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India gets its first pvt launchpad

Facility Inaugurated Days After Launch Of 1st Pvt-Made Rocket

Surendra Singh & Chethan Kumar | TNN

New Delhi/Bengaluru: Just days after the launch of India's first privately-built rocket Vikram-S, the country's first private launchpad has been opened at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Space-tech startup Agnikul Cosmos on Monday announced the opening of the launchpad, designed and operated by it. The facility was inaugurated on November 25 by Isro chairman S Somanath.

The facility, which was designed by Agnikul and executed in support with Isro and IN-SPACE, has two sections—the Agnikul launchpad and the Agnikul mission control centre. All critical systems con-



The launchpad is specifically built keeping in mind the requirement to support liquid stage controlled launches, while also addressing the need for Isro's range operations team to monitor key flight safety parameters during launches, said Agnikul

necting these two sections—which are 4 km away from each other—will ensure 100% operationality during countdown. “The launchpad is specifically built keeping in mind the requirement to support

liquid stage controlled launches, while also addressing the need for Isro's range operations team to monitor key flight safety parameters during launches,” Agnikul said in a statement.

Hailing the development, space minister Jitendra Singh told TOI, “In a span of just a few days, the launch of India's first privately built rocket Vikram-S and opening of the first private launchpad are the results of the unlocking of the space sector that has given a big boost to private players.”

Agnikul's first launch, which will be a controlled and guided mission, having a vertical launch, using its patented engine will happen from this launchpad.

Agnibaan rocket is a highly customisable, 2-stage launch vehicle, capable of taking upto 100 kg payload to orbits around 700 km high (low Earth orbits) and enables plug-and-play configuration.