

Good humans make good leaders: Former Isro chief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: If you want to be good leader, it's essential you become a good human being, said K Radhakrishnan, former chairman of the space commission and Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro).

Delivering the Foundation Day Lecture on 'Space' at the Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute for Management Development (SDMIMD) here on Friday, he said: "Sixty-five countries are in the space domain. A few have the ability to launch satellites and at least 30 can build satellites. About 50 have the ability to

FOUNDATION DAY AT SDMIMD

operate them and several nations own them. The space segment is worth around \$360 million. Space technology can be used for the common man and for service to the society."

He added, "Satellites, including remote sensing, communication and navigation, are used by major space agencies in agriculture, state of crops, indication possible production well before harvesting, understand land productivity, how to bring them back to cultivation and how to meet food requirements. Remote sensing technology made inroads in all these areas. Before the 1970s, thousands of people used to die following cyclones. Now, thanks to space technology and satellites, we can not only predict the path of cyclones



INSPIRING WORDS: Former Isro chairman K Radhakrishnan was effusive in his praise for the accomplishments of the organisation, which he once helmed.

but also the intensity well in advance due to which thousands of lives have been saved. It has also helped fisherman in a big way."

During his 40-minute talk, he gave an overview of Isro's over 50 years of service to the nation. He said India launched Aryabhata in collaboration with the Soviet Union in 1975. That was followed by SLV-3. Then came the launch of two famous rockets — PSLV (for launching satellites in polar orbits) and GSLV (for placing satellites in geostationary orbits). In 2014,

Isro used an indigenous cryogenic engine in a GSLV-D5 launch of GSAT-14. Isro sent a lunar orbiter, Chandrayaan-1, in 2008 and launched a Mars orbiter in 2013 which entered the planet's orbit on September 24, 2014. He mentioned the launch of 20 payloads in a single vehicle on February 15, 2017 and the launch of 104 payloads in a single rocket

(PSLV-C37) which was a world record.

Intearction with students

Radhakrishnan said respecting elders, peers, policies and systems of an organisation is highly essential to be good leader. Asked about the success story of Isro, he said nurturing a good work culture with respect to colleagues makes everyone feel proud. He said Isro never suffered a financial crunch and the government has been extending excellent support.

When a student asked the management lessons he learnt at Isro, he said: "Wisdom of elders and innovation of youngsters are the biggest lessons. As a leader, I'd like to be challenged."

He added, "At the start of the IT boom in the 1990s, we had problem getting quality people. Later, we enhanced salaries of employees by 40 percent and we started new courses and that helped us improve the work force."