

Ambassador Namrata S. Kumar's
opening statement at the panel on the occasion of celebrations of
2nd anniversary of Slovenia's microsatellite nemo
02 September 2022

Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Robert Golob

Minister of Economic Development and Technology Mr. Matjaz Han

Director Space Si, Mr. Tomaz Rudic

Excellencies and distinguished guests

Let me, very firstly, congratulate Slovenia for the 2nd anniversary of the launch of NEMO HD, micro satellite – a milestone and a symbol of launch of Slovenia's journey into the Space Sector.

I have a special connection with this event, as this reminds me of the time of my coming to this beautiful country. Within 20 days of my landing in Slovenia on 13 August 2020, NEMO HD was launched on 02 September 2020. So, we somewhat share the similar sentiment celebrating our 2nd anniversaries.

India's collaboration with Slovenia's Space Si was signed in September 2019 during the first ever state visit from India to Slovenia – visit of the President of India to Slovenia.

But before I speak on the collaboration between Space Si and the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur one of the premier institutions of India, let me share few words on INDIA'S SPACE SECTOR.

India has a robust space program, which stands out as one of the **most cost-effective** in the world. India has earned worldwide recognition for launching lunar probes, building satellites, ferrying foreign satellites up and has even succeeded in reaching Mars. *

Just to share some figures:

- Between 2015 and 2019 over 30 launches have been undertaken by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- Between 1999 to December 2021 a total of **342 foreign satellites from 34 countries** have been successfully launched on board Polar satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) on a commercial basis. *
- Total number of **27 satellite missions and 25 launch vehicle missions** were successfully accomplished in last five years on our two launch vehicles – the Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- very recently the union cabinet introduced major reforms in the Space sector to boost private sector participation in the entire range of space activities, including the establishing of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to create an ecosystem to put India and ISRO's achievements in the field of space

The range of activities carried out within a month of August 2022 underlines the drive that we have in Space Sector :

- Indian Navy signed an MoU with ISRO on data sharing and cooperation on Satellite based Naval Applications
- ISRO's Virtual Space Museum "SPARK" is launched.
- Satellite-based navigation system, NavIC developed, which is as good as GPS in terms of position accuracy and availability in its service region.
- In a drive launched to attract startups in space sector, around 60 Startups were registered with ISRO

As part of the Indian government's 3Ts strategy, with a focus on TECHNOLOGY, India is forging partnerships worldwide in both emerging and established technological fields. The space sector is a prime example of this collaborative spirit. Partnerships with international public and private space agencies are highly encouraged. In line with this, the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2019 between IIT Kanpur in India and

Space Si in Slovenia during President Ramnath Kovind's visit to Slovenia stands out. This MOU exemplifies how two countries, regardless of their size, can leverage their strengths to develop solutions that can be jointly offered to other nations.

Slovenia is abundantly rich in water resources and has excelled in their management. With a strong emphasis on conservation and eco-friendly utilization, Slovenia has harnessed its water bodies for both recreational and commercial purposes. Slovenian companies are renowned for developing innovative solutions for sustainable living, and India presents a vast and robust market for these innovations.

The Clean Ganga project progressed timely despite facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, satellite-based technologies enable products to be relayed over long distances in a contactless manner. One notable application of this technology in India, has been the dissemination of content through our robust space program and good number communication satellites, to the remotest parts of our country that allowed us to distribute educational, health, and other essential content and address the needs of most important verticals of social development – education and health.

This capability was also crucial in maintaining the contact and collaboration between IIT Kanpur and Space Si during the contactless times of pandemic. The Clean Ganga ETV project is an ambitious endeavor, reliant on developing a strategic partnership ecosystem for waterbody management solutions, with Space Si from Slovenia being a key partner.

I extend my heartfelt wishes for the success of the project and the India-Slovenia partnership in this sector. I hope this collaboration continues to thrive and serves as a model for future technology exchange and empowerment initiatives.

I congratulate Space Si and Slovenia on the 2nd anniversary of NEMO HD's launch once again.

Thank you