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## Spacecom: A New Pentagon Command

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Recently, the US President has launched **a new Pentagon command (Spacecom)** dedicated to warfare in space.

- The US has announced this, due to threat perception it feels from China and Russia in **Space**.
- The Space Command is the **Pentagon's 11<sup>th</sup> full command** and the second to be launched in two years.
  - In 2018, the Pentagon elevated its **cyber warfare operations to CyberCom**, recognizing that online attacks and defence constituted a unique theatre of combat.
- US president also announced that SpaceCom will be followed by the establishment of the United States Space Force as the **sixth branch of the United States armed forces**.
  - There are 5 existing forces in the US: the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.
- The U.S. Air Force already has a dedicated space warfare operation.
  - However, **the SpaceCom will elevate space facilities** (largely the satellites and high-altitude aircraft essentials) **to modern-day warfare**, which has emerged as a focused theatre of combat.
  - The challenges in the Space domain range from adversaries jamming communications and GPS satellites to ground-launched missiles used to physically destroy satellites.
- It can be noted that India recently tested its anti-satellite missile under **Mission Shakti**.
- Also, in order to address the new-age challenges to national security, the Government of India decided to **set up three new agencies** — the **Defence Cyber Agency**, the **Defence Space Agency** and the **Special Operations Division** in late 2018.
  - Moreover, the newly instituted **Defence Space Agency** will administer the **Defence Space Research Organization (DSRO)** whose objective is to create weapons to deny, degrade, disrupt, destroy or deceive an adversary's space

capability.

**Source: TH**