

Today, India stands at the cusp of a technology-led transformation, and the space sector plays a crucial role in making this happen. The space sector has played a key role across several application areas in India including enabling services and applications across several domains, including communication, weather forecasting, disaster management, agriculture, navigation and remote sensing to name a few. Traditionally, ISRO has been leading the space sector in India along with active participation from the private industries. The technological advancements, data revolution, and diversified application possibilities have attracted increased interests from domestic and international community – both public and private sectors – thereby expanding the scope of investment in space. The time is right to invest in Space as the global space economy which stood at \$447Billion in 2020, is expected to shoot upto \$600Bilion by 2025.

The 2020 space sector reforms "Unlocking India's potential in Space sector" announced by the Government, has opened up the space sector for private entrepreneurship with an intention to make India a global manufacturing hub for space products and to build a strong space ecosystem in the country thereby significantly increase India's share in the global space economy. It was a very significant step taken by Government of India which is necessary to tap into the immense potential of Indian space sector and increase India's share in the global Space economy from the existing about 2-3% to 8-10% in coming years.

The reforms are being structured through conducive regulatory and policy framework to build a robust enabling space ecosystem. At the same time, promoting ease of doing business is critical for investments to flow in the space domain. Towards this, a single point nodal agency viz. Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has been established for promoting and authorizing space activities in the Country, and this has added a new dimension to the government's vision of bridging the gap among the government and private space entities. Further, M/s.NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a GoI CPSE, has been mandated to carry out end-to-end space activities through enhanced Industry participation. The opening up of the space economy to private participation across all phases of activities heralds an era of growth, innovation, and accelerated investment in the sector.



**Space Economy Leaders Meeting (SELM)** which was conducted on the sidelines of G20 discussed the significance of enhancing Space economy, for the first time, in 2020, and reiterated in the following 2nd SELM organised by Italian Space Agency (ASI) in 2021 and 3rd SELM by National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia in 2022. Further, SELM also features a Space Industry Leaders meeting where the space industry leaders deliberate on space economy.

During India's G20 presidency spanning over the next one year (Dec 2022 to Nov 2023), Department of Space, in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation, NSIL and IN-SPACe, is planning to organise the 4th SELM consisting of two phases with a precursor event at Shillong and the main SELM event at Bengaluru. The main event will have Heads of Space Agency meet followed by the Space Industry Leaders session. In order to give sufficient engagements for the participants, additional events like bilateral meeting opportunities, industry exhibitions, panel discussion, networking opportunities etc. are being thought of. Participation from international intergovernmental organisations like OECD, UNOOSA, IAF and invited countries are also expected, in addition to G20 countries.

India has existing Space cooperation with almost all countries in Space sector and looks forward to utilize this opportunity to promote our Indian Space sector to the world. The priorities of SELM-2023 will be to discuss on how Space partnerships can contribute to the growth of G20 economy while ensuring sustainability in line with India's G20 theme 'One Earth-One Family-One Future'. The theme is in agreement with the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development, as an inclusive space economy would create more opportunities, rather than inequalities among the G20 community and feed to the overarching goal of keeping our Planet 'livable' for future generations.

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Indian Space Research Organisation Department of Space, Government of India Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road Bangalore-560094, India