INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION
Bhumandal Se Brahmaand Tak

JANUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER

INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION

SHAPING INDIA'S DEFENCE SPACE FUTURE

INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION
Bhumandal Se Brahmaand Tak

Welcome to **ISpA Newsletter**, a trusted conduit for illuminating the latest strategic endeavours, technological innovations and industry insights shaping the future of sustainable space exploration.

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MESSAGE FROM DG-ISpA

DSA-ISpA DefSpace Capability Dialogue, held at USI, New Delhi, was the main event of the month. For the first time, the complete leadership of the **Defence Space Agency** engaged directly with India's private space industry across critical domains such as **ISR, PNT, SatCom and Space Situational Awareness**. This dialogue reinforced the growing trust between defence users and industry and laid a strong foundation for accelerating the induction of indigenous space capabilities vital for national security.

January also witnessed important advancements in India's space science and technology programmes. **ISRO** continued to push the frontiers of **solar and heliophysics research through Aditya-L1**, with new scientific results, international workshops and expanded opportunities for global collaboration. Parallelly, the successful sub-scale hot testing of the **LOX-Methane engine thrust chamber** marked steady progress toward next-generation launch vehicles, strengthening India's future launch autonomy and sustainability.

A major milestone was achieved with the signing of the **EO-PPP agreement for India's first privately led national Earth Observation constellation**, representing a structural transformation in how critical space infrastructure is designed, financed and operated in the country. On the policy and institutional front, **IN-SPACe** announced the winners of its **Seed Fund Scheme** focused on autonomous and virtualised space missions, signaling a clear shift toward complex, software-defined and mission-scale space operations.

India's private space ecosystem continued to demonstrate strong momentum during the month. Throughout January, **ISpA** remained actively engaged across national and international platforms. From contributing to **strategic policy dialogues** and **innovation roundtables** to strengthening bilateral cooperation with global partners, our focus remained on enabling industry-led growth, fostering trust-based partnerships and positioning space as critical national infrastructure for Viksit Bharat 2047.

The technical anomaly in the **PSLV-C62** third stage during the launch on January 12th has once again brought into focus **the issue of payload insurance** by private sector companies and startups.

As we move ahead, our collective priority remains clear: strengthening sovereign space capabilities, accelerating private sector participation and deepening international collaboration. I encourage all members to continue engaging closely with ISpA. Your insights, innovation and leadership are central to shaping a resilient, secure and globally competitive Indian space ecosystem.

Lt Gen A K Bhatt
PVSM UYSM AVSM SM VSM (Retd)
Director General,
Indian Space Association (ISpA)
(Former DGMO, MS & GOC 15 Corps)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

- ADITYA-L1 MISSION SCIENCE PROGRESSED, WITH ISRO RELEASING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SOLAR PHYSICS COMMUNITY AND PUBLISHING BREAKTHROUGH FINDINGS ON SPACE WEATHER AND SOLAR STORM IMPACTS.

- ISRO-ESA JOINTLY CONDUCTED A HELIOPHYSICS WORKSHOP ON ADITYA-L1, SOLAR ORBITER AND PROBA-3, STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN SOLAR AND SPACE WEATHER RESEARCH.

- ISRO ADVANCED NEXT-GENERATION PROPULSION BY SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTING SUB-SCALE HOT TESTS OF THE LOX-METHANE ENGINE THRUST CHAMBER, A KEY TECHNOLOGY FOR FUTURE LAUNCH VEHICLES.

- IN-SPACE ANNOUNCED SEED FUND SCHEME WINNERS FOR AUTONOMOUS AND VIRTUALISED SPACE MISSIONS.

- IN-SPACE AND UAE SPACE AGENCY SIGNED A LETTER OF INTENT TO DEEPEN INDIA-UAE COOPERATION IN COMMERCIAL SPACE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING LAUNCH INFRASTRUCTURE, SATELLITE MANUFACTURING AND TRAINING.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

- **INDIAN PRIVATE SPACE COMPANIES RECORDED MAJOR MILESTONES, INCLUDING DIGANTARA'S SELECTION UNDER THE IN-SPACE SEED FUND SCHEME AND AZISTA SPACE'S FOUNDATION OF AN ELECTRO-OPTICAL PAYLOAD MANUFACTURING FACILITY.**

- **PIXXEL-LED CONSORTIUM SIGNED EO-PPP AGREEMENT TO BUILD INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATELY LED NATIONAL EARTH OBSERVATION CONSTELLATION.**

- **ISPA SUPPORTED THE U.S. EMBASSY INDIA IN ORGANISING AN EXCLUSIVE INTERACTION WITH ASTRONAUT SUNITA WILLIAMS, STRENGTHENING GLOBAL COOPERATION AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES IN SPACE EXPLORATION.**

- **ISPA SUCCESSFULLY ORGANISED THE DSA-ISPA DEFSPACE CAPABILITY DIALOGUE ENABLED FIRST-EVER FULL-SPECTRUM INTERACTION BETWEEN DEFENCE SPACE AGENCY AND INDIAN PRIVATE SPACE INDUSTRY.**

MEMBERS BULLETIN

AZISTA

Azista Space successfully conducted the Groundbreaking and Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for its Electro-Optical Payload Factory at Gujarat Space Park, Sanand (Ahmedabad) on 22 January 2026.

The upcoming facility marks a significant milestone in Azista Space's growth and will play a critical role in advancing indigenous electro-optical payload capabilities. Designed as a state-of-the-art manufacturing unit, the factory will support high-end space and defence applications, strengthen domestic production capacity and reduce reliance on imports in sensitive technology domains.

This development reinforces Azista Space's commitment to Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, while contributing to a resilient, globally competitive Indian space ecosystem. The new facility is expected to support future national missions and position India as a strong player in advanced space manufacturing and electro-optical technologies.

DHRUVA SPACE

Dhruva Space has co-authored and released a white paper on Earth Observation as a Service (EOaaS) in collaboration with SatSure and KaleidEO, addressing a critical shift in how Earth Observation capabilities are designed, deployed and utilised.

The paper highlights how integrated space, ground infrastructure, data and analytics stacks can move users beyond raw satellite data to decision-grade outcomes and positions EOaaS as a scalable, service-led model. It underscores the importance of Made-in-India, end-to-end EO infrastructure and analytics-driven applications across governance, climate resilience and infrastructure use cases.

Given the growing emphasis on downstream applications and mission-scale private sector participation, this work is highly relevant to India's evolving private space ecosystem.

Find the full version of 'Democratizing Earth Observation for Emerging Nations Through EOaaS Innovation' white paper here: https://www.dhruvaspace.com/publications

MEMBERS BULLETIN

DIGANTARA

Digantara has been selected under the IN-SPACe Seed Fund Scheme, marking a significant milestone in advancing indigenous space-based Space Domain Awareness (SDA) capabilities for India's space and defence ecosystem.

As part of this prestigious programme awarded to only a select group of startups Digantara will receive expert mentorship, technical guidance and access to IN-SPACe and ISRO facilities to enable concept validation of its technology. The supported project, "Development of an Indigenous Space-Based Non-Earth Imaging Platform for Advanced Space Domain Awareness," is positioned to catalyse future technology transfer from the Department of Space.

This achievement underscores Digantara's role in strengthening national security, space safety and self-reliance and represents an important step toward building globally competitive, indigenous SDA capabilities for India.

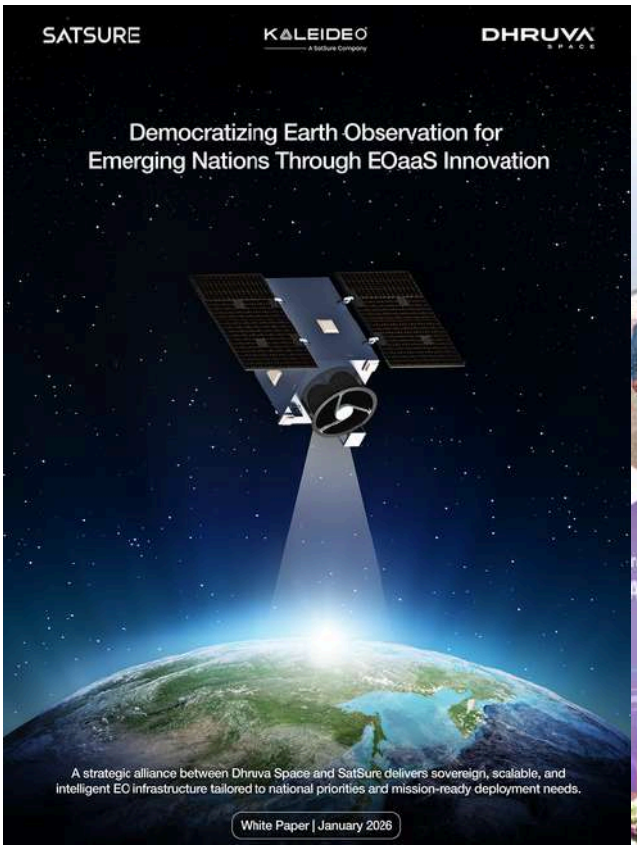
VIASAT

Viasat, in partnership with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), is supporting the next phase of the Indian Navy's Satellite Communications (SATCOM) Modernization Programme, marking a significant step in strengthening India's naval connectivity capabilities.

Under an agreement between BSNL and the Indian Defence Forces, Viasat's high-capacity Ka-band satellite systems will be deployed alongside its existing L-band infrastructure to deliver enhanced, resilient and secure communications for naval platforms. The programme enables the Indian Navy's transition to a multi-band, multi-constellation SATCOM architecture, leveraging BSNL's Gateway Earth Station and Viasat's global satellite network.

Viasat continues to be a longstanding technology partner to the Government of India, supporting defence and maritime communications, disaster response networks, tsunami early-warning systems, vessel tracking and aeronautical connectivity. This latest milestone reinforces Viasat's commitment to India's defence and maritime communication modernization and its collaboration with BSNL and Indian defence stakeholders.

MEMBERS BULLETIN



ISpA ACTIVITIES

DSA-ISpA DEFSPACE CAPABILITY DIALOGUE

The **DSA-ISpA DefSpace Capability Dialogue** brought together defence space agency and industry leaders to deliberate on critical domains including **Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT), Satellite Communications (SatCom) and Space Situational Awareness (SSA).**

The **ISpA-DSA DefSpace Capability Dialogue**, held on **14 January 2026** at the **United Service Institution of India (USI), New Delhi**, marked a significant milestone in the evolution of India's Defence-Space ecosystem. Organised and facilitated by the Indian Space Association (ISpA), the dialogue enabled, for the first time, a comprehensive and direct engagement between the complete team of the **Defence Space Agency (DSA)** and **India's private Space industry.**

The event witnessed participation from over **45 Indian space companies**, reflecting the growing depth and maturity of the domestic space sector. The dialogue provided a **credible** and **structured platform for open interaction**, allowing industry stakeholders to gain clarity on the **short- and long-term operational plans**, **strategic priorities** and **capability requirements of the armed forces**. Simultaneously, it enabled DSA to gain a clearer understanding of industry capabilities, technological readiness and the challenges faced by Indian space enterprises.

The dialogue was held in the presence of senior leadership from the defence and space sectors, including **Air Vice Marshal Manu Midha, VM, Director General, Defence Space Agency**; **Shri Arun Ramchandani, Head - L&T Precision Engineering and Systems** and **Chairman, ISpA**; and **Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd), PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, Director General, ISpA**. This underscored the strategic importance of sustained collaboration between defence users and industry partners.

By promoting transparency, mutual understanding and collaborative problem-solving, the **ISpA-DSA DefSpace Capability Dialogue** has laid a strong foundation for long-term industry-defence partnership. The dialogue represents a pivotal step toward strengthening India's integrated **defence-space capabilities**, advancing **self-reliance**, fostering **innovation** and accelerating the **induction of space capabilities critical for national security**.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

DSA-ISPA DEFSPACE CAPABILITY DIALOGUE



ISpA ACTIVITIES

INDIA'S SPACE VISION AT REPUBLIC DAY 2026: DG ISpA ON PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH AND STRATEGIC SPACE LEADERSHIP

During the live telecast of the Republic Day Parade 2026, Indian Space Association (ISpA) Director General Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd) shared key perspectives on India's rapidly evolving space ecosystem, the role of the private sector and the strategic importance of space in achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 .

In his remarks, DG ISpA underscored that while India is among a select group of spacefaring nations with end-to-end capabilities from launch vehicles to deep-space missions its share of the global space economy remains modest, highlighting the need for accelerated growth. He emphasized that space must be recognised as critical national infrastructure, supported through policy incentives, PLI frameworks and long-term private investment, given the sector's high-risk and long-gestation nature.

Reflecting on recent milestones, he highlighted the rising capabilities of India's private space companies, the success of missions such as Chandrayaan and the growing importance of space for national security, communications, PNT, ISR and economic development across sectors including agriculture, health and remote connectivity.

DG ISpA also referred to India's human spaceflight roadmap, noting how experiences from Indian participation in the International Space Station are strengthening preparedness for Gaganyaan, the development of a Bharatiya Antariksh Station in the 2030sand India's long-term ambitions in space exploration.

Overall, the address reinforced the message that government vision, enabling policies and private-sector innovation together form the backbone of India's future space leadership, positioning space as a cornerstone of strategic autonomy, Atmanirbhar Bharat and India's journey toward Viksit Bharat 2047

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISpA LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATES IN AI INNOVATION ROUNDTABLE FOR VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

The Indian Space Association (ISpA) was represented by its Director General, Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd), at the executive roundtable “Architecting Viksit Bharat 2047: The AI Innovation Mandate”, hosted by Link Innovations in collaboration with MeitY Startup Hub. The roundtable was held as an official pre-summit event for the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

The closed-door discussion brought together senior government leaders, diplomats and industry experts to deliberate on India’s leadership in the global AI ecosystem, with key focus areas including Sovereign AI and localized models, bridging capital gaps for deep-tech startups and scaling AI from pilot projects to national infrastructure.

The session also featured a spotlight pitch by Gautier Cloix, demonstrating real-world applications of advanced AI technologies. ISpA’s participation reflects its continued engagement at the intersection of AI, deep-tech and space tech policy dialogue, supporting collaborative pathways toward Viksit Bharat 2047.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISpA ENGAGES RUSSIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER TO ADVANCE INDO-RUSSIAN SPACE COLLABORATION

The Director General of the Indian Space Association (ISpA), Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (retd) met with Mr. Andrey Sobolev, the Honourable Trade Commissioner of the Russian Federation in India along with representatives of Geoscan, a Russian space company.

Building on the momentum of the December 2025 Presidential visit, the discussions focused on transforming high-level vision into B2B synergies and academic opportunities that will define the shared endeavours.

The foundation of mutual trust between our nations remains the bedrock of this partnership. As we explore new frontiers, the future of space remains collaborative and limitless.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

THE GRAVITY OF INSPIRATION: FROM EARTH TO ORBIT- A MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE

ISpA was privileged to support and assist the U.S. Embassy India in organising a memorable interaction with a true legend: Astronaut Sunita (Suni) L. Williams during her visit to India, hosted at the American Center, New Delhi.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the U.S. Embassy in India and the American Center New Delhi for their vision in convening this exclusive interaction, fostering collaboration and strengthening shared aspirations for the future of space exploration.

The event brought together CEOs and leaders from India's space industry for a valuable exchange, as Sunita Williams shared insights from her time in the International Space Station, including her spacewalks and the unique perspective gained from spaceflight.

The interaction was further enriched by her reflections on her personal roots-India, her father's homeland.

ISpA was honoured to be associated with and support an evening where inspiration truly came from above, strengthening people-to-people ties and global cooperation within the space community.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISpA REPRESENTATION AT NCSTC 2026: ADVANCING COMPLIANCE PERSPECTIVES FOR INDIA'S SPACE SECTOR

Gp Capt TH Anand Rao (Retd) represented the Indian Space Association (ISpA) at the National Conference on Strategic Trade Controls (NCSTC) 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam on 15 January 2026.

He spoke on "Compliance and Industry Perspective for Strategic Trade in the Space Sector," highlighting the unique nature of the space domain and the importance of industry-centric compliance frameworks in enabling responsible growth and global collaboration within India's space ecosystem.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

DG ISpA LT GEN ANIL KUMAR BHATT (RETD) ATTENDED THE FINALE OF SCHOOL YOUTH IDEATHON 2025

Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (retd) attended the finale of School Youth Ideathon 2025, where he was part of the proceedings and had the privilege of awarding the winning Schools.

SYI2025, India's largest K-12 entrepreneurship and innovation platform, brought together 125 finalist teams selected from over one lakh student entries nationwide, culminating in a high-energy finale at IIT Delhi on 18th Jan 2026.

Organised by ThinkStartup and the MEPSC (Management & Entrepreneurship and Professional Skills Council) in collaboration with Central Board of Secondary Education and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, the ideathon encouraged students from Classes IV-XII to ideate solutions under the theme "Nayi Soch, Naya Bharat."

From agritech and sustainability to education, health and technology-led social solutions, the projects showcased the depth of innovation, problem-solving ability and entrepreneurial thinking emerging at the school level.

ISpA is proud to support platforms that ignite innovation at the school level and empower young minds to think boldly, build early and lead India's technology-driven future.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISpA SIGNS MoU WITH LINK INNOVATIONS TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S SPACE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

Indian Space Association (ISpA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Link Innovations at the MeitY Startup Hub on 15th Jan 2026, reinforcing a shared commitment to strengthening India's space innovation ecosystem.

Link is a full-service innovation agency working closely with startups, communities and large enterprises to translate ideas into scalable impact.

Through this collaboration, ISpA and Link will work together on space-based joint research, co-education initiatives, strategic studies and capacity-building programmes, with a focus on emerging technologies, policy-relevant research and international cooperation.

This partnership reflects ISpA's continued efforts to enable structured industry innovation linkages and to support India's growing space startup ecosystem through knowledge exchange and collaborative platforms.

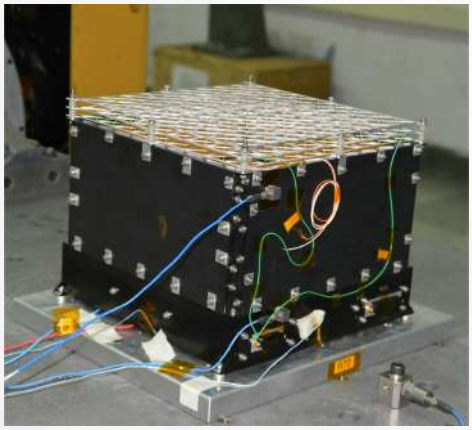
We look forward to meaningful outcomes that contribute to innovation, talent development and global engagement in the space sector.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

INDIA'S COSMIC DUST EXPERIMENT - GROUND-BREAKING HUNT FOR INTERPLANETARY SECRETS! | JANUARY 05, 2026

Interplanetary Dust Particles (IDPs) are microscopic shrapnel from comets and asteroids that form our atmosphere's mysterious "meteor layer" and show up as "shooting star" in night. Dust EXperiment (DEX) is the first Indian-made instrument to hunt for such high-speed IDPs. This compact instrument is tuned to "hear" impacts, capturing vital data that redefines our understanding of the universe and charts the path for safe human deep-space missions. At the core of the experiment lies a 3-kilogram dust detector based on the cutting-edge hypervelocity principle designed to capture high-speed space dust impacts with only 4.5 W power consumption.

DEX was flown on PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) of the PSLV-C58 XPoSat mission on 1st January 2024and rocketed to 350 km altitude (Fig.1). The 140° wide-view detector successfully logged signals of orbital debris' (dust) impacts (Fig.2) during 01 January to 09 February 2024, confirming the instrument's capability to identify and measure such events. Skimming Earth's atmosphere on a 9.5o inclination, the detector registered several hits: a cosmic invader striking every thousand seconds.



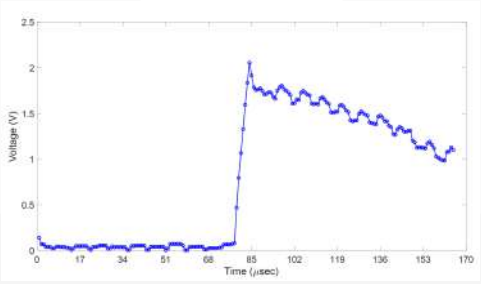


Figure 2: Typical dust impact signal provided by DEX, corresponding to orbit 207 on 14 January 2024. The unit of time on x-axis is in micro-second.

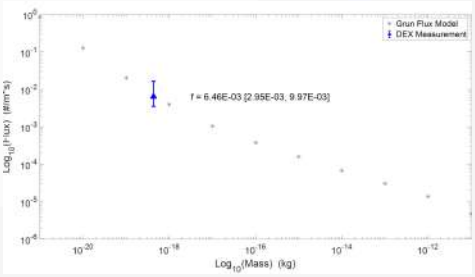


Figure 3: Flux derived from the DEX measurement, plotted along with Grün et al. (1985) flux model.

At present, we have no measurements of cosmic dust in the thick atmosphere of Venus or in the thin atmosphere of the red planet Mars. DEX is a blueprint of the detector which can study the cosmic dust particle at any planet having atmosphere or no atmosphere. The proven success of the Earth-orbiting DEX can provide the first-ever direct measurements of IDP within the uncharted atmospheres of Venus or Mars, but can also provide new measurements around the Moon. Beyond pure science, this data is mission-critical. The ability to measure IDPs is essential for monitoring the space environment, precisely assessing hazards for our satellites and ultimately, ensuring the safety and success of future manned missions to Moon, Mars and beyond.

The cosmic dust detector, Dust EXperiment (DEX) has been developed by Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad.

ADITYA-L1 MISSION: ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY (AO) SOLICITING PROPOSALS FOR THE FIRST AO CYCLE OBSERVATIONS | JANUARY 06, 2026

The Aditya-L1 Mission marks a major milestone in India's space science programme, enabling continuous and comprehensive observations of the Sun from the Sun-Earth L1 point. Scientific data from the mission are regularly released in public domain for global scientific utilization. At present there are more than 23 TB data in public domain and several important scientific results have been published in International peer reviewed journals. To further maximize the scientific return from this unique mission, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the first Announcement of Opportunity (AO) inviting proposals from the Indian solar physics community for Aditya-L1 observation time. The below document outlines the eligibility criteria, proposal submission process and observation schedule for proposal submission. Researchers are encouraged to go through the complete AO details and submit high-quality proposals that advance our understanding of solar and heliospheric science.

Click here to download the full Aditya-L1 Announcement of Opportunity for first AO cycle PDF - 225 KB

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 MISSION | JANUARY 08, 2026

THE PSLV-C62 MISSION ENCOUNTERED AN ANOMALY DURING END OF THE PS3 STAGE. A DETAILED ANALYSIS HAS BEEN INITIATED.

The PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission is the 9th dedicated commercial mission undertaken by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to build and launch the EOS-N1 earth observation satellite for a user along with providing launch services for 15 co-passenger satellites from domestic & international customers. This launch will use the PSLV-DL variant with two solid strap-on motors. This mission will be the 64th flight of PSLV.

The PSLV-C62 mission will also demonstrate KID or Kestrel Initial Technology Demonstrator from a Spanish startup, which is a small-scale prototype of a re-entry vehicle being developed by the startup. The KID will be the last co-passenger to be injected, after which it is slated to re-enter the earth's atmosphere towards splashdown in the South Pacific Ocean.

The integration of the vehicle and satellites has been completed and pre-launch checks are in progress. The PSLV-C62 mission is proposed to lift-off on January 12, 2026 at 10:17 hrs, from the First Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

PSLV is the workhorse launch vehicle of ISRO that has completed 63 flights including notable missions like Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission, Aditya-L1 and Astrosat Mission. In 2017, PSLV set a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission.

ISRO'S ADITYA-L1 DECODES THE IMPACT OF A POWERFUL SOLAR STORM ON EARTH'S INVISIBLE MAGNETIC SHIELD | JANUARY 10, 2026

Space weather refers to conditions in space caused by transient activity on the Sun, such as solar plasma eruptions, which can affect satellites, communication and navigation services and power grid infrastructure on Earth. During such strong space weather events, Earth's magnetic shield can be significantly disturbed. Scientists and research students from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), using observations from the Aditya-L1 mission along with data from other international space missions, have published a breakthrough study in the Astrophysical Journal (DOI 10.3847/1538-4357/ae1974, December 2025) that investigated a powerful solar storm that impacted Earth during October 2024. The storm was caused by a massive eruption of solar plasma material from the Sun. The study revealed that the most severe effects occurred during the impact of the turbulent region of the solar storm, which was identified with the help of Aditya-L1 observations.

This turbulent region strongly compressed Earth's magnetic field, pushing it unusually close to the Earth and briefly exposing some satellites in geostationary orbit to harsh space conditions. This phenomenon occurs only during severe space weather events. During the turbulent phase of the storm, currents in the auroral region (high latitudes) super intensified, potentially heating the Earth's upper atmosphere and causing enhanced atmospheric escape. The finding of this study shows further importance of understanding of space weather phenomena and their real time assessments to safeguard the critical space assets.

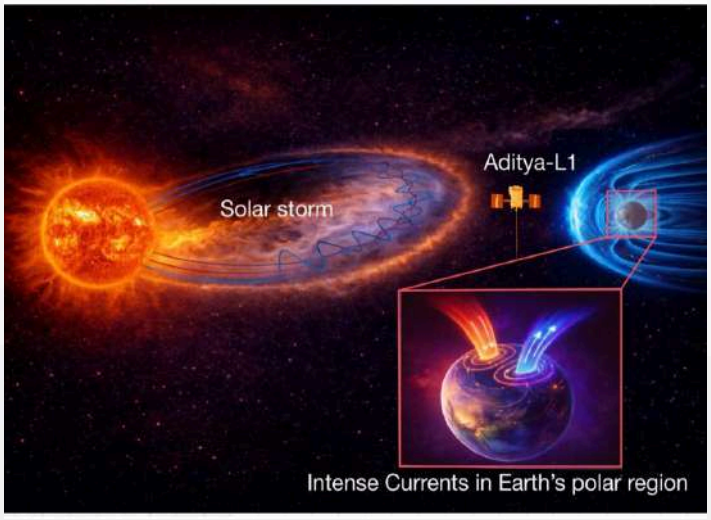


Figure: The figure shows an artistic impression of the solar storm and its interaction with Earth's magnetosphere. The Earth's magnetosphere acts as an invisible shield that protects us from harmful charged particles coming from the Sun. Aditya-L1 observed the structure of solar storm and helped in the assessments of its impact on Earth's environment along with data collected by other spacecraft around Earth. The figure graphically illustrates the super-intensification of electric currents around Earth's polar regions (auroral region) due to the impact of turbulent front of the solar storm. The image is for visualization purposes and not drawn to scale.

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

ISRO AND ESA JOINTLY ORGANISE ISRO-ESA HELIOPHYSICS WORKSHOP ON ADITYA-L1, SOLAR ORBITER AND PROBA-3 | JANUARY 21, 2026

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and European Space Agency (ESA) are jointly organizing an extensive 5 days ISRO-ESA Heliophysics Workshop on Aditya-L1, Solar Orbiter and Proba-3 during 19-23 January 2026 in Trivandrum. The workshop is organized in coordination with Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Trivandrum and brings together the global heliophysics community to explore new scientific opportunities through these solar missions. Approximately 50 solar and heliophysics experts, researchers and students from Europe and other countries, together with about 150 Indian solar and heliophysics experts, researchers and students, are participating in the workshop. The workshop focuses on exploiting the unprecedented solar and heliospheric data currently available from Aditya-L1, Solar Orbiter and Proba-3, whose complementary vantage points and orbital configurations enable a comprehensive view of the Sun and the heliosphere that is not achievable with individual missions alone.

The five-day workshop features a rich scientific program spanning various domains of solar and heliospheric science. Invited talks by eminent international and national scientists, along with selected contributed and poster presentations, highlight recent advances in various aspects of solar dynamics, space weather and heliophysics. A key component of the workshop is the series of hands-on data analysis sessions, providing participants with practical guidance on accessing, processing and combining datasets from Aditya-L1, Solar Orbiter and Proba-3.

The ISRO-ESA Heliophysics Workshop aims to advance our understanding of the Sun and its influence on the heliosphere, paving the way for impactful future joint studies and coordinated observation campaigns.

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

CALL FOR REGISTRATION: ISRO START 2026 PROGRAMME FOR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS | JANUARY 23, 2026

ISRO opens up opportunity for Indian academic institutes to register for the fourth edition of Space science and Technology Awareness Training (START) 2026 programme with the theme 'Observation from Space' to be held during March-April 2026.

START is an annual event organised by ISRO offering online lectures by pan-India experts in the domain of space science and technology, spanning a duration of around three weeks. The deliberations comprise introductory level lectures on various aspects of space science and technology, tailored for post-graduate and preferably the final year under graduate students of physical sciences and technology.

Expression of interest is sought from the academic institutes in India to host this online programme as nodal centres. Academic institutes in India may register their Expression of Interest in the prescribed format by February 13, 2026 through https://jigyasa.iirs.gov.in/START

Registration for student participants from nodal centres is open during 18-28 February 2026 and registration for individual category with a minimum age of 20 years is open till 28th February 2026.

Link for participant registration: https://elearning.iirs.gov.in/edusatregistration/

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

INAUGURATION OF MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ISRO'S JUNIOR LEVEL & MIDDLE LEVEL SCIENTIST/ENGINEERS AT CENTRE FOR ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (COD), HYDERABAD | JANUARY 23, 2026

The Management Development Programme (MDP) for Scientists and Engineers of ISRO at the Centre for Organisation Development (COD), Hyderabad was inaugurated by Scientific Secretary, ISRO on January 19, 2026 through virtual mode. The first batch one week residential programme consists of 34 middle level engineers covering all ISRO centres across the country.

The programme is part of ISRO's ongoing efforts in capacity building under the Annual Capacity Building Plan (ACBP), aligned with the Government of India's "Mission Karmayogi" and is aimed at strengthening managerial and leadership capabilities of junior and middle-level engineers. In his address, the Scientific Secretary emphasized the need to complement ISRO's strong technical training framework with management and leadership skills to prepare officers for higher responsibilities in complex space programmes.

14 batches of Management Development Programme and 4 batches of the Project Management one-week residential training programme are scheduled, with each batch accommodating 35 participants from various ISRO centres across the country.

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

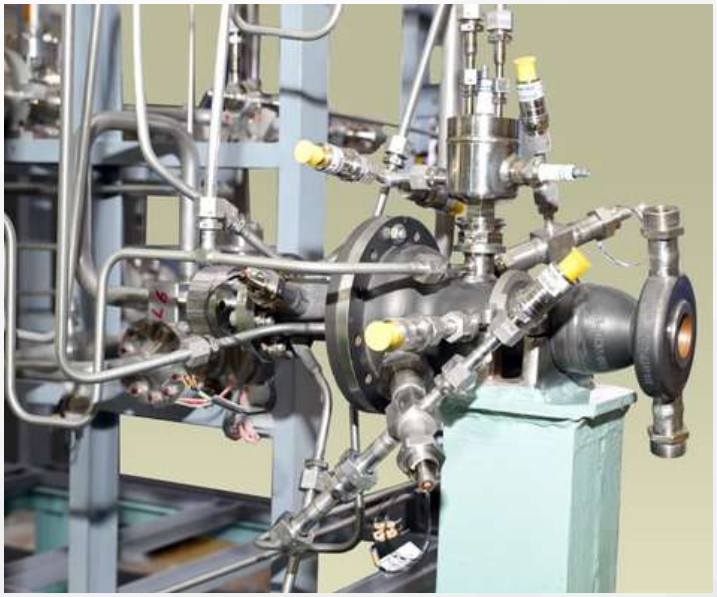
ISRO CONDUCTS TESTING OF SUB-SCALE THRUST CHAMBER FOR LOX-METHANE ENGINE | JANUARY 27, 2026

ISRO is developing a LOX-Methane engine for induction in the next generation of launch vehicles and the development of the essential engine subsystems is progressing at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre of ISRO. The testing of these subsystems at a smaller scale (sub-scale) has commenced. An optimally designed thrust chamber with injector head is key to the success of any cryogenic engine. ISRO has successfully conducted the first hot test of the high thrust LOX-Methane Engine at thrust chamber level with a single element injector.

The test was conducted at the Thrust Chamber Test facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri on January 27, 2026. The sub-scale thrust chamber and single element injector head were successfully tested to a chamber pressure of 56 bar. The sub-scale thrust chamber and single element injector head were realized through additive manufacturing route. Ignition and flame sustenance inside the thrust chamber were achieved and performance of all systems were normal.

The test article will be further used to select the optimal injector configuration through a series of further hot tests.

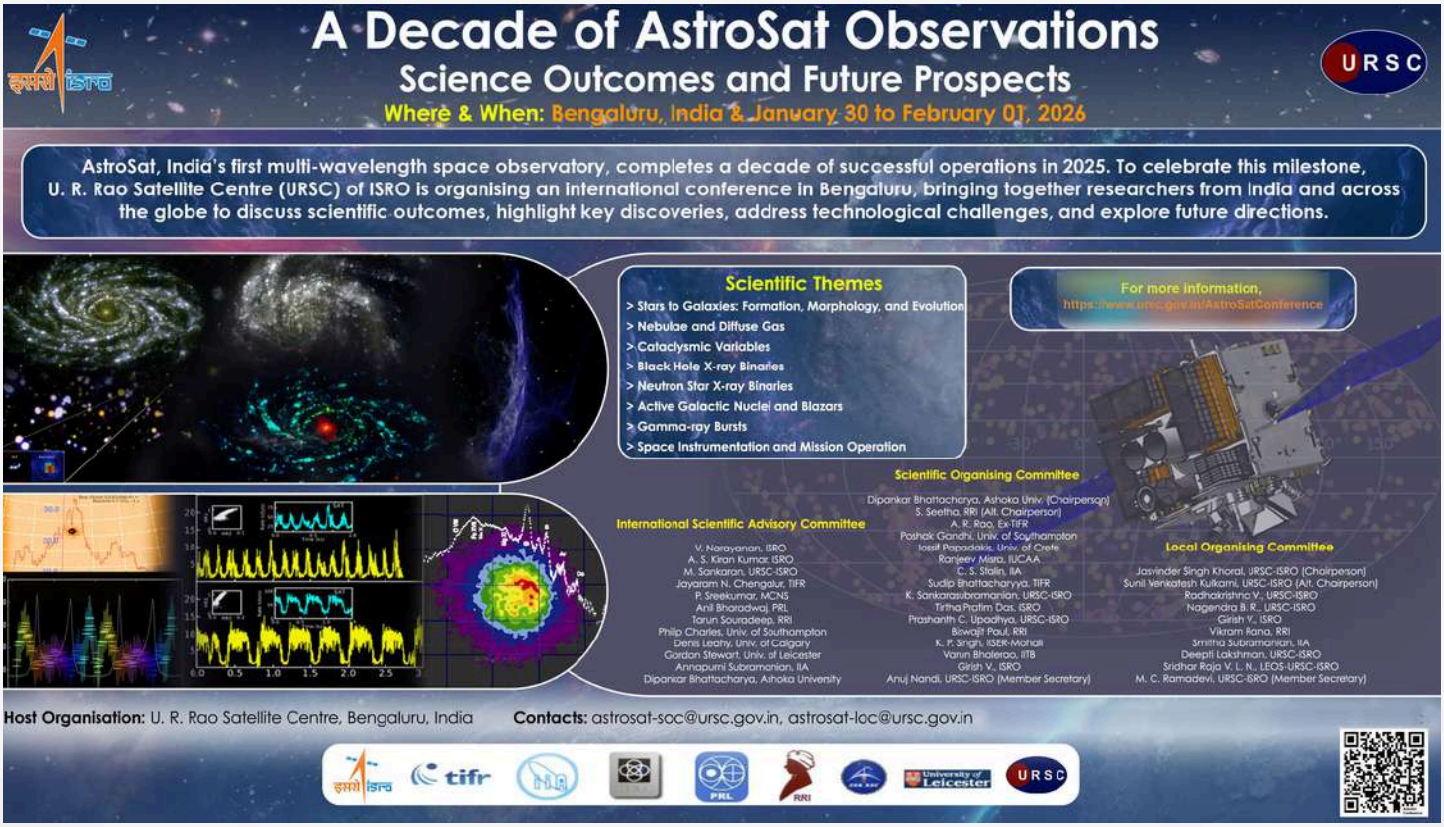
LMSE HT-03 Hot Test Flame


3D Printed Single Element Thrust Chamber

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF ASTROSAT | JANUARY 29, 2026

AstroSat, India's first multi-wavelength space observatory, completed a decade of successful operations in September 2025. To celebrate this milestone, U. R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is organising an international conference in Bengaluru, bringing together researchers from India and across the globe to discuss scientific outcomes, highlight key discoveries, address technological challenges and explore future directions.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY: INDIAN MICROGRAVITY EXPERIMENTS - IMEX-2026 | JANUARY 29, 2026

India's Human Space Programme is entering a transformative phase with the development of short-duration human spaceflight missions under Gaganyaan, progressing towards a sustained human presence in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) through the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS). These missions are envisioned not only as technological milestones but also as platforms for enabling cutting-edge scientific research in the microgravity environment.

In line with this vision, Indian Space Research Organisation has announced Indian Microgravity Experiments - IMEx-2026, an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) inviting proposals from the Indian research community to conceptualise, develop and demonstrate scientifically meaningful microgravity experiments.

IMEx-2026 encourages proposals across a wide range of disciplines, including materials science, space biology and biotechnology, space agriculture, pharmacology and drug research, fluid physics and thermal transport, combustion and fire safety and in-space manufacturing and processing. Applications are open to government-recognised academic institutions, national research laboratories, Indian start-ups and industry.

Under the programme, Principal Investigators are expected to first demonstrate feasibility using laboratory-scale models, followed by possible validation on terrestrial microgravity platforms. Select experiments may later be considered for ISRO-enabled flight opportunities in LEO, including aboard the Bharatiya Antariksh Station, subject to safety and feasibility constraints. ISRO will provide mentoring, technical guidance and engineering coordination, with collaborations formalised through MoUs.

Click here for details of the Announcement of Opportunity, eligibility, proposal format and submission process.

Proposals submitted by 28 February 2026 will be considered for the current cycle.

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

ACHIEVEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF SPACE - 2025 | JANUARY 29, 2026

The year 2025 was an exciting & challenging year for the Indian Space Programme, where we achieved some major milestones. In 2025, we had around 231 accomplishments including the missions, ground tests, technology demonstration and all space related activities along with 12 Rohini Sounding Rocket flights and with every achievement the Department proved its excellence, heritage and outstanding teamwork.

(A) Missions

We had very significant missions in 2025 and each mission achieved something unique.

- SPADEX successfully demonstrated autonomous docking & undocking and power transfer, making India the fourth nation to achieve space docking.
- POEM-04 (PSLV-C60) hosted payloads from ISRO, startups and academia, completing 1,000+ orbits, demonstrating robotic arm operations and seed germination in microgravity.
- GSLV-F15/NVS-02 marked the 100th launch from Sriharikota.
- NISAR (ISRO-NASA) became the first joint ISRO-NASA mission and the first dual-frequency SAR satellite, now fully operational.
- LVM3-M5 & M6 missions set records for the heaviest GTO and overall payloads launched from Indian soil, validating advanced propulsion and actuation technologies.

(B) Technology Demonstration tests

- This year, a breakthrough was achieved in testing of the Indigenous Semicryogenic engine and carried out the demonstration of re-ignition of Cryogenic engine thrust chamber in flight. In a related ground test, ignition of the CE-20 engine in boot strap mode was achieved in the ground test paving way for restartable cryogenic stage in future missions for mission flexibility. This is perhaps the first time a Gas Generator cycle engine is tested in bootstrap mode in the world.

(C) Gaganyaan Programme

- Over 8,000 ground tests completed, first uncrewed mission in final phase, successful parachute airdrop tests and strong validation through the Axiom-4 mission, where the first Indian ISS mission enabled seven microgravity experiments by Indian institutions.

(D) Space-Sector Reforms and Handholding NGEs

- DOS has been supporting the activities of NGEs in the country as part of the space-sector reforms through IN-SPACe. Through IN-SPACe, ISRO supported private players with 40 completed activities, SSLV technology transfer to HAL, authorization of a private communication satellite and a PPP EO constellation.

(E) Applications

- Enhanced disaster management, flood mapping across 21 states, DIGIPIN & PDAC, lightning monitoring, forest and soil atlases and nationwide geospatial solutions.

(F) Infrastructure Development

This year saw a lot of infrastructure getting either approved or commissioned.

- The Third Launch Pad Project was approved by the Union Cabinet at a cost of about Rs. 4000 Crores. The civil works commenced at the SSLV Launch Complex at Kulasekarapattinam including the launch pad facility and is targeted for readiness by August 2026 and an orbital launch from the facility by the end of this year.
- The indigenous 10-ton Propellant Mixer for Solid motors was commissioned which is the highest capacity in the country to enable higher throughput for solid motor casting. We have also commissioned the second process line at the Ammonium Perchlorate plant to double the throughput for Ammonium Perchlorate required for solid propellant processing.
- A state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for titanium alloy tanks was inaugurated at Tumkur along with the new monopropellant thruster test facility. Similarly, the Cryogenic Turbopump Test facility and the new satellite thruster test facility are also inaugurated this year.
- A state-of-the-art Landing Gear drop test facility was inaugurated for the RLV programme, which is the only facility in the country that simulates actual run-way surface.

(G) Space Science

- This year, a separate Space Science & Astronomy vertical was created to provide focus and direction to the Space Science activities in the country.
- Several National meets related to Chandrayaan 4, Chandrayaan 5 and Venus Orbiter mission were conducted and there is a growing user community for space science in the nation.
- Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, Aditya-L1, XPoSat and Astrosat missions continue to provide scientific data for new discoveries and studies in the Lunar/Solar environment.

(H) Collaboration with other Departments

- Partnerships across BRICS, NASA, ESA, CSIR, DRDO, DAE and others; leadership at GLEX-2025 with 1,500 global participants.

(I) Major Events

This year three major events were conducted by the Department and also played a leading role in a major international conference.

- GLEX 2025, that was held in India in May 2025, was a huge success and the event marked a major milestone in India's growing space leadership bringing together 1500 participants from 36 countries.

- National Meet 2.0 was conducted 10 years after the 1st Meet in 2015, that was held on the directions of Honourable PM. The theme was on Leveraging Space Technology & Applications for Viksit Bharat 2047. More than 300 meetings were conducted in just 3 months with 63 user ministries/departments and 36 State Governments/UTs.
- The second National Space Day was celebrated at New Delhi and an interaction with Space Startups was held on the day. 125 events across 7 zones of the country were held and 1.5 lakh students & 15000 teachers from approx. 750 schools & institutes participated.

(J) Capacity Building & Outreach

- Programmes like NE-SPARKS, YUVIKA, teacher training, incubation centres and plans for a Global Space Institute in India

(K) Atmanirbharata in Semiconductor Area

The Government has been giving lot of importance to Atmanirbharata in Semiconductor Area.

- The 32-bit Vikram Processor, the first 32-bit processor qualified for use in space applications and jointly developed by ISRO with SCL was presented to Honourable PM during the Semicon India 2025 event in September.
- An indigenous 250nm process technology was developed for fabrication of RF Gallium Nitride High Electron Mobility Transistor.
- An indigenous baseband ASIC to support NavIC& other GNSS signals has been realized on 28nm technology for use in civilian and strategic platforms.

(L) International Cooperation

- In the area of International Cooperation, we have signed Agreements of various nature with 10 Space Agencies, conducted about 125 bilateral meetings and 75 multilateral meetings, about 32 foreign dignitaries and delegations have visited ISRO. India has also taken over the BRICS presidency. The already launched NISAR along with the upcoming collaborative missions like G20 satellite, TRISHNA & LUPEX are elevating India as a preferred partner in global flagship missions.

(M) Awards & Recognition

- This year brought 23 nos. of national & international laurels including major awards like IAA Von Karman Award of 2025, AIAA Goddard Astronautics award for Chandrayaan-3 landing, Broglio Award by Italian Aerospace Industry Association, Vigyan Sri Puraskar 2025, Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025, ASI and National Geospatial Award 2025. Department of Space was also awarded Rajbhasha Kirti Award (Second Prize) for the year 2024-25 for the best implementation of Official Language Hindi. This prize is awarded by Department of Official Language for effective implementation of Official Language policy.

IN-SPACe INDIAN NATIONAL SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION CENTRE

IN-SPACE ANNOUNCES SEED FUND SCHEME WINNERS FOCUSED ON AUTONOMOUS AND VIRTUALIZED SPACE MISSIONS

JANUARY 15, 2026

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has released the results for its latest Seed Fund Scheme, specifically targeting "Full Mission Virtualization for Smart Computing and Control." This initiative is a core component of the Decadal Vision to grow India's space economy to $44 billion by 2033.
Following the Announcement of Opportunity (AoO) issued in mid-2025, 68 proposals from Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) were evaluated by an expert committee for technical readiness, scalability and impact on autonomous mission operations.

Category A: Seed Fund Grant-in-Aid Winners:
The following four startups have been selected for direct financial assistance (milestone-based grants of up to ₹1 Crore) to transition their concepts into flight-ready prototypes:

- Cloudone AI Robotics Lab
- DREAM AEROSPACE
- Aule Space:
- ULEO Space (Orbitt Space)

Category B: Mentorship & Technical Support Winners:
In addition to the grant winners, six NGEs were selected for mentorship support. These entities will receive access to ISRO/IN-SPACe test facilities, validation support and potential Technology Transfer (ToT) from the Department of Space:

- Sanyark Space
- GalaxEye
- TakeMe2Space
- Digantara
- Space Unlock
- Orbital-grid

The emphasis of these awards is clearly on Autonomy and Virtualization. From Space Domain Awareness (SDA) to autonomous docking and on-orbit operations, the 2026 cohort reflects a shift toward complex, high-reliability orbital services.

By facilitating these grants, IN-SPACe is not only providing capital but also creating a pipeline of validated technologies that can eventually integrate into the global space supply chain.

IN-SPACe INDIAN NATIONAL SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION CENTRE

IN-SPACE AND UAE SPACE AGENCY SIGN LOI TO DEEPEN COMMERCIAL SPACE COOPERATION

JANUARY 19, 2026

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) and the UAE Space Agency have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to strengthen India-UAE cooperation in commercial space activities and industry collaboration.
The LoI reflects the deepening bilateral partnership between India and the UAE and outlines a shared intent to pursue joint initiatives across key areas, including:

- Establishment of new launch complexes
- Satellite fabrication facilities
- Joint space missions
- Space academies and training centres for developing future-ready talent

This engagement reinforces India's vision of building a globally competitive space ecosystem through international collaboration and enhanced private sector participation, while opening new pathways for industry-led cooperation between the two space economies.

A special briefing by the Foreign Secretary on this development can be found at:
https://lnkd.in/gJzTBX_W

IN-SPACe INDIAN NATIONAL SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION CENTRE

IN-SPACE SIGNS MOU TO DEVELOP INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS EARTH OBSERVATION CONSTELLATION UNDER EO-PPP

JANUARY 21, 2026

Pixxel has formalised an agreement with IN-SPACe to design, build, own and operate India's first privately led national Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework. The agreement was signed in Bengaluru on 21 January 2026, marking one of the largest public-private partnerships in Indian space history.

Led by Pixxel, the consortium includes Dhruva Space, PierSight and SatSure, bringing together complementary strengths across satellite manufacturing, advanced imaging payloads, mission operations, analytics and value-added services. Collectively, the consortium will create an end-to-end EO ecosystem, spanning space hardware, ground infrastructure and downstream intelligence products.

Over the next five years, the consortium will invest ₹1,200+ crore to deploy a 12-satellite multimodal constellation featuring very high-resolution optical, multispectral, SAR and hyperspectral imaging. The system will deliver reliable, analysis-ready EO data for Indian government users coordinated through IN-SPACe, while also enabling global commercial services across sectors such as agriculture, climate and environment monitoring, infrastructure planning, energy, maritime and national security.

The programme represents a structural shift in India's space model from exclusively government-owned systems to private industry designing, financing and operating critical national space infrastructure. It positions India among a select group of nations capable of deploying advanced EO constellations through private-sector leadership, while strengthening self-reliance, data sovereignty and mission-scale industry participation.

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ISpA IN NEWS

ISpA seeks fiscal backing for private space sector

Bengaluru: Indian Space Association (ISpA) has urged Centre to use Union Budget 2026–27 to deliver a targeted fiscal and regulatory push that can anchor the country's ambition of becoming a leading global space power, with private industry as a core driver of growth.

In recommendations submitted to govt, ISpA said while Space Policy 2023 has enabled private participation, the sector now needs structural support to overcome its capital-intensive nature and long gestation cycles of five to seven years.

"India stands at a defining moment in its space journey. By recognising space as critical infrastructure, mandating private sector participation, rationalising taxes, incentivising R&D, and strengthening regulatory certainty, the budget can decisively shift govt's role from provider to partner and anchor buyer," ISpA director-general Lt Gen (retd) A K Bhatt said. TNN

DRDO's Anvesha satellite to be crown jewel of ISRO's PSLV-C62 mission

Dalip Singh
Rohan Das
New Delhi/Chennai

The crown jewel of ISRO's PSLV-C62 mission, which will launch multiple satellites on Monday, is the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) EOS-N1 Anvesha satellite, designed to give the defence establishment an eagle eye in the skies.

Anvesha is a hyperspectral earth-observation satellite developed by DRDO's Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE). It is scheduled for launch on Monday at 10.17 am from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, near Chennai.


Anvesha is a hyperspectral earth-observation satellite

SECURITY BOOST

The satellite is expected to empower the armed forces with advanced imagery, enhancing situational awareness, strengthening strategic planning and preparing troops for future operational challenges. The boost comes at a time when regional and global security uncertainties are steadily increasing, sources said.

This is part of the government's plan to scale up the space programme after Operation Sindoor. The Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had, in October 2024, decided to launch 52 dedicated military surveillance satellites.

Billed as Phase III of the Space-Based Surveillance initiative, the government allocated approximately ₹26,968 crore to significantly boost national security and border monitoring.

EOS-N1, classified as a mini-satellite (100-150 kg), will operate in the low Earth orbit (~600 km) and serve as the primary payload on this PSLV mission. "This breakthrough technology enables hyperspectral imaging across hundreds of narrow spectral bands, far surpassing conventional RGB imaging," said Director General of Indian Space Association (ISpA) Lt General (retd) AK Bhat. "It will deliver unprecedented capabilities for material identification, strategic surveillance and national security," he said.

There are other labs of the DRDO which are supporting this programme, including one under the Solder Support System division.

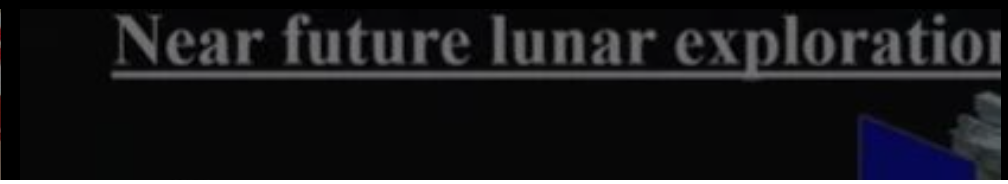
MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR

Besides them, Centum Electronics Ltd, a core member of the ISpA, has made a major contribution to the EOS-N1 as it developed the entire payload electronics for IRDE, Bhat said.

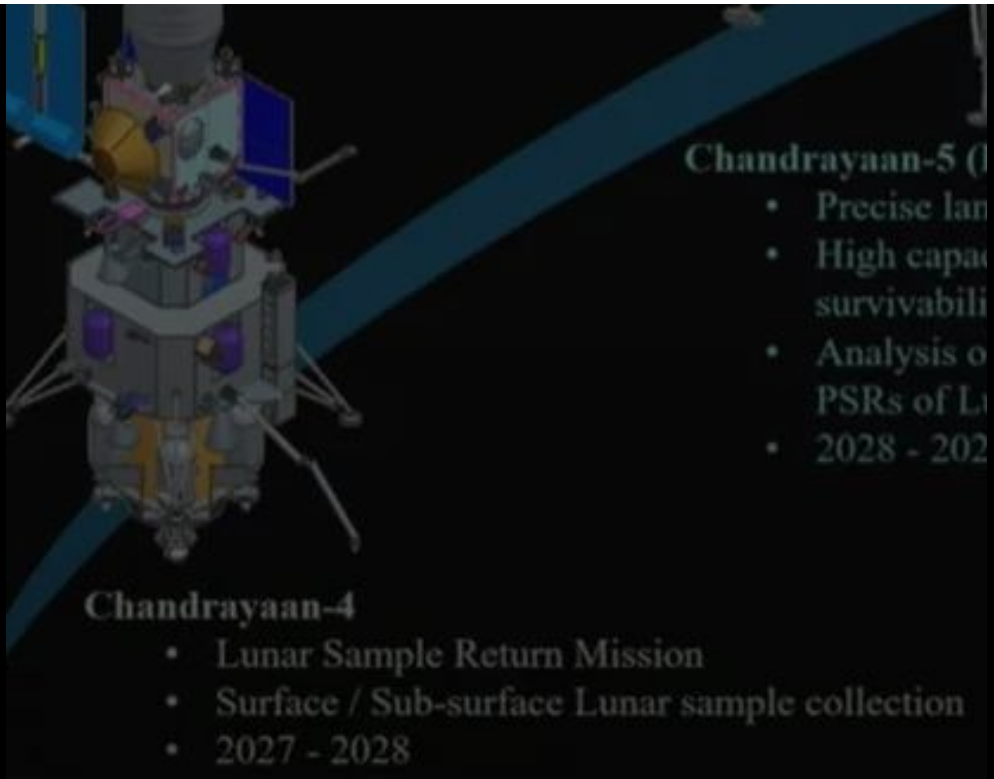
This will be the second such launch of the DRDO's satellite in less than five years. It will scale up the country's capabilities to match the growing militarisation of space.

In 2021, DRDO's Sindhu Netra was deployed to help the Navy keep a close watch on the South China Sea and beyond.

The PSLV-C62 mission will carry the EOS-N1 satellite along with 15 co-passenger satellites from domestic and international customers. The mission will carry satellites from indigenous start-ups like Dhruva Aerospace and OrbitAID Aerospace's AayulSAT, an experimental payload to demonstrate in-orbit satellite refuelling technology.



NATIONAL NEWS



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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- In a first, Nasa to bring back astronauts due to medical emergency on Space Station
- FCC approves SpaceX plan to deploy an additional 7,500 Starlink satellites
- Aegis Aerospace and United Semiconductors Launch In-Space Advanced Materials Manufacturing Facility
- Ryanair rules out equipping planes with Musk's Starlink internet
- Starlink-rival Eutelsat signs deal with Europe's MaiaSpace to launch satellites
- End of an era: Sunita Williams retires after 600+ days in space, 3 ISS missions - 27 years of legacy
- Space race on with endeavour to return to Moon sustainably: Sunita Williams
- Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin launches satellite internet service to rival SpaceX, Amazon
- SpaceX weighs June 2026 IPO at $1.5 trillion valuation: Report
- SpaceX seeks FCC nod for solar-powered satellite data centers for AI
- NASA's Artemis 2 mission to the moon puts Crew-12 SpaceX launch in delicate dance
- Blue Origin pausing space tourism flights for at least 2 years to focus on moon plans
- SpaceX launches Starlink satellites from two coasts in two days
- SpaceX targeting mid-March for 1st flight of bigger, more powerful Starship 'Version 3,' Elon Musk says
- SpaceX launches advanced GPS satellite for US Space Force (video, photos)
- Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin will refly booster on next launch of powerful New Glenn rocket
- Blue Origin launches 6 space tourists to the final frontier after last-minute crew swap (video)
- SpaceX launches 25 Starlink satellites into orbit from California (video)
- NASA marks 40 years since Challenger, prepares Artemis II amid safety and space governance concerns

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CHINA

- China files ITU paperwork for megaconstellations totaling nearly 200,000 satellites
- China launches AlSat-3B remote sensing satellite
- China previews how powerful its new Xuntian space telescope will be ahead of 2027 launch (video)
- Winning the Red Planet race: Returning Mars samples before China should be a top US priority, experts say
- China's next moonshot: Chang'e 7 could search the lunar south pole for water this year
- China launches AlSat-3B for Algeria, further launches delayed ahead of key human spaceflight test
- China eyes space resources, space tourism and on-orbit digital infrastructure
- China set for crewed lunar tests, record launches, moon mission and reusable rockets in 2026
- Damaged Shenzhou-20 spacecraft survives reentry, Shenzhou-23 arrives at spaceport
- China hit by dual launch failures as Long March 3B and Ceres-2 debut mission fail
- Xi hails China-Algeria aerospace co-operation after satellite launch
- China conducts static fire test of new reusable Long March 12B rocket
- China advances plans for dual solar system boundary missions
- China launches AlSat-3A for Algeria, Ceres-1 sea launch adds to Tianqi constellation
- China's first launches of 2026 send Yaogan spacecraft into unusual orbit, loft Guowang satellites
- China files ITU paperwork for megaconstellations totaling nearly 200,000 satellites
- China's astronauts complete cave training amid preparations for moon missions
- Japan, UK agree collaboration on outer space, critical mineral supply chains
- The big ambitions of China's private space industry
- China's Private Space Industry Is Doing A Lot More Than Building Rockets
- China plans space-based AI data centres, challenging Musk's SpaceX ambitions
- Opinion | As China opens up its space sector, Hong Kong should reach for the stars

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

OTHER NATIONS

- UK Space Agency Seeks Satellite Direct-to-Device Solutions for Delayed Emergency Services Network
- Space Summit 2026 to Convene Global Leaders in Singapore to Address the Growing Space Economy
- International Space Station gets new commander: Crew-11 hands over charge to Roscosmos
- Elon Musk's Starlink faces high-profile security test in Iran crackdown
- EU launches government satcom program in sovereignty push
- Russian 'inspector' satellite appears to break apart in orbit, raising debris concerns
- Jupiter's moon Europa has an ice shell about 18 miles thick — and that could be bad news for alien life
- Sinking ice on Jupiter's moon Europa may be slowly feeding its ocean the ingredients for life
- Cyberthieves hit European Space Agency, stealing hundreds of gigabytes of data
- Will budget cuts force NASA to withdraw from Europe's next Venus mission?
- Jupiter ocean moon Europa likely lacks tectonic activity, reducing its chances for life
- This Canadian crater looks like marbled meat | Space photo of the day for Jan. 6, 2026
- Rocket Lab launches Korean disaster-monitoring satellite after long delay
- Rocket Lab launches South Korean satellite
- Hanwha exploring South Korean defense constellation with MDA Space and Telesat
- EU launches government satcom program in sovereignty push
- Eutelsat signs OneWeb launch deal with MaiaSpace
- ESA and ClearSpace announce PRELUDE mission to test debris-removal techniques
- ESA's Comet Interceptor mission moves up launch
- Japanese launch company Interstellar Technologies raises $130 million
- Pentagon commits $1 billion to L3Harris missile unit as 'anchor investor'
- Medical issue could force early end of Crew-11 ISS mission

GOVERNMENT POLICIES/ CONSULTATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAI: Annual Report 2024-25 Released

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released its Annual Report 2024-25, outlining key regulatory initiatives, sector performance and policy actions shaping India's telecom and broadcasting landscape.

The report highlights rapid 5G rollout, with services now covering 99.6% of districts and over 25 crore users, alongside growth in broadband and internet penetration. TRAI played a pivotal role through policy recommendations on spectrum management, infrastructure sharing, Right of Way (RoW) reforms and consultations on satellite-based communication services, M2M and new authorization frameworks under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

Key consumer-focused actions included measures to curb spam calls, strengthened quality-of-service norms and expanded consumer outreach programmes. The broadcasting sector also saw important consultations on National Broadcasting Policy, digital radio and ground-based broadcasters.

Overall, the Annual Report underscores TRAI's continued efforts to foster a future-ready, competitive and investor-friendly communications ecosystem, supporting India's digital transformation and emerging technologies such as 5G, AI, IoT and satellite communications.

ISpA UPCOMING EVENTS

BHARAT DEFENCE TECH SHOW 2026

ISpA is proud to be an Association Partner for the **Bharat Defence Tech Show 2026**, scheduled to be held on 16-17 February 2026 at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.

Bharat Defence Tech Show 2026 will bring together defence leadership, industry innovators, startups and policymakers to deliberate on cutting-edge defence technologies, strategic collaborations and India's journey towards Atmanirbhar Bharat in the defence sector. The platform will enable meaningful engagement across the defence ecosystem, highlighting innovation, indigenisation and national security priorities.

ISpA looks forward to active participation and continued engagement with stakeholders at the event.

INDIAN DEFSPACE SYMPOSIUM 2026

Theme: "Strengthening India's Defence and Space Industry Synergy"

The **Indian DefSpace Symposium 2026 (IDS 2026)**, the 4th edition of ISpA's premier annual defence-space forum, will convene senior leaders from the Armed Forces, global space agencies, industry, academia, and emerging startups to advance India's defence space capabilities.

The **4th edition** of the **Indian DefSpace Symposium (IDS 2026)** will be held on **23–24 April** 2026, bringing together senior leaders from the Armed Forces, industry, academia, global space agencies, and startups to advance India's defence-space agenda.

Day 1 Theme (23 April):
Commercial Space Operations - Navigating Threats and Military Employment
Day 2 Theme (24 April):
Empowering the Space Industry to Enhance Defence Operational Readiness

Stay tuned for further updates and announcements:
www.ispaevents.space

INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION
Bhumandal Se Brahmaand Tak

JANUARY 2026

Founding Members

- Alpha Design Technologies
- Bharti Airtel
- CE Info Systems (MapmyIndia)
- Larsen & Toubro
- Nelco (A TATA Enterprise)
- Eutalsat OneWeb
- Walchandnagar Industries

Associate Members

- AstroWorks Ventures LLC
- Avantel
- Axon Interconnectors & Wires
- BAE Systems India
- BEML Limited
- Bharat Electronics
- Broadcast Engineering Consultants India
- Capella Space
- ESRI India
- HAL - Hindustan Aerospace Division
- ICEYE
- LeoLabs
- Nibe Space
- Northstar Earth
- Planet Labs
- SES India
- Tata Advanced Systems
- Tata Consultancy Services
- Vantor
- Viasat

Core Members

- Ananth Technologies
- Astra Microwave Products
- Azista Industries
- Bharat Forge
- Centum Electronics
- Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing
- Hughes Communications India
- Ipstar (India)

Start-up Members

- Agnikul Cosmos
- AIDIN Technologies
- Altz Technologies
- Anvikshiki Sarvajna
- Astrobase Space Techno
- Astrogate Labs
- Astrome Technologies
- Augsenselabs
- Bellatrix Aerospace
- BES Space
- BQP Technologies
- Caliche
- CI-Metrics
- CYRAN AI Solutions
- Codimaths
- Dhruva Space
- Digantara Research
- Elena Geo Systems
- GalaxEye Space
- Geo Solutions India
- Garuda UAV Pvt Ltd.
- Ice Aero Pvt Ltd
- Inbound Aerospace
- Indian Technology Congress Association
- Inspecity Space Laboratories
- KaleidEO Space Systems
- Kawa Space
- KSpace
- Kepler Aerospace
- Kerala Spacepark
- Kristellar Aerospace
- LuminASIC Pvt Ltd
- Maan Defence
- Manastu Space
- Micronet Solutions
- OmSpace Rocket & Exploration
- OnEarth Space TS
- Omnipresent Robot Tech
- OrbitAID Aerospace
- Piersight Space
- Pixxel
- Robinsons Cargo & Logistics
- Saankhya Labs
- Samkalpa Systems
- SatLeo Labs
- SISIR Radar
- Siliconia Technologies
- Skymap Global India
- Skyroot Aerospace
- Spacefields
- Space Machines Co.
- Suhora Technologies
- TheSpaceLabs
- ThrustWorks Dynetics
- Transcend Satellite
- Upgraha Space
- VEDCOMSPOC
- Vihaan SpaceTech
- VyomIC
- Xovian Aerospace

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