

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 610

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN SPACE SECTOR

610. SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the progress of private sector participation in the space sector following recent policy reforms;
- (b) the current status of private sector participation, including investment commitments, authorisations granted and major projects undertaken;
- (c) the safeguards put in place to protect strategic and national security interests while facilitating private participation; and
- (d) the measures taken to support space startups, along with the number of startups authorized by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC
GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Yes, the impact assessment has been carried out by the IN-SPACe, the preliminary note(s) on the impact assessment are attached herewith at Annexure-I
- (b) In the year 2026, a total investment of \$ 187 million have been reported. A total of 105 numbers of authorizations have been issued to NGEs as on 14.07.2026.
- (c) The "Norms, Guidelines and Procedures for Implementation of Indian Space Policy 2023 in respect of Authorization of Space Activities (NGP)" released by IN-SPACe envisages evaluation of the authorization applications with a view point of

protecting strategic, security, and national interests, among others, while permitting the Space Activities by private entities. Further, IN-SPACe is working on "Safety and Security Guidelines for space activities in India undertaken by the Indian entities", in consultation with stakeholders.

(d) The Government of India has undertaken various initiatives and schemes to support space startups. The following initiatives and policies government have brought out to boost private sector:

- 1) The India Space Policy 2023 in place where roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders defined
- 2) Brought out the liberalised FDI policy
- 3) Norms, Guidelines and Procedures for obtaining authorisation from IN-SPACe in place
- 4) Brought out policy for discounted pricing policy to NGEs for ISRO facilitation
- 5) Establishment of Rs. 1000 Cr Venture Capital Fund
- 6) Establishment of Rs. 500 Cr Technology Adoption Fund for the development and commercialisation of space technology
- 7) IN-SPACe Seed Fund Scheme for inculcating the idea into the product
- 8) IN-SPACe Pre-Incubation Entrepreneurship Program for the identification and grooming of entrepreneurs in the space sector
- 9) Facilitation in terms of ISRO facilities and mentorship to handhold the private sector
- 10) Skill Initiative to fill the gaps in skill requirements
- 11) Establishment of a technical centre to provide testing and simulation of space systems at an affordable cost
- 12) Enabling transfer of technology from ISRO
- 13) Opportunity to test for space worthiness through POEM platform
- 14) Providing business opportunities through various promotional events such as Space Adoption Awareness Workshop (SAAW), Industry Meets etc.

In addition to the above, authorization has been granted to 17 start-ups to carry out space activities.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 610 TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

OUTCOMES

A maturing private space economy

Six years after the reforms in June 2020 opened space to private players, the results are measurable. Active space start-ups have grown from just 1 in 2014 to over 400 today, private investment has crossed \$600 million, and India's private space sector has demonstrated real launch and orbital capability - two companies have flown sub-orbital launch vehicles (in November 2022 and May 2024), NGEs have placed more than 30 satellites in orbit, and ~45 payloads are in space through platforms like PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM).

Space economy: Investment growth, a broader investor base, and FDI

Private capital has grown and broadened at the same time. Cumulative funding crossed \$100.5 million in 2021-22, reached \$348.5 million in 2023-24, and stood at \$618.5 million by 31 March 2026, with the mix shifting from early seed cheques toward growth-stage rounds.

The investor base driving India's space ecosystem has expanded far beyond early angels, with sovereign wealth funds, global asset managers, and strategic corporates now sitting side-by-side on cap tables. This maturing landscape propelled Skyroot Aerospace to become the sector's first unicorn with backing from GIC and BlackRock, while Digantara secured a \$50 million round drawing in Japan's SBI Investment, and Pixxel gained the backing of global tech giant Alphabet. The momentum has accelerated into 2026, highlighted by Agnikul Cosmos adding \$2.7 million in equity alongside a historic ₹25 Crore investment from the Tamil Nadu government, GalaxEye raising over \$11 million across multiple early-year rounds, and Dhruva Space securing ₹105 Crores (\$12.5 million) in May to rapidly scale its satellite constellation capabilities. While these high-profile success stories reflect immense commercial traction, they represent just a small glimpse into a much larger, vibrant, and rapidly expanding national space ecosystem.

A year of private missions: collaboration and confidence, at home and abroad

Over the past year Indian firms have proven their expertise, often flying alongside international partners. In January 2025 Pixxel, Digantara, and XDLINX Spacelabs reached orbit together; Pixxel added three more satellites on a Falcon 9 that August to complete the

first phase of its six-satellite Firefly constellation, now the highest-resolution commercial hyperspectral system in service. Dhruva Space flew its Thybolt-3 and LEAP-1 missions and supported collaborative flights such as MOI-1 and LACHIT. Firms including Bellatrix, Galaxeye, Grahaa Space, HEX-20, Takeme2space, OrbitAid and many more have also successfully demonstrated private sector orbital capabilities. On the launch vehicle and propulsion front, Agnikul test-fired its 3D-printed semi-cryogenic engine, and Skyroot tested a solid motor for its Vikram rocket at an ISRO facility.

The POEM has revolutionized space qualification, providing startups and academic institutions with a highly accessible, low-cost platform for in-orbit validation. The fourth POEM module carried payloads from GalaxEye, Bellatrix, Takeme2Space, PierSight Space, Manastu Space, NSpace Tech beside ISRO and academic experiments.

Commercial reach is widening too. Digantara is opening offices in the United States and Europe and works with agencies in Singapore and the UK, while Pixxel supplies hyperspectral data to customers across several continents. IN-SPACe holds working relationships with more than 45 countries and has signed three cooperation agreements with foreign space agencies. At home, its EO-PPP concession brought Pixxel, Dhruva Space, SatSure and PierSight together as Allied Orbits to build India's first privately owned Earth-observation constellation with 12 multimodal satellites over five years to provide high-resolution sovereign data, on a private commitment of around ₹1,200 crore.
