INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION
Bhumandal Se Brahmaand Tak

FEBRUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER

INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION

ADVANCING INDIA'S SPACE ECOSYSTEM:

Innovation, Industry and Global Partnerships

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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

February has been a month of steady progress and meaningful engagement across India's rapidly evolving space ecosystem. The developments during the month reflect growing alignment between policy direction, institutional initiatives, technological innovation and the expanding role of private industry.

An important development was the continued expansion of India's commercial space infrastructure with the inauguration of **NewSpace India Limited's new office at GIFT City, Gujarat**. The initiative strengthens India's ability to engage with international customers and expand commercial launch, satellite services and mission support activities, marking another step toward positioning India as a reliable global space services provider.

Important scientific advancements also emerged from ISRO missions. The **NISAR mission demonstrated high-resolution soil moisture monitoring** capabilities that can significantly support agriculture, water management and climate resilience. Observations from the **Aditya-L1 mission** also provided new insights into geomagnetic disturbances during intense solar storms, contributing to a deeper understanding of space weather and its impact on technological systems.

Institutionally, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) continued to strengthen the private space ecosystem through targeted initiatives. **The announcement of a dedicated ₹6 crore seed fund** to support startups developing artificial intelligence applications for the space sector reflects a growing focus on intelligent systems, data analytics and next-generation mission capabilities. In parallel, the selection of **Astrome Technologies, Azista Industries and Dhruva Space under the Satellite Bus-as-a-Service initiative** represents a meaningful step toward building indigenous satellite platforms capable of supporting diverse payloads and future missions.

The month also witnessed strong engagement by the Indian Space Association across several national and international platforms. From contributing to strategic discussions on foreign direct investment and startup growth at the **U.S.–India Space Business Forum** to participating in national forums such as the **Bharat Defence Tech Show**, ISpA remained actively involved in shaping key conversations around the future of India's space ecosystem.

ISpA also convened its **National Advisory Committee (NAC)** meeting at the Vivekananda International Foundation, bringing together experts from the armed forces, academia, industry and finance. The discussions focused on critical priorities for the sector, including regulatory clarity, infrastructure development, insurance mechanisms for space activities, and strengthening support for startups and MSMEs.

Looking ahead, our collective objective remains clear: to strengthen indigenous capabilities, enable industry-led innovation, deepen international partnerships and ensure that space technologies continue to serve as a strategic enabler of national security, economic growth and sustainable development.

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

- NSIL INAUGURATES NEW OFFICE AT GIFT CITY TO EXPAND COMMERCIAL SPACE ACTIVITIES
- NISAR DEMONSTRATES HIGH-RESOLUTION SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING FOR AGRICULTURE
- ADITYA-L1 DATA EXPLAINS UNUSUAL GEOMAGNETIC STORM BEHAVIOUR
- IN-SPACE LAUNCHES ₹6 CRORE SEED FUND TO SUPPORT AI IN SPACE STARTUPS
- ASTROME TECHNOLOGIES, AZISTA INDUSTRIES, AND DHRUVA SPACE WERE SELECTED BY IN-SPACE UNDER SATELLITE BUS-AS-A-SERVICE (SBAAS) INITIATIVE
- PSLV TO BE REVIEWED BY THIRD PARTY OUTSIDE ISRO, COULD LAUNCH BY JUNE
- BHARAT DEFENCE TECH SHOW 2026 (BDTS 2026) HIGHLIGHTED THE GROWING INTEGRATION OF SPACE, AI AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN STRENGTHENING INDIA'S DEFENCE CAPABILITIES

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

- AVANTEL SECURES ₹122.58 CRORE CONTRACT FROM NSIL FOR SATELLITE ANTENNA SYSTEMS
- AGNIKUL COSMOS AND NEEVCLOUD PLAN INDIA'S FIRST ORBITAL AI DATA CENTRE
- AZISTA SPACE DEMONSTRATES INDIGENOUS SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS CAPABILITY
- DHRUVA SPACE SIGNS ELECTRIC PROPULSION AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE'S EXOTRAIL

MEMBERS BULLETIN

AGNIKUL COSMOS

Agnikul Cosmos, has partnered with NeevCloud to develop India's first orbital AI data centre platform in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). The companies plan to launch a proof-of-concept mission by late 2026, with commercial operations targeted for 2027.

The initiative will host NeevCloud's AI-powered computing systems on Agnikul's extended rocket upper stage, transforming the stage into a space-based platform for AI inferencing and data processing. This shared-hardware approach could significantly reduce mission costs and improve efficiency, while enabling low-latency AI services directly from orbit.

The first mission is expected to carry AI chips, storage, and compute systems, supporting applications such as defence, maritime monitoring, disaster response, robotics, and remote healthcare, particularly in regions with limited terrestrial connectivity.

AVANTEL

Avantel, has secured a ₹122.58 crore contract from NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO, for the supply, installation and commissioning of S/X-band antennas with Ka-band-ready full-motion capability.

The advanced antenna systems will support Telemetry, Tracking and Command (TTC) and data reception for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, strengthening India's ground infrastructure for satellite communications and mission operations.

The project forms part of NSIL's ground segment development initiatives and is scheduled for completion by August 2027.

This milestone highlights Avantel's growing role in delivering advanced communication technologies for India's space and satellite ecosystem, contributing to the expansion of indigenous capabilities in satellite operations and ground systems.

MEMBERS BULLETIN

AZISTA

Azista Space, has successfully demonstrated Space Situational Awareness (SSA) / Non-Earth Imaging (NEI) capability by imaging the International Space Station (ISS) using its AFR sensor.

During the demonstration conducted on 3 February 2026, the AFR sensor tracked and imaged the ISS under sunlit near-horizon conditions at ranges of approximately 245 km and 300 km. Across two independent attempts, the system achieved 100% success, capturing the ISS in multiple frames with an estimated ~2.2 m sampling resolution.

The achievement validates Azista Space's advanced tracking algorithms and imaging precision, marking an important step in the development of indigenous SSA capabilities for monitoring objects in Earth orbit. According to the company, the AFR sensor represents one of the first Indian-built and operated systems to demonstrate such a capability.

DHRUVA SPACE

Dhruva Space, a member of the Indian Space Association (ISpA), has signed an agreement with France-based Exotrail for the supply of 14 micro electric propulsion systems to support its satellite platforms. The systems are scheduled for delivery by 2027.

Under the partnership, Exotrail's 150W spaceware micro Hall-effect propulsion systems will be integrated into Dhruva Space's satellites, enabling precise orbital manoeuvring, improved mission stability and extended satellite lifetimes.

The collaboration highlights the growing India–France partnership in space manufacturing, aligned with the India–France Year of Innovation 2026 and reflects the increasing focus on advanced propulsion technologies and scalable satellite infrastructure within the global small satellite market.

MEMBERS BULLETIN

DIGANTARA

On the sidelines of the Space Summit 2026 in Singapore, Digantara signed an agreement with the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) to collaborate on Space Situational Awareness (SSA) in support of the National Space Agency of Singapore (Office for Space Technology & Industry, Singapore (OSTIn).

Singapore has built one of the most disciplined and forward-leaning space ecosystems in the region and today operates more than 30 satellites across research and commercial missions. As the orbital environment grows more congested, the ability to monitor one's own space assets is becoming essential, with reliable SSA now an important capability.

The partnership focuses on developing SSA software, integrating our space and ground-based sensing infrastructure with analytics to deliver clear visibility and support informed decisions.

SATSURE

SatSure, has been recognised among the Top 10 Global AI Innovators at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 under the “AI for ALL: Global Impact Challenge.” The award was presented by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon’ble Minister for Electronics & IT, Railways and Information & Broadcasting, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 17 February 2026.

SatSure was recognised for SatScore, an AI-powered solution that integrates satellite data, machine learning and ground insights to generate farm-level risk scores. The platform enables climate-smart lending, improved agricultural risk assessment and enhanced financial inclusion for smallholder farmers.

The recognition highlights SatSure’s contribution to scalable AI-driven decision intelligence using Earth observation data, supporting institutions in risk management, agricultural resilience and data-driven credit decision-making.

MEMBERS BULLETIN

ULOOK

ULOOK Technologies has been selected for Cohort Four of the SDA TAP Lab - Mini Accelerator hosted by Catalyst Campus for Technology & Innovation in Colorado Springs. The highly competitive two-month program is designed to prepare innovative companies for integration with Space Domain Awareness (SDA) tools, applications and mission priorities.

Through targeted mentorship, technical onboarding and direct engagement with Department of Defense and SDA stakeholders, ULOOK will refine and strengthen its advanced space capabilities. The accelerator also provides exposure to mission-relevant challenges and integration pathways within the national security ecosystem. Selection for the program highlights ULOOK's technical promise and reinforces its commitment to delivering impactful, mission-ready solutions that enhance space defense operations.

MEMBERS BULLETIN

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISpA at BDTS 2026: Driving Defence & Space Innovation

Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd.), Director General, Indian Space Association (ISpA), inaugurated Bharat Defence Tech Show 2026 (BDTS 2026) and the exhibition, followed by a high-level panel discussion alongside Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, SYSM, PVSM, AVSM, VM, Vice Chief of the Air Staff; Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, SYSM, PVSM, AVSM, NM, PhD (Retd.), Director General, USI; and Smt. Dipti Mohil Chawla, IDAS, Additional Secretary, Department of Defence (DoD).

The panel underscored the importance of self-reliance, ownership of critical technologies and the imperative to upgrade capabilities rapidly. The discussion positioned technology as the new currency of deterrence, with Space and AI-driven capabilities enabling decision dominance. It also reflected on India's transformation from a buyer's military to a creator's military.

The second day commenced with a keynote address on space technology by Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd.), DG, ISpA. The second day featured a focused panel discussion on Strategic Surveillance & Intelligence.

The session was chaired by Air Vice Marshal Pawan Kumar (Retd.), Former Director General, Defence Space Agency; Col Harinderjit Singh, Director (Defence, Aerospace & Geospatial Intelligence), Indian Army; and Shri Karan Sajnani, CEO, RUDRA Cybersecurity and featured members of the Indian Space Association including Shri Pranit Mehta, Co-Founder, GalaxEye; Shri Rakesh B., CEO (Space), Samtel Avionics Ltd.

The session featured in-depth discussions on India's growing capabilities in developing state-of-the-art surveillance and intelligence systems, while outlining a clear roadmap for building strategic alliances between defence institutions and the private sector to achieve technological autonomy.

Panelists emphasized the importance of supporting and safeguarding Indian private industry, while strengthening academia, R&D and the startup ecosystem to deliver next-generation technologies. The discussions also highlighted the evolution of geospatial intelligence and how increasingly advanced systems position the world at a unique intersection of strategic strength and vulnerability.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

BHARAT DEFENCE TECH SHOW 2026

ISpA ACTIVITIES

DG ISPA MEETS EUTELSAT CEO DURING FRANCE–INDIA STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd), Director General, Indian Space Association (ISpA) met Jean-François Fallacher, CEO of Eutelsat, at a welcome reception hosted at the Embassy of France in India, New Delhi.

Mr. Fallacher, along with Ms. Neha Idnani (founder member of the ISpA Executive Council), was part of the presidential delegation accompanying French President Emmanuel Macron during his visit to India, reflecting the strength and depth of the France-India strategic partnership.

The engagement highlighted growing cooperation between India and France in the space and technology sectors. In this context, 2026 has been designated as the India-France Year of Innovation, underscoring the two countries' shared commitment to advancing innovation, technology collaboration and future-ready partnerships across strategic domains.

The interaction reinforced the importance of global industry partnerships and international collaboration in supporting the continued growth of India's space ecosystem.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISPA DIRECTOR CHAIRS PANEL ON STRENGTHENING INDIA'S PRIVATE SPACE INDUSTRY

Gp Capt T.H. Anand Rao (Retd.), **Director at Indian Space Association**, chaired a panel discussion on "Fostering the Private Space Industry: Infrastructure, R&D and Legal Support" during the five-day Structured Training Programme (STP) on "Space Policy, Law and Economy," organised by Indian Space Research Organisation HQ in mid-February 2026.

The session brought together Indian Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) from across the space sector to share insights on the opportunities and challenges in strengthening India's private space ecosystem.

The discussion highlighted the critical role of enabling infrastructure, strong R&D support, and progressive legal frameworks in accelerating the growth of India's private space industry.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISPA- INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION AT THE TIMES OF INDIA BUDGET DIALOGUES 2026

Lt Gen A K Bhatt (Retd), Director General, Indian Space Association (ISpA) participated in the Times of India – Budget Dialogues 2026 on 3 February 2026, where he shared perspectives on India's growing stature as a global space power and the future of the country's space ecosystem.

During the discussion, DG ISpA noted that space is one technology domain where India already sits at the global high table, highlighting milestones such as Chandrayaan-3 and India becoming the third nation to achieve a successful lunar landing.

He also spoke about India's ambitious space roadmap, including the planned Bharatiya Antariksha Station (2030s timeframe), the long-term vision of an Indian astronaut landing on the Moon on an Indian rocket and the expanding role of space technologies in supporting sustainability and national development.

Looking ahead, DG ISpA highlighted the growing importance of artificial intelligence, robotics, edge computing and advanced remote sensing in shaping the next phase of the space economy. He also pointed to the emerging concept of space-based data centres, made increasingly feasible as reusable launch technologies help reduce launch costs.

Speaking on the Union Budget, he welcomed the increase in defence spending, the continued emphasis on infrastructure-led economic growth and the enhanced allocation for ISRO, expressing confidence that additional resources will continue to support India's expanding space ambitions.

The interaction underscored the strategic importance of the space sector for India's future growth, as well as the critical role of private industry in advancing innovation and capability development.

ISpA appreciated The Times of India for providing a valuable platform to discuss India's growth trajectory and the evolving role of the space ecosystem in national development.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

U.S.–INDIA SPACE COMMERCE TAKES A MAJOR LEAP WITH FIRST U.S. COMMERCIAL SPACE TRADE MISSION TO INDIA

To mark this milestone, a warm official reception was hosted by Mr. Jason M. Meeks, Deputy Chief of Mission at his residence in New Delhi in the honour of the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) delegation.

Organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce and BCIU, this flagship forum brought together 23 executives from 14 of America's most innovative space pioneers, including the U.S. space companies – Amazon, Axiom Space, Apex, Black Sky, Elve, Kayhan Space, Park Aerospace, Planet Lab, Resecurity, SpaceX, Vast Space, Umbra Space, Viasat and Vantor.

Indian Space Association (ISpA) was proud to have been a part of this forum and facilitating deep engagement between our members and the U.S. delegation. As the global space economy accelerates, initiatives like this reinforce the growing momentum of the U.S.-India bilateral partnership.

We remain steadfast and dedicated to supporting these pivotal global engagements that push the boundaries of what's possible.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISPA HOLDS NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NAC) MEETING

ISpA conducted its National Advisory Committee meeting on 09 February 2026 at the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi.

Chaired by the Dr Arvind Gupta, Director, VIF India, the meeting brought together distinguished members from multiple domains including ArmedForces, Academia, Industry and Finance.

Deliberations focused on critical priorities for the sector, including:

- The emerging need for insurance solutions for space activities
- Challenges faced by the ecosystem, particularly MSMEs and start-ups
- Issues related to wider adoption of NavIC
- The importance of regulatory clarity and policy predictability
- Strengthening infrastructure and funding mechanisms
- Improving technology transfer processes and defining clearer roles between government and private stakeholders

Members emphasized that greater private sector participation, stronger institutional support and a robust enabling framework are essential to enhance India's global competitiveness in space.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

DRIVING THE FUTURE OF SPACE ENTREPRENEURSHIP - ISPA LEADS THE DIALOGUE

Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (retd), Director General, **ISpA- Indian Space Association**, moderated a panel discussion on "Prospects for Start-ups and Entrepreneurs in India and the U.S." at the U.S.–India Space Business Forum, held on 10 February in Bengaluru.

The discussion explored the growing role of venture capital in the space sector, focusing on responsible investment strategies, scaling opportunities and the unique challenges associated with the long gestation cycles of space commerce.

The distinguished panel brought together global leaders and investors, including:

- **Himanshu Periwal**, CEO, **Oister Global**
- **Arun Kumar**, Managing Partner, **Celesta Capital**
- **Mike Safyan**, Vice President – Launch & Strategic Initiatives, **Planet** Labs
- **Srinath Ravichandran**, Co-Founder & CEO, Agnikul
- **Eric Stallmer**, EVP – Government Affairs & Public Policy, **Voyager Technologies**
- **SUSMITA MOHANTY** Director General, **Spaceport SARABHAI**

The session provided valuable insights into cross-border collaboration, evolving funding trends and strategies for building sustainable and globally competitive space startups in both India and the United States.

The engagement highlighted the importance of platforms that connect innovators, investors and policymakers to accelerate the growth of the space start-up ecosystem.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISPA JOINS FDI DIALOGUE AT U.S.-INDIA SPACE BUSINESS FORUM ON 10TH FEB, BENGALURU

Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd), Director General, Indian Space Association (ISpA), participated as a panelist in a discussion on "India's Call for FDI in the Space Sector: Vision and Implementation."

The session examined India's evolving transition toward a liberalised and investor-friendly space economy, following the landmark 2025 FDI policy reforms. During the discussion, DG ISpA highlighted the significant opportunities the new framework creates for global investors and underscored the importance of regulatory clarity, ease of doing business and strong industry collaboration to fully realise India's space potential.

The panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Aditya Ramanathan (The Takshashila Institution) and also featured Dr. Vinod Kumar (IN-SPACe) and Dr. Ranjana Kaul (Dua Associates).

The interaction highlighted the growing importance of policy dialogue and stakeholder collaboration in enabling investment, innovation and the global integration of India's space sector.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION AT ADVITIYA, IIT ROPAR

ISpA participated in Advitiya'26 – The Space Odyssey, the annual technical festival held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar. The event brought together young innovators, students and space enthusiasts to explore emerging opportunities in the space and technology ecosystem.

Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd), Director General, Indian Space Association (ISpA) attended the event as the Chief Guest. During the programme, he was felicitated by Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Director, IIT Ropar, in recognition of ISpA's efforts toward strengthening India's space capabilities and encouraging the next generation of space professionals.

The engagement highlighted the importance of academic-industry collaboration in nurturing innovation and building future talent for India's rapidly evolving space ecosystem.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

DG ISPA ADDRESSES IN-SPACE OFFICERS DURING A SESSION AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (IIPA), NEW DELHI.

During the interaction, he spoke about India's rapidly evolving space ecosystem, key policy priorities and the expanding role of industry in advancing national space capabilities. The session also provided an opportunity to engage with the IN-SPACe team and exchange perspectives on strengthening collaboration across India's space sector.

The engagement highlighted the importance of continued dialogue between government, industry and institutions in supporting innovation, policy alignment and the growth of a vibrant and self-reliant Indian space ecosystem.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

INAUGURATION OF NEW NSIL OFFICE AT GIFT CITY, GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT | FEBRUARY 13 , 2026

NewSpace India Ltd. has inaugurated its new office in GIFT House, GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat on 12 Feb 2026. The office was inaugurated in the presence of senior officials of ISRO, GIFT City and NSIL.

It marks an important milestone for the company. The event began with formal inauguration of the Gujarat Office by Shri M Mohan, CMD, NSIL and Director, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)/ISRO in the presence of Shri Nilesh M Desai, Director, Space Applications Centre, ISRO. Shri Praveen Trivedi, Executive Director, IFSCA; Shri Avichal Khera, Chief Business Operation Officer, GIFT City and other senior dignitaries were also present in the ceremony

NSIL is mandated with the commercialisation of the technologies developed by ISRO in the field of Launch Services, Satellite Services and Ground Segment; and promoting Indian industries. NSIL Gujarat Office will play a major role in facilitating the collaboration with international customers in the area of Launch & Satellite Services and Mission Support activities.
NSIL also signed its first commercial agreement from the new office premises on this auspicious occasion with M/s GalaxEye towards reselling their satellite data and value added solutions.

The inauguration of the new office marks another important milestone in the growth of space ecosystem in the country





INAUGURATION OF LIBRARY TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR ISRO'S LIBRARY TECHNICAL STAFF AT INFLIBNET CENTRE, GANDHINAGAR | FEBRUARY 13, 2026

The Library Training Programme for technical staff of libraries at ISRO Centres was inaugurated at Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, Gandhinagar on February 10, 2026 in the august presence of Director, INFLIBNET; Deputy Director, CBPO and senior library officials from ISRO. In the first batch of 5-day residential programme, 22 library officials from all ISRO centres across the country participated.

The programme is aimed to impart exposure to library staff to various modern tools and to update them with novel practices in Library Management. During inauguration, importance of up-to-date library management for enabling and supporting the research and development in various ISRO centres was highlighted. Participants were encouraged to actively engage in the programme and apply the learning to their professional roles.

The Library Training Programme shall be conducted for 75 Library staff of ISRO in three batches during February to April, 2026.

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

SOIL MOISTURE PRODUCTS AT 100M RESOLUTION FROM NISAR DATA | FEBRUARY 14, 2026

The NASA–ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission is systematically imaging the Indian landmass in S- and L-bands, delivering high-resolution, wide-swath observations every 12 days. These observations have enabled the demonstration of 100 m resolution soil-moisture products, a key indicator of crop health, irrigation requirements and drought risk.

Developed using a physics-based retrieval algorithm at SAC-ISRO, the products provide consistent soil-moisture estimates across India's diverse agro-climatic regions, including irrigated plains, rainfed farmlands, semi-arid zones, and high-rainfall areas. The dual-frequency capability of L- and S-bands enhances reliability, with L-band penetrating vegetation cover and S-band providing detailed surface sensitivity.

With two observations every 12 days, NISAR enables near-real-time monitoring of soil-moisture dynamics, supporting irrigation planning, drought preparedness, agrometeorological advisories and regional water resource management.

Operational 100 m Level-4 soil-moisture products will be generated at NRSC (IMGEOS) and disseminated through the Bhoonidhi Portal, ensuring access for farmers, planners, researchers, government agencies and Non-Government Entities (NGEs).

These early results demonstrate the operational readiness and scalability of NISAR's soil-moisture capability, marking a significant step toward data-driven agriculture, efficient irrigation and improved national food and water security.

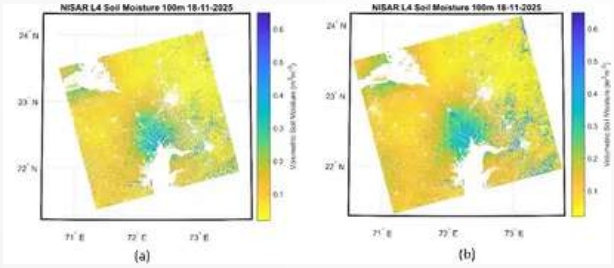


Figure 1: 100 m Soil Moisture products over Ahmedabad, Western Gujarat using(a) NISAR L-band (HH & HV-polarizations) (b) NISAR S-band HH & HV-polarizations in ascending pass

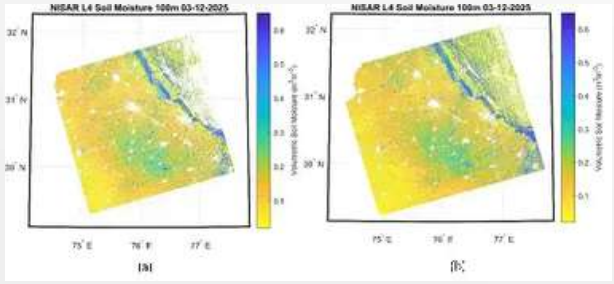


Figure 2: 100 m Soil Moisture products over North India, covering Indo-Gangetic plains using (a) NISAR L-band (HH & HV-polarizations) (b) NISAR S-band HH & HV-polarizations in ascending pass

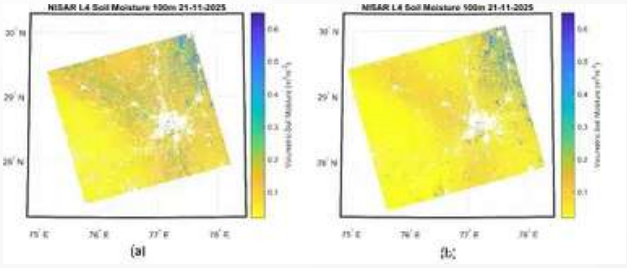


Figure 3: 100 m Soil Moisture products over North India, covering Haryana and New Delhi, using (a) NISAR L-band HH & HV-polarizations (b) NISAR S-band HH & HV-polarizations in ascending pass

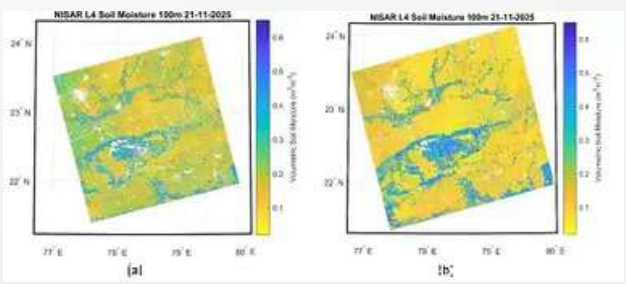


Figure 4: 100 m Soil Moisture products over Central India, covering forest & croplands, using (a) NISAR L-band HH & HV-polarizations (b) NISAR S-band HH & HV-polarizations in ascending pass

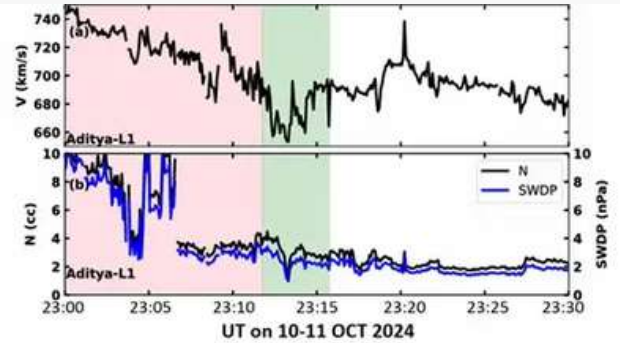
ADITYA-L1 MEASUREMENTSHELP TO EXPLAIN UNUSUAL DAWN-TIME GEOMAGNETIC DISTURBANCES DURING STRONG SOLAR STORMS | FEBRUARY 19, 2026

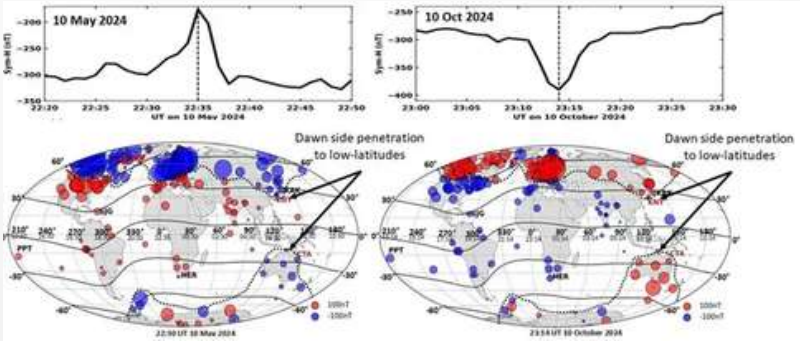
During the peak phase of Solar Cycle 25, two intense geomagnetic storms on 10 May and 10 October 2024 caused widespread disturbances in Earth's magnetic field and auroras visible at unusually low latitudes. Geomagnetic storms occur when variations in the solar wind streams of charged particles from the Sun-interact with Earth's magnetosphere, triggering rapid changes in the magnetic field.

Scientists identified an unusual feature during these storms: opposite magnetic perturbations at low-latitude dawn-side locations, unlike the typical global response to solar wind pressure changes. During the May storm, most low-latitude regions recorded an increase in magnetic field strength, while dawn-side stations showed a decrease. Conversely, during the October storm, decreases were seen globally, but dawn-side stations recorded an increase.

Using solar wind measurements from ISRO's Aditya-L1 spacecraft together with data from a global network of ground-based magnetometers, researchers-led by the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Mumbai, in collaboration with ISRO/DOS scientists-found that these anomalies were likely caused by auroral current systems extending to lower latitudes when the magnetosphere becomes highly compressed during extreme storms.

These findings provide new insight into how extreme solar wind conditions alter geomagnetic disturbance patterns, particularly near dawn local times. Understanding such behaviour is important as rapid magnetic variations can affect satellites, navigation systems and power transmission networks.





ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

ANNOUNCEMENT ON START-2026 INAUGURATION | FEBRUARY 24, 2026

ISRO opens up opportunity for students from Indian academic institutes as well as space enthusiasts to register for the fourth edition of Space science and Technology AwaReness Training (START) 2026 programme to be held in online mode during 11th March - 2nd April 2026 with the theme 'Observation from Space'.

START offering lectures by pan-India experts in the domain of space science and technology. 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.

Registration for student participants from nodal centres and for individuals with minimum age of 20 years is open till 28th February 2026.

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

START 2026 event will be inaugurated by Dr.V.Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO/ Secretary, DOS on 11th March 2026 at 15:00 hrs.

NVS-02 SPACECRAFT: ON-ORBIT OBSERVATIONS AND APEX COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS | FEBRUARY 25, 2026

NVS-02, the second spacecraft in the NVS series, was injected successfully into the elliptical transfer orbit of 170 x 37785 km with 20.8° inclination on January 29, 2025 at 00:53 UT. The Spacecraft was separated from the Launch vehicle (GSLVF15) at 01:12:08 UT.On separation of the satellite from the launch vehicle, a series of autonomous activities on the satellite were carried out including the solar panel deployment and stabilizing the orientation for power generation. However, the orbit raising operations from the elliptical to circular orbit could not be carried out.

An Apex Committee was constituted to review the observations and recommend further course of actions. Based on available Telemetry data, detailed simulation studies were further carried out. The Apex Committee after thorough analysis of the simulation data concluded that the prime reason for the observation was found to be the drive signal not reaching the pyro valve of the oxidizer line of the engine meant for orbit raising.The committee concluded that the most likely cause for the observation is the disengagement of atleast one contacts (in each of the main and redundant paths) of the connector.

The committee has provided a set of recommendations aimed at enhancing the redundancy and reliability of pyro system operations for future missions. In line with these recommendations, all the corrective actions were successfully implemented in CMS-03 spacecraft launched on November 2, 2025 by LVM-3 M5 and the pyro systems performed satisfactorily placing the satellite in the intended orbit. Further, these set of recommendations will be followed for all future missions, as applicable.

IN-SPACe LAUNCH SHORT-TERM COURSE ON COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE SPACE SECTOR

FEBRUARY 03, 2026

IN-SPACe in collaboration with the Times School of Media, Bennett University, at Greater Noida, has commenced a unique five-day Short-Term Course on "Communication and Public Engagement in the Space Sector".
This course on media communication in space sector is first of its kind initiative in the country by IN-SPACe.

As India's space ecosystem expands with growing participation from non-government entities, academia and private industry, the role of credible and responsible communication is becoming increasingly critical.

The programme is designed to equip participants with the ability to translate complex space science, policy and technological developments into accurate, accessible and engaging public narratives.

The course brings together experts from space institutions, media, academia and policy to offer a comprehensive understanding of space communication, crisis messaging, misinformation management, multimedia storytelling and AI-driven communications within the context of the evolving space sector.

Through such capacity-building initiatives, IN-SPACe continues to support the development of an informed communication ecosystem that can responsibly engage the public, enhance awareness and contribute to the growth of India's space sector.

IN-SPACe INDIAN NATIONAL SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION CENTRE

IN-SPACe HAS ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF ITS SATELLITE BUS AS A SERVICE (SBaaS) INITIATIVE

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

IN-SPACe has announced the results of its Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS) Announcement of Opportunity for hosted payload platforms.

After a rigorous evaluation process, **Astrome technologies**, **AZISTA INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED** and **Dhruva Space** have been selected to develop indigenous modular small satellite bus systems that can host multiple payloads and support future missions.

This initiative strengthens India's domestic capability in satellite platforms and contributes to a competitive space ecosystem. IN-SPACe will continue to support these entities in development, testing and demonstration through milestone-linked grants and facilitation.

The announcement further complements ongoing Public–Private Partnership efforts, including the Earth Observation constellation advancement with Allied Orbits.

SPACE REGULATOR IN-SPACE ANNOUNCES RS 6 CRORE SEED FUND FOR STARTUPS DEVELOPING AL APPLICATIONS

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) - the space sector regulator and promoter - has announced a new seed fund of Rs 6 crore to support startups and innovators focusing on artificial intelligence (AI) applications in the space sector.

The initiative is aimed at encouraging and financially assisting entrepreneurs, startup ventures and innovators who are working on AI tools and solutions relevant to space technologies and applications. This move is intended to boost technological advancements and innovation within India's private space ecosystem by integrating AI into space domain challenges and opportunities.

The seed fund is part of a dedicated programme designed to support early-stage efforts in AI and space technology. Under the scheme, financial assistance will be provided to selected startups or project teams working on AI-driven solutions that can enhance space operations or related applications, although the Times of India article does not specify the exact number of beneficiaries or per-startup amounts. The announcement reflects a growing emphasis on fusing artificial intelligence with space technologies, where AI can play significant roles in areas such as data processing, autonomous decision-making, intelligent systems and improved mission performance. Support of this nature can help accelerate innovation, prototype development and practical deployment of AI-enabled space solutions by non-government space entities (NGEs)

Applications for the seed fund are open to interested startups and innovators seeking to apply their AI expertise to space industry challenges, marking a step toward nurturing a technology-driven private space sector in India.

Space regulator IN-SPACe announces Rs 6 crore seed fund for startups developing AI applications

THE TIMES OF INDIA FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Space promoter and regulator IN-SPACe announced an AI inspired seed fund scheme of Rs 6 crore for startups or people interested in developing AI applications in the space sector. The seed fund initiative is aimed at accelerating AI-driven innovation across India's private space ecosystem through targeted financial and institutional support.

IN-SPACe LAUNCHES 16TH SHORT-TERM SKILL DEVELOPMENT COURSE ON CYBER SECURITY AND QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES FOR SPACE SYSTEMS

February 22, 2026

The future of space systems is as much about security and advanced technologies as it is about launch and payloads.

Today, **IN-SPACe** begins its 16th Short Term Skill Development Course on Essentials of Cyber Security and Quantum Technologies for Space Systems and Services in Bengaluru.

As the space sector becomes increasingly data-driven and commercially integrated, safeguarding space assets, communication networks and mission-critical infrastructure is foundational. This course reflects a timely recognition that cyber resilience and quantum technologies will shape the next phase of space innovation.

By bringing together experts and professionals for focused capacity, this six day course aims to strengthen the ecosystem beyond launches, into secure, future-ready space services.

Such targeted skilling initiatives that align with the evolving needs of India's growing private space sector and the larger vision of a technologically sovereign space economy.

FRANCE AIMS FOR THE STARS: HOW "NEW SPACE" IS REDEFINING THE SPACE ECONOMY

FEBRUARY 14, 2026

In an in-depth report, Le Parisien highlights how France is embracing the “New Space” revolution, a transformative shift that is redefining the global space economy. Unlike the traditional model dominated by national agencies and large aerospace conglomerates, New Space is characterized by agile startups, rapid innovation cycles, reduced launch costs and strong private investment.

Inspired in part by American pioneers such as SpaceX, which dramatically lowered the cost of access to orbit, France is now nurturing its own dynamic ecosystem of space entrepreneurs. Emerging companies like Latitude, developing low-cost launchers, Exotrail, specializing in in-orbit propulsion and space logistics and HyPrSpace, working on hybrid propulsion systems, represent a new wave of industrial ambition.

At the same time, firms such as U-Space are focusing on small satellite production to meet growing global demand for Earth observation, telecommunications and defense applications. The article explains that this transformation is not only technological but economic: space is becoming a competitive commercial marketplace where private capital, venture funding and innovation ecosystems play a central role. Supported by national initiatives such as France 2030, the French government aims to strengthen sovereignty in launch capabilities and satellite technologies while ensuring Europe remains competitive in a rapidly evolving global sector. However, despite strong momentum, the report notes that access to large-scale financing and industrial scaling remains a major challenge for many startups.

Overall, New Space is portrayed as a strategic opportunity for France - one that could reshape its industrial landscape, generate high-skilled employment and position the country as a leading force in the next chapter of the global space economy.

THALES ALENIA SPACE IS PROVIDING A SATELLITE DEMONSTRATOR FOR THE CELESTE MISSION

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Thales Alenia Space announces that the first satellite demonstrator (IOD-2) for the European Space Agency's (ESA) Celeste mission (formerly LEO-PNT) left the clean rooms at its L'Aquila site in Italy last week, bound for Berlin, before its imminent arrival at its launch site in New Zealand.

This departure marks a major milestone in what is paving the way for the next-generation European Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). The Celeste demonstration constellation will consist of 11 microsatellites in orbit, provided by two prime contractors, five of which are from Thales Alenia Space. The IOD-2 satellite is preparing for a launch scheduled for March 2026.

These 11 satellites in the low Earth orbit constellation are expected to demonstrate their ability to augment and diversify current and future GNSS systems in medium Earth orbit (MEO), offering increased resilience and new services in environments currently beyond the reach of satellite navigation signals, such as urban canyons, dense foliage areas, polar regions and even interior spaces.

"Global satellite navigation systems, such as Galileo, have become indispensable in our daily lives and represent a true driver of economic growth internationally. They also play a crucial role in our safety and security," emphasizes the aerospace joint venture of Thales (67%) and Leonardo (33%).

"As our reliance on navigation technologies grows, new applications emerge and with them very high expectations in terms of availability, reliability and accuracy in all environments. There is no doubt today that, to improve current geolocation performance, these systems will need to be complemented by satellites operating on multiple frequencies in low Earth orbit," she continues.

SPACE: AIRBUS AND THALES ALENIA SPACE UNDERGOING A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION IN THE FACE OF THE GLOBAL RACE FOR CONSTELLATIONS

FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Amidst the merger of their space activities, the two giants received a visit from the Minister for Europe in Toulouse on Monday. Airbus has just relocated a production line for the OneWeb constellation to the city. Meanwhile, Thales Alenia Space is preparing the future European constellation, IRIS.

"You have before you an industrialized European production ," says Alain Fauré, director of space systems at Airbus Defence & Space, in front of the Minister Delegate for Europe, Benjamin Haddad and Martin Briens, Secretary General of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, who were visiting Toulouse on Monday, February 16.

Sixteen satellites per month

Airbus will begin production in Toulouse next week on its final assembly line (FAL) for the replacement satellites of OneWeb, the world's second-largest telecommunications constellation after Starlink. As early as 2018, the European giant established a new 4,600 m² factory in Toulouse to test **the serial production of satellites for the first time** , manufacturing the initial ten models of the constellation. The remaining satellites (more than 600) were produced in Florida. Now under European ownership, the OneWeb constellation has been able to bring some of its production back to France for the new generation (each satellite has a lifespan of seven years).

“ Since 2025, we have brought one of our two final assembly lines back to Toulouse. We have 440 units ordered and we expect to deliver around sixty this year. At full capacity, it will produce 16 satellites per month, or about one per day , ” explains Alain Frizon, director of the Airbus Defence & Space facility in Toulouse. Around one hundred employees will be working on the final assembly line at an unprecedented pace: it will take only five weeks to fully assemble a satellite and the simultaneous launch of production will allow us to meet the long-term objective of delivering one satellite per day.

To fine-tune the industrialization process, Airbus's space division is calling on its aircraft counterparts. "We have expertise in the production line, engineerin and software for airplanes and helicopters that can be brought here. We also use electronic components developed for the automotive industry ," explains Alain Fauré. The factory also utilizes cutting-edge technologies: sensors automate antenna testing, a cobot (collaborative robot) is used to reposition batteries, eliminating complex handling for operators and a 3D alignment of the satellite is performed to verify the assembly.

"THERE ISN'T ONE BOSS IN CHARGE, BUT 27 BOSSES LOOKING OUT FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS": THE AIRBUS CEO CALLS FOR ACCELERATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENUINE EUROPEAN PREFERENCE IN DEFENSE AND SPACE.

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

In a context of geopolitical and economic uncertainties, the head of the European aircraft manufacturer Guillaume Faury supports the need to develop and strengthen the concept of European preference, in order to face competitors - particularly American and Chinese.
He is realistic, but optimistic. Interviewed on BFM Business's Air&Defense program, the Airbus CEO argued for developing the concept of European preference, whether in the space or military sectors. "We have to be honest and acknowledge that we don't have a European preference at all in Europe today," stated Guillaume Faury, citing the United States and China as examples.

"We need to change gears (...), it is extremely frustrating to see how the sum of local optima puts us very, very, very far from what the global optimum of an integrated Europe would be and the firepower that an integrated Europe could have."

Taking into consideration the geopolitical upheavals linked to Donald Trump's second term and the need for Europe to strengthen its sovereignty, particularly in the defense and space sectors, Guillaume Faury calls on the 27 to take greater account of the supranational dimension, in order to federate needs.

"There is not one leader who commands everyone, but there are 27 leaders who see things from their own perspective and who are elected by their citizens, which makes cooperation much more complicated," he told BFM Business.

"We're having a good crisis"

Particularly in the field of defense, "it's difficult because each country is sovereign (...) and therefore ceding sovereignty (...), we see that today it's very difficult." Despite the European Union's efforts to promote joint projects, within the framework of a vast rearmament plan announced by Ursula von der Leyen in March 2025 and through financing tools like the SAFE program , it is clear that results are slow in coming, explains the head of the European aerospace group.
He remains optimistic, however and hopes that the current crisis will create strategic opportunities.

"We Europeans have a long way to go. They say that Europe progresses through crises, I think we have a good crisis, we will have to overcome it positively and create solutions that do not exist today."

Guillaume Faury specifically mentions the "Bromo" project, the merger of the satellite activities of Airbus, Thales and Leonardo, with the aim of creating a European space giant , capable of competing, perhaps, with the leaders in the sector, SpaceX and its Starlink network in sight.

AGRICULTURAL SHOW: IN THE AGRI'TECH AREA, AIRBUS' SERVICES AND INNOVATIONS FOR FARMERS

FEBRUARY 27, 2026

At the International Agricultural Show, the Agri'Tech area is no longer limited to connected tractors or milking robots. The space also hosts players from the aerospace industry, such as Airbus. Known for its activities in aeronautics, defense and mapping, the Toulouse-based giant is highlighting another aspect of its business: the use of satellite data for agricultural and environmental purposes.

For over 25 years, the group has been developing Earth observation solutions to support the transition to precision agriculture. At its booth, three tools illustrate this strategy: Farmstar, the Grassland Production Index (GPI) and the Starling platform. All rely on satellite imagery and the processing of agronomic data to help farmers, insurers and public stakeholders better manage natural resources.

More than 680,000 hectares are monitored each year today.

Farmstar is the oldest and most widely used solution. Developed with Arvalis and Terres Inovia, it is now the leading nitrogen fertilization management tool in France. Using satellite imagery and algorithms that combine weather data and field observations, the tool provides recommendations at the field level regarding the nitrogen requirements of wheat, barley, or rapeseed. The objective is twofold: to optimize yields while reducing inputs. Savings can reach several tens of euros per hectare and the tool contributes to compliance with environmental standards, particularly the Nitrates Directive. More than 680,000 hectares are currently monitored each year.

Another demonstration presented in the Agri'Tech area was the Grassland Production Index. Launched in 2016, this satellite-based indicator measures grass growth by analyzing leaf area every few days. It allows for comparison of a year's production to a multi-year average and serves as the basis for insurance mechanisms against climate risks, particularly drought. Scientifically validated, with a strong correlation to field data, it is used at the municipal level to automatically trigger compensation.

Forest and ecosystem monitoring platform

Finally, Airbus is highlighting Starling , a forest and ecosystem monitoring platform developed with the Earthworm Foundation. By combining optical and radar imagery, the tool detects deforestation with high precision and generates near real-time alerts. It is used by governments and companies to verify the environmental compliance of their agricultural supply chains and track changes in forest cover.

Through these solutions, Airbus aims to demonstrate that Earth observation is becoming a key driver for the agriculture of tomorrow. By linking satellites, artificial intelligence and agronomy, the group illustrates the convergence between the space industry and the agro-ecological transition, a major theme of the Agri'Tech area at the trade show.

ISpA IN NEWS

'Landmark push for world-class infra': Space scientists hail Budget focus on telescope facilities
01 February 2026 | ThePrint

Budget 2026-27: Space budget recovers but misses crucial private sector reforms (PDF attached)
01 February 2026 | The Hindu

India Inc backs budget 2026 push on manufacturing, infra and competitiveness
01 February | Times of India

What are the 4 telescope sites FM Nirmala Sitharaman mentioned in Budget speech?
01 February 2026 | ThePrint

Budget 2026: Space gets modest hike of 2% as Isro eyes big-ticket launches
01 February 2026 | India Today

Indian FY27 budget makes space players to look at defence sector for demand
01 February 2026 | UNI

Indian space sector budget allocation increased by Rs.1,257.03 crore to Rs.13, 705.63 crore
01 February 2026 | UNI

India's private space industry finds indirect growth triggers in Union Budget 2026-27
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Space budget sees marginal increase; industry says other announcements to enable spacetech use
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Union Budget 2026: Government allocates ₹13,705 crore for Department of Space
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TOI Budget Dialogue 2026: Experts discuss how Budget impacts common man and India's growth tomorrow
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Where India's Defence Space Capabilities Took Shape (Clip Attached) || February 2026
February 2026 | Business Standard Blueprint Magazine

Overlooked commercial aspects of human spaceflight
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Beyond ISRO: India's Space Sector Hits A $44 Billion Turning Point
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Do tourists going to space need insurance?
12 February 2026 | Hindustan Times

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14 February 2026 | The Times Of India

The intelligence war will now be fought in space. Indian spies are getting ready
15 February 2026 | India Today

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DEFENCE & GEOPOLITICS

SECOND LEAD

DPSU REVAMP

Moves to reform them must get the diagnosis right first

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The military would do well to review its structural deficiencies

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THE FUTURE IN THE PRESENT

How India's armed forces are adopting AI

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Where India's Defence Space Capabilities Took Shape

Inside the DSA-ISpA DefSpace Capability Dialogue on Delivery, Accountability, and Mission-Ready Outcomes

Lt Gen AK Bhatt (Retd)
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, Bar, VSM
Director General
Indian Space Association (ISpA)

India's Defence Space ecosystem marked an important moment of consolidation and alignment with the successful convening of the DSA-ISpA DefSpace Capability Dialogue, organised by the Indian Space Association (ISpA) on January 14, 2026, at the United Service Institution of India (USI), New Delhi. The dialogue reflected a clear progression in industry-defence engagement, moving from exploratory interaction to a more structured, execution-focused, and mission-oriented approach.

India's Defence Space Architecture: Institutions and Intent

India today stands among the few nations (alongside the US, Russia, China, and France) to have established a dedicated organisation to focus on the military use of space as an operational domain. Defence Space Agency (DSA) , it operates under the Integrated Defence Staff. The DSA is led by Air Vice Marshal Manu Mridha, VM, and functions as a tri-service organisation responsible for integrating space capabilities across the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Operationalised in 2019, the DSA focuses on the planning, coordination, and operational oversight of space-based defence capabilities, including satellite communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), and space domain awareness (SDA). Unlike the civilian-focused ISRO, the DSA is a military powerhouse that manages "contested space," overseeing the nation's space warfare strategy, satellite intelligence (including the DIPAC and Bhopal Satellite Control Centre), and Space Situational Awareness (SSA). Working in close coordination with ISRO, DRDO, and the Defence Space Research Agency (DSRA), the Agency plays a central and critical role in ensuring that India's space assets remain secure, resilient, and mission-ready in an increasingly congested and contested space environment.

In this evolving landscape, the Indian Space Association (ISpA) has emerged as a credible institutional bridge between industry and government, representing India's private emerging Space and satellite ecosystem across upstream, midstream, and downstream segments. Through structured policy engagement and platforms such as the DefSpace Capability Dialogue, ISpA enables focused, outcome-oriented interaction between defence users and private industry, aligning innovation, investment, and capability development with national security priorities and strategic autonomy objectives.

A First-of-Its-Kind Industry-Defence Engagement

Designed as a closed-door, capability-focused interaction, the DefSpace Capability Dialogue enabled open and candid exchanges on defence operational needs, future mission architectures, and industry readiness. For the first time, Indian space companies received clear visibility into both short-term operational priorities and long-term strategic requirements of the Armed Forces in the space domain.

Simultaneously, the DSA gained direct insight into the technological maturity, deployment readiness, and constraints faced by domestic space companies, laying the groundwork for more realistic, mission-aligned procurement and collaboration pathways.

Comprehensive Participation across Defence and Industry

The dialogue was attended by senior leadership, including Air Vice Marshal Manu Mridha, VM, Director General, Defence Space Agency and Shri Arun T. Rameshandari, Chairman, ISpA and , Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd.), Director General, ISpA. It brought together the leadership and operational team of the DSA, along with a dedicated team of DIPAC, underscoring the strategic importance of the initiative and strong institutional commitment to industry-government collaboration in the defence space domain.

Participation from over 45 Indian and some global Space companies highlighted the growing breadth and maturity of India's private space ecosystem. Companies represented capabilities spanning satellite platforms, payloads, electronics, secure communications, ISR, geospatial intelligence, navigation technologies, and system integration, reflecting the increasingly end-to-end nature of industry engagement with defence requirements.

Direct, Open & Trust-Building Engagement with Decision-Makers and Practitioners

A key value of the DefSpace Capability Dialogue for industry participants was the opportunity for direct interaction with DSA

—ADVERTORIAL—

officials involved in decision-making, programme execution, and technical evaluation. This access enabled companies to gain first-hand clarity on processes, approval pathways, evaluation criteria, and integration expectations, significantly reducing ambiguity around engagement with the defence space ecosystem. The dialogue was marked by an open and welcoming approach from DSA, with officials engaging transparently with industry inputs and participating in technically detailed discussions. The presence of DSA's research and technical teams further enriched the interaction, allowing for substantive exchanges on feasibility, scalability, and the transition from concept development to deployment.

A Clear Shift: Integrated Capability Over Isolated Solutions

A dominant message emerging from the discussions was the need to move away from siloed technology demonstrations toward fully integrated, interoperable defence space systems. DSA underscored that future defence-space success will depend on mission-ready architectures capable of operating reliably in contested and denied environments. Discussions centred around four core pillars critical to defence operations:

- Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT)
- Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)
- Satellite Communications (SATCOM)
- Space Domain Awareness (SDA)

Participants acknowledged that these domains must function as interconnected elements of a single operational ecosystem, rather than as standalone capabilities.

Focus on Resilient PNT and NavIC Integration

Significant attention was devoted to resilient and assured PNT, including discussions on LEO-based PNT architectures and their role in enhancing redundancy and robustness. These conversations were closely linked to NavIC, India's indigenous regional navigation satellite system.

Participants emphasised that future PNT solutions must be secure, sovereign, and interoperable, and developed through collaborative, ecosystem-wide efforts, rather than fragmented approaches.

DefSpace Challenges

The dialogue also highlighted the importance of the DefSpace challenges issued under iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence)- Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO). These challenges were recognised as a structured mechanism to channel private-sector innovation into clearly defined defence requirements across space and counter-space domains. ISpA has played a central role in advancing the DefSpace challenge framework by mobilising industry participation and facilitating early-stage alignment. Industry participants welcomed the clarity provided by challenge-based frameworks, noting that this helped to align R&D investment with operationally relevant use cases, while improving confidence around adoption and deployment pathways. The interaction reflected a growing convergence between DSA, iDEX-DIO, and industry, aimed at accelerating the transition from capability development to operational induction.

Institutional Coordination

The dialogue highlighted the importance of institutional coordination and streamlined processes in supporting India's defence space programmes. Participants noted that technologies are typically assessed and validated through agencies such as DRDO and ISRO before progressing to the Defence Space Agency (DSA), ensuring technical robustness and operational assurance.

As the ecosystem grows in scale and complexity, participants emphasised that continuous refinement of workflows and early-stage alignment between operational needs and technical validation will be key to sustaining future readiness. Such alignment enables smoother transitions from concept development to deployment, improving predictability, and ensuring timely decision-making, while maintaining the rigour, oversight, and assurance standards fundamental to national security and mission-critical outcomes.

The evolving role of facilitation bodies, single-window mechanisms, and institutional coordination across DRDO, ISRO, and DSA was recognised as central to improving efficiency across satellites, launches, and ground infrastructure, reinforcing the ability of industry and defence stakeholders to collaborate effectively in delivering mission-ready capabilities.

A Clear and Candid Message from DSA: Execution is Critical

A key takeaway from the dialogue was DSA's clear emphasis on delivery and accountability. While recognising the importance of innovation and technological ambition, DSA highlighted that meeting commitments, adhering to timelines, and demonstrating incremental progress are critical in the defence space domain. The Agency underlined that defence-space capabilities must ultimately be reliable, deployable, and mission-ready, particularly in contested and operationally-demanding environments.

ISpA's Role as a Trusted Enabler

Throughout the dialogue, ISpA's role as a neutral, credible platform was widely acknowledged. By bringing together defence leadership, operational teams, researchers, and industry representatives in a focused and structured setting, ISpA enabled meaningful, outcome-oriented engagement. ISpA's stewardship ensured that discussions remained centred on capability development, delivery, and national priorities, reinforcing its position as a key institutional link supporting India's integrated defence space ecosystem.

At ₹13,705 crore, ambitious space sector gets meagre 2% hike

AKSHEEV THAKUR

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

The Department of Space has been allocated Rs 13,705.63 crore in the Union Budget for financial year 2026-27, a slight increment of above 2 per cent as compared to the Budget Estimate of Rs 13,416.20 crore in 2025-26.

The emphasis is more on capital outlay which has risen to Rs 6,375.92 crore in FY27 from the previous allocation of Rs 6,161.63 crore in FY26. Of the total allocation for the space sector, a sum of Rs 12,822.81 crore was allocated to space applications, space sciences and INSAT satellite systems.

This comes at a time when India will be focusing on lunar missions and Gaganyaan in the next few years.

With an aim to promote astrophysics and astronomy, four telescope infrastructure facilities — the National Large Solar Telescope, the National Large Optical-Infrared Telescope, the Himalayan Chandra Telescope and the COSMOS-2 Planetarium — will also be set up or upgraded.

Lt Gen AK Bhatt (retd), Director General, Indian Space Association (ISpA), says the organisation is hopeful of a more investment-friendly environment for science and technology, which will encourage the private sector.

"Alongside this, the announcement on expanding telescope infrastructure and learning facilities is a meaningful step towards strengthening India's scientific base in astrophysics and astronomy. Together, these measures can improve observational capabilities, enable long-term research and strengthen collaboration between ISRO, academia and industry, gradually enhancing India's contribution to global space science and the broader space ecosystem," he adds.

Dr Pawan Goenka, Chairman of IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) and the SCALE (Steering Committee for Advancing Local value-add and Exports) Committee, says, "The Union Budget-2026 continues to strengthen the foundations required for sustained economic growth. With wide-ranging reforms across sectors, the focus on manufacturing with a boost to creating Champion MSMEs, and infrastructure reflects an understanding that scale and resilience are built through stable policy and institutional support."

Goenka further states that simplification of tax processes, decriminalisation of compliance-related provisions, and GST rationalisation will ease adherence, improve predictability for businesses, and encourage entrepreneurship.

"The proposal to establish dedicated Rare Earth Corridors across mineral-rich states is a timely step towards securing critical materials, strengthening domestic value chains, and reducing strategic dependencies. Targeted customs duty exemptions to support domestic manufacturing and supply-chain integration will further contribute to a more competitive, resilient economy, where businesses can invest with confidence and plan for the long term," he adds.

India's focus is on lunar missions and Gaganyaan over next few years.

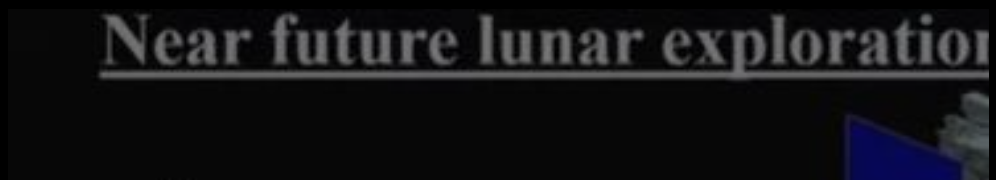
Space budget sees marginal increase; industry says other announcements to enable spacetech use - The Economic Times

THE ECONOMIC TIMES tech

English Edition • | 03 February, 2026, 10:30 AM IST | Today's ePaper

Space budget sees marginal increase; industry says other announcements to enable spacetech use

Lt Gen (retd) AK Bhatt, director general of the Indian Space Association, said the budget's emphasis on easing processes and creating a more investment-friendly environment would encourage greater private sector participation. He added that the announcement on expanding telescope infrastructure and learning facilities would strengthen India's scientific base in astrophysics and astronomy, enable long-term research, and improve collaboration between ISRO, academia, and industry.



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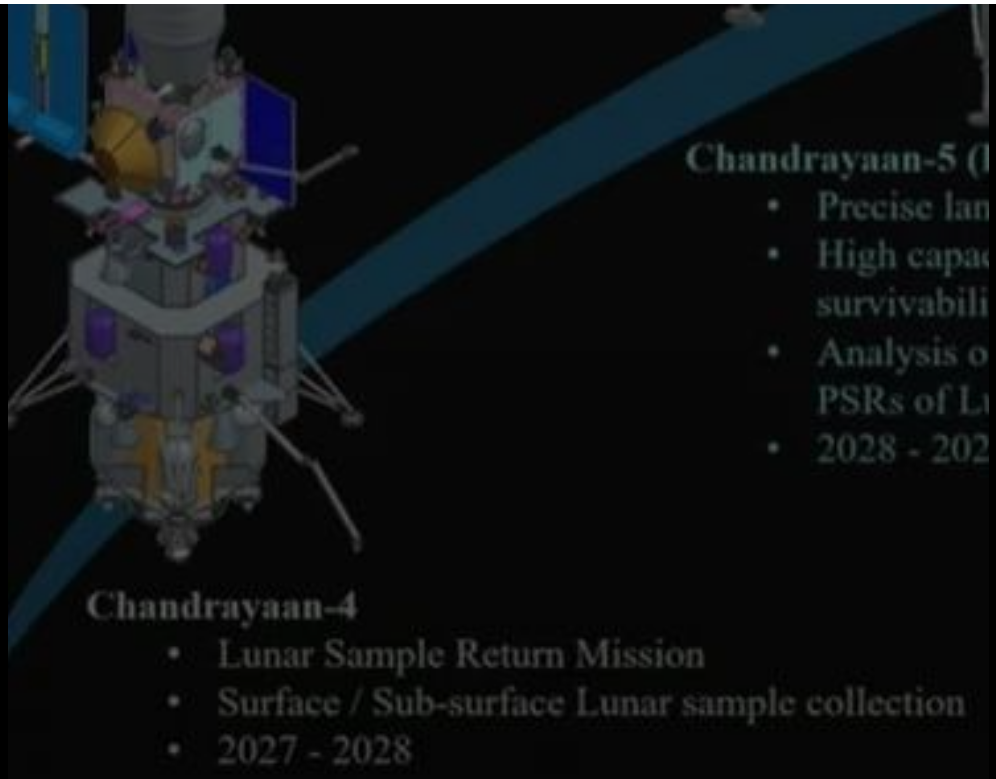

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After 2 failures, ISRO to attempt PSLV launch in June: Jitendra Singh
03 February 2026
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04 February 2026
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PSLV to be reviewed by third party outside Isro, could launch by June
04 February 2026
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Building data centres in space: Feasible or foolish?
04 February 2026
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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- Amazon Leo seeks satellite deployment extension
- NASA's AI foray: Perseverance Mars rover becomes first to complete space exploration without human guidance
- Explained: How SpaceX's Stargaze system aims to prevent satellite collisions
- The International Space Station era ends: ISS set to return to earth, closing a landmark saga of international unity
- Musk vows to put data centres in space, run them on solar power but experts have their doubts
- NASA Astronauts Can Now Take Smartphones Into Space, Starting With Crew-12 And Artemis II Missions
- Elon Musk prioritises Moon over Mars; says, "SpaceX has shifted focus to building a self-growing city on the Moon"
- Nasa SpaceX Crew-12 to launch on February 13. What will they do in space?
- Terrestar Launches Hybrid Satellite IoT Service Using 3GPP Release 17 Standards
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- Four astronauts arrive at International Space Station via SpaceX to bring crew back to full strength
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- ATLAS-1 satellite to demonstrate high-speed, secure laser communication from space
- Artemis 2 rocket rollback latest news: NASA's giant moon rocket to leave launch pad
- Starlink must complete security clearances to operate in India: Scindia
- SpaceX Dragon cargo capsule heads for home after historic ISS-boosting mission
- NASA marks 40 years since Challenger, prepares Artemis II amid safety and space governance concerns

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- China lists 2025 space achievements: 92 launches and beyond
- China's LandSpace plans new recovery test for Zhuque-3 reusable rocket in 2026
- 'Some of the cracks had penetrated through': Chinese astronauts reveal new details about spacecraft that 'stranded' them in space last year
- The First Conference on Innovation and Development of Space Manufacturing and Space Economy Held in Beijing
- In 2026, China will further promote the application and development of its space station and its manned lunar exploration mission.
- Astronauts from Hong Kong and Macau are expected to carry out space station missions as early as this year.
- China lists 2025 space achievements: 92 launches and beyond
- China joins race to develop space-based data centers with 5-year plan
- China eyes new frontiers in push for space leadership
- China's Mengzhou spacecraft passes key test for 2030 crewed moon mission
- Editorial | Hong Kong need not wait to help Chinese space ambitions take off
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- China launches AlSat-3B remote sensing satellite
- China's space aircraft carrier: superweapon or propaganda?
- China joins race to develop space-based data centers with 5-year plan
- China launches BeiDou-based satellite short messaging service for emergency needs
- China's 'paper satellites' can't match SpaceX's constellation
- China unveils 2026 crewed space plan as lunar landing program advances toward 2030; Pakistani astronaut flight scheduled
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- China plans two crewed space missions for 2026, eyes 2030 moon landing
- China Manned Space Agency confirms Pakistani astronaut for 2026 flight
- China Accelerates 2030 Moon Mission Amid Global Space Race
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- Europe to launch suicide mission to space, crash washing machine-sized satellite
- Germany eyes lasers, spy satellites in military space spending splurge
- Singapore Forms Space Agency as Global Sector's Growth Booms
- Countdown to the maiden launch of the Ariane 64, Europe's most powerful rocket
- Terrestar Launches Hybrid Satellite IoT Service Using 3GPP Release 17 Standards
- Arianespace Launches 32 Amazon Leo Satellites in First Ariane 64 Mission
- EU project to rival Starlink must meet buyer expectations, Eutelsat CEO says
- Vietnam opens door to Starlink to boost nationwide digital connectivity
- Spain to launch 5G satellites to end European reliance on Elon Musk's Starlink
- AI to drive India's next space missions, say experts
- INNOSPACE Partners with Commercial Space Technologies
- ATLAS-1 satellite to demonstrate high-speed, secure laser communication from space
- Orbital space race heats up in Arctic north
- AST SpaceMobile to Demonstrate Commercial Tactical Satcom Capabilities for SDA
- Space cyber security framework launched
- Is it legal to own, buy, or sell Apollo mission moon rocks and lunar samples?
- From equipment manufacturing to data analysis and financing, countries big and small are getting into the new space race
- ispace Selected by Japan's Space Strategy Fund for "High Precision Landing Technology in Lunar Polar Regions"
- Spain is pursuing space sovereignty by developing its own rockets
- ESA's Comet Interceptor mission moves up launch
- Russia to help select and train first Myanmar cosmonaut
- UK's O2 launches Europe's first smartphone satellite service
- Axelspace Secures Japan Ministry of Defense Satellite Constellation Project
- Axelspace Secures Japan Ministry of Defense Satellite Constellation Project
- Gilat receives $9 million order for Defense SATCOM Solutions from Israel's Ministry of Defense

GOVERNMENT POLICIES/ CONSULTATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAI Releases Recommendations on Spectrum Auction for IMT Bands

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released its Recommendations on the Auction of Radio Frequency Spectrum in Frequency Bands identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) on 24 February 2026.

The recommendations were issued following a reference from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) seeking guidance on auction frameworks, reserve prices, and band plans for several spectrum bands critical for mobile broadband and next-generation communications.

The consultation covers spectrum in multiple bands including 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz, along with newly identified bands such as 6425-6725 MHz and 7025-7125 MHz for future mobile technologies.

The recommendations also examine the re-auction of the 600 MHz band, which remained unsold in earlier auctions due to limited ecosystem readiness and global deployment.

In addition, the report addresses spectrum refarming, availability of additional spectrum due to license expiry, and the evolving regulatory framework needed to support 5G expansion and future 6G development.

The recommendations follow an extensive consultation process involving stakeholders across industry, government and academia and aim to strengthen spectrum management while ensuring efficient allocation for next-generation communication services in India.

ISpA UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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