INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION
Bhumandal Se Brahmaand Tak

MAY 2026

NEWSLETTER

INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION

INDIA'S NEWSPACE MOMENTUM:

ADVANCING INNOVATION, SECURITY & GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION
Bhumandal Se Brahmaand Tak

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

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MESSAGE FROM DG-ISpA

The month of May 2026 has seen continued forward activites in India's space sector. The developments featured in this edition reflect the continous progress being made across the ecosystem and reaffirm India's position as a leading space-faring nation committed to leveraging space technology for national development and global collaboration.

A major highlight of the month was the successful conduct of the **Space Industry Capability Workshop**, jointly organized by **IN-SPACe and the Ministry of External Affairs under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.** The workshop brought together delegates from partner nations across **Africa and Southeast Asia** and provided a platform for Indian space companies to showcase their capabilities across satellite manufacturing, launch services, Earth observation, communications, geospatial applications and emerging space technologies. Such engagements are instrumental in strengthening India's role as a trusted partner for capacity building and technology cooperation among countries of the Global South. ISpA was proud to support the effort with a one day session on **Space Industry Capability Workshop,** attended by delegates from 14 partner countries across Africa and Southeast Asia.

India's national space programme continued to register important achievements. ISRO launched the latest edition of **YUVIKA-2026** as part of its ongoing efforts to inspire young students towards science and space technology. Significant scientific results also emerged from India's lunar missions. **Analysis of Chandrayaan-2 DFSAR** data revealed substantial water-ice deposits in the Moon's north polar region, strengthening prospects for future lunar exploration and resource utilisation. Meanwhile, **Chandrayaan-3's ChaSTE experiment** provided new insights into the thermal and physical properties of lunar regolith near the south polar region, generating valuable knowledge for future surface operations and long-duration lunar missions.

India's private space sector continues to achieve important milestones. The successful launch of **GalaxEye's Mission Drishti**, the emergence of **Skyroot Aerospace as India's first space-tech unicorn**, **Dhruva Space secured ₹105 crore** under the Government of India's Research, Development and Innovation Fund (RDIF) for **Project Garud** and **Pixxel secured a contract from the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)** growing international recognition collectively highlight the increasing maturity, innovation and global competitiveness of Indian space enterprises. Several member companies have also expanded international collaborations, advanced indigenous technologies and strengthened capabilities across satellite manufacturing, launch systems, Earth observation, propulsion and space infrastructure.
Equally encouraging are the efforts being undertaken to strengthen the broader ecosystem. **IN-SPACe's initiatives related to PSLV technology transfer** and international standardisation engagements reflect the continued focus on enabling greater industry participation and building globally competitive capabilities. These developments are creating new opportunities for innovation, investment and collaboration across the space value chain.

As we move forward, ISpA remains committed to supporting policies, partnerships and initiatives that strengthen India's space ecosystem and enhance its contribution to national development and global progress. The achievements highlighted in this edition are a testament to the collective efforts of all stakeholders working towards a vibrant, resilient and future-ready Indian Space sector.

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

- CHANDRAYAAN-2 DFSAR DETECTS EVIDENCE OF SUBSURFACE ICE AT LUNAR SOUTH POLE
- CHANDRAYAAN-3 HOP EXPERIMENT REVEALS NEW LUNAR SURFACE INSIGHTS
- ISRO LAUNCHES YUVIKA 2026 ACROSS NINE CENTRES NATIONWIDE
- GALAXEYE LAUNCHES MISSION DRISHTI, WORLD'S FIRST OPTOSAR SATELLITE
- SKYROOT AEROSPACE BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST SPACE-TECH UNICORN
- DHRUVA SPACE SECURES ₹105 CRORE RDIF SUPPORT FOR PROJECT GARUD
- PIXXEL SECURES NRO CONTRACT FOR HYPERSPECTRAL REMOTE SENSING AND ANNOUNCES INDIA'S FIRST ORBITAL DATA CENTRE SATELLITE
- IN-SPACE INITIATES PSLV TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO INDIAN INDUSTRY

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

- IN-SPACE TO HOST ISO TC 20/SC 14 SPACE SYSTEMS & OPERATIONS MEETINGS IN INDIA
- INDIA–ITALY SPACE COOPERATION ADVANCES THROUGH INDUSTRY AGREEMENTS AT SPACE MEETINGS VENETO 2026
- EUTELSAT ONEWEB EXPANDS LEO MARITIME CONNECTIVITY PARTNERSHIP WITH STATION SATCOM
- ESA–CHINA SMILE MISSION LAUNCHES TO DELIVER FIRST GLOBAL IMAGES OF EARTH'S MAGNETOSPHERE
- SHENZHOU-23 CREW ARRIVES AT TIANGONG AS CHINA ADVANCES ITS 2030 LUNAR LANDING PROGRAMME
- SPACEX SET TO LAUNCH UPGRADED STARSHIP V3 AHEAD OF IPO
- NASA SELECTS BLUE ORIGIN AND OTHER COMPANIES FOR FUTURE MOON MISSIONS

MEMBERS BULLETIN

AGNIKUL COSMOS

AgniKul Cosmos successfully conducted the simultaneous test firing of a cluster of four semi-cryogenic rocket engines, marking a significant milestone in the development of its launch vehicle propulsion systems. All four engines were designed and manufactured in-house as single-piece 3D-printed hardware at AgniKul's Rocket Factory-1 and powered by electric motor-driven pumps.

The test involved the synchronized operation of eight pumps, eight motors and eight speed-control algorithms to achieve uniform startup, steady-state performance and shutdown across the entire engine cluster. According to the company, this is the first known demonstration of a clustered semi-cryogenic engine test of this kind in India.

The achievement highlights AgniKul's continued advancements in additive manufacturing and next-generation propulsion technologies.

ASTROBASE SPACE TECHNOLOGIES

Astrobase Space Technologies signed a partnership agreement with Impulso Space during Space Meetings Veneto 2026, marking the first industry agreement concluded under the Indian delegation's visit to the event.

Under the collaboration, Impulso Space will support customer access and explore launch opportunities for Astrobase's Launchbase programme through its mission management and launch services network. The partnership represents an important step towards strengthening India–Europe commercial space cooperation and advancing Astrobase's vision of building an Indo-European space industrial corridor to support resilient and accessible space capabilities.

MEMBERS BULLETIN

BELLATRIX AEROSPACE

Bellatrix Aerospace has partnered with TelePIX to develop a next-generation Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) Earth observation satellite, targeted for launch in 2028. The mission will combine TelePIX's high-resolution optical payload with Bellatrix's VLEO satellite platform powered by its proprietary Air-Breathing Electric Propulsion technology.

Under the collaboration, Bellatrix will provide the satellite bus and core spacecraft systems, while TelePIX will contribute the optical payload and integration support. The partnership will also extend to launch operations, early orbit operations and future constellation-scale missions, highlighting Bellatrix's growing role in advancing innovative satellite technologies and international space collaborations.

DHRUVA SPACE

Dhruva Space has secured INR 105 crore under the Government of India's Research, Development and Innovation Fund (RDIF) for Project Garud, a next-generation 500 kg-class communication satellite platform. The company is among the first startups selected for support under the RDIF initiative.

The funding will enable the development of an indigenous, modular satellite platform designed for constellation-scale missions supporting telecommunications, defence and other strategic applications. Project Garud marks an important step towards strengthening India's private-sector satellite manufacturing capabilities and advancing sovereign space infrastructure for the growing domestic and global space market.

MEMBERS BULLETIN

EUTELSAT ONEWEB

Eutelsat OneWeb has signed an expanded multi-year agreement with India-based maritime connectivity provider Station Satcom to scale the deployment of OneWeb Low Earth Orbit (LEO) connectivity services across its global maritime fleet. The agreement follows the successful activation of hundreds of vessels in 2025 and is expected to support connectivity for more than 1,000 vessels in the current deployment pipeline.

The partnership will enable Station Satcom to deliver high-speed, low-latency broadband services across major shipping routes and remote offshore environments, supporting real-time operations, enhanced vessel efficiency and improved crew welfare. The agreement underscores the growing demand for LEO-enabled maritime connectivity and highlights the increasing adoption of hybrid GEO-LEO satellite solutions across the global shipping industry.

GALAXEYE

GalaxEye successfully launched Mission Drishti on 3 May 2026 aboard the Falcon 9, marking a major milestone for India's private space sector. The mission features the world's first OptoSAR satellite and India's largest privately built Earth Observation satellite.

Mission Drishti combines Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Multispectral Imaging (MSI) on a single platform, enabling reliable all-weather, day-and-night Earth observation with analysis-ready imagery. The achievement showcases India's growing capabilities in advanced space technologies and reinforces the country's position as an emerging hub for space innovation and geospatial intelligence.

MEMBERS BULLETIN

ICEYE

ICEYE has announced plans to establish its first satellite manufacturing facility in India, which will serve as the company's Asia-Pacific production hub for small satellites supporting defence, surveillance and environmental monitoring applications.

The facility is expected to begin operations within the next year, with an initial production capacity of around 10 satellites annually, scaling up in subsequent years. The move reflects ICEYE's growing commitment to India and is expected to strengthen the country's capabilities in advanced Earth observation and space-based intelligence technologies.

INSPECITY

InspeCity has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SPiN - Space Products and Innovation GmbH to advance the development of modular and serviceable space systems.

The collaboration will focus on integrating propulsion systems with modular satellite architectures, validating interoperability at both device and system levels and demonstrating combined capabilities in operational mission environments. The partnership represents an important step toward enabling flexible, mission-ready spacecraft and accelerating the adoption of in-orbit servicing and modular space technologies for future commercial missions.

MEMBERS BULLETIN

KEPLER AEROSPACE

Kepler Aerospace has signed a framework agreement with Apogeo Space during Space Meetings Veneto, marking an important step in strengthening India–Italy collaboration in space infrastructure and mission operations.

Under the agreement, Apogeo Space's ground station infrastructure in Italy will be integrated into Kepler's Unified Command & Control (KUCC) platform, expanding its Ground Station-as-a-Service (GSaaS) network to nearly 50 globally distributed ground stations across multiple frequency bands. The partnership will also facilitate collaboration in CubeSat systems, satellite technologies, payloads and mission operations.

The agreement reflects the growing international engagement of India's private space sector and highlights the role of strategic partnerships in advancing global space infrastructure and commercial space cooperation between India and Europe.

PIERSIGHT

PierSight has integrated a space-grade semiconductor chip developed by Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) into the onboard computer and payload controller of its Varuna 2.0 spacecraft. The chip combines watchdog timer and voltage supervisor functions to enhance system reliability and enable automatic recovery from faults.

Having successfully cleared thermal testing, the milestone demonstrates the potential of indigenous space-grade electronics and supports India's efforts to reduce dependence on imported components while advancing the goals of the India Semiconductor Mission and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.

MEMBERS BULLETIN

PIXXEL

Pixxel secured a contract from the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) under its Strategic Commercial Enhancements programme to demonstrate the value of hyperspectral remote sensing using Pixxel's operational Firefly constellation. The award highlights the growing international recognition of Pixxel's advanced Earth observation capabilities and its role in supporting next-generation remote sensing applications.

In a separate milestone, Pixxel announced a strategic partnership with Sarvam AI to develop India's first orbital data centre satellite, Pathfinder. Scheduled for launch in late 2026, the 200 kg-class satellite will combine hyperspectral imaging with onboard AI processing, enabling real-time analysis of Earth observation data directly in orbit. The mission aims to demonstrate a new paradigm for space-based computing and establish the foundation for future orbital data centre infrastructure developed from India.

SKYROOT AEROSPACE

Skyroot Aerospace has become India's first space-tech unicorn after raising approximately USD 60 million in a funding round co-led by Sherpalo Ventures and GIC, taking the company's valuation to USD 1.1 billion. The milestone marks a significant achievement for India's private space sector and reflects growing investor confidence in the country's commercial space ecosystem.

The funding comes ahead of the maiden launch of Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle, which is expected to be a landmark mission for the nation's NewSpace industry. Skyroot plans to utilize the capital to increase launch frequency, expand manufacturing capabilities and accelerate the development of its next-generation launch vehicle, Vikram-2.

MEMBERS BULLETIN

ISpA ACTIVITIES

SPACE INDUSTRY CAPABILITY WORKSHOP

Indian Space Association conducted a **Space Industry Capability Workshop** on **8 May 2026** at the **United Service Institution of India, New Delhi**, as part of the two-week **space capacity-building programme** organised by **IN-SPACe** in coordination with the **Ministry of External Affairs under the ITEC framework**. The workshop was attended by delegates from **14 partner countries across Africa and Southeast Asia** including Nepal, Myanmar, Algeria, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Paraguay, Madagascar, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Tanzania, Mauritius, Nigeria and Philippines for a day of knowledge exchange and engagement with India's growing commercial space sector.

The workshop featured presentations from leading Indian space companies, including **Azista Space Systems, Dhruva Space, Tata Advanced Systems Limited, Pixxel, Kristellar Aerospace, VyomIC and AgniKul Cosmos.** The sessions highlighted India's growing capabilities in satellite systems, launch technologies, geospatial intelligence and advanced space applications, demonstrating the strength and competitiveness of the country's NewSpace ecosystem.

The engagement underscored India's commitment to fostering international partnerships, promoting indigenous innovation and enabling accessible space capabilities for emerging spacefaring nations. By facilitating dialogue between global stakeholders and industry leaders, the workshop contributed to strengthening long-term collaborations and advancing India's role as a trusted partner in the global space community. It also reflected ISpA's continued efforts to build international synergies and support the growth of the Indian space ecosystem.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

SPACE INDUSTRY CAPABILITY WORKSHOP

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISpA ENGAGES WITH ICEYE TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S SPACE AND DEFENCE ECOSYSTEM

Lt Gen Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd), Director General, ISpA- Indian Space Association had a meeting with the Mr Rafal Modrzewski, CEO & Co-Founder of ICEYE, during his visit to India. reaffirming the shared commitment to advancing collaboration in the space and defence sectors.

ICEYE, a Finland-based space technology company and valued member of ISpA, operates the world's largest constellation of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites and is a leading provider of Earth observation capabilities for defence, security and commercial applications. The interaction highlighted the growing opportunities for international collaboration within India's rapidly expanding space ecosystem.

The engagement reflects ISpA's continued efforts to facilitate partnerships between global and Indian space stakeholders, promote advanced space technologies and strengthen India's position as a key player in the global space economy. ISpA looks forward to supporting ICEYE's continued growth and engagement in the Indian market.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP BEYOND EARTH: DISCUSSING THE FUTURE OF SPACE COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

On 6 May 2026, the American Center, New Delhi, hosted a youth-focused panel discussion titled “American Leadership Beyond Earth”, bringing together students, young professionals, and space enthusiasts to explore emerging opportunities in the global space sector.

The discussion featured Dr. Sachin Bahmba, CMD & Founder, Space India, and Mr. William Cammett, U.S. Diplomat, U.S. Embassy in India, and was moderated by Aditi Chakraborty, Relationship Manager & International Cooperation, ISpA.

The session highlighted the growing importance of international collaboration in space, particularly the role of the NASA–ISRO partnership in addressing global challenges through space-based data and technologies. Speakers also emphasized the expanding opportunities within the space sector, noting that careers in space increasingly span the broader STEAM ecosystem and are accessible to individuals from diverse academic backgrounds. The discussion further underscored the importance of adaptability, innovation, and perseverance in fostering the growth of India’s emerging space start-up ecosystem.

The event provided an engaging platform for young participants to gain insights into the evolving global space landscape and the opportunities it presents for future generations.

ISpA ACTIVITIES

ISPA PARTICIPATES IN INDIA–PORTUGAL BUSINESS MISSION MINISTERIAL VISIT

ISpA participated in the India Business Mission Ministerial Visit held at the Embassy of Portugal, New Delhi, on 12 May 2026. The engagement brought together stakeholders from both countries to explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral economic and technological cooperation.

During the visit, ISpA held B2B discussions with Portuguese counterparts to identify potential avenues for collaboration in the space sector. The interactions focused on fostering industry partnerships, promoting commercial engagement, and exploring opportunities for cooperation between the Indian and Portuguese space ecosystems. The engagement reflects ISpA's continued efforts to strengthen international partnerships and facilitate global opportunities for the Indian space industry.

IIRS ACADEMIC MEET (IAM)-2026 | MAY 13, 2026

The Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) organized the IIRS Academia Meet (IAM-2026),under the theme 'Integrating Earth Observation (EO) and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Emerging Paradigms in Geospatial Science.', on April 22, 2026. More than 120 delegates, including eminent invitees, faculty members, research scholars and students participated in the meet. Dr. R. P. Singh, Director, IIRS in his welcome address highlighted the significant transformation in geospatial science driven by AI. He emphasized on the priority of embedding AI with EO in research, education and capacity building. The Chief Guest of the function, Ms. Bharat Jyoti, Director of the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), urged that AI applications be oriented towards end-user requirements and emphasized that both the use and misuse of AI must be properly understood. The Guest of Honour, Dr. S. P. Aggarwal, Director, NESAC, highlighted the importance of using AI to offer prescriptive solutions rather than just predictive ones. Mrs. Shefali Agrawal, Dean (Academics), IIRS, presented the vote of thanks.

During the meet, atechnical session was organised on theme 'Integrating Earth Observation and AI: Emerging Paradigms.'In total eight presentations were delivered by experts frompremier national organizations NIAS, NCMRWF, WII, IISER, NIC, IIT Bhubaneswar, MNCFC and IIRS.They highlighted the current progress, challenges and opportunities in use of AI for disaster resilience, weather forecasting, large-scale ecological monitoring, dynamics.

In the post-lunch session, Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director, NRSC delivered a plenary talk titled 'Disaster Risk Reduction using Earth Observation and Leveraging Benefits of AI,'underlining the strategic importance of AI in mitigating natural hazards. A panel discussion was organised on theme 'AI for EO Science & Applications: Future Directions'. The event concluded with closing remarks from Director, IIRS, reaffirming the commitment to advancing EO and AI integration through cross-disciplinary partnerships.

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

ISRO AT NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY 2026 | MAY 13, 2026

National Technology Day, a proud commemoration of India's second Nuclear test at Pokhran was celebrated on 11th May, 2026 at National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi. ISRO took part in the event with 35 delegates from its various Centres, showcasing indigenously developed critical technologies along with other S&T Departments. Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent charge) for S&T and Earth Sciences; MoS for PMO, PP/DoPT, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the event. During his visit to exhibition, he has appreciated ISRO's efforts in achieving Atmanirbharata in varied domains. Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood and Secretaries of various Science and Technology departments were also present.

ISRO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROGRAMME (YUVAVIGYANIKARYAKRAM - YUVIKA) 2026 | MAY 13, 2026

ISRO inaugurated the sixth edition of its flagship outreach programme, YUvaVIgyaniKAryakram (YUVIKA)-2026, on May 11, 2026. The two-week residential programme is aimed at nurturing scientific curiosity among school students and providing early exposure to space science, space technology and space applications. Over the past five editions, more than 1,300 students have been trained through the initiative.

A total of 1,06,530 students registered for the YUVIKA-2026 programme and 456 meritorious students representing 28 states and 8 union territories were selected for the programme scheduled from May 11 - 22, 2026, across following nine ISRO/DoS centres/units:

- VSSC Thiruvananthapuram
- SAC Ahmedabad
- URSC Bengaluru
- SDSC-SHAR Sriharikota
- NRSC Hyderabad
- IIRS Dehradun
- NE-SAC Shillong
- IPRC Mahendragiri
- RRSC West, Jodhpur

During the inauguration, Dr. V. Narayanan, Secretary DoS and Chairman, ISRO, addressed students virtually across all centres and highlighted the importance of science and technology in national development. He also spoke about India's future space ambitions, including Gaganyaan and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station, while encouraging students to contribute towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The programme includes interactions with scientists and Gaganyaatris, lectures, live RH200 rocket launch viewing, Chandrayaan-3 DIY kit assembly, model rocket activities and various hands-on learning sessions, along with extracurricular activities designed to provide a holistic learning experience.

CHANDRAYAAN-3 "HOP" EXPERIMENT REVEALS HIDDEN LUNAR SECRETS: SCIENTISTS UNCOVER REGOLITH HETEROGENEITY AT MOON'S SOUTH POLE | MAY 18, 2026

ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander achieved a significant milestone by successfully executing a post-landing "hop" experiment on the lunar surface after completing its primary mission objectives. The maneuver, carried out using residual propellant, enabled the Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) payload to investigate a new location near the Moon's south polar region and study the effects of engine plume interaction with the lunar surface.

ChaSTE measurements provided valuable insights into the thermophysical and geotechnical properties of lunar regolith. The study revealed that the engine exhaust eroded the upper few centimeters of loose lunar dust, exposing denser and more cohesive material beneath. Observations also identified a layered structure within the regolith, indicating variations in density, cohesion and thermal conductivity with depth. Scientists found that the top 2–6 cm layer is highly porous and cohesive, acting like a thermal blanket that may aid in preserving subsurface water-ice molecules.

The experiment further captured unique "twilight transition" temperature data during the slow lunar sunset, showing rapid cooling once sunlight disappeared due to the absence of an atmosphere. Supported by Chandrayaan-2 OHRC data and 3D simulations, the findings enhance understanding of lunar surface behavior and provide crucial inputs for future robotic and human exploration missions, including habitat construction and long-term operations on the Moon.

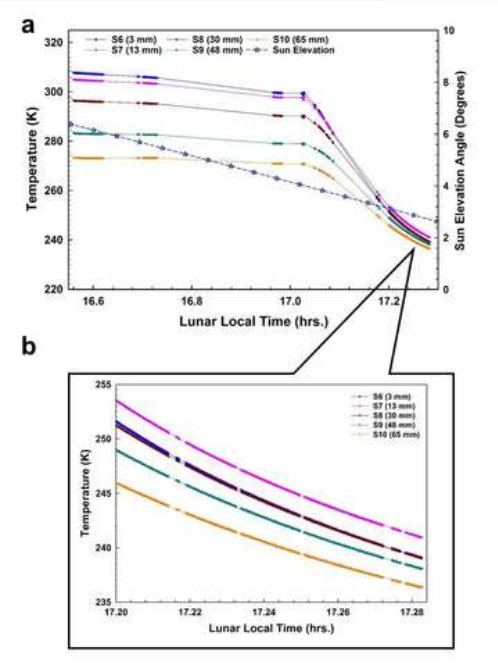


Figure 1(a) Temperatures measurements from ChaSTE within the top 6.5 cm of the regolith at the Post-hop location, during 16:20 - 17:17 hours Local Time. While ChaSTE observations at different depths are plotted as solid circles, solid lines represent the interpolated values to cover data gap. ChaSTE observations have maximum uncertainty of ±0.5K. Variation of Sun elevation angle (Blue Stars) at the post-hop location is also shown for correlation.

Figure 1(b) Blown-up image of temperature variation during cool-down phase. Magnitude reversal in temperatures at depths of 3mm and 13 mm respectively indicate the probability of a higher conducting layer at the top.

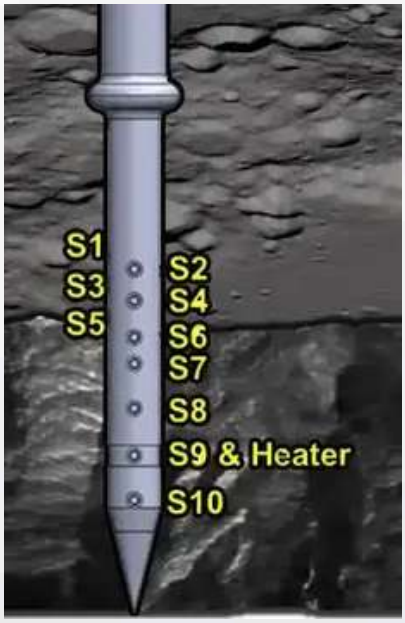


Figure 2 Schematic of ChaSTE insertion in the lunar surface

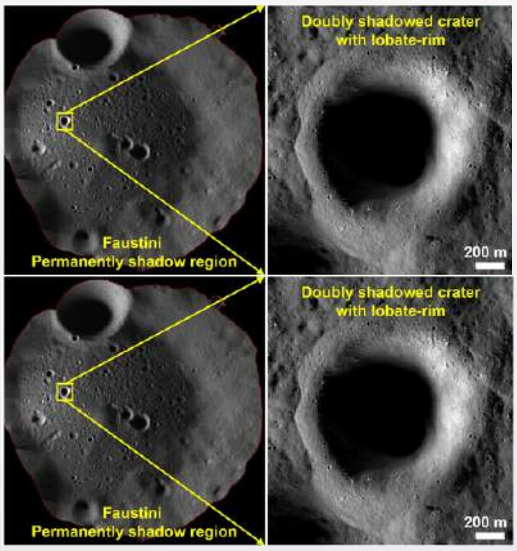
CHANDRAYAAN-2 DUAL FREQUENCY SYNTHETIC APERTURE RADAR (DFSAR) OBSERVATIONS REVEAL SUBSURFACE ICE IN LUNAR SOUTH POLAR REGIONS | 27 MAY, 2026

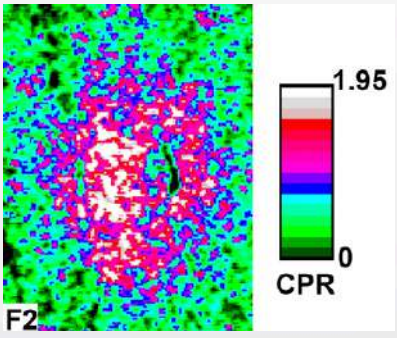
A detailed investigation of sub-surface ice in the lunar South Polar Region using observations from the Chandrayaan-2 Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR) have been carried out by the scientists from Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad.

The Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR) onboard Chandrayaan-2 orbiter is a microwave imaging instrument in L- and S-band frequencies and the first fully-polarimetric SAR to study the Moon. The study focuses on “doubly shadowed craters,” which are special craters located inside permanently shadowed regions (PSRs) of the Moon. Due to continuous shielding from sunlight and thermal radiation, these regions remain extremely cold (temperatures ~25K) and are considered favorable locations for preserving water-ice over long geological timescales.

Using advanced radar polarimetric analysis, scientists identified radar signatures consistent with the possible presence of subsurface ice beneath the floors of four doubly shadowed craters in the lunar South Polar Region. The study proposes a refined radar-based criterion for identifying subsurface ice, where Circular Polarization Ratio (CPR) values greater than 1 together with Degree of Polarization (DOP) values lower than 0.13 indicate volumetric scattering potentially associated with subsurface ice. DOP is a radar polarimetric parameter that measures how much of the reflected radar signal retains its original polarization state after interacting with the surface or subsurface material.This approach helps distinguish genuine ice signatures from radar signals produced by rough rocky terrain.

Among the investigated craters, one crater of 1.1 km diameter within Faustini crater shows particularly strong evidence of subsurface ice(Figure 1), supported by both radar observations (Figure 2)and distinctive lobate-rim morphological characteristics. A lobate-rim morphology refers to flow-like or lobed appearance, suggesting the impact may have penetrated subsurface ice, producing the observed lobate-rim crater.





IN-SPACe INDIAN NATIONAL SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION CENTRE

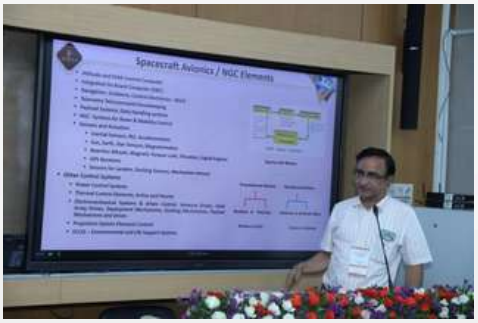
IN-SPACe INAUGURATES NEW COHORTS OF SHORT-TERM SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AT IIT BOMBAY

IN-SPACe has inaugurated Courses 20, 21, 22 and 23 under its Short-Term Skill Development Programme at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, further strengthening efforts to build a skilled workforce for India's rapidly expanding space sector.

The programme is designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements by equipping participants with practical knowledge of satellite technologies, space systems and entrepreneurship. Through a blend of technical training, industry interaction and hands-on learning, participants gain exposure to the end-to-end process of satellite development and the broader commercial space ecosystem.

The launch of these new cohorts reflects IN-SPACe's continued commitment to fostering talent, innovation and industry readiness within India's NewSpace ecosystem. By empowering engineers, researchers and aspiring entrepreneurs with future-focused skills, the programme aims to nurture the next generation of space professionals who will contribute to the growth and global competitiveness of India's space sector.




IN-SPACe INDIAN NATIONAL SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION CENTRE

IN-SPACe ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-RESOLUTION INDIAN HUMAN SETTLEMENT LAYERS

IN-SPACe has announced an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) under its Seed Fund Scheme for the development of High-Resolution Indian Human Settlement Layers (IHSL), aimed at advancing innovative Earth Observation (EO)-based solutions for India's growing geospatial and urban development needs.

The initiative invites Indian non-government entities to develop high-resolution, multi-layer settlement products tailored to Indian conditions, including built-up surface and settlement classification, spatial building height products and built-up volume and settlement intensity indicators. Leveraging satellite data, remote sensing and geospatial analytics, these solutions have the potential to support urban planning, infrastructure development, disaster management, governance and public service delivery.

Through the Seed Fund Scheme, IN-SPACe will provide seed funding, mentorship, access to Department of Space technologies on a need basis and support for EO and in-situ data validation. The initiative seeks to strengthen India's downstream space economy while accelerating the adoption of space-based technologies that deliver tangible societal and economic benefits. The last date for submission of applications is 30 June 2026.

IN-SPACe INDIAN NATIONAL SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION CENTRE

IN-SPACe INVITES INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION FOR PSLV TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

IN-SPACe has initiated the technology transfer of ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle to Indian private industry, marking a major milestone in strengthening India's commercial launch capabilities and expanding private sector participation in the global space economy.

The initiative aims to enable capable Indian industries to undertake end-to-end realization, operation and commercialization of PSLV launches using one of the world's most reliable and proven launch vehicles. The opportunity is targeted at Indian companies with expertise in executing complex multidisciplinary turnkey projects and an ambition to compete in the rapidly growing global commercial launch market.

To facilitate seamless technology absorption, Indian Space Research Organisation will provide technical guidance, infrastructural support and handholding assistance during the transition phase. Important timelines for interested entities are:

- June 21, 2026, is the last date for downloading the EOI document
- Clarifications on EOI document: June 25, 2026
- Submission of EOI Response: July 07, 2026

The initiative reflects India's broader vision of building a globally competitive, industry-driven space ecosystem under the Make in India framework.

IN-SPACe INDIAN NATIONAL SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION CENTRE

IN-SPACe AND IIT BOMBAY LAUNCH SKILL DEVELOPMENT COURSE ON SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY

IN-SPACe, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, has announced registrations for a month-long Skill Development Course on Satellite Technology: From Fundamentals to Entrepreneurship. The programme is aimed at researchers, academicians and industry professionals seeking technical expertise and entrepreneurial exposure in India's rapidly expanding space sector.

The course will provide participants with comprehensive training across key domains including orbital mechanics, mission planning, spacecraft attitude dynamics, satellite manufacturing, payload technologies and system integration. It will also cover remote sensing, SATCOM, GNSS, navigation systems and space entrepreneurship, alongside modules on business models, funding mechanisms, regulatory frameworks and market entry strategies.

Delivered through practical sessions and expert-led interactions from ISRO, academia and industry leaders, the programme seeks to strengthen India's future-ready space workforce and encourage innovation-driven participation in the national space ecosystem. The course will be conducted at IIT Bombay from 31 May to 27 June 2026, with registrations open until 24 May 2026.

IN-SPACe INDIAN NATIONAL SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION CENTRE

INDIA–ITALY SPACE INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT STRENGTHENS COMMERCIAL COLLABORATION

A high-level Indian delegation led by P K Jain, Director, Program Management and Authorization Directorate (PMAD), IN-SPACe, participated in the Space Meetings Veneto and Italian Space Industry Study Group in Italy, reinforcing bilateral cooperation in the commercial space sector. Organised by Advanced Business Events with support from the Italian Trade Agency and Agenzia Spaziale Italiana, the event featured exhibitions, conferences, investment forums, institutional discussions and B2B engagements focused on emerging space opportunities.

The Indian delegation included leading space startups and companies such as Dhruva Space, TakeMe2Space, Hyspace Technologies, VyomIC and several others showcasing India's growing commercial space ecosystem across domains including UAVs, agri-space applications, supply chains and advanced space technologies.

The visit follows the successful 2025 Italian Aerospace Delegation visit to India and aligns with the 2025–2029 India–Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan announced during the G20 Summit 2024. The engagement reflects the commitment of both nations to deepen industry partnerships, foster innovation and expand international collaboration in the rapidly evolving global space economy.

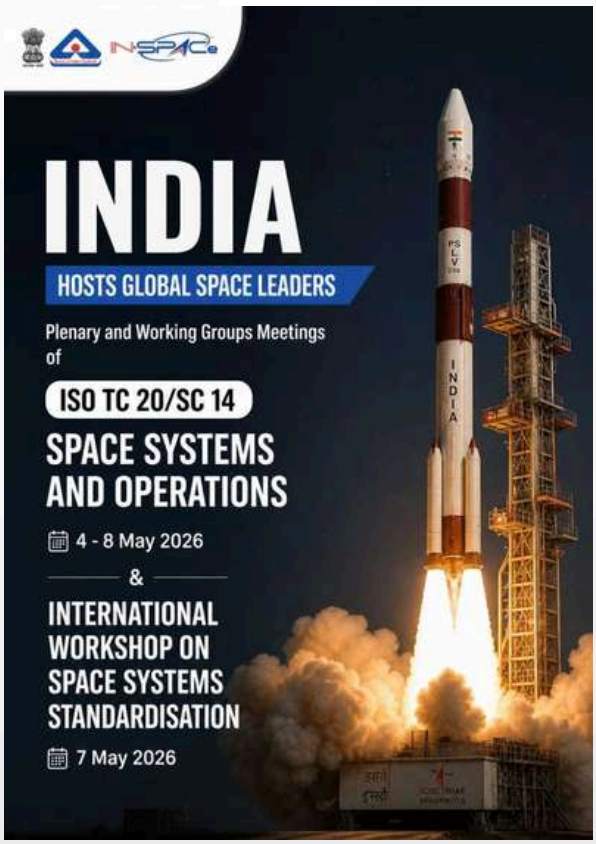
IN-SPACe INDIAN NATIONAL SPACE PROMOTION AND AUTHORIZATION CENTRE

INDIA TO HOST GLOBAL ISO SPACE SYSTEMS STANDARDISATION MEET IN 2026

IN-SPACe, in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), successfully hosted the Plenary and Working Groups Meetings of ISO TC 20/SC 14 on Space Systems and Operations from 4–8 May 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The event brought together global space leaders, industry experts, regulators, and standardisation bodies to deliberate on international standards and best practices shaping the future of the global space sector.

As part of the programme, an International Workshop on Space Systems Standardisation was organised on 7 May 2026, providing a platform for collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders from industry, academia, and government. Discussions focused on emerging technologies, operational frameworks, and the harmonisation of global standards for space systems and operations.

The successful hosting of the ISO TC 20/SC 14 meetings underscored India's growing role in the international space ecosystem and reflected the country's commitment to strengthening global cooperation, advancing space governance, and contributing to the development of internationally accepted standards for the rapidly evolving space industry.



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Galaxeye eyes 8-week timeline to begin commercial data rollout; defence demand to anchor early revenues
04 May 2026 | The Economic Times

PM Modi hails GalaxEye's Mission 'Drishti', world's first OptoSAR satellite launch
04 May 2026 | The Pioneer

Skyroot Aerospace becomes India's first space-tech unicorn, raises $60 million
7 May 2026
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Operation Sindoor Anniversary | How India Changed Modern Warfare | Cover Story
07 May 2026 |Zee Business

India's Skyroot becomes first $1 bln space-tech startup with GIC, Sherpalo, Blackrock backing
8 May 2026 | Reuters

Space funding hits record as Skyroot becomes India's first space unicorn 08 May 2026 | Business Standard

Interview with Lt. Gen. A.K. Bhatt: "India's space ecosystem today is cost-competitive and innovation-driven"
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World Telecom Day 2026: Resilient networks to drive India's digital future in AI age, say executives
16 May 2026 | ET Telecom

From ISRO to startups: Skyroot makes history as India's first spacetech unicorn
19 May 2026 | ET Government

May 2026 may have changed India's space future forever and no one paid attention
23 May 2026 | India Toay

Hyd's Skyroot soars into unicorn club ahead of Vikram-1 mission
08 May 2026 | The Times of India

ISpA IN NEWS

India Cheers GalaxEye's 'Mission Drishti' Lift Off

World's 1st OptoSAR reaches orbit in India's largest pvt satellite launch

Suraksha P

Bengaluru: Space-tech startup GalaxEye on Sunday successfully launched Mission Drishti, the world's first satellite to combine optical and synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imaging on a single platform, marking a milestone for India's private space sector and its ambitions in earth observation and geospatial intelligence.

The 130-kg satellite, launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg, California, is the largest privately built satellite in India and enables all-weather, day-and-night imaging by fusing electro-optical and radar data streams.

GalaxEye chief executive Suyash Singh, speaking to ET from California, said the company is already seeing strong global interest in the differentiated datasets enabled by its OptoSAR payload. "We have interests from different commercial customers," he said.

The imagery has a resolution of 12 to 16 metres. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a post on microblogging site X hailed the mission as a "major achievement in our space journey" and said it is "a testament to our youth's passion for innovation and nation-building."

CEO Singh said the launch represents the culmination of over five years of indigenous research and development. "With the satellite now successfully in orbit, our immediate focus is on completing the commissioning," he said. He said GalaxEye's channel partners across 20 countries, who resell satellite imagery specifically to governments, "have signed up to do an early validation of our data, and buy it eventually."

"GalaxEye cannot go to any country and just sell it... You need to go through local partners," Singh explained. "And there are a lot of local partners who provide analytics-based services to their governments, on top of satellite imagery. So, we sell satellite imagery to these partners and then they perform analytics on top of it and give it to their subsequent governments. So, we will route our satellite imagery through them, where their analytics will sit on top of our imagery and then go to the end user."

Mission Drishti addresses a long-standing limitation in earth observation—data gaps caused by cloud cover or poor lighting—by enabling seamless imaging regardless of the weather or time of day. This capability is expected to significantly improve reliability and frequency of satellite-based intelligence for applications ranging from defence and disaster management to agriculture and infrastructure planning.

The satellite is expected to begin delivering initial imagery to customers in the coming weeks. GalaxEye has also partnered with NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), for global distribution of its satellite data, a move expected to expand access to advanced earth observation capabilities. Pawan Goenka, chairman of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (In-Space), said, "As more Indian space companies demonstrate their capabilities through real missions and engagement with global customers, confidence in India's space ecosystem will continue to ramp them."

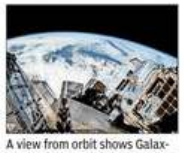
Industry bodies pointed to the strategic implications of the mission. Lt Gen AK Bhatt (Retd), director general of Indian Space Association, described it as a "pivotal shift" toward sovereign, all-weather surveillance capabilities for national security and disaster response.

Indian co's satellite sees through clouds and in the dark too

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: When Bengaluru-based space startup GalaxEye placed its first commercial satellite Drishti in orbit aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket on Sunday, it marked more than just another launch for India's private space sector.

Drishti — called India's largest privately developed Earth observation satellite and the world's first OptoSAR satellite — added a rare new capability to the country's observation fleet: A satellite that can "see" through clouds, darkness and bad weather while capturing conventional optical imagery.


A view from orbit shows GalaxEye's Mission Drishti satellite as it separates after launch aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket Sunday

GalaxEye co-founder and CEO Suyash Singh told **TOI**: "This will become only the 16th remote sensing satellite available to India, placing it among a small group of spacecraft."

▶Advanced capabilities, P 9

Skyroot aims for satellite dropoff in unique orbit with small rocket

▶From P1

With this, the total funding raised by Skyroot has hit $160 million (Rs 1,353 crore). The latest funding round will help Skyroot achieve its target of one rocket per month from its new Infinity campus in Hyderabad.

As part of its orbital launch ambitions, Skyroot is planning two to three rocket test launches before commercial operations begin next year. Skyroot founder Pawan Kumar Chandana said, "We are excited about the upcoming Vikram-1 launch, India's first private orbital rocket, marking a significant milestone both for India and the global space sector. This investment signals confidence from some of the world's reputed investors," Chandana added.

Pointing out that Vikram-1 is just weeks away from its maiden flight, he said the capital raised will go towards scaling launch cadence for Vikram-1, expanding manufacturing and developing Vikram-2 – a one-tonne class vehicle with an advanced cryogenic upper stage.

AIMING FOR THE STARS

- **India's first spacetech unicorn, Skyroot Aerospace hit a $1.1 billion valuation after raising $60 million in fresh funding**
- **Vikram-1 launch countdown:** Skyroot's first private orbital rocket is just weeks away from its maiden flight, a first for India's private space sector
- Founders Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka quit ISRO in their late 20s to start the company in 2018
- **One rocket every month:** New funding will help Skyroot scale up production at its Hyderabad Infinity campus with a target of launching one rocket per month
- **Built for the small-satellite boom:** Vikram-1 can carry satellites weighing up to 350 kg into low Earth orbit and uses 3D-printed engines plus fully in-house propulsion systems

The firm became India's first private company to send a rocket to space when its successfully launched sub-orbital rocket - Vikram-S - in Nov 2022. Ram Shriram said: "Access to space is one of the key challenges of our time. Skyroot is building the foundational infrastructure for that future with the best cost-to-performance ratio in the orbital-launch industry."

The startup is positioning itself as a cab to space that will drop off satellites in unique orbits with its smaller rockets, something that larger ones like Elon Musk's SpaceX can't do.

Terming this milestone as a defining moment for India's private space ecosystem, Indian Space Association director general Lt Gen AK Bhatt (retd) said: "This is far more than a financial achievement. It is a symbolic coming-of-age of India's space startup landscape and a powerful validation of the technological ingenuity, entrepreneurial ambition and commercial agility that Indian companies now bring to the global space sector."

"The achievement also sends a strong signal to global investors that India has built a credible and innovation-driven space ecosystem capable of delivering world-class, cost-competitive, reliable and on-demand space solutions. As the industry looks ahead to the Vikram-I orbital launch, this achievement will further strengthen investor confidence and accelerate India's collective mission of securing a 10% share of the global space economy by 2033," Bhatt added.

The latest funding round comes two and a half years after it last raised US$27.5 million (approx. ₹225 crore) in its first pre-Series C funding round led by Singapore-based global investment firm Temasek. In Sept 2022 it had brought Singapore's Temasek to the captable when it raised $51 million (approx. ₹403 crore).

Skyroot was founded in 2018 by Chandana along with Naga Bharath Daka, both ISRO scientists who quit their jobs in their late 20s to start up and has been steadily charting its trajectory to developing and launching on-demand rockets for small satellites.

HYD'S SKYROOT SCRIPTS HISTORY

Becomes India's first space-tech unicorn | Milestone highlights rising global investor confidence in India's space economy

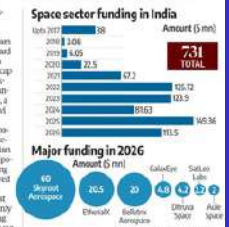
WHY THIS MATTERS

Space funding hits record with 1st unicorn

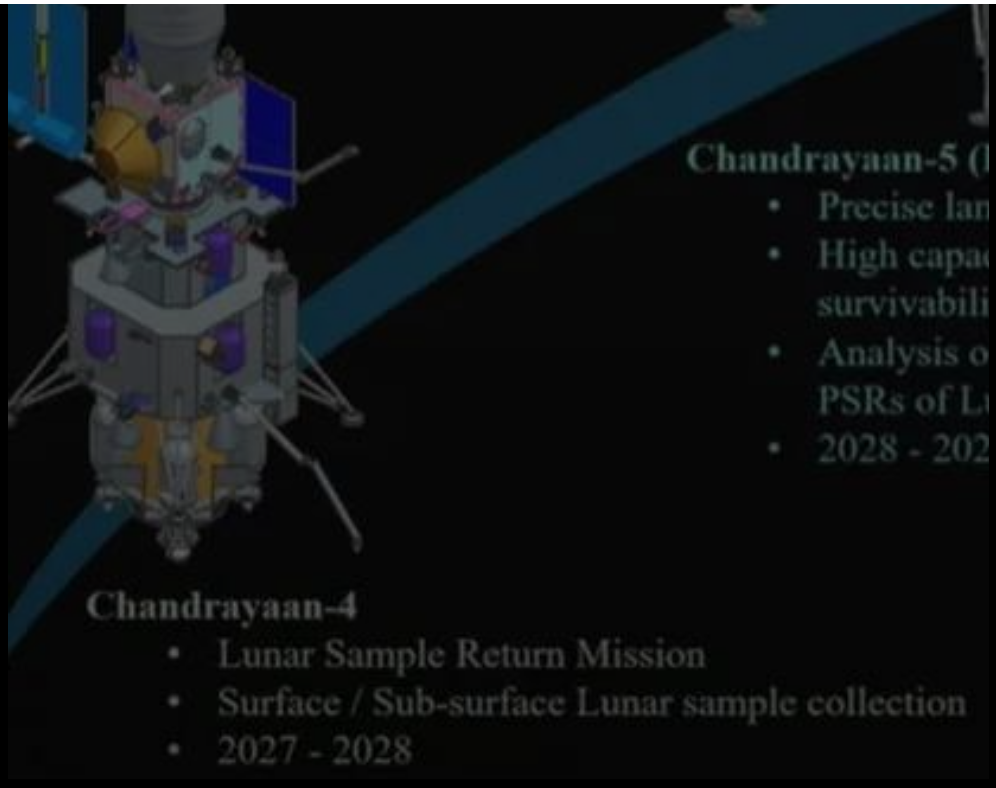
Almost six years after India opened its space sector for private players in May 2020, the country's booming private sector space industry has got its first unicorn. Launch vehicle startup Skyroot Aerospace on Thursday announced raising nearly $60 million at a pre-money valuation of $1.1 billion.

The round was co-led by Sherpalo Ventures and GIC, a global institutional investor, with participation from other existing Skyroot investors, including the founders of Greenko Group and Arkam Ventures. The founder of Ubergrads, Ram Shriram, a tech investor and a Board member of Alphabet Inc, will join Skyroot's Board. Also joining the cap table are funds managed by BlackRock, the world's largest asset management firm, Pinpoint Partners, a tech growth capital firm, Shanghvi Family Office, and others.

The private sector's race to space is drawing record funding. According to data released by the Indian Space Association, the raising of policies has helped industry funding jump 86 per cent in 2025 compared with 2024. In 2026, the industry attracted $913.5 million in the first five months alone. This was mainly driven by the $60 million funding by Skyroot Aerospace.



NATIONAL NEWS



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Vodafone Idea eyes ₹25,000 crore SBI-led funding after AGR relief
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AI models raise telecom cyber threat concerns in India
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TRAI extends deadline for satellite spectrum consultation comments
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'This is crucial juncture for space missions', says Shubhanshu Shukla, as he prepares for second space voyage
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- Anduril announces team for its Golden Dome space-based missile interceptor effort
- Space analytics firm HawkEye raises $416 million in US IPO
- SpaceX files plan for $55 billion Terafab chip facility in Texas
- Elon Musk 'makes it clear' to Anthropic: We will cancel the SpaceX deal, if your AI tools ...
- NASA, SpaceX to launch new resupply mission to space station
- NASA's twin Voyager spacecraft are very low on power after nearly 50 years. How long can they keep going?
- SpaceX launches secret US spy satellites to orbit from California
- Starship Super Heavy ready for launch rehearsal as SpaceX preps for Flight 12
- OU Launches Summer Internships In Emerging Tech
- FCC approves $40 billion sale of EchoStar spectrum to SpaceX, AT&T
- Bringing LEO to Private Networks: Logos Space Engineering VP Explains the Constellation's Enterprise-Focused Design
- Elon Musk is just 200 satellites away from matching rest of the world combined
- SpaceX accelerates IPO timeline, targets June 12 listing on Nasdaq, sources say
- Elon Musk says he will not sell SpaceX stake ahead of planned IPO launch
- Starlink rival Eutelsat's Q3 revenue meets forecasts as LEO growth offsets video decline
- T-Mobile CEO: Satellite traffic tiny compared to overall network usage
- Anduril doubles valuation to over $60 billion as defense tech funding boom continues
- SpaceX set to launch upgraded Starship V3 ahead of IPO
- Anterix, Lynk Global Win FCC Approval for Satellite D2D Trial in 900 MHz Spectrum
- There is no sound in space, but NASA records the electromagnetic vibrations of planets and converts them to audio and Saturn sounds genuinely haunting

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- SpaceX IPO: Elon Musk's compensation could rise if Mars colonies, space data centres become reality
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- NASA: China Likely to Send Crewed Mission Around Moon In 2027
- Starship Super Heavy launch LIVE: Watch biggest SpaceX rocket liftoff to space
- Debrief: SpaceX Leans Into Vertical Integration For New Tech Frontiers
- NASA picks Blue Origin, other space firms for moon missions
- NASA will reveal the Artemis 3 astronauts on June 9
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- Artemis 2 moon launch brought nearly 350,000 people to Florida's Space Coast
- NASA is updating its Artemis moon base plan today. Here's how to watch it live.
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- A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket launched 29 Amazon Leo internet satellites to orbit on Friday night (May 28)
- NASA satellite images uncover dramatic changes in Earth's nighttime lights
- Will Starship launch from foreign shores? SpaceX 'constantly exploring' options for megarocket liftoff sites
- Vast, builder of private space stations, launches line of high-power satellites
- SpaceX Dragon capsule delivers science and supplies to space station
- SpaceX launches Starlink satellites on stunning sunset Falcon 9 flight (video)
- SpaceX launches secret US spy satellites to orbit from California (video, photos)
- 'Like putting a microscope into the core of the sun': World's 1st space-based neutrino detector launches to orbit
- US military test-launches nuclear-capable ICBM from California (photos)

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- Shenzhou-21 crew begins one-month extended mission in space
- China to build bigger space station as NASA winds down space station by 2031
- China approves first commercial trial for satellite IoT
- Space Is Becoming Climate Infrastructure and China Knows It
- China launches Tianzhou 10 robotic cargo mission to space station
- U.S.-China Rivalry Reaches South American Skies
- 'Never seen anything like it': Satellite pics show China's buildup near nuke silos
- China launches new batch of satellite for Spacesail Constellation
- Zenk Space raises $26 million, targets June debut launch
- Shenzhou 23 Launch: Astronauts Enter the Tiangong Space Station after Successful Docking
- China launches communication technology test satellite || 27 May 2026
- China shakes up its space programs to land astronauts on the moon by 2030: 'We will spare no effort'
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- Isaacman expects Chinese crewed mission around the moon in 2027
- China launches test direct-to-device satellites for multiple projects
- As satellite imagery evolves, its role in operations comes into view
- ESA-China SMILE mission lifts off to deliver first global images of Earth's magnetosphere
- Joint ESA-China SMILE mission set for launch to study Earth's magnetic shield
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- Tianzhou-10 cargo spacecraft arrives at Tiangong space station
- China's Nayuta Space raises fresh funding for aerodynamic-recovery rocket

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- Creotech plans $118 million capital raise, investment in new satellite factory
- Space data centres spark bold, game-changing AI race in orbit
- Lasers shine a new light on the space junk air pollution problem
- Vega C rocket launches European-Chinese space weather satellite to orbit
- Space bonding with Europe: Sweden joins India's Venus mission, Norway ties up with Isro for space cooperation
- European imaging companies step in to fill warzone gap
- Space Force plans nationwide network of 'resilient operations centers'
- Iridium to take over Aireon to expand aviation safety business
- MDA Space continues work on Gateway robotic arm
- Ireland and Malta sign the Artemis Accords
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- Rocket Lab launches ninth Synspective satellite
- ESA and JAXA finalize agreement on Apophis asteroid mission
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- Bringing imagery and communications under one roof
- Record-breaking Europe heat wave from space | Space photo of the day for May 29, 2026
- As satellite imagery evolves, its role in operations comes into view
- Do AI tools undermine trust in geospatial imagery?
- Germany pushes European military space command initiative
- European space industry warns EU Space Act could slow competitiveness
- Spire expands European manufacturing with Munich plant
- Paraguay signs the Artemis Accords

GOVERNMENT POLICIES/ CONSULTATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAI Releases Consultation Paper on the Framework for Satellite Communication Network Authorisation and Assignment of Spectrum to Satellite Communication Network Providers

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India released a Consultation Paper on the Framework for Satellite Communication Network (SCN) Authorisation and Assignment of Spectrum to Satellite Communication Network Providers, outlining the proposed regulatory framework for satellite communications under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

The consultation examined key aspects of the future satcom ecosystem, including authorisation conditions for establishing and operating satellite communication networks, spectrum assignment mechanisms for feeder and user links, gateway licensing structures and financial obligations for operators. The framework is intended to facilitate the participation of both Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) and Non-Geostationary Satellite Orbit (NGSO) operators in India's evolving digital communications landscape.

The initiative marks an important step in shaping India's next-generation satellite communications regime and is expected to provide regulatory clarity for industry stakeholders as the country expands its satellite connectivity capabilities. The consultation process concluded in May 2026 following the submission of stakeholder comments and counter-comments.

ISpA UPCOMING EVENTS

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The **5th edition** of the **India International Space Conclave (IISC)** will be held this November, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, start-ups, investors and global stakeholders to shape the next phase of India's space economy. As a leading platform for strategic dialogue and collaboration, IISC 2026 will focus on policy, innovation, investment and international partnerships across the space sector.

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