



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

# ISRO and ESA sign new agreement for joint Earth observation missions, expand long-standing space cooperation

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## Why in News?

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and European Space Agency (ESA) signed a new cooperation agreement for Earth observation missions.

ISRO also successfully launched Europe's Proba-3 mission, strengthening India-Europe space collaboration.

## New ISRO-ESA Agreement:

The agreement titled "ESA-ISRO Arrangement concerning Joint Calibration and Validation Activities and Scientific Studies for Earth Observation Missions."

## Focus Areas:

Joint calibration and validation campaigns.

Scientific studies for Earth observation missions.

Improving accuracy and reliability of satellite data.

## Background of ISRO-ESA Partnership:

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Cooperation between ISRO and ESA began in 1978.

The partnership was renewed in 2002.

### **Areas of Cooperation:**

Earth observation programmes

Satellite navigation

Ground station support

Human spaceflight collaboration

Deep-space communication support

ESA has supported Indian missions such as:

Chandrayaan programme

Aditya-L1

### **Upcoming Mission Linked to the Agreement:**

The collaboration is important for ESA's Fluorescence Explorer (FLEX).

About FLEX:

Designed to study vegetation fluorescence.

Helps understand plant photosynthesis and ecosystem health.

Improves global monitoring of climate and vegetation dynamics.

### **Proba-3 Mission Launch:**

Proba-3 mission is a European satellite mission launched by ISRO.

Satellites were placed in the designated orbit about 20 minutes after launch.

Demonstrates India's growing role in international space missions.

### **Key Features of Proba-3:**

The mission consists of two satellites:

Coronagraph – about 310 kg

Occulter – about 240 kg

Mission Objective:

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Study the Sun's outer atmosphere (Corona).

Understand space weather and solar activity.

**Significance:**

Strengthens India–Europe cooperation in space science.

Enhances Earth observation research and satellite data accuracy.

Demonstrates ISRO's capability in launching and supporting international space missions.