

INDIA'S SPACEX MOMENT

Skyroot Aerospace Successfully Launches Vikram-1, Opening A New Era For India's Private Space Industry

By Mitresh Joshi · *Beyond the Candles*

On 18 July 2026, India witnessed a landmark moment in its technological journey. At 12:05 PM IST, Skyroot Aerospace successfully launched its Vikram-1 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, becoming the first private Indian company to place payloads into orbit.

Named **Mission Aagaman**, meaning *Arrival*, the launch symbolized the arrival of India's private space sector onto the global commercial stage.

For investors, entrepreneurs and policymakers alike, this was more than a rocket launch. It was a demonstration that India's startup ecosystem has matured enough to compete in one of the world's most complex industries.

Skyroot's Background

Founded in 2018 by former ISRO scientists, Skyroot Aerospace emerged from India's deep talent pool in rocketry and systems engineering. The company has spent years building a private launch stack designed to serve the fast-growing small satellite market.

Mission Aagaman at a Glance

450 KM orbital altitude

Commercial payload deployment into low Earth orbit, proving India's private launch capability on a global stage.

Vikram-1's Key Features

- Multi-Stage Propulsion
- 3D-Printed Technology
- Carbon Composite Structure
- Dedicated Launch Capability

Payloads Deployed

The mission carried and deployed a set of commercial payloads intended to validate orbital insertion and demonstrate reliable access to space for customers. These payloads marked a practical step toward routine private launches for research, commercial, and strategic users.

Why the Market Is Paying Attention

The timing is significant. The global space economy is already valued at **\$1 trillion**, with explosive demand emerging across satellite internet, earth observation, defence, and climate monitoring. India's entry into reliable private launch services positions its startups to capture a meaningful share of this expanding market.

For the broader ecosystem, Vikram-1 is a signal that India can build not just apps and software, but hard-tech companies that solve infrastructure challenges at planetary scale.

"Hello Space, We Have Arrived"

The phrase captures the moment perfectly. India's private space industry is no longer aspiring to join the race — it has entered it. With Mission Aagaman, Skyroot Aerospace delivered more than a payload to orbit; it delivered a statement of intent for the next era of Indian innovation.