



Space Man

With the success of Chandrayan-1 mission, ISRO Chief G. Madhavan Nair has led India into the elite list of Nations who have made it to the Moon. Quite literally, post Chandrayan, India is being looked upon as the next probable nation to initiate advance space technologies and research.

Being ISRO Chief

Madhavan Nair graduated in Engineering from Kerala University in 1966 and underwent training at Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC), Bombay. In 1967, he joined Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS). Madhavan Nair is currently the Chairman of ISRO and is entrusted with the responsibility of development of space technology and its applications in everyday activities. Since then, he has initiated development of futuristic technologies to enhance space systems and reducing the cost of access to space. With a profile of numerous space projects to his credit, Madhavan Nair was honoured with the greatest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan in January 2009.

Constructive Projects

He has instituted several application programmes such as tele-education and tele-medicine for social causes. Besides he has initiated schemes for Village Resource Centres through satellite connectivity, thus improving quality of life. Madhavan Nair, being a leading technologist in the field of rocket systems has made significant contributions to the development of multi-stage satellite launch vehicles. These vehicles help achieve independent access to space using homebound technologies. As Project Director, he developed the first Indian Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

Greater Initiatives

As the Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre from 1995-99, he initiated efforts towards development of critical technologies and vital infrastructures. Later, as the Director of VSSC, the largest Centre of ISRO from 1999 marked the development of India's Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), which carried its first operational flight in 2003. Madhavan Nair has always focussed on bringing the benefits of space technology for national development.

STAR ABODE

Howzzat!

Jhulan Goswami dons the captain's cap of the Indian Women's Cricket team with great élan. With numerous laurels to her credit and a speedy career graph, Goswami gets ready for the upcoming World Cup. Born on 25th November 1983, in Nadia, Bengal, Jhulan Goswami took to the game of cricket playing tennis ball cricket. Further, she received great help from Dennis Lillee at the MRF pace academy in Chennai, to pursue a full-fledged career in cricket.

Cricketing skills

She is noted for her batting and bowling capabilities. With a bowling speed of 130-135 km/hr, she is recognised as the world's fastest woman spinner. She bowls with a smooth, easy run up and has formed a strong new-ball partnership with Amita Sharma. Goswami is one of the youngest members of the Women's Indian National Cricket. Her ability to bounce the ball an extra bit surprises even the best batsmen in the world. Her bowling style has ranked her as the second highest wicket-taker amongst Indian women cricketers behind her teammate Neetu David. More so, she won the ICC Women's Player of the Year 2007.

Winning laurels

She was named vice-captain for India's tour of England in 2006. This was the team's first victory against England. Her achievements made her the player of the series and earned her recognition at the Castrol Awards in Mumbai in September. Further, she won the ICC Women's Player of the Year award in 2007 – a year when no Indian male player bagged any individual award. Besides she also plays for Bengal Women, East Zone Women as well as the Asia Women XI women's cricket team.

With a scoring career and cricketing tactics, Goswami seems confident enough to take on the league of nations in the upcoming World Cup.



SPORTING GREATS

The Young Soprano

She is dubbed as the "third-generation prodigy" and "an assured young Soprano" by the press. Meet Bindu Subramaniam, the 24-year old singer and lyricist who has created a very original fusion of rock and jazz with a background of Indian music. Trained in Indian and western styles of music, she has given an unique touch to her compositions. The meaningful lyrics and angelic voice leave the listeners spellbound.



Music profile

Bindu has collaborated on various projects with many great artistes. Her profile displays big names from the music scenario all over with artistes like Dr. L. Subramaniam, Kavita Subramaniam, Al Jarreau, George Duke, Stanley Clarke, Billy Cobham, Larry Coryell, Corky Siegel, Matthew Santos, Pandit Jasraj, Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna, Pankaj Udhas, Hariharan and Remo Fernandes.

Family bonding

Besides performing with her own band, Bindu also tours with her family. Her father Dr. L. Subramaniam, mother Kavita Krishnamurti Subramaniam and brother Ambi Subramaniam support her immensely. Bindu has performed as a soloist with symphony and chamber orchestras, including the Beijing Symphony (China), NRK Philharmonic (Oslo), Sibiu Philharmonic (Sibiu) and the Leipzig Philharmonic Orchestra (Germany).

A performer of sorts

Bindu has performed at prestigious venues like the Lincoln Centre (USA), KLCC Twin Towers (Malaysia), etc. Bindu was a part of the Visions of India tour in 2007-08. The tour was an absolute smash hit across India with a crowd of over 13,000 people. The album of the same was released in August 2008. Her English album debut entitled 'Surrender' is to be released in India early 2009.

RHYTHM HOUSE