

K.KASTURIRANGAN

Former Chairman, ISRO

Former Chairman, National Education Policy Committee

Chairman, National Steering Committee for National Curriculum Frameworks

August 29, 2023

Shri Nilesh M Desai

Director

Space Applications Centre

Jodhpur Tekra, Ambawadi Vistar PO

Ahmedabad 380015

My dear Nilesh,

What a wonderful success that has kindled the imagination and pride of every Indian of all ages. Further, the whole world watched us with great admiration. While paying my rich tributes to ISRO for this spectacular feat on the successful accomplishment of Chandrayaan-3 mission, I would like to single out the special role that SAC played under your leadership.

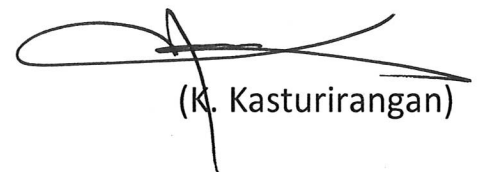
As I can see the different types of sensors and cameras which SAC built for this mission were most critical in guiding the spacecraft during its various phases of flight, right from earth-bound orbits, translunar orbit, lunar orbit and finally the very critical descent which it successfully executed. Needless to emphasise, all these were enabled by the critical sensing of the environment and other parameters, a singular role played by SAC in this success of the mission. Nilesh let me congratulate you particularly for the visionary leadership you have provided to play this very important role in the overall mission of Chandrayaan-3 and scientists/ engineers who played a key role in this mission from SAC and each and every one who supported you and this effort from the outside. This event will be etched in golden letters in the annals of India's space history and you will certainly have a central place in the same and also your other important colleagues.

Unfortunately, I could not be present at the control centre at the momentous occasion of Vikram landing on the Moon, owing to medical advice because of a recent health setback; I did watch the same from my house. It was a moment worth living and probably crossing 82 years and still being alert is with that objective, in my case.

I use this opportunity to wish the forthcoming Aditya-L1 Mission an equally spectacular success since it is going to break new pathways to understand the behavior of the Sun and its environment including its influence on Earth. Wishing the Centre greater achievements in the coming years and following on the rich legacy of the present and previous generations.

Warmly,

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, fluid loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a vertical line extending downwards.

(K. Kasturirangan)