

Indians should be united in facing sanctions: Ramanna

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Eminent scientist and nuclear expert Dr Raja Ramanna today called for unity and cooperation by the people of the country in facing the "adverse reactions" and sanctions imposed by developed countries on India after the recent successful completion of nuclear tests.

Speaking at the inauguration of the golden jubilee celebrations of the Department of Management Studies at the Indian Institute of Science, Dr Raja Ramanna said he was elated over the successful testing of the nuclear devices and added that despite sanctions and political consequences, people across the country felt more comfortable as India had developed nuclear capability, including the hydrogen bomb.

He said the explosion of the hydrogen bomb and other nuclear devices on Monday and Tuesday

had demonstrated that India could explode smaller devices of weapon grade. He pointed out that the technicalities and physics involved in the making of the thermonuclear device and sub-kiloton nuclear devices was very difficult and the scientists and engineers of the country had made the nation proud by successfully conducting the tests.

Dr Raja Ramanna said the nuclear explosions and the domestic reaction to it had proved that the country stood united with all regional issues forgotten. He said the nuclear explosions would definitely have an impact on the country's future and it should be in a position to tackle them properly, or all that has been achieved in the last fifty years would be lost.

He said the Indian atomic programme had been facing sanctions right from 1957 and despite this, it had built advanced technological devices. Even at that time, the industry had responded

tremendously and despite initial problems, had developed and delivered quality products to the atomic programme.

Dr Raja Ramanna expressed sadness over the fall in the number of students taking up pure physics as research. He said major national events like the nuclear tests should trigger enthusiasm among the younger generation to take up physics research that would do the country proud.

IISc Director G Padmanabhan stressed the importance of developing self-reliant technologies in various fields. "The developed countries might give us technology on making potato chips and cola but they would never provide us technology in areas relating to defence, biotechnology and aerospace", he said. The country should gear itself to develop its own technologies if it should succeed in the liberalisation programme, he added.



Eminent scientist Dr Raja Ramanna and Indian Institute of Science Director, Prof G Padmanabhan, at the inauguration of the golden jubilee celebrations of the IISc's Dept of Management Studies at the IISc campus in Bangalore on Friday.

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