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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SPACE LAW AND POLICY IN INDIA

Abstract

The success of the space programs around the world and its significant contribution to the GDP of individual countries has led to the recognition that it is imperative to provide appropriate national space policies accompanied by user friendly national regulatory framework to facilitate development a strong and balanced national space sector.

Additionally, in India, indigenously developed and successfully validated civil space technologies by the Indian Space Research Organization, has resulted in sharp acceleration in the pace of societal change, which is currently sweeping the lives of ordinary citizens, driven in very significant measure by the active and innovative use of space enabled technologies at a speed never before witnessed in the country since 1947. It is therefore natural that the private sector should seek greater participation, not only for its share of the space commerce pie, but as a significant driver that will help India achieve inclusive growth and realize GDP potential.

This paper will review recent developments in India in satellite telecommunications, navigation; geospatial information system sub-sectors, which are the culmination of indigenously developed technology and of international collaborations. The paper will spherically examine the international policy and legal regimes that currently govern these space sub-sectors and will attempt to identify bottlenecks at the national level which may, going ahead, negatively impact the robust growth of commerce and industry in these sub- sectors. The paper will also briefly suggest possible policy and legal regime solutions aimed at encouraging balanced and regulated growth, particularly of the GNSS and GIS sub- sectors in India.