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Gaganyaan now our priority: Isro chief K Sivan

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Chandrayaan 2 was 98% successful, Gaganyaan now our top priority: Sivan

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Bhubaneswar: Gaganyaan — the country's first manned mission to space — would be accorded the highest priority, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)'s chairman, K Sivan, said here on Saturday, while adding that Chandrayaan 2 — the country's second lunar mission — was 98 per cent successful.

Sivan, who addressed the eighth convocation of IIT Bhubaneswar, said Isro would launch Gaganyaan by December 2021. "Gaganyaan is extremely important for India as it will boost the country's science and technology capacity. By December 2020, we are planning an unmanned mission first. If that succeeds the second unmanned mission will be completed by July 2021. If all goes



Isro chief K Sivan addresses the 8th convocation ceremony of IIT Bhubaneswar on Saturday

well, we will send Indians in an Indian rocket to space, for the first time ever, by December 2021," he added.

Sivan also said the orbiter of Chandrayaan 2 was doing very well. "Its payload systems are functioning properly. Certain payloads in the orbiter are the first-of-their-kind in the world. Every instrument is doing exact-

ly what we wanted them to do. This moon mission was 98 per cent successful," he said.

The space scientist said the design life of an orbiter was a year, but the orbiter life of Chandrayaan 2 can stretch to 7.5 years. "Don't you think this is a success? It is a really big success. Except the soft landing of lan-

der Vikram, everything else was okay," he said, adding that nothing further could be done to establish communication with the lander.

Sivan advised the graduating students of IIT Bhubaneswar to dream up crazy ideas as "most of the world's innovations come from such ideas". "How many times has Isro faced failure while developing launchers? These failures are no obstacles. We used them as learning opportunities. If you don't take risks, there is a chance that you will never achieve anything significant in life," he said, adding, "Make interesting mistakes but learn from them and make glorious things."

Sivan, whose lecture at IIT Bhubaneswar so soon after Chandrayaan's launch was the top draw of the event, gave away awards to meritorious students.