



IndSpaceEx

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- India is planning to conduct its **first-ever simulated space warfare exercise** in the last week of July, 2019.
- **Named 'IndSpaceEx'**, the exercise will basically be a **'table-top war-game'**, with all stakeholders from the military and scientific community taking part in it.
- The **main aim** of the exercise, to be held under the aegis of the Integrated Defence Staff of the Defence Ministry, is **to assess the requisite space and counter-space capabilities that are needed by India to protect its national security interests** in the final frontier of warfare i.e. the outer space.
- **China**, after testing an A-Sat missile against a weather satellite in January 2007, **has set a scorching pace in developing military capabilities in space in terms of both kinetic** (direct ascent missiles, co-orbital kill satellites) **as well as non-kinetic** (lasers, electromagnetic pulse) weapons.

IndSpaceEx underlines the seriousness with which India is taking the need to counter likely threats to its space assets from countries like China.

- **India took the first step towards developing a credible counter-space capability under 'Mission Shakti'** when it launched a 19-tonne interceptor missile to destroy the 740-kg Microsat-R satellite, at an altitude of 283 km in a 'hit-to-kill mode' on 27th March, 2019.
- Since then, **a new Defence Space Agency has begun to take shape**, by amalgamating the Defence Imagery Processing and Analysis Centre (Delhi) and the Defence Satellite Control Centre (Bhopal), with a two-star IAF general to be soon appointed to head it. The agency is **expected to eventually grow into a full-fledged Space Command** in the years ahead.