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Author: Mr. Akhand Pratap Rai
South Asian University, India

INDIA'S RECENT APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL LAW IN OUTER SPACE REGIME AND
DRAFT SPACE ACTIVITIES BILL, 2017

Abstract

The space research activities were initiated in India during the early 1960s. Space activities started in India in 1963 when the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) was set up under the leadership of Vikram A. Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space programme. From the 1960s to till date there is lots of significant changes occurred in the field of space technology. India is emerging in space technology as well as an emerging leader in space-related activities. Due to this emergence in space technology, India shake hand with the private entity to robust space programme. Currently, India doesn't have any domestic legislation in the field of space law and it is dealt by the Department of Space (DoS), the nodal agency for space activities in India. The Outer Space is governed by the International Law and United Nations Treaties and Principles under the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS). India is a State Party to major treaties of the UN on outer space activities. India has been performing space activities in compliance with the obligations of UN Treaties on Outer Space activities. In recent time, private industry and some of the start-up companies are interested in space-related activities but the lack of domestic legislation in the field of space-related activities in outer space is the major obstacles for them. In year 2017, India has drafted a 'Space Activities Bill, 2017' for supporting the overall growth of the space activities in India but still bill is under consideration. Hence this research paper will be focused on whether the drafted bill provisions related to private entity is in compliance with UNCOPUOS. And, whether drafted bill provisions are enough to the private entities or not.