

Amidst pandemic, India has to stay competitive enough in space sector in order to provide efficient service to its customers. Analyse (200 words)

It's been 46 years since the launch of first Indian satellite Aryabhata, India exhibits a heavy competence to Developed Nations like USA, UK, China in the field of space sector. Best example is making out to Mars at a very low cost satellite Mangalyaan.

Pandemic has now affected the space sector also. Amidst pandemic other nations are showcasing their strength Eg: • NASA's Perseverance landed in Mars

• China launched its first 6G satellite

• UAE also reached Mars through Japanese launch vehicle

Comparing these India's space activities have slowed down.

India has done only three launches between November 2020

to February 2021 leading to low global share of launches (>1.8%)

To sustain as one of the leading service provider India must involve in some micro reforms in space sector.

Reforms required in Space Sector

→ Keeping in mind about the shrinking service of

PSLV, World focusing towards manned space missions

India must focus on getting Space Proven Credentials

to GSLV-MK-III

- Rapidize the works on Reusable Launch Vehicle, hypersonic space plane which are awaiting since 2016
- To provide uninhibited access to space testing infrastructure for quick vehicle development for private entities.
Eg: The Draft Space Com policy 2020 could be initiated
- Director General of Civil Aviation has to expand the ambit of commercial space transportation - similar to NASA-FAA

Indian Government's Move

- Union Cabinet approved creation of IN-SPACE to provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian Space infrastructure. This will transform space sector to "demand driven model" with New Space India Limited.
 - demonstrations from Indian space startups like Agnikul Cosmos, Aerospace Skyroot raised around \$11 million
- Need of the hour is a National Policy on Space Sector. Thus the small changes and adaptations could catalyse the slowing space sector and help India stay in competition. ~~need of the hour~~