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India Develops Voluntary Framework & Guidelines for Space Cyber Security

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The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA-India), has unveiled a comprehensive voluntary framework and guidelines for space cyber security to strengthen the cyber resilience of India's space ecosystem, including satellite networks, ground infrastructure, and related supply chains. The guidelines were released at the DefSat Conference & Expo-2026 in New Delhi.

Purpose of the Framework

To enhance cyber preparedness for space assets, including satellites, ground stations, and space communication infrastructure.

To define principles, recommended controls and stakeholder responsibilities to foster a culture of resilience, accountability and proactive risk management across the space sector.

To support diverse stakeholders such as government agencies, satellite service providers, equipment vendors and private space enterprises.

Significance for Space Security

The framework treats space cyber security as a core component of mission assurance, not an afterthought, recognising that cyber threats could endanger critical space services.

It reflects public-private partnership between government and industry to improve security posture against evolving cyber risks.

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It supports India's ambitions to become a global space power by protecting space communications that are vital for national security, disaster management, navigation, broadcasting and economic growth.

Why Space Cyber Security Matters

Space systems, such as satellites and communication links, play crucial roles in defence, strategic communications, navigation (e.g., GPS/NavIC), weather monitoring and internet connectivity, making them high-value targets for cyber threats.

As space becomes more contested globally, cyber security ensures continuity of services and protection against hostile interference.

Indian Space Ecosystem & Institutional Framework

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the primary space agency, responsible for satellite launches, space exploration and operational missions.

Department of Space (DoS) oversees national space policy and governance.

Indian Space Association (ISpA) is an industry body representing private and commercial space companies, promoting policy reforms in India's space sector.

Space Situational Awareness (SSA)

Space situational awareness involves tracking space debris, satellites and objects to ensure operational safety.

India's ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM) compiles annual Indian Space Situational Assessment Reports to monitor hazards like debris and enhance space safety.