



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

IN-SPACE Opens PSLV Technology to Private Industry: India's Space Commercialisation Leap

22 May 2026

SCIENCE & TECH

ECONOMY

GS3

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

IN-SPACE Opens PSLV Technology to Private Industry: India's Space Commercialisation Leap

22 May 2026 · 4 min read

2 tags

WHY IN NEWS:

The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)** on May 22, 2026 announced the **complete technology transfer of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) to Indian industry** — clearing the path for private companies to build, own, and operate PSLV-class launch vehicles. This deepens the 2022 NSIL–HAL–L&T contract for five industry-built PSLVs and marks the most ambitious commercialisation step under the **Indian Space Policy 2023**.

ABOUT IN-SPACE

The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)** is the single-window regulator and promoter for non-government space activities in India.

- **Established:** June 2020 (announced as part of the space-sector reforms).
- **Headquarters:** Bopal, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- **Status:** Autonomous body under the **Department of Space (DoS)**.
- **Chairman:** Pawan Goenka (since 2021).

Core functions

- Authorise private launches and satellite operations.
- Facilitate spectrum allocation through DoT/WPC.
- Lease ISRO infrastructure and facilities to private players.
- Enable technology transfer from ISRO to industry.
- Promote investment, FDI and skill development in the space sector.

ABOUT THE PSLV (POLAR SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE)

ISRO's reliable "workhorse" rocket — operational for over three decades.

- **First flight:** PSLV-D1 in September 1993 (failure).

- **First success: PSLV-D2 on October 15, 1994.**
- **Stages:** 4 alternating stages — 2 solid (PS1, PS3) + 1 liquid (PS2) + 1 liquid (PS4) — with strap-on boosters depending on variant.
- **Launch site: Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR,** Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Typical payload capacity:** ~1,750 kg to Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO); ~1,425 kg to sub-GTO.

PSLV variants

VARIANT	CONFIGURATION
PSLV-G	Generic — 6 strap-ons (retired)
PSLV-CA	Core Alone — no strap-ons
PSLV-DL	2 strap-on boosters
PSLV-QL	4 strap-on boosters
PSLV-XL	6 extended strap-on boosters — most used variant

PSLV's landmark missions

MISSION	DATE	VEHICLE
Chandrayaan-1	October 22, 2008	PSLV-C11
Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan)	November 5, 2013	PSLV-C25
Record — 104 satellites in single launch	February 15, 2017	PSLV-C37
Aditya-L1 (Sun observatory at L1)	September 2, 2023	PSLV-C57
XPoSat (X-ray polarimetry satellite)	January 1, 2024	PSLV-C58
SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment)	December 30, 2024	PSLV-C60

ABOUT NSIL (NEWSPACE INDIA LIMITED)

- **Commercial arm of ISRO,** incorporated on **March 6, 2019.**
- Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Space.
- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru.
- **Functions:** Market ISRO products and services, undertake commercial launches, demand-driven satellite services, and lead end-to-end industry-built missions.

- **2022 PSLV contract:** ~₹860-crore order awarded to the **HAL–L&T consortium** for **5 industry-built PSLV-XL vehicles** — the first end-to-end privately built PSLVs.

INDIAN SPACE POLICY 2023

- **Approved:** April 6, 2023, by the Cabinet Committee on Security.
- Defines a clear four-entity architecture:

ENTITY	ROLE
ISRO	R&D, science missions, capacity creation
NSIL	Commercial arm — market and operate
IN-SPACe	Regulator-cum-promoter for NGEs
NGEs (Non-Government Entities)	Private players — launch vehicles, satellites, ground stations, applications

The policy liberalised activities for NGEs across the entire space value chain: launch vehicles, satellites, ground systems, and downstream applications.

FDI IN SPACE SECTOR (LIBERALISED FEBRUARY 2024)

ACTIVITY	FDI CAP (AUTOMATIC ROUTE)
Satellite manufacturing and operation	up to 74%
Launch vehicles, sub-orbital systems, spaceports	up to 49%
Manufacture of components, sub-systems	100%

INDIAN SPACE ECONOMY

- **Current size (2024):** ~US\$8.4 billion.
- **Target by 2033: US\$44 billion** — taking India’s share of the global space economy from ~2–3% currently to ~8%.

Leading private space firms

COMPANY	NOTABLE MILESTONE
Skyroot Aerospace	Vikram-S — India's first private launch (November 2022)
Agnikul Cosmos	Agnibaan SOrTeD — first 3D-printed engine sub-orbital launch (May 2024)
Pixxel	Hyperspectral satellite constellation
Bellatrix Aerospace	In-space propulsion
Dhruva Space	Satellite platforms & ground stations
Digantara	Space situational awareness

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- **Space Activities Bill** pending in Parliament — a legal vacuum persists for private operations.
- **IP protection** for transferred technologies must be safeguarded.
- **Dual-use export control** — India lacks an ITAR-equivalent framework.
- **Insurance ecosystem** for private launches remains nascent.
- **State liability** under the **Outer Space Treaty 1967** and the **Liability Convention 1972** means the Indian government remains liable for damage caused by non-government launches.
- A dedicated **private launch port** is under construction at **Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu** — primarily for SSLV and small launchers.

UPSC RELEVANCE

- **GS Paper 3 — Science & Technology:** Awareness in space; **indigenisation**; achievements of Indians in S&T.
- **GS Paper 3 — Economy:** Industrial policy; PPPs; FDI liberalisation.
- Mains themes: privatisation of strategic sectors; space as a growth driver; balancing security with commercialisation; comparison with US (SpaceX) and Chinese models.
- Prelims angle: IN-SPACe, NSIL, Indian Space Policy 2023 four-entity model, PSLV variants, FDI caps.

FACTS CORNER

IN-SPACE: Established June 2020; HQ at Bopal, Ahmedabad, Gujarat; Chairman — Pawan Goenka.

NSIL: Incorporated March 6, 2019; HQ Bengaluru.

Indian Space Policy: Approved April 6, 2023.

FDI — satellite manufacturing: up to 74% automatic; launch vehicles — up to 49% automatic; components — 100% automatic (February 2024).

PSLV first success: PSLV-D2 on October 15, 1994.

PSLV-C37 record: 104 satellites in a single launch on February 15, 2017.

Indian space economy target: US\$44 billion by 2033.

Outer Space Treaty: 1967; Liability Convention: 1972.

Private launch port site: Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.

Nodal ministry: Department of Space (DoS), Government of India.

Sources: [IN-SPACE](#), [ISRO](#), [PIB](#)

← **NEWER ARTICLE**

Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting: India to Host Wong, Motegi,...

OLDER ARTICLE →

India's Rooftop Solar Hits 20.8 GW: PM Surya Ghar Drives...

RELATED EDITORIALS

THE HINDU

[Preparing India for a Credible Digital Census](#)

21 May

THE HINDU

[Analysing India's Budgets for Justice](#)

21 May

INDIAN EXPRESS

[India's Highways Need a Green Policy Reset](#)

21 May

BUSINESS STANDARD

[Government Must Allow Greater Fuel Price Adjustments](#)

21 May

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[ACNAS](#)

Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics — the expert body...

KEY TERM

[Act East Policy](#)

India's strategic foreign policy framework prioritising active...

KEY TERM

[Active Case Finding \(TB\)](#)

A proactive public health strategy where health workers systematically...

KEY TERM

[Advanced Technology Vessel \(ATV\) Programme](#)

India's classified, decades-long programme to indigenously design and...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/05/22/in-space-pslv-technology-transfer-private-industry-2026/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com