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**Topic:** Revising the Outer Space Treaty

Ours is an evolving world. The advent of technology opened multiple new doors to be explored, one of them being, outer space. Space exploration in its early years, held much promise for those countries equipped with suitable technology, to learn more about our home planet and beyond. **Space exploration offers vast potential, but unchecked advancement can lead to conflict.** Out of an effort to combat this came the Outer Space Treaty, setting necessary limitations on space exploration, and consequentially, maintaining peace outside Earth.

As a major spacefaring nation, India has offered major and vital contributions to humankind’s understanding and approach towards space. We have consistently advocated for the preservation of outer space and its resources for the collective good of mankind. India has readily participated in various international space forums and activities. India has, along with its domestic satellites, assisted in launching 177 foreign satellites between January 2018 and November 2022. India currently accounts for 2% of the space economy. In the past years, the world has seen privatisation of space activities and emergence of many non-governmental entities in the space exploration sector. Taking into consideration of the rising influence of private organisations, India has privatised space launches and is aiming for a five-fold increase in its share of the global launch market, which some expect to be worth $47.3 billion by 2032. India, with its low cost space missions, has proven that countries with moderate economic circumstances can achieve space travel. While achieving this, we also ensure that India work together with other agencies and countries in meeting the objectives set by the COPUOS. India has, and will continue to work in conformity to the Outer Space Treaty.

But all things need to evolve as time changes. The Outer Space Treaty was signed in 1967. And since then, there has been monumental technological advancements. Naturally, this calls for revising the Outer Space Treaty, and ridding it of its various problems. The signatories had been the nations that had achieved space travel, and those that had done it after 1967 have found their opinion on this matter neglected, and had to follow rules of a treaty put together by only a handful of nations. In simple words, there is a lack of international framework addressing major underlying issues of control, liability and accountability of pollution in space due to satellites junk and other debris. Moreover, adequate steps must be taken to close the Space Divide, which is the gap between countries with established space capabilities and those which do not have, working to leave no one behind. The Outer Space Treaty does not deliberate on such issues, leaving a sense of ambiguity. We call for the Treaty to be revised, to take into consideration interests and requests of all spacefaring nations, and to create a clear international law on space devoid of any loopholes. In conclusion, **India strongly supports the Office for Outer Space Affairs in its efforts to create a more inclusive and up-to-date legal framework for space exploration.**

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