also confident that we are matured to realise 10-12 spacecraft per year of course with due industry participation and will meet the increasing demand of the country in terms of societal needs and as well commercial user requirements.
7. As I See, it had been a great journey from Aryabhat to MOM which has made the international scientific community to look up on India with due appreciation. So we need to celebrate this day every year to instil the sense of gratitude one side, pride and confidence on the other side to motivate ourselves and the youngsters to scale to greater heights.

8. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the ISRO Award winners for the year 2010 and 2011. Aristotle the great Greek philosopher has said **“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.”** Aiming for impossible and achieving success in it has become a habit for ISRO and it is the excellent team that we are having which has made it possible. The seed for this legacy has its origin from the team Aryabhat.
9. It is imperative to recognise the achievers and reward them for the hard work and motivate the team to achieve greater strides. My best wishes to all the awardees.
10. Friends, let me take this opportunity to formally welcome today's guests on this dias.
11. **Prof. U R Rao**, the founder leader of Satellite Technology in the country and the leader who led the Aryabhata team is with us today to celebrate this joyous event. His never fading energy and continuous quest for learning is an inspiration for all of us. He has consented to deliver the keynote address of the day.

We welcome Prof. U R Rao with a bunch of flowers.

Sir, your golden touch in guidance and direction made Aryabhat within 3 years and the same touch enabled us to realise MOM in 13 months. A 10 minutes movie to be screened today will symbolise it.

Thank you sir for your presence today.

12. **Dr.K Kasturirangan**, led ISAC during the operation phase and was instrumental in operationalisation of INSAT and IRS class of satellites. He is well known for his thorough techno managerial abilities steering the Centre towards the pinnacle of success.

We welcome Dr.K Kasturirangan with bunch of flowers.

Sir, again your midas touch in the success of space program is talk of ISACians even today. Personally almost all my public talks start with your famous quote,

“ Destination of Moon is ISRO’s next big thing ”. We are just modifying that quote slightly, Moon to Mars is the recent effort. Possibly Mars to Sun in the years to come. Even My career growth in ISRO from Spacecraft operation manager for IRS-1A to all the way to the coveted responsibility of Chandrayaan-1 project was through your golden hands. Sir, I told this in a public forum when I received my first award again from your hands. Flood gates opened for Awards after that. Thank you sir for your presence today.

13. Dr. K Radhakrishnan, under whose leadership, we have realised many successful mission like Mars Orbiter Mission, Indigenous cryo engine for GSLV MK-II and LVM-III mission. He is here with us on this occasion.

We welcome Dr. K Radhakrishnan with flowers.

Thank you sir for your presence today.

14. **Shri A S Kiran Kumar**, Chairman, ISRO/Secretary, DOS in spite of his busy schedule is present with us today. His immense experience of over four decades in space systems is very valuable for the organisation in terms of realising the challenges ahead.

We welcome Shri Kiran Kumar with bunch of flowers.

Sir, During the days of IRS-1A night operations at ISTRAC , INSAT operations at MCF and recently back to MOM operations at ISTRAC we have shared many nights together and solved many technical issues together. You are the symbol of simplicity, inspiration and beacon of emerging ISRO.

Thank you sir for your presence today.

15. We have with us senior colleagues who were part of Aryabhata team and ISAC stalwarts who have steered the Centre all the way through. I extend a very warm welcome to all my senior colleagues, invitees and friends of ISAC and ISRO gathered here today to celebrate this event.
16. I also extend a warm welcome to all the awardees and their proud family members present here.

17. In summary, Ladies and gentlemen this event symbolises past , present and future of ISAC and ISRO in terms of carry forwarding the legacy with gratitude, recognising and rewarding the deserved, maintaining that 24 X 7 dedication, with required resilience to bounce back.
18. Above all Bhagwat Geeta's teaching is "Do your duty Don't look for fruits". Learning in ISRO, " Do your Duty, recognition and due rewards Do follow"
19. Thank you all.