

# NAIR: IF I GO BACK, it will be with my honour intact 'Being At Home After The Ban Has Been Jolting'

Prashanth G N | TNN

**Bangalore:** "I haven't stepped into the Isro campus since the moment I heard about the government order banning us from getting any government work. How can I? It's a question of my honour. If I have to set foot on the campus again, shouldn't the government first restore my honour?" asked former Isro chairman Madhavan Nair. He's also known as Moon Man for having architected India's first moon mission Chandrayaan-1 in October 2008.

He told TOI on Thursday: "I've been at home after the ban was announced. It was jolting. For someone who has worked in Isro for decades, suddenly to be told (and through the media) that one should not be associated with it anymore, what do you think it'll do to the person? Isro has been my home, it's where I grew up, the community there made me what I am, gave me everything, saw me through ups and downs. Now, the government asks me not to go back the same place. Is this fair? When you go back, it's with your honour intact, as an equal among equals."

Nair's personal files have been moved to his residence, but the official files are still on his table at Isro headquarters here. After retiring as chairman, he'd been given a professorship to carry out research and al-



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## 'Resolve the crisis by revoking ban'

**Bangalore:** The Isro community feels Madhavan Nair and three other scientists have been wronged. "People in Isro see them as simple people who worked hard to give it a good name in the space fraternity. Why should people who worked with integrity and honesty be rewarded with punishment?" asked an Isro scientist here.

The scientist said there's despair on Isro campuses. "Scientists, engineers and even non-technical staff are demoralized. There's sympathy for all of them," he said. TNN

I don't know what changed in December 2009. Everything about the contract was smooth till October 2009. What prompted the inquiry in December that year? Who instigated whom? Nobody knows. My wife tells me the only consolation is I get to stay at home. But it's a matter of principle. I wake up every morning thinking I didn't feel so let down even when my first rocket mission failed. I came back stronger, my colleagues and I gave it everything we had. And we finally gave the country the moon. Is this what we get in return?

**Madhavan Nair** | FORMER CHAIRMAN, ISRO

so worked as a consultant. Now, he works out of home.

Ironically, when taking charge, current Isro chairman K Radhakrishnan had said: "I seek the blessings of Mr Madhavan Nair in my work ahead. I would be very grateful for his guidance and help." Radhakrishnan turned to Nair when Isro suffered two GSLV failures. Nair was asked to find the faultline and he did it quickly, as always. Just before retiring in 2009, Nair was exultant about the moon mission. "What we achieved was remarkable - our spacecraft touched the moon without a single orbital accident. No country had done that before. And what do we get? A slap in the face."