

Aiming High

India's Aspirations in the Global Space Economy by Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar

In a recent address to Trombay Colloquium audience (on September 13, 2024) on the topic 'Indian Lunar Mission', the former Secretary of the Department of Space (DoS), Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar, articulated several key advancements and strategic initiatives undertaken by India in space exploration and allied areas.

1 Evolution of Domestic Rocket Technology...

In his address, Shri Kiran Kumar highlighted the evolution of domestic sounding rocket technology, tracing its origins from the Rohini series RH200 to the advanced RH-560 Mark II. He emphasized this technological progression as a testament to India's growing capabilities in aerospace engineering and its strategic relevance in global space endeavors.

2 Chandrayaan-I Mission...

Reflecting on ISRO's Chandrayaan-I mission, the speaker highlighted its key role in confirming water molecules on the Moon and noted that findings from Chandrayaan-III were shared globally on National Space Day 2023, reinforcing India's significant contribution to lunar research.

3 The Imperative of Continuous Learning and Innovation...

In his address, the speaker urged attendees to "push beyond your boundaries," noting that true learning from mistakes may require more than a lifetime. He highlighted the importance of continuous learning and innovation in scientific fields, asserting that "experience is less relevant." Instead, he emphasized that knowledge and the ability to adapt are crucial for success in our rapidly evolving landscape, underscoring the need for a mindset focused on growth and progress.

4 Aspirations in Global Space Economy...

The speaker elaborated on India's current standing in the global space economy, which is approximately 2%, valued at \$8.4 billion as of 2022-23. He articulated a strategic vision aimed at increasing this share to 8%, translating to a cumulative value of \$44.4 billion by 2032-33. This ambitious goal, he said, reflects India's commitment to enhancing its role in global space activities through sustained investment and innovation.

5 Media Engagement with Space Research...

When asked about the Department of Space's favorable media coverage compared to other departments, he noted that DoS' popularity stems from the intrinsic human fascination with space, rather than from efforts to secure positive coverage. Additionally, he stated that the groundbreaking work of the organization naturally attracts public interest due to its significance and impact.

6 Active Engagement at DoS...

In his address, Shri Kumar emphasized that DoS personnel are consistently engaged with new challenges, fostering an environment conducive to innovation and problem-solving. This active involvement is essential for sustaining momentum in India's ambitious space initiatives.

Through these discussions, the former Secretary of the DoS illuminated both the achievements and aspirations of India in space exploration, reinforcing the nation's commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and innovation on a global scale.