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'Chandrayaan symbolic of future'



Coimbatore, Dec 29: Highlighting the importance of team effort, Chandrayaan-1 Project Director M Annadurai on Monday said the success of the country's maiden Moon mission was symbolic of what India could be in future.

"It (Chandrayaan-1) demonstrated how India could get along and lead a team of technical and scientific experts from internationally reputed organisations to realise an ambitious mission," he said while delivering an address at the Amrita University here.

"Team spirit is the mantra for achieving something big," Annadurai told the students.

"Harmonising efforts of all team members towards a common goal and realising the objective with an allotted budget and schedule demonstrated how good the team has converted a very difficult situation into a historic opportunity," he said.

The International Lunar Exploration Working Group's International Cooperation Award was given to ISRO Chandrayaan-1 team, for the "challenging accommodation and tests" of the most international lunar payload ever -- from 20 countries -- with the successful launch on the PSLV on Oct 22 and for the successful lunar insertion on November 8, 2008, he said.

"If ISRO can achieve such a feat, why not other Indian teams. As a team we can do wonders. It can be accomplished as a team in all the fields, let it be in education, medicine, industry, trade, commerce, press, electronic media, sports, arts, service department and even in politics," Annadurai said.

Interacting with engineering students in Madurai yesterday, Chandrayaan-1 Project Director M Annadurai said the ISRO has started working on Chandrayaan II.

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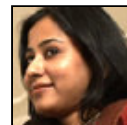
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Plans for Chandrayaan III were also underway, he said.

Chandrayaan II would land a small rover on the moon's surface, collect and analyse samples, while Chandrayaan III envisages having a spacecraft land on the moon and bring back samples from it to the Earth.

Noting that investment of Rs.386 crore was profitable, he said that scientists from NASA, European space agency, Japan and Bulgaria also worked with ISRO on Chandrayaan I mission.

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