

ISRO's EOS-09 launch fails due to 3rd-stage anomaly

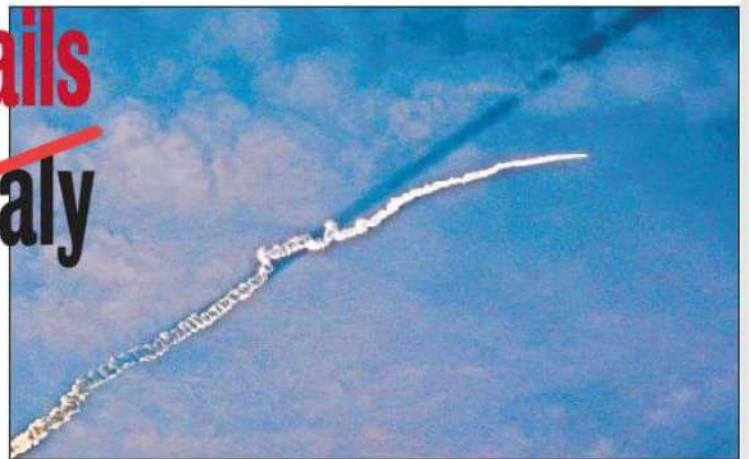
SRIHARIKOTA (Andhra Pradesh),
May 18 (PTI)

ISRO on Sunday failed to put its earth observation satellite in orbit after its trusted PSLV rocket developed a fault minutes after launch from the spaceport here.

In ISRO's 101st mission from the spaceport here, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C61) had a textbook lift off at 5:59 am, only to experience an anomaly in the 12th minute of the flight.

"Today we targeted the 101st launch from Sriharikota, the PSLV-C61 EOS-09 mission. The PSLV is a four-stage vehicle and up to the second stage, the performance was normal. The third stage motor started perfectly but during the functioning of the third stage we are seeing an observation and the mission could not be accomplished," Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan said.

He said there was a fall in the



chamber pressure of the motor case and the mission could not be accomplished.

"We are studying the entire performance, we shall come back at the earliest," Narayanan said post the unsuccessful launch.

This was the third failure of the PSLV, ISRO's trusted warhorse

rocket that launched the Chandrayaan-1 and Mars Orbiter Mission. The PSLV has had 63 launches so far. The previous failures were in 1993, the inaugural flight of the PSLV, and in 2017 when it did not succeed in putting in orbit a navigation satellite.

EAM Jaishankar on 3-day official visit to 3 nations

NEW DELHI, May 18 (ANI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is set to visit Netherlands, Denmark and



Germany from May 19-24, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a state-

ment on Sunday.

It further noted that during his three-country visit, the External Affairs Minister will meet with the leadership of the three countries and hold discussions on the entire range of bilateral relations.

Discussions will also take place on global and regional matters of mutual interest. EAM Jaishankar's visit to Germany comes as Friedrich Merz took over the office as the new Federal Chancellor of Germany earlier in May this year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had extended his warm congratulations to Friedrich Merz and expressed his eagerness to work closely with Chancellor Merz for further strengthening the India-Germany Strategic Partnership. In the wake of the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack, the three countries were a part of the several countries from across the world who had expressed solidarity to India.

B'desh faces ~~\$770 mn~~ hit due to India's curbs on trade

NEW DELHI, May 18 (IANS)

INDIA'S decision to restrict imports from Bangladesh is expected to hit goods worth \$770 million (Rs 6,600 crore) that flow in through the cross-border trade points with the neighbouring country.

"Readymade garments, valued at \$618 million (Rs 5,290 crore), now face strict routing through only two Indian seaports. This severely limits Bangladesh's most valuable export channel to India," said Ajay Srivastava, founder of think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).

The other goods that have been barred from entry into India

through the land customs stations on the border include fruit-flavoured carbonated drinks, processed foods, cotton and cotton yarn waste, plastic and PVC finished goods, and wooden furniture. The total value of these items is pegged at around \$153 million (Rs 1,310 crore).

India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued a notification imposing land port restrictions on the import of goods such as readymade garments, processed food items etc.,



from Bangladesh to India with immediate effect on Saturday.

"However, such said port restriction will not apply to Bangladesh goods transiting through India but destined for Nepal and Bhutan," the DGFT said in its notification.

According to the directive, "Import of all kinds of Ready-Made Garments from Bangladesh shall not be allowed from any land port, however, it is allowed only through Nhava Sheva and Kolkata seaports".

These items "shall not be allowed through any Land Customs Stations (LCSs)/ Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram; and LCS Changrabandha and Fulbari, in West Bengal".

"The port restrictions do not apply to the import of Fish, LPG, edible oil, and crushed stone from Bangladesh," the notification further read.

The Indian move came after the Bangladesh government in April banned the import of yarns from India to the country via land ports through a notification from the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

IMF imposes 11 new conditions on Pak, warns it against risks to bailout programme: Report

■ By Sajjad Hussain

ISLAMABAD, May 18 (PTI)

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slapped 11 new conditions on Pakistan for the release of the next tranche of its bailout programme and warned that tensions with India could heighten risks to the scheme's fiscal, external, and reform goals, according to a media report on Sunday.

The new conditions imposed on Pakistan include the parliamentary approval of a new Rs 17.6 trillion budget, an increase in the debt servicing surcharge on electricity bills and lifting restrictions on import of more than three-year-old used cars.

The Express Tribune newspaper said the Staff Level report, which the IMF released on Saturday, also said that "rising

tensions between India and Pakistan, if sustained or deteriorate further, could heighten risks to the fiscal, external and reform goals of the programme".

The report further stated that tensions between Pakistan and India have risen significantly over the past two weeks, but so far, the market reaction has been modest, with the stock market retaining most of its recent gains and spreads widening moderately.

The IMF report has shown the defence budget for the next fiscal year at Rs 2.414 trillion, which is higher by Rs 252 billion or 12%. Compared to the IMF's projection, the Government has indicated allocating over Rs 2.5 trillion or an 18% higher budget, after confrontation with India early this month.

India carried out precision

strikes under 'Operation Sindoor' on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

The Express Tribune report said that the IMF slapped 11 more conditions on Pakistan, taking the total conditions to 50.

It has imposed the new condition of securing "parliamentary approval of the fiscal year 2026 budget in line with the IMF staff agreement to meet programme targets by end-June 2025".

The IMF report has shown the total size of the federal budget at Rs 17.6 trillion, including Rs 1.07 trillion for development spending.

A new condition has also been imposed on the provinces where the four federating units will implement the new Agriculture Income Tax laws through a comprehensive plan, including the establishment of an operational platform for processing returns, taxpayer identification and registration, a communication campaign, and a compliance improvement plan.

The deadline for the provinces is June this year. According to the third new condition, the Government will publish a governance action plan based on the recommendations of the Governance Diagnostic Assessment by the IMF.

No expiry date for break in hostilities: Indian Army

NEW DELHI, May 18 (ANI)

THE Indian Army has said that no talks were scheduled between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMO) of India and Pakistan on Sunday.

The Army further made it clear that the continuation of a break in hostilities, as decided in the DGMOs interaction of May 12, has no expiry date to it.

The clarification comes after some media houses reported that the ceasefire between India and Pakistan is ending on May 18.

"No DGMO talks are scheduled today. As far as the continuation of a break in hostilities as

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No DGMO talks are scheduled



'JUSTICE SERVED' Army releases Op Sindoore success video

JAMMU, May 18 (IANS)

THE Indian Army's western command said on Sunday that 'Operation Sindoore' was planned, trained and executed to deliver Justice.

The Western Command posted a video on X with narration showing soldiers buzzing with confidence about the success of 'Operation Sindoore'.

The post read: "Planned, trained, executed. Justice served". "It started with the Pahalgam terror attack. The country had no anger, but a desire to avenge the

innocent killings. Pakistan was taught a lesson that its future generations won't be able to forget. Pakistani pickets from where fire was opened at our positions were completely destroyed. It was not revenge, but justice which had to be delivered.

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