

## Tapping the Space potential

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- India is being watched for its space feat especially with the recent launch of a record-breaking 104 nano-satellites into orbit from a single rocket.

\n

- Experts however feel that India can do a lot more, given its potential.

\n

\n\n

### What are India's strengths?

\n\n

\n

- Scientists attribute much of ISRO's success and prolific output to the way the **organization** is run.

\n

- Tight cost-control driven by the **organization's ability to do everything in-house** - including building rockets, satellites, propulsion systems, and sensors - has helped.

\n

- Cheaper Indian labour — scientists, engineers, technicians, support staff — as compared to those in the U.S. or Europe is another plus.

\n

- ISRO is now recognized as a reliable source by many countries to outsource their launches to.

\n

- Apart from commercial space activities and for agricultural purposes, India is also augmenting its capacity to pursue diplomatic and security objectives.

\n

\n\n

### What are the opportunities at present?

\n\n

\n

- The recent achievements have helped strengthen India's place in the burgeoning **private space market**.  
\n
- With surging demand for **telecommunication services** India's primacy in the field of space exploration and space-based services will skyrocket further.  
\n
- Demand for **small, inexpensive satellites**, like the ones ISRO fired off, is especially expected to boom.  
\n
- ISRO now has its eyes set on **interstellar missions** (travelling between stars or planetary systems) which is expected to set the template for future interstellar missions.  
\n
- There are a **range of other missions** under way such as Aditya-1 (first Indian space mission to study the sun), Chandrayaan-2 mission, an orbiter to Venus, etc.  
\n

\n\n

## Where to focus now?

\n\n

- Indian government has been augmenting ISRO's **budget** year on year. Even so, the organization's current annual budget of \$1 billion is just 5 percent of NASA's.  
\n
- ISRO's average annual **revenue** over the last three years is approximately \$200 billion which is very low in comparison with the global launch services market.  
\n
- ISRO has to fully **leverage its capacities and talents** to earn more profits, which can help expand its operations.  
\n
- Despite its successes, India needs to claim a larger share of the global space economy pie. It should fully tap the potential and earn substantial **profits for its commercial launch services**.  
\n
- Indian government should formulate policies to optimally use its scientific and technological expertise to **nurture home-grown enterprises**.  
\n
- This can help expand a range of products and services for the domestic

market as well as increase the participation in the global space industry.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Diplomat**

\n

