

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST ONE YEAR

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Indian Remote Sensing Satellite CARTOSAT-1 and HAMSAT has been successfully launched by PSLV –C6 from Sriharikota on May 5, 2005. CATROSAT -1 with a capability to take imageries of 2.5m spatial resolution is intended for generating three dimensional maps. HAMSAT is to provide service to amateur radio operators.

- A state-of-the-art Second Launch Pad (SLP) has been established at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR at Sriharikota and it will provide launching facility to all the launch vehicles of ISRO including the advanced launch vehicle to be built in coming years.
- Launch of first educational satellite 'EDUSAT' in September 2004 by indigenous Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). 'EDUSAT' will provide connectivity to Educational Institutions and will usher in a new era in distance education system in the country.
- The airdrop test of the instrumented Space-capsule Recovery Equipment (SRE) was successfully conducted on August 2004 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC). The SRE is important to test reusable thermal protection system, navigation, guidance and control, management of communication blackout etc.
- The first cluster of three satellite based Village Resource Centres (VRC) was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in October 2004. These three VRCs will connect four villages in Tamil Nadu. VRC will provide information related to land records, natural resources, interactive farmers' advisory etc.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed in November 2004 with the French Space agency, CNES, for the development and launch of an atmospheric satellite Megh-Tropiques, is intended for investigating the contribution of water cycle in the tropical atmosphere. The launch of Megha-Tropiques is planned by 2008-09.
- The Government has approved a project to design and launch a satellite, ASTROSAT launch is planned in 2007, will involve several academic institutions across the country for studying different aspects of astronomical science.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) with the participation of Indian Industry, has successfully developed Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) to be deployed in various parts of the country. AWS will gather data from local levels and remote areas and pass to satellites. Through AWS, weather forecasts and services can be improved significantly.