

# Modi says India will send manned flight into space by 2022

August 15 2018, by Ashok Sharma

---



A woman sells Indian national flag memorabilia on the eve of Independence Day in Lucknow, India, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018. (AP Photo/Rajesh Kumar Singh)

India will send a manned flight into space by 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Wednesday as part of India's independence day celebrations.

He said India will become the fourth country after Russia, the United

States and China to achieve the feat and its astronaut could be a man or a woman. The [space](#) capsule that will transport India's astronauts was tested a few days earlier.

Rakesh Sharma was the first Indian to travel in space, aboard a Soviet rocket in 1984. As part of its own space program, active since the 1960s, India has launched scores of satellites for itself and other countries and successfully put one in orbit around Mars in 2014.

It hopes to showcase its technological ability to explore the solar system while also using research from space and elsewhere to solve problems at home. The \$1 billion-a-year space program has already helped develop satellite, communication and remote-sensing technologies and has been used to gauge underground water levels and predict weather in the country prone to cycles of drought and flood.

India won independence from British colonialists in 1947. Modi's 80-minute speech, broadcast live from the historic Red Fort in New Delhi, comes months before national elections.



Commuters move past an illuminated Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus station building on the eve of Independence day in Mumbai, India, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018. (AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade)

Modi listed his government's achievements in the past four years in reforming the country's economy, reducing poverty and corruption. He announced a health insurance scheme for 500 million poor people providing a cover of 500,000 rupees (\$7,150) per family a year.

He said India will become a growth engine for the [world economy](#) as the "sleeping elephant" has started to run on the back of structural economic reforms.

He said its economy was seen as fragile before 2014 but was now attracting investment. India is the sixth-largest economy in the world and Modi said international institutions see India as giving strength to the

world economy for the next three decades.



Indian children sit in formation to spell out the Hindi word "Bharat", which is the name of the country as they listen to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi address the nation on the country's Independence Day from the ramparts of the historical Red Fort in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup)

He said the structural reforms like a national tax replacing various state and local taxes, bankruptcy and insolvency laws, and a crackdown on corruption have helped transform the [economy](#).

Modi became [prime minister](#) when his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party won a resounding victory in the [national elections](#) in 2014. He will seek another 5-year term for his party at elections due by March-April next year.



A bird flies past as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in white, arrives at the historical Red Fort to address the nation on the country's Independence Day, in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018. India won independence from British colonialists in 1947. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup)



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses to the nation on the country's Independence Day from the ramparts of the historical Red Fort in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018. India will send a manned flight into space by 2022, Modi announced Wednesday as part of India's independence day celebrations. He said India will become the fourth country after Russia, the United States and China to achieve the feat and its astronaut could be a man or a woman. The space capsule that will transport India's astronauts was tested a few days earlier. In the background, Jama Masjid Mosque is seen. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup)



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves as he leaves after addressing the nation on the country's Independence Day from the ramparts of the historical Red Fort in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018. India won independence from British colonialists in 1947. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup)

© 2018 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Modi says India will send manned flight into space by 2022 (2018, August 15) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-08-modi-india-flight-space.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.