



P R E S S R E L E A S E

On 24th September 2014, India created space history by successfully placing a satellite into Mars orbit in its first attempt. India's *Mars Orbiter Mission* (*Mangalyaan*) covered 680 million kilometers in 300-days. India now joins a small select club of nations – the US, Russia and the European Space Agency – with inter-planetary travel expertise.

India's *Mars Orbiter Mission* took four years from its feasibility study. This fully indigenous effort was achieved by the *Indian Space Research Organisation* (ISRO) at the cost of about US\$ 74 million, making it the most cost effective mission of its type. India's Mars satellite with a 15-kg payload will use sensors to check for methane and thermal infrared spectrometer to study heat emission, minerals and soil on the red planet.

India's space programme began in 1960s. India's first satellite was launched in 1975, and today there are 35 different Indian satellites in space. Indian scientists have also launched over 50 satellites for clients in the US, Europe and Singapore, gaining recognition as a low-cost quality option for sending satellites into space. India has also successfully probed the Moon.

India now becomes the first Asian nation to have an orbiter around Mars, confirming India's expertise in reconfiguring the propulsion systems of low-orbit satellite launching rockets, along with the development of deep space monitoring network.

**Addis Ababa,
24 September 2014**