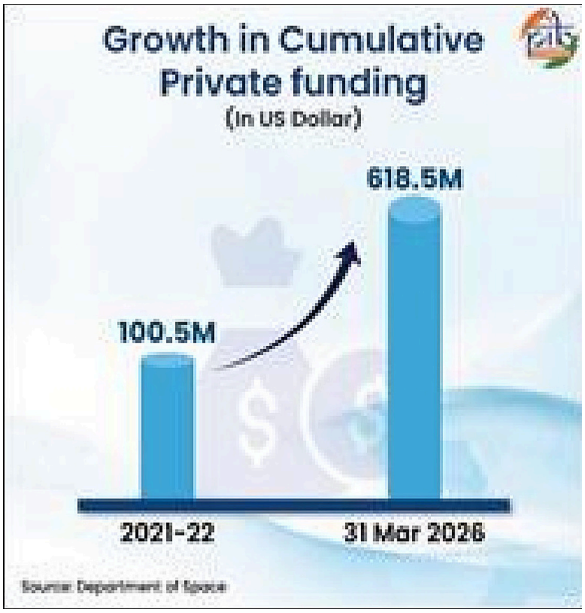
Private E-Sevai Center
CSC Center
STAR RAINBOW SERVICES
VADAPALANI
8144337349

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hellomadrasdaily@gmail.com
RNI No.TNBIL/2021/81709
Daily Morning Newspaper
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Opening Up India's Space Economy



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 India's space journey began with a strong, government-led institutional base built around ISRO and the Department of Space. As capabilities matured, the Government adopted a more facilitative approach that kept public-sector leadership while encouraging private innovation, investment and entrepreneurship. Policy reforms opened the entire space value chain to Non-Government Entities, with IN-SPACe as the single-window interface between Govt. and private entities and NSIL as the commercial arm. The Indian Space Policy 2023 defined each institution's role, while liberalised foreign investment rules, clear authorisation procedures and dedicated funding schemes supported start-ups. These steps are steadily building a collaborative, industry-led and globally competitive space ecosystem.

Where It All Began – From State-Led Foundations to Global Leadership

India's space journey has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past decade. It has evolved from pioneering scientific research into a globally competitive space programme. This progress reflects sustained national ambition, institutional vision and indigenous technological innovation. Today, India is advancing towards a more commercially dynamic space sector. Growing private-sector participation is further expanding its industrial and technological capabilities.

The foundations of this journey were laid through a strong institutional framework. The Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) was established in 1962. It functioned under the Department of Atomic Energy and spearheaded India's early space research initiatives. Subsequently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in August 1969, replacing INCOSPAR. In June 1972, the Government constituted the Space Commission and established the Department of Space (DoS). ISRO was brought under the DoS in September 1972.

As India's space capabilities matured, the Government recognised the need for broader institutional participation. This required moving beyond a predominantly government-led operational framework. Accordingly, the Government adopted a more facilitative and outcome-oriented approach to space-sector governance. This approach retained public-sector leadership while encouraging private innovation, investment and entrepreneurship.

A landmark step in this direction came on 24 June 2020. The Union Cabinet approved reforms enabling greater private-sector participation in space activities. These reforms marked a significant shift towards a collaborative public-

private model. They also laid the foundation for a more competitive and commercially driven space sector. These reforms redefined the institutional framework governing India's space activities. They positioned the private sector as an active partner in advancing national capabilities, commercial opportunities and global competitiveness.

Key Indicators