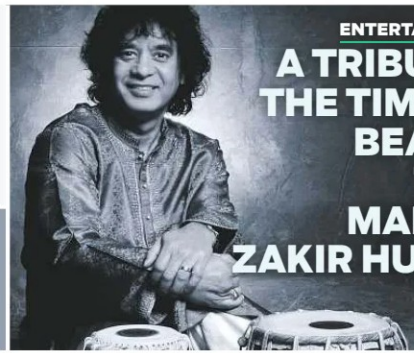


Scan for our social media

## A TRIBUTE TO THE TIMELESS BEATS OF TABLA MAESTRO ZAKIR HUSSAIN



WORLD | P10

### Germany's Scholz loses confidence vote



THE VIEWS | P8

### Need to protect biodiversity to save humanity



SPORT | P13

### Is India becoming one-trick pony in Test cricket?

Cargo, Courier, Shipping, Logistics



800 916 [www.abccargo.com](http://www.abccargo.com)

# UAE to launch two satellites in 2 months

## THURAYA 4 AND MBZ-SAT TO MEET COMMERCIAL DEMAND

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

**T**he UAE is scheduled to launch two satellites – Thuraya 4 this month and MBZ-SAT in January – as the country's space sector continues to scale new heights.

The launches were discussed at the first meeting of the Supreme Space Council in Dubai yesterday, chaired by Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and Chairman of the Supreme Space Council.

Shaikh Hamdan was briefed on upcoming space programmes. The Thuraya 4 satellite, owned by Space42, will facilitate the development of next-generation satellite communications solutions for a range of customers, including government, defence, enterprise and commercial sectors.

MBZ-SAT, which is under development at the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre, will meet the commercial demand for high-resolution satellite images that will show details within an area of less than one square metre.

Shaikh Hamdan said: "The national space sector continues to grow and advance, and we take immense pride in the remarkable achievements we have accomplished over the years. These milestones have become a cornerstone of innovation and scientific advancement in the UAE."

### Growing investment

Shaikh Hamdan pointed out that the UAE's investments in the space sector have reached Dh40 billion, with research and development spending on space exploration projects rising by 14.8 per cent this year.

The sector has also recorded a 29 per cent annual growth in the number of companies operating within it, while private sector financing and investments rose by 44.3 per cent.

Shaikh Hamdan said: "Today, the UAE proudly leads five national projects aimed at exploring the Moon, Mars, and the asteroid belt. We have developed a highly skilled workforce capable of undertaking the most challenging scientific missions. Our commitment to ambitious space exploration programmes remains steadfast. In the next phase, we aim to further strengthen the sector by fostering greater collabora-



Courtesy: Dubai Media Office

Shaikh Hamdan was briefed on the UAE's upcoming space programmes after he chaired the first meeting of the Supreme Space Council in Dubai yesterday.

**The national space sector continues to grow and advance, and we take immense pride in the remarkable achievements we have accomplished over the years. These milestones have become a cornerstone of innovation and scientific advancement in the UAE."**

### Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad

**Dh40b**

UAE's investments in the space sector with R&D spending growing by 14.8%

**200**

private companies are members of the Space Economic Zones Programme

tion among all stakeholders. Additionally, we are working on developing a flexible and attractive regulatory environment to encourage local, regional, and global investments, thereby promoting innovation and strengthening the competitiveness of the national space sector."

### Role of private sector

The meeting also highlighted the pivotal role of the private sector in the development of the space industry, noting that its spending is almost equal to that of the public sector.

This reflects the success of initiatives to support and stimulate the economy, including the Space Economic Zones Programme, which now includes over 200 private companies as members.

The meeting was attended by Dr Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology; Abdullah Bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy; Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications; Faisal Abdul Aziz Mohammad Al Bannai, Adviser to the UAE President for Strategic Research and Advanced Technology Affairs, and other officials.

tion between the public and private sectors, driving innovation, and realising our aspirations for the future."

Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of Sports, Secretary-General of the Supreme Space Council, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the UAE Space Agency, said: "The dynamic growth of the space sector reflects the UAE's unwavering commitment to nurturing Emirati talent and preparing them to lead the future of space exploration.

"The UAE is also focused on fostering an integrated ecosystem that enhances collabora-