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US Startup Reflect Orbital Books Skyroot Aerospace Launches

California-based space startup Reflect Orbital booked two dedicated rocket launches with Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace to deploy its future spacecraft.

Reflect Orbital is a space technology startup that builds orbital mirrors to reflect sunlight to precise locations on Earth at night for applications like solar energy generation.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- California-based startup Reflect Orbital has booked two dedicated launches on Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram rockets in October 2026.
- The partnership involves deploying future spacecraft designed to build and operate orbital mirrors for delivering sunlight at night.
- Reflect Orbital's technology supports various applications including remote search-and-rescue operations and solar farms generating clean power.
- Dedicated commercial launches provide startups with assured schedule and payload capacity for deploying space-enabled infrastructure.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Skyroot Aerospace is an Indian private aerospace manufacturer headquartered in **Hyderabad**, Telangana.

Vikram series of launch vehicles developed by Skyroot are named in honour of **Vikram Sarabhai**, the pioneer of the Indian space programme.

IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre) acts as the single-window nodal agency under **Department of Space** for private sector space activities in India.

Vikram-S, launched in **November 2022**, was India's first privately developed rocket successfully test-flown by Skyroot Aerospace.

Indian space sector reforms initiated in **2020** opened up **ISRO** facilities and scientific capabilities for private space startups and enterprises.

URSC (U.R. Rao Satellite Centre) is the lead centre of **ISRO** responsible for the design, development and realization of satellites for communication, remote sensing and navigation.

REVISION FLASHCARD

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Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for TNPSC Group 1 and 2 Current Events regarding India's commercial space achievements, ISRO reforms, and private aerospace startups.

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