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Skyroot Signs Multi-Launch Deal With HEX20, Building on Vikram-1's Success

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Skyroot Signs Multi-Launch Deal With HEX20, Building on Vikram-1's Success

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace** signed a Multi-Launch Agreement with Thiruvananthapuram-based **HEX20** on **August 6, 2026**, for three dedicated launches on Skyroot's Vikram-series rockets starting Q4 2027, the first major commercial contract signed since Vikram-1 became India's first privately-developed orbital-class launch vehicle to fly successfully.

THE DEAL AND WHAT IT COVERS

The Multi-Launch Agreement commits Skyroot to three dedicated launches carrying Earth-observation and payload-demonstration missions for HEX20, beginning in the fourth quarter of 2027. The agreement was announced by Skyroot COO **Naga Bharath Daka** and HEX20 COO **M.B. Aravind**, marking one of the first firm order books built on Vikram-1's flight-proven capability rather than on projected performance alone, a meaningful distinction for a young private launch industry still building customer trust.

VIKRAM-1'S MAIDEN FLIGHT

Vikram-1 completed its maiden orbital flight on **July 18, 2026**, launching from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**, and successfully deploying the **SCOPE** and **Grahaa** satellites. The mission made Vikram-1 India's first privately-developed orbital-class launch vehicle to reach orbit, a milestone distinct from ISRO's own PSLV and GSLV programmes, which remain government-developed and government-operated even where private industry participates in manufacturing.

THE POLICY BACKDROP: INDIA'S SPACE SECTOR REFORMS

Skyroot's progress sits within India's 2020 space-sector liberalisation, which opened launch-vehicle development, satellite manufacturing and space services to private companies for the first time, and established the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** as the single-window regulator authorising and promoting private space activities. Skyroot has stated an ambition to

reach 12 launches a year, a target that will depend on sustained regulatory support from IN-SPACe, continued access to launch infrastructure at Sriharikota, and a maturing customer base of the kind HEX20's contract represents.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIA'S COMMERCIAL SPACE ECOSYSTEM

The HEX20 deal demonstrates that India's private space sector is moving from single demonstration flights toward repeat commercial business, the kind of maturation that distinguishes a genuine launch-services industry from one-off technology showcases. It is also a useful comparative reference point against other emerging regional players, such as Vietnam's VinSpace, which only recently contracted SpaceX for its first satellite launch (see today's Current Affairs Today roundup), underscoring India's head start in South and Southeast Asia's commercial space race.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 3: India's space-sector liberalisation (2020 reforms) and the role of IN-SPACe; private-sector participation in strategic and high-technology sectors; Atmanirbhar Bharat and indigenous launch-vehicle capability.

Mains angle: "India's 2020 space-sector reforms were meant to build a globally competitive private launch industry. Assess the progress made, with reference to recent private orbital launch milestones." Use Vikram-1's July 2026 flight and the Skyroot-HEX20 deal as evidence.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

SKYROOT-HEX20 MULTI-LAUNCH AGREEMENT:

Signed August 6, 2026; 3 dedicated launches on Vikram-series rockets, starting Q4 2027

Skyroot COO: Naga Bharath Daka; HEX20 COO: M.B. Aravind

VIKRAM-1'S MAIDEN FLIGHT:

Launched July 18, 2026, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota

India's first privately-developed orbital-class launch vehicle to reach orbit

Deployed the SCOPE and Grahaa satellites

POLICY FRAMEWORK:

Regulator: IN-SPACe, established under India's 2020 space-sector reforms

Sources: PIB, The Hindu, ISRO

Source: Skyroot Signs Multi-Launch Deal With HEX20, Building on Vikram-1's Success — Ujiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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