

Participation Report

Participation in IN-SPACE Industry Interaction Conference (IIC-10), Ahmedabad

10–11 June 2026

Submitted by:

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Representatives of Planet Aerospace (PA)

1. Introduction

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) organized the Industry Interaction Conference (IIC-10) at Ahmedabad on 10–11 June 2026. Planet Aerospace nominated Dr. D.R.M. Samudraiah and Kashyap Mankad to participate in this important national-level event.

The conference brought together senior leadership from the Department of Space, ISRO, IN-SPACE, NSIL, Defence Space Agency, Venture capital firms, CII, Indian Space Industries Association, Industry leaders, Start-ups, Academia, and state governments. The participation of two Union Cabinet-level Ministers within a span of approximately fourteen hours highlighted the strategic importance being accorded to the rapidly expanding Indian space sector.

2. Objectives of Participation

The objectives of PA's participation were:

- To understand current developments in the Indian space ecosystem.
- To engage with IN-SPACE leadership, industry stakeholders, and startups.
- To present Planet Aerospace's capabilities and activities.
- To contribute to discussions on skill development and workforce creation for the space sector.
- To identify opportunities for collaboration and future growth.

3. Conference Proceedings

Day 1 – 10 June 2026

Registration and Opening Session

The event commenced with registration followed by the Opening Session, during which:

- IN-SPACE presented its annual report and achievements.
- Space Standards developed for the emerging private space ecosystem were officially released.

These developments indicated the government's intent to create a robust enabling, regulatory and quality framework for private participation in space activities, exploit full potential and make India a top leader in space research and application by 2047.

The Indian Astronauts: Then & Now

A highly engaging interaction took place between:

- Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, AC (Retd.)
- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, AC

The discussion highlighted the evolution of India's human spaceflight journey from the Soviet-era mission of 1984 to the forthcoming Gaganyaan era. The Astronauts brought out the complexity of flight and also importance of Quality and Reliability.

Agreement between IN-SPACE and Government of Gujarat

An agreement was exchanged between IN-SPACE and the Government of Gujarat, demonstrating the state's commitment to becoming a major hub for space-related industries and infrastructure.

Fireside Chat with Hon'ble Minister Shri Piyush Goyal

The Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry discussed:

- India's manufacturing aspirations.
- Global competitiveness.
- Opportunities for private industry participation.
- The importance of innovation-driven growth.

The interaction reinforced the government's strong support for private-sector-led expansion of the space economy.

Networking and Gala Dinner

The Gala Dinner provided valuable opportunities for informal networking with:

- IN-SPACE officials
- Startup founders
- Industry leaders
- Academic institutions
- Government representatives

Day 2 – 11 June 2026

Opening Remarks

The second day commenced with remarks by Dr. Pawan Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACE.

Agreement with Government of Tamil Nadu

An agreement was exchanged between IN-SPACe and the Government of Tamil Nadu, indicating increasing participation by state governments in developing regional space ecosystems.

Keynote Address by Dr. V. Narayanan

Dr. V. Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, ISRO, outlined:

- National priorities in space technology.
- Upcoming missions and infrastructure.
- Opportunities for industry participation.
- The need for accelerated capacity and capability development.

Special Addresses

Presentations covered several strategic themes:

1. Operation Dronagiri and future technology development.
2. Venture capital opportunities in the space sector.
3. Role of New Space India Limited (NSIL).
4. Defence Space Agency initiatives.
5. PM Gati Shakti and geospatial integration.

These sessions collectively emphasized that India's space sector is entering a phase of rapid growth supported by government, defence, private investment, and commercial markets.

Stakeholder Perspectives

Representatives from:

- Industry
- Industry Associations
- Academia
- Government of Gujarat

shared their perspectives on opportunities and challenges in the evolving ecosystem.

Keynote Address/Interactive session by Hon'ble Dr. Jitendra Singh

The Hon'ble Minister of State for the Department of Space preferred an interactive session instead of a keynote address which was appreciated by the industry veterans. He highlighted:

- Reforms undertaken since the opening of the space sector.
- Growth in the number of startups.
- Increased private investment.

- India's ambition to become a major global space economy.
- Adherence to Quality & Reliability and Timely deliveries
- Indigenization & Sustainable supply chain

4. Participation in Breakout Session

Skilling for Space: An Industry-Ready Workforce

Both PA representatives participated in the breakout session titled:

"Skilling for Space: An Industry-Ready Workforce"

The session focused on:

- Workforce development requirements.
- Skill gaps in the emerging space industry.
- Industry-academia collaboration.
- Training and certification mechanisms.
- Building a sustainable talent pipeline.

PA representatives actively contributed to the discussions and provided inputs based on practical industry requirements and future workforce development needs.

This session was attended by, among others, senior representatives of IIST, NAMTECH institute and IIT- Gn, Gandhinagar, ISRO HQ PRO and Outreach office.

The recommendations emphasized the importance of:

- Industry-oriented training programs.
- Hands-on project experience.
- Space-specific technical curricula.
- Collaboration among academia, startups, industry, and government agencies.

5. Planet Aerospace Visibility and Outreach

PA ensured visibility during the conference through the following initiatives:

Distribution of Brochures

- PA brochures were displayed near the registration and reception area on both days.
- Brochures were also placed on conference tables.
- Copies were personally handed over to:
 - IN-SPACE Directors
 - Senior officials
 - Startup representatives
 - Industry participants

Stakeholder Engagement

Meaningful interactions were held with:

- IN-SPACe officials
- Emerging startups
- Industry representatives
- Academic institutions

These interactions helped create awareness regarding Planet Aerospace and its activities.

6. Key Observations

6.1 Rapid Growth of the Indian Space Ecosystem

The Indian space sector is expanding at an unprecedented pace, driven by policy reforms, increased private-sector participation, venture capital investment, and growing demand for space-based services. Both industry and government agencies are working towards ambitious timelines and large-scale missions.

6.2 Significant Opportunities for Planet Aerospace

A substantial opportunity exists for Planet Aerospace (PA) to contribute to the evolution of India's space ecosystem. Numerous startups and established industries are planning new missions, products, and services, creating demand for experienced technical guidance, system engineering support, and mission realization expertise.

6.3 Segmentation of Space Industry Stakeholders

For effective engagement, startups and industry participants may be broadly categorized into:

- Well-Matured Organizations
- Medium-Matured Organizations
- Emerging/Budding Startups

Such segmentation can help PA develop customized engagement models, consulting packages, mentoring mechanisms, and technical support frameworks tailored to the specific needs of each category.

6.4 Quality, Reliability and Timely Delivery are Non-Negotiable

A recurring theme throughout the conference was that success in the space sector fundamentally depends upon:

- High standards of Quality and Reliability
- Timely Delivery of products, systems, and services

Participants repeatedly emphasized that these requirements cannot be compromised, irrespective of project size or organizational maturity.

6.5 Industry-Ready Skilled Manpower Remains a Major Challenge

Availability of adequately trained and industry-ready space scientists, engineers, and technical specialists continues to be a significant concern across the ecosystem. The rapid growth of the sector is creating demand that currently exceeds the available talent pool.

6.6 Opportunity for PA to Provide Integrated Expert Support

IN-SPACe currently maintains a panel of retired ISRO experts to support startups and emerging companies. Planet Aerospace possesses a potentially stronger value proposition through its ability to provide integrated multidisciplinary teams capable of delivering end-to-end solutions rather than isolated expert consultations. This capability can position PA as a valuable partner for startups, industry, and government agencies.

6.7 Potential Collaboration with ISRO and IN-SPACe

PA may explore the possibility of establishing formal collaborative arrangements, including Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), with ISRO, IN-SPACe, DSA and others. Such collaborations could enable PA to:

- Provide specialized technical expertise to industry.
- Support mission planning and system development activities.
- Participate in capacity-building initiatives.
- Contribute to the development of future space professionals through structured training programs.

6.8 Need for Continuous Industry Surveillance and Outreach

A systematic effort to identify, track, and engage prospective startups and organizations requiring technical support may create significant opportunities for PA. Maintaining a continuously updated database of emerging companies and their requirements could facilitate timely engagement and partnership development.

6.9 Enhanced Participation in Industry Forums

There is considerable scope for PA to adopt a more proactive presence in major space-industry forums, conferences, and trade associations such as CII, space industry associations, and similar professional platforms.

Participation should be approached not only from a technical perspective but also from a strategic business-development and marketing viewpoint. Consistent visibility at such events would strengthen PA's positioning as a credible contributor to India's

evolving space ecosystem and help establish a strong brand presence within the industry.

The following recommendations emerged from participation in the conference:

7. Recommendations

Based on participation in IIC-10, the following actions are recommended:

- a) Develop a comprehensive outreach and branding strategy.
- b) Professionally redesign PA brochures and promotional material.
- c) Prepare portable exhibition displays and standees for future events.
- d) Establish regular engagement with IN-SPACe initiatives.
- e) Explore partnerships with startups, academia, and industry.
- f) Participate actively in future skill-development initiatives.
- g) Track emerging opportunities in:
 - i. Space applications
 - ii. Satellite communications
 - iii. Navigation services
 - iv. Earth observation
 - v. Human resource development

8. Acknowledgement

We sincerely thank Planet Aerospace for sponsoring our participation in this important national event.

The presence of two Union Government Ministers within a short period of approximately fourteen hours demonstrates the strategic importance that the Government of India places on the space sector.

The conference provided valuable insights, networking opportunities, and a clearer understanding of the direction in which the Indian space ecosystem is evolving. Participation in such events is essential for ensuring that Planet Aerospace remains aligned with national priorities and emerging opportunities.

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Ahmedabad
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