

**AGENDA ITEM 48:
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE
PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

11 October 2016

INDIA STATEMENT

Minister Srinivas Prasad, at the
71st Session of the
United Nations General Assembly

Mr. Chairman

The Indian delegation acknowledges the importance of UNCOPUOS platform and expresses its satisfaction over the deliberation of the 59th session of UNCOPUOS and the work carried out by Scientific & Technical and Legal sub-committees of UNCOPUOS this year.

While acknowledging the significant achievements of various member states in space endeavors during the last one year, the Indian delegation desires to brief the Assembly on the significant achievements made by India in the field of space, since the last session.

Mr. Chairman

India has accomplished six launch vehicle missions and eight satellite missions meant for earth observation, communication and navigation.

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV continued its impressive track record with five more launches this year including the one on September 26, 2016, taking its record to successive 36 successful flights. The recent mission of the PSLV was unique, as it injected the satellites in two different orbits using the re-start capability of the upper stage. It injected India's SCATSAT-1, a weather satellite designed to monitor the sea surface winds in one orbit and 6 satellites into another orbit.

India also had the first operational flight of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) on September 08, 2016, which has successfully orbited our Meteorological satellite, INSAT 3DR.

Mr Chairman

India has completed the constellation of Regional Navigational Satellite System named Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) by adding 3 IRNSS satellites this year. The space segment of NavIC is thus operationalized for providing position, navigation and timing services over India and adjoining region.

India's advanced communication satellites, GSAT-15 and GSAT-18 were successfully launched by Arianespace from Kourou, French Guiana on November 12, 2015 and October 05, 2016 respectively.

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has carried out two impressive technology demonstration missions which were hugely successful in its technical outcome. A winged-body aerospace vehicle operating in hypersonic flight regime, called RLV-TD, was flight tested in May this year. Secondly hydrogen fuelled Scramjet Engine was successfully flight tested atop a custom designed two stage sounding rocket, in August this year, demonstrating the Air Breathing Propulsion System at Hypersonic speeds. ISRO is planning to take forward the positive results of these two experiments towards developing an operational system that can bring down cost of access to space.

Mr. Chairman

The Indian delegation is also happy to announce that India's 'Mars Orbiter Mission' has recently completed two years in Martian Orbit working beyond the designed life of 6 months, providing invaluable data to the scientific community on the Martian surface and atmosphere from five scientific instruments. The first year science data of this mission has been released to the scientific community last month.

India plans to further augment Earth observation and Communication satellite constellations to meet growing requirements in the coming years. Two earth observation satellites in RESOURCESAT and CARTOSAT series and four

communication satellites in GSAT series are planned to be realized in the coming months.

First developmental launch of India's heavy lift launch vehicle, GSLV MK-III is planned in the beginning of 2017.

Mr. Chairman

The Indian space program continues to integrate the advances in space technology and applications with national developmental goals. ISRO is currently working with 60 Ministries and Departments of Government of India, on promoting space technology tools and application for good governance and national development.

Mr. Chairman

India places considerable importance on International Cooperation for peaceful uses of outer space. Currently, formal instruments of cooperation are in place with 39 countries and four international organizations. India signed 9 documents on space cooperation with 6 countries in the last one year. Through these documents, space cooperation with Afghanistan, Viet Nam and UAE are formally established; and the scope of cooperation is enhanced with France, Japan and USA.

The space agencies of India and USA are jointly building a microwave remote sensing satellite, named 'NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)' with L and S band SAR. ISRO is also discussing with Space agencies of France and Japan initiative to realize joint satellite missions for earth observation.

India is building a satellite named, 'satellite for south Asia' to provide communication services to the neighboring countries. This communication satellite is scheduled for launch in early 2017.

Under India-ASEAN cooperation, India has taken steps to establish a ground station to provide data from Indian satellites for variety of applications including disaster management in ASEAN region.

India participates in international disaster management mechanisms including International Charter, Sentinel Asia, UNESCAP and UN SPIDER.

In the field of capacity building, ISRO continues to share its facilities, expertise in the application of space science and technology through the United Nations (UN) affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) at Dehra Dun. As of now, there are about 1600 beneficiaries from 52 countries.

This year, India hosted: UN/India Workshop on the use of earth observations data in disaster management and risk reduction' in March 2016'; 'Heads of Space Agencies meeting on 'Space and Climate' jointly with CNES, wherein 'New Delhi declaration' on Space and Climate Change was adopted; and the '10th SPIE Asia-Pacific Remote Sensing Symposium' in April, 2016.

Mr. Chairman

India is currently working on a vision document focusing on 4 major areas, namely space applications, space infrastructure, space transportation and capacity building. Our endeavor has been to ensure that our space infrastructure and resources are continuously augmented to provide enhanced social benefits to the country and humanity through space based services.

In conclusion, Indian delegation greatly acknowledges the potential of space technology and the efforts of UNCOPUOS to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.

Thank you