

India plans 'very small' space station after 2022

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Indian space chief Kailasavadivoo Sivan said the country plans to have a space station in operation within the next decade

India plans to establish its own "very small" space station in the next decade as the country gears up for a first manned mission beyond earth.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K. Sivan said Thursday that the ambitious project would follow a successful launch of a manned [space](#) flight scheduled by 2022.

"Our space station is going to be very small... useful to carry out experiments," Sivan told reporters in New Delhi.

"We are not having a big plan of sending humans on tourism and other things," he added.

A [space station](#) is capable of hosting [crew members](#) for years on end, and provides facilities for experiments and support vehicles to dock.

India's first manned space mission—named Gaganyaan—is due to take place by 2022, in time to commemorate 75 of years of the country's independence from Britain.

It will have two or three astronauts on a maximum seven-day mission.

The Indian announcement comes a day after the country unveiled an unmanned moon lander expected to be launched on July 15 for a touchdown on the [lunar surface](#) around September 6.

India successfully sent a first lunar mission to space in 2008, playing a crucial role in the discovery of water molecules on the moon.

The country has made giant strides on its space journey in recent years and has been a pioneer in low-cost technology.

It sent a mission to Mars in 2014 for just \$74 million—a fraction of the \$671 million spent by the US space agency NASA.

ISRO also plans to send a mission to study the Sun in 2020, and to Venus

by 2023.

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