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FUTURE INDIAN SPACE - RENEWING POLICY DIMENSIONS

**Abstract**

Indian space activities have made tremendous progress in the past 50 years with successful programmes of Indian communication satellites in INSAT; Indian EO satellites in IRS and Indian launch vehicles in the PSLV and GSLV. India has also had a mission to Moon - Chandrayaan-1; a mission on-way to Mars and the IRNSS. Successful foray into global markets have also been achieved. In the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017), Indian is planning for 58 missions with an investment of almost 6 B USD (at 2013 rates).

Today, Indian Space Programme is at a cusp with the need for a LONG TERM STRATEGY FOR SPACE – basically creating a roadmap that will look 30-50 years ahead and address several key questions in the public domain. Indian space needs to orient for a quantum jump in technological growth, adopt organisational models that will ensure economic efficiency and position a vibrant private sector. Important questions are being raised on the public and national consequences for Indian human space-flight and planetary exploration programme; how India must quest for a larger share and role in global space market; strategies to deal with changing political and economic environments and focused imperatives of international cooperation.

National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) in India has undertaken a suo-moto study for assessing Indian Space endeavor and addressing design of a futuristic Indian Space Policy. NIAS has studied the past 40 years of Indian space with an in-depth analysis of the evolving eco-system, unique performance dimensions of the achievements and critical gaps. A careful analysis of the existing policies - SATCOM policy and RSDP have also been carried out. The Indian Space industry sector and their present role but immense potentials has also been assessed.

Looking ahead, NIAS argues the case for the a comprehensive “Indian Space Policy” which addresses the long-term strategy of Indian space – public goal of space as a national capability building; a national commitment to provide operational space service in the country; a good regulatory regime that promotes the Indian Space enterprise; enabling a vibrant and equitable eco-system of government-private sector partnership; systems to undertake advanced technology development; public and national commitment for human space-flight and planetary exploration mission investments; performance and social audits of space exploration activities etc.

The paper discusses salient aspects of the NIAS study and outlines key highlights and strong argument for a comprehensive Indian Space Policy.