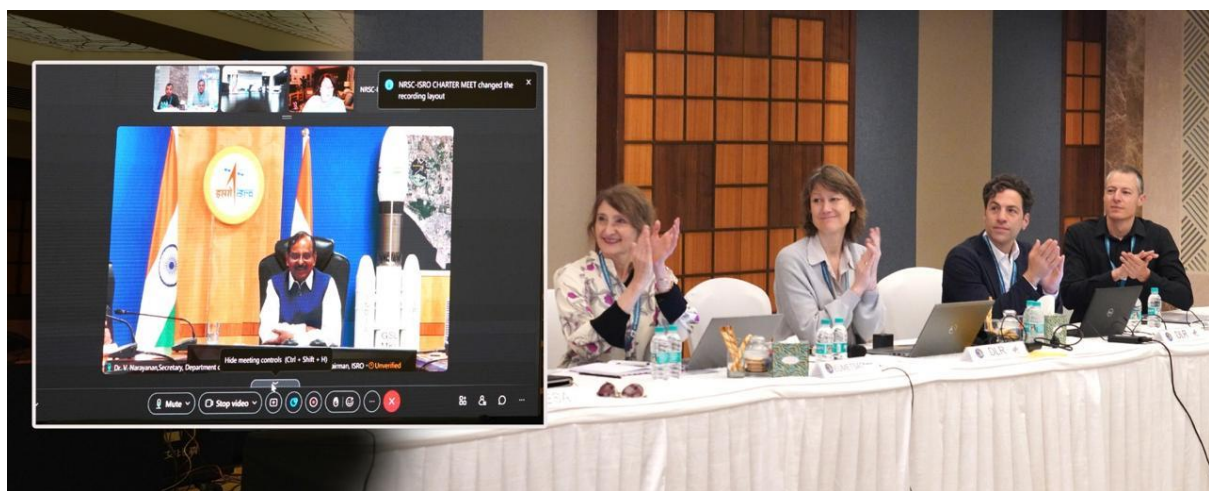


## **ISRO takes in the Lead Role International Charter on Space and Major Disasters: A Milestone Achievement**

India, through the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has once again demonstrated its global leadership in space-based disaster management by assuming the lead role for the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters for the upcoming term from April to October 2025. **The 53<sup>rd</sup> Charter Meeting organised by National Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO in Hyderabad, India during 14–17 April 2025**, marked a significant moment for India's commitment to international humanitarian efforts, bringing together representatives from a wide array of space and disaster management agencies across the world. The 53<sup>rd</sup> Charter meeting witnessed the participation of numerous agencies and organizations (24 in person and 8 in online) deeply engaged in space-based disaster management. The meeting was a blend of in-person discussions and online participation, reflecting a truly global and inclusive character.

**The International Charter celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in this year, India through ISRO has become an active member in 2000. The Charter operates on a voluntary, non-binding basis but emphasizes a deeply cooperative framework where humanitarian needs take precedence over geopolitical interests.** Charter functions as a **collaborative framework involving 17 member organizations**, who voluntarily provide Earth observation data and value-added products during times of disasters. The Charter's services are extended to more than **120 countries**, ensuring that disaster-struck regions can access critical satellite-based information, regardless of their national capabilities.

Dr V Narayanan, Chairman-ISRO and Secretary, Department of Space has addressed the Board Members of the International Charter and reiterated the ISRO's commitment to the Charter in addressing Global Natural Disasters for humanitarian assistance.



*Secretary, Department of Space & Chairman, ISRO addressing the Delegates during the 53rd Charter Meeting*



*Board & Executive Secretariat Members of the International Charter during the 53<sup>rd</sup> Charter Meeting, held in Hyderabad between 14–17 April 2025*



*Director, NRSC & Board Member of ISRO and Board Member of INPE (in the centre)*

Since 2021 alone, ISRO has responded to 153 Charter activations and has contributed almost 700 Earth observation products. These have included flood extent mapping, landslide delineation, infrastructure damage assessments, and post-disaster recovery planning. India, too, has been a beneficiary of Charter activations and has received support during major national calamities. The seamless support offered by ISRO exemplifies the spirit of the Charter—a framework where the power of space technology transcends borders to serve humanity in its moments of greatest need.

**Assuming the lead role in the Charter** for next 6 months is not just a ceremonial honor—it **places India at the strategic centre of coordinating global disaster response efforts using space-based assets**. The responsibilities include:

- Managing global activation requests and ensuring rapid dissemination of products
- Taking lead in Strategic planning
- Coordinating the provision and delivery of satellite imagery from member agencies.
- Facilitating training, outreach, and capacity-building activities.

This leadership reinforces India's stature as a responsible spacefaring nation, committed to leveraging its capabilities for global good. It also enhances India's visibility and influence in international decision-making on disaster management protocols and technological advancements in Earth observation.

**India's lead role in the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters is a proud achievement** that reflects decades of sustained investment in space technology and international cooperation. It is a recognition of ISRO's technical prowess, operational efficiency, and humanitarian commitment.