

February 2024

NEWSLETTER

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

of the month

- **Budget Of Viksit Bharat Before Polls | Tax Reduction, Freebies For Aam Aadmi?**
- **100% FDI In Space Sector | India Space Hub Gamechanger?**
- **2024 Interim Budget | Space gets nominal hike, likely boost for spaceflight start-ups**
- **ISRO set to disrupt the global space business; official decodes gameplan**
- **Space Frontiers: India Has An Ambitious Blueprint For Its New Security Dimension**
- **Exploring Mars with a drone! ISRO to send a rotocraft to explore the red planet's atmosphere**
- **Tamil Nadu Announces New Space Industrial and Propellant Park to Boost Space Technology**
- **Burden of power: On India's astronauts and the Indian space policy**
- **Meet 4 astronauts selected for India's space mission 'Gaganyaan'**
- **More women should pursue careers in space research: Indian-American scientist Swati Mohan**
- **Japan's Moon lander achieves successful soft landing, resumes operations**
- **Moon landing: US clinches first touchdown in 50 years**



Members Bulletin

MEMBERS BULLETIN



- Ananth Technologies Limited (ATL) played a crucial role in the successful launch of GSLV F14 by ISRO, placing INSAT-3DS satellite into Geosynchronous orbit, enhancing India's space exploration efforts.
- ATL's contributions included manufacturing 55 modules for GSLV F14 and supplying essential components for INSAT-3DS, bolstering meteorological observations, weather forecasting, and disaster warning capabilities.

- OneWeb India, affiliated with Bharti Group, plans to offer satellite broadband services in remote areas, with discussions ongoing with key stakeholders like defense forces and ministries.
- Eutelsat faced an anomaly with its aging EUTELSAT 113 West A satellite, prompting cessation of operations.
- OneWeb India received approval for its satellite broadband service in India and is set to showcase its uses.
- Eutelsat OneWeb and Telstra are deploying LEO satellite mobile backhaul at over 300 remote base stations in Australia for improved connectivity.
- Eutelsat expects a slowdown in its Video DTH decline and extended its partnership with Universal Satcom to leverage maritime services in MENA and globally.



- Digantara, a Space Situational Awareness (SSA) startup based in Bengaluru, announces closure of an extended \$2 million financing round, with participation from investors such as Aditya Birla Ventures and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), highlighting their commitment to enabling safe and sustainable space operations and contributing to India's vision of global leadership in space innovation.

pixxel

- Bengaluru's Pixxel partners with the Indian Institute of Astrophysics to utilize its Laboratory for Space Sciences for testing hyperspectral imagers and leveraging expertise for satellite projects.
- Pixxel, backed by Google, plans to launch six satellites by June as part of a constellation of 18 satellites, aiming for large-scale satellite projects outside of ISRO's domain.
- Hyderabad's Skyroot Aerospace launched the Kalpana Fellowship, India's first fellowship for women in the space sector, named after Kalpana Chawla. The year-long program offers monthly stipends ranging from ₹30,000 to ₹80,000, based on educational qualifications, aiming to boost women's participation in space.



SKYROOT
AEROSPACE

Updates



INTERIM BUDGET 2024

Bridging the Gap: Unveiling India's Interim Budget 2024

Presented in February 2024, India's Interim Budget serves as a temporary financial roadmap until the formation of the new government. Here's a breakdown of key highlights, with a specific focus on space and deep tech:

Fiscal Continuity and Growth Focus:

- **Maintaining Tax Rates:** The budget avoids introducing changes to direct and indirect taxes, including import duties. This ensures stability for businesses and individuals during the interim period.
- **Prioritizing Capital Expenditure:** An 11.1% increase in capital expenditure outlay signifies the government's commitment to infrastructure development and creating long-term growth.
- **Economic Growth Projection:** The budget projects a real GDP growth of 7.3% for FY 2023-24, aligning with the revised estimate by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Steering Towards Innovation:

- **No Changes for Startups:** The budget extends existing tax benefits for startups and investments by one year. This provides crucial support for young companies driving innovation.
- **Focus on Deep Tech:** While specific allocations weren't announced, the budget speech likely emphasized the government's commitment to fostering deep tech (technologies like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and robotics). This could pave the way for future initiatives in these areas.

Space: Aiming for the Stars

- **While detailed allocations for the space program weren't revealed,** statements from the Finance Minister suggest continued support for India's ambitious space endeavors. This could include missions like Gaganyaan (India's first human spaceflight program) and Chandrayaan-3 (lunar exploration mission).
- **Potential for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):** The budget might encourage private sector participation in the space industry, fostering innovation and cost-effectiveness in future space exploration initiatives.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on Space Sector



FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) POLICY ON SPACE SECTOR

FDI in India: February 2024 Roundup

February 2024 saw significant developments in India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) landscape. Here's a quick breakdown:

Policy Push:

- "FDI-First Develop India": Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Interim Budget speech, emphasized the importance of FDI, rebranding it as "First Develop India." She highlighted the substantial growth in FDI inflows under the current government, nearly doubling from the previous decade.
- Space Sector Opens Up: The Union Cabinet approved a major reform, allowing up to 100% FDI in specific segments of the space sector. This move aims to attract foreign investment, enhance technological capabilities, and boost India's space ambitions.
- EU-India Stakeholder Event: The European Union and India co-hosted an online meeting to discuss recent developments in FDI screening mechanisms. This collaboration signifies efforts towards smoother cross-border investment processes.

Key Takeaways:

- The Indian government is actively promoting FDI as a tool for economic growth.
- The space sector reforms indicate a shift towards greater openness and collaboration in a previously restricted domain.
- The EU-India dialogue reflects a commitment to creating a more transparent and efficient FDI environment.

Looking Ahead:

While specific figures for February's FDI inflows are likely to be released later, the policy changes and discussions point towards a continued focus on attracting foreign investment. Whether these efforts translate into a tangible increase in FDI remains to be seen, but February 2024 certainly set the stage for an exciting future.

ISPA ACTIVITIES

Meeting with MEA

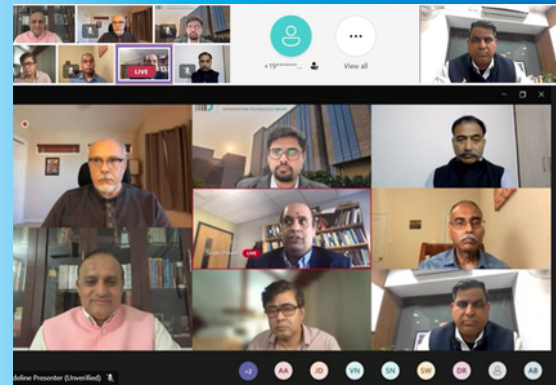
New Delhi, February 06, 2024: Team ISpA met with MEA [chaired by JS (D&ISA)] and Wassenaar Head Ambassador Gyorgy Molnar for constructive exchange on the Wassenaar Agreement at South Block. ISpA emphasized responsible commercial conduct, sharing of compliance best practices & strategic policymaking as vital for the Indian Private Space Industry.



INDUS-X SPACE Workshop

New Delhi, February 19-20, 2024: ISpA co-hosted the INDUS-X Space workshop with Penn State University and Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru aiming at fostering Indo-US space collaboration requires identifying synergies and priorities, leveraging academia, government, and commercial sectors. Challenges include technology transfer, policy alignment, and cultural differences.

Days 1 & 2 of #INDUSXSpace workshop sessions discussed futuristic and emerging defense space technologies & bilateral cooperation prospects.



National Workshop on WRC 23-27

Bengaluru, February 21, 2024: DG-ISpA Lt Gen AK Bhatt (Retd) attended the National workshop on Learnings from WRC-23 and the way forward Planning for WRC-27 and forthcoming ITU and APT meetings.



Space Startups meeting

New Delhi, February 28, 2024: ISpA Director Wg Cdr Satyam Kushwaha along with member companies attended a meeting on space startups organized by Chairmanship of Secretary-Shri Manoj Ahuja, Agriculture at Krishi Bhawan on the Kirhsi-Decision Support System.



News

Budget Of Viksit Bharat Before Polls | Tax Reduction, Freebies For Aam Aadmi?

1 Feb 2024
NewsX



Rs 1 lakh corpus to help start-ups in early stages: Jitendra Singh

1 Feb 2024
ThePrint



Indian private space sector: Navigating growth and challenges in era of reform

2 Feb 2024
ET Satcom



Will the increase in fund allocation help the DoS in dealing with funding challenges?

6 Feb 2024
The Week



Govt eases FDI norms in space, allows 100% foreign investment for making sat components

22 Feb 2023
The Times of India



Easing of FDI norms: Space industry says it will pave way for growth, innovation

22 Feb 2024
The Economic Times



FDI liberalisation in satellite-related activities will pave way for galaxy of opportunities, says PM Modi

23 Feb 2024
The Hind BusinessLine



Govt staggers FDI in space sector to align with military requirement: Patil

24 Feb 2024
The Hindu BusinessLine



Will the increase in fund allocation help the DoS in dealing with funding challenges?

6 Feb 2024
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100% FDI In Space Sector | India Space Hub Gamechanger?

23 Feb 2024
NewsX



2024 Interim Budget | Space gets nominal hike, likely boost for spaceflight start-ups

1 Feb 2024
The Hindu



DPIIT stand may pave way for Starlink's India satcom entry

8 Feb 2024
ET Telecom

ETSatcom Interviews: NSIL Chairman D Radhakrishnan on India's growth in global space economy, GSAT-20 satellite

1 Feb 2024
ET Satcom



Space courses at more IITs soon, IN-SPACe sets up national panel

8 Feb 2024
The Times of India

India's space station by 2035: Isro chief

4 Feb 2024
The Times of India



AWS launches 1st space tech accelerator programme in India

8 Feb 2024
ET Satcom

Telecom Diary: Satcom to complement terrestrial mobile networks in big way

3 Feb 2024
ET Satcom



CDS Chief Chauhan asks industry to help boost defence space

8 Feb 2024
The Times of India

Green propulsion system developed under DRDO Technology Development Fund demonstrates in-orbit functionality

1 Feb 2024
The Hindu



CDS calls on industry to work on counter-space capabilities as deterrent for safeguarding country's space assets

7 Feb 2024
The Hindu

History set to be made: India's first pvt launchpad readies for takeoff

5 Feb 2024
Business Standard



India needs a Atmanirbhar Defence Space ecosystem

7 Feb 2024
India Today

India's first high hypersonic test facility at IIT Kanpur to aid space and defence research

5 Feb 2024
Deccan Herald



Space Paramount for Tactical War Decision-Making

7 Feb 2024
Geospatial World

Govt staggers FDI in space sector to align with military requirement: Patil

24 Feb 2024
The Hindu BusinessLine



Bharatiya Antariksh Station to be assembled in multiple phases by Isro

7 Feb 2024
India Today

KUFOS partners with ISRO for NISAR phase II research programme

5 Dec 2024
The Hindu BusinessLine



ISRO to launch INSAT-3DS meteorological satellite on February 17

9 Feb 2024
The Hindu BusinessLine

Out of the world: Budding scientists explore Himachal's first space lab

7 Feb 2024
Tribune India



Space regulator IN-SPACe releases plans for 30 launches over next 14 months

8 Feb 2024
The Hindu BusinessLine

Frontline On Air | Shooting for the stars with feet of clay - Frontline

6 Feb 2024
Frontline Magazine



Ajit Doval, Greek NSA explore collaboration in cybersecurity, space, and defence

8 Feb 2024
Hindustan Times

Exploring global best practices in satellite communications: Lessons for India

6 Feb 2024
ET Satcom



ISRO set to disrupt the global space business; official decodes gameplan

11 Feb 2024
The Economic Times

Space Frontiers: India Has An Ambitious Blueprint For Its New Security Dimension

11 Feb 2024
ABP News



XDLINX Labs join forces with Almagest Space Corporation to revolutionize space communication for ultra-speed broadband via E-band technology

15 Feb 2024
Business Standard

India's ambitious plans on space station on track, says Chandrayaan-3 project director

11 Feb 2024
The Hindu



India's first spy satellite made by local private player set for SpaceX liftoff

19 Feb 2024
The Economic Times

Airbus eyes partnerships in Indian defence and space

10 Feb 2024
The Economic Times



Next generation rocket project report ready: ISRO Chairman

18 Feb 2024
The Statesman

How ISRO's InSAT-3DS, to be launched on Saturday, will provide unique weather insights

12 Feb 2024
The Week



NASA, Japan to launch world's 1st wooden satellite soon

18 Feb 2024
The Times of India

Somnath S. on 'Transformative Leadership in ISRO'

12 Feb 2024
The Hindu



ISRO successfully launches INSAT-3DS meteorological satellite

17 Feb 2024
The Hindu

DoT working on norms for satcom spectrum allocation

14 Feb 2024
ET Telecom



Isro will send a UAV to fly on Mars with next Mangalyaan mission

19 Feb 2024
India Today

CWhy India wants to develop high-altitude pseudo-satellite vehicles, powered by the Sun

14 Feb 2024
The Indian Express



ISRO gears up for NISAR launch with Nasa after INSAT-3DS success

19 Feb 2024
Mint

Isro conducting final checks ahead of INSAT-3DS launch aboard GSLV-F14

13 Feb 2024
India Today



Sahyadri Farms, ISRO tie up for agritech solutions

21 Feb 2024
The Financial Express

Isro's black hole mission XPoSat begins active observation, looks at Crab pulsar

13 Feb 2024
India Today



JSS varsity in Mysuru to launch nano-satellite

21 Feb 2024
The New Indian Express

New satellite to shoot better images of earth

15 Feb 2024
The Times of India



Does Elon Musk's SpaceX Collaboration With TATA For Indian Spy Satellite Raise Concern For China?

20 Feb 2024
IndiaTimes

Budget session: Launch of space policy in a month of budget approval, says DST secy

16 Feb 2024
The Indian Express



From Mangalyaan-2 to Shukrayaan-1, here's what Isro is planning in 2024

20 Feb 2024
Business Standard

IN-SPACe facilitates the transfer of six ISRO technology companies

15 Feb 2024
DT Next



Exploring Mars with a drone! ISRO to send a rotocraft to explore the red planet's atmosphere

20 Feb 2024
The Financial Express

Tamil Nadu Announces New Space Industrial and Propellant Park to Boost Space Technology

20 Feb 2024
The Weather Channel



India's first spy satellite made by local private player set for SpaceX liftoff

19 Feb 2024
The Economic Times

Space stocks jump up to 7% after government approves 100% FDI

22 Feb 2024
Mint



Space Liberalisation

25 Feb 2024
The Statesman

Gaganyaan Mission Update: ISRO successfully tests engine, set to take Indian astronauts to space, gives "human rating"

21 Feb 2024
Mint



AI has transformative potential in the field of space: ISRO chairman

25 Feb 2024
The Statesman

I-Spy: Elon Musk's SpaceX to launch Indian spy satellite RISAT developed by TATA Group

21 Feb 2024
Firstpost



U.S.-India joint satellite will be launched from A.P. soon, says U.S. Consul General

23 Feb 2024
The Hindu

Next stage

21 Feb 2024
Business Standard



Explained: India needs more space institutes to attain success like Chandrayaan 3

23 Feb 2024
India Today

Set for a lift-off

23 Feb 2024
The Financial Express

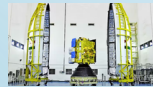


How 100% FDI via automatic route will help the space technology sector?

23 Feb 2024
The Economic Times

India's weather satellite INSAT-3DS enters orbit, all engine firings complete

22 Feb 2024
India Today



Gaganyaan: PM to reveal names of first Indian astronauts selected to go to space

27 Feb 2024
India Today

Sona College Of Technology Powers ISROs Latest Weather Satellite

22 Feb 2024
Free Press Journal



Nair, Prathap, Krishnan & Chauhan listed for Gaganyaan space mission

27 Feb 2024
The Times of India

PM Modi to lay foundation for ISRO's second spaceport on February 28

22 Feb 2024
Deccan Herald



NIISc-incubated space startup raises \$800k seed funding

27 Feb 2024
The Times of India

Gaganyaan Mission: Isro successfully tests engine that will take Indians to space

21 Feb 2024
India Today



SWon't be a low-cost exercise: ISRO chief on sending astronaut on moon by 2040

27 Feb 2024
Moneycontrol

A new success: On collaboration in space programmes

26 Feb 2024
The Hindu



PM Modi to inaugurate Isro's second spaceport in Tamil Nadu on Feb 28

26 Feb 2024
India Today

Inquisitive students make the most of Isro's 'Space on Wheels'

26 Feb 2024
The Times of India



Burden of power: On India's astronauts and the Indian space policy

28 Feb 2024
The Hindu

Meet 4 astronauts selected for India's space mission 'Gaganyaan'

27 Feb 2024
Mint



India's first spy satellite made by local private player set for SpaceX liftoff

19 Feb 2024
The Economic Times

India will have its own space station by 2035: PM Modi

27 Feb 2024
DD News



To infinity and beyond! How India is creating a space for itself in the Space Industry

28 Feb 2024
India Today

Watch | PM Modi inaugurates 3 major space projects of ISRO; India to have its own space station by 2035

27 Feb 2024
Mint

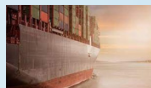


Is 2024 the year India's space sector will come of age?

28 Feb 2024
WION

Industrial IoT startup Proxgy unveils satellite-based Lockator for wagon and logistics firms

27 Feb 2024
The Hindu



Kulasekarapattinam spaceport will launch small satellites within two years: ISRO chairman

28 Feb 2024
The Hindu

Rohini Sounding Rocket to be launched from Kulasekarapattinam

27 Feb 2024
The Hindu



More women should pursue careers in space research: Indian-American scientist Swati Mohan

29 Feb 2024
The Indian Express

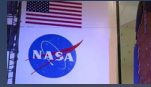
Forging Space Partnerships: Indian Private Sector Engages with LAC Companies for Mutual Growth

27 Feb 2024
The Financial Express



Nasa's PACE ocean-monitoring satellite all set to be launched on Tuesday

4 Feb 2024
The Times of India



US Military's "Chicken Neck"! Why Russia's New Space Weapon Poses Big Threat To American Might

19 Feb 2024
EurAsian Times

Augmentation of terrestrial spectrum, licensed satellite airwaves to help fill 'black spots': Viasat CEO

7 Feb 2024
ET Satcom

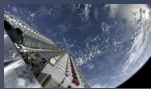


Luxury space-tourism company shows off its capsule designed to float to the edge of space with a massive ballo

26 Feb 2024
Business Insider India

SpaceX to bring down 100 old Starlink satellites to keep space 'safe, sustainable'

15 Feb 2024
The Indian Express



SpaceX launches 24 Starlink satellites from Florida

26 Feb 2024
Space.com

AI spurs space sector innovation

8 Feb 2024
SpaceNews

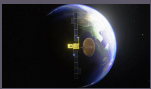


"Thrilling Step Forward In New Era Of Space": Biden On US Lunar Landing

24 Feb 2024
NDTV

Satellite operators join forces to chase direct-to-smartphone opportunity

9 Feb 2024
Space News

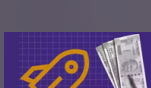


FCC Releases the Draft Order for its Satellite-to-Cell Regulatory Framework

23 Feb 2024
Via Satellite

Viasat, Ligado Networks, Omnispace, others form association to develop direct-to-device ecosystem

9 Feb 2024
ET Satcom



Moon landing puts new space race startups in spotlight

26 Feb 2024
The Economic Times

US and Russian satellites could collide in space today, Nasa on guard

28 Feb 2024
India Today



Jio Airfiber watch out! Elon Musk posts from mobile phone directly connected to SpaceX satellite internet

26 Feb 2024
India Today

China launches 20 satellites on separate inland and sea rocket launches

4 Feb 2024

SpaceNews



China to launch lunar navigation and communications test satellites

7 Feb 2024

SpaceNews



China's first LEO satellite constellation close to lift-off

13 Feb 2024

Light Reading



How a Chinese rocket failure boosted Elon Musk's SpaceX in Indonesia

20 Feb 2024

Republic World



China Mobile launches world's first Test 6G Satellite : What makes this important

21 Feb 2024

The Times of India



China launches powerful rocket with classified communication satellite

25 Feb 2024

India TV

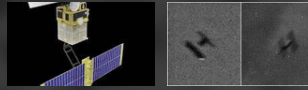


Watch this space: Japan's moon sniper nearly dies as lunar surface gets back in focus || 5 Feb 2024
The Indian Express



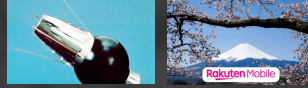
Japan launches debris removal spacecraft to tackle space junk || 19 Feb 2024
WION

European satellite to crash on Earth after falling through space for 13 years || 6 Feb 2024
India Today



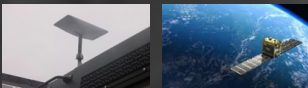
Crash imminent! Europe's ERS-2 satellite captured tumbling out of orbit || 19 Feb 2024
India Today

Ohsumi, Japan's first successful satellite || 11 Feb 2024
The Hindu



Rakuten Mobile Plans to Provide Satellite-to-Mobile Service in Japan || 22 Feb 2024
Telecom Talk

Starlink satellites approved for use in Israel and Gaza || 15 Feb 2024
The Times of India



Synspective SAR Satellite "StriX-3" to be Launched in March || 22 Feb 2024
Geospatial World

Unlocking the Mysteries of Space: UK Space Agency Funds Global Projects || 14 Feb 2024
The Financial Express



Argentina authorizes Starlink, rival Amazon Kuiper || 27 Feb 2024
ET Satcom

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JOB OPENINGS FROM OUR MEMBERS

GOVERNMENT POLICIES / CONSULTATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Consultation Paper on Connectivity to Access Service VNOs From More Than one NSO**
→ <https://www.trai.gov.in/release-publication/consultation>
- **Consultation Paper on Assignment of Additional Spectrum to Indian Railways for its Safety and Security Applications**
→ <https://www.trai.gov.in/release-publication/consultation>

UPCOMING EVENTS

18-20 April 2024	2nd Indian DefSpace Symposium	New Delhi
27-28 June	SIA ISC 24	New Delhi
13-21 July 2024	45th COSPAR Scientific Assembly - COSPAR 2024	South Korea
06-15 August 2024	XXXII IAU General Assembly	South Africa
25-27 2024	September 3rd Indian Space Conclave	New Delhi

CALL FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP

IspA is an apex non-profit industry body, set up exclusively for the successful collaborative development of the Private Space Industry in India.

JOIN US

- Participate in policy advocacy
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- Plethora of opportunities to advance your Business in Space Sector
- Multisectoral Partnerships
- Engagement with industry and defence experts via diverse platforms
- Access to industry-related information via reports and newsletters
- Be a part of IspA Committees to bring expertise & interests and to guarantee the holistic development of the space sector.

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