

Welcome address by Chairman ISRO

- Your Excellency President NICOLAS SARKOZY,
- Madam CARLA BRUNI,
- Excellencies,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is a great honour and privilege, Mr President, to welcome you this afternoon to the Indian Space Research Organisation.
2. Mr. President, the Indian Space Programme has been inspired by a vision to utilize space for the benefit of common man, a vision shared, sustained and enriched as it evolved over the past five decades.
3. Today, the fruits of space research in India are reaching the common people and society, touching their daily life,

be it a fisherman, farmer, student, patients from remote areas, an administrator or policy maker. Several lives could be saved during natural disasters by the timely information and connectivity provided by the Satellites.

4. Currently, we have constellations of 9 geostationary satellites and 8 polar orbiting satellites providing space-based infrastructure for communications, broadcasting and Earth observations. This would be augmented in capacity and capability soon. A Regional Satellite Navigation System is being realised.
5. In 2007, we had a breakthrough in re-entry of a space capsule from polar orbit. Our Chandrayaan-1 of 2008 paved way for one of the astounding discoveries of the millennium i.e. the presence of water and hydroxyl molecules in the lunar environment and sub-surface water ice in the permanently shadowed craters of the lunar north pole. These lead us to new vistas of space exploration.

6. ISRO has a long history of cooperation, collaboration and commerce spanning 48 years, starting with setting up of a sounding rocket launching station in 1962 and production of Centaure sounding rockets. The first satellite tele-communication experiment was accomplished with the Franco-German Satellite SYMPHONY in the 70's. Data reception from SPOT Satellite facilitated high resolution remote sensing in the 80's.
7. Our first communication satellite APPLE was offered a free launch in the third developmental flight of ARIANE-1 in 1981
8. Since then, ARIANESPACE has launched 12 of our communication satellites so far on commercial basis. We have signed commercial agreements with ARIANESPACE for two more launches i.e. GSAT-8 in 2011 and GSAT-10 in 2012. We are in the process of finalising one more launch i.e. for INSAT-3D.

9. The HYLAS Satellite that was launched last week by ARIANE-V was built in this Centre along with EADS-ASTRIUM under a strategic alliance initiated in 2005, which we are renewing today for another five years.
10. Our operational launch vehicle PSLV has a record of 16 successive successful missions. PSLV has also launched so far 25 satellites for foreign customers. Meghatropiques and SARAL Satellites being built jointly by the CNES and ISRO are scheduled to be launched by PSLV in the year 2011.
11. Our GSLV is capable of launching smaller communication satellites i.e. of 2 tonne class. The GSLV Mk III is being developed to launch heavier communication satellites of 4 tonne class. Low cost access to space is one of our focus area.
12. We benefitted from the technology of Viking Engine acquired from SEP, France in the 70's for our launch

vehicle programme. And we produced more than 7500 Pressure Transducers for the ARIANE Launch vehicle development, based on SEP's technology and that was done in the next building.

13. ISRO and CNES have the rich legacy of cooperation and collaboration since 1972. Realisation of Meghatropiques satellite that you just witnessed will prove to be a pinnacle of this cooperation towards a global outreach. We are committed to work together further and explore new domains including climate change and other frontier areas.

14. Mr President, your visit to ISRO inspires both Space Agencies to look forward and look beyond in synergy.

Thank you all.