

**Countdown
begins**

for launch of INSAT-3DS meteorological satellite



ISRO's latest meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS aboard GSLV-F14 all set for lift-off at 5.30 pm on February 17 from the spaceport of Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

(PTI)

CHENNAI, Feb 16 (PTI)

THE countdown for the launch of INSAT-3DS meteorological satellite onboard a

Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle has commenced, ISRO said on Friday.

The lift-off for the GSLV-F14 in its 16th mission is scheduled

at 5.35 pm on Saturday from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The INSAT-3DS satellite is a follow-on mission of the third generation meteorological satellite to be placed in a geostationary orbit, and it is fully funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. "GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS Mission: 27.5 hours countdown leading to the launch on February 17, 2024 at 17.35 hrs has commenced" ISRO said.

This is the second mission for the Bengaluru headquartered space agency in 2024 after the successful launch of PSLV-C58/EXPOSAT mission on January 1.

According to ISRO, the objective of Saturday's mission GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS would provide continuity of services to existing operational INSAT-3D (launched in 2013) and INSAT-3DR (September 2016) for enhanced meteorological observations, monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning, as well as to provide Satellite aided Research and Rescue services (SAR) among others.

The satellite weighing 2,274 kg, once operational, would serve various departments under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting, and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services.

Fresh crackdown against Imran's party leaders

LAHORE, Feb 16 (PTI)

A FRESH round of crackdown has been launched allegedly by the Pakistan Army against jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party in a bid to put pressure on the winners in the elections to change their loyalties to parties backed by the powerful military.

The confrontation between Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the military establishment comes after the party won the lion's share in the general elections in Pakistan on February 8. Police arrested successful Independent candi-

Police arrested successful Independent candidates backed by the PTI, and conducted raids on their properties across Punjab province

dates backed by the PTI, and conducted raids on their properties across Punjab province, party sources said.

Arrest warrants have been issued for the PTI-nominated candidates for the slot of Chief Minister in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Besides, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has summoned Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan for inciting the public against the state.

PTI's Prime Minister candidate Omar Ayub on Friday secured a pre-arrest bail from a local court to anticipate his possible arrest in any unknown case to stop him from going to Parliament to compete against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz-led six-party alliance candidate Shehbaz Sharif for the coveted slot of Prime Minister.

Omar said that PTI-backed MNA (Member of the National

Assembly) from Sialkot, Aslam Ghumman had been abducted by unknown people, referring towards intelligence agencies.

"Ghumman is being forced to leave PTI and join PML-N. Condemn this rigging process and enforced disappearances in the strongest words possible," Ayub said on X.

In Lahore, police have arrested PTI-backed MPA-elect Ahmar Rasheed Bhatti from Raiwind in connection with the May 9 riots cases. The police's post-election action came when the PTI was celebrating his victory at his outhouse.

Jaishankar discusses bilateral, global, regional issues with Cameron

MUNICH, Feb 16 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday discussed bilateral cooperation as well as global and regional issues with his British counterpart David Cameron on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference here in Germany. Jaishankar is here to attend the 60th edition of the prestigious Munich Security Conference, which calls itself the world's leading forum for debate on international security. The Indian minister is to participate in a panel discussion on 'Growing the Pie: Seizing Shared Opportunities,' which is also to be addressed by German foreign minister Annalena Baerbock, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Saturday.

"Started my engagements at #MunichSecurityConference by meeting UK Foreign Secretary@David_Cameron. A good discussion on our bilateral cooperation as well as global and regional issues,"

Jaishankar posted on his official X handle along with a photo of the meeting.

"Also exchanged views on the cricket match underway," the minister said referring to the ongoing India versus England test match at Rajkot in Gujarat given the love both the countries share for what is known as Gentlemen's game.

JAISHANKAR, BLINKEN HOLD TALKS: EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday held talks with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken with a focus on key bilateral issues as well as the situation in West Asia, Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific.

The meeting took place in Munich on the sidelines of a security conference.

"Great to meet my friend US @SecBlinken this afternoon on #MSC2024 sidelines. Our talk centered on the situation in West Asia, Ukraine and Indo-Pacific. Reviewed the continuing progress in our bilateral ties," Jaishankar said on X.

ISRO successfully brings down Cartosat-2 to Earth's atmosphere

a statement.

"Initially, Cartosat-2 was expected to take about 30 years to naturally de-orbit. However, ISRO opted to lower its perigee using leftover fuel to comply with international guidelines on space debris mitigation," it said.

"This exercise involved reducing collision risks and ensuring safe end-of-life disposal, following recommendations from organisations like

the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPOUS) and the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)," ISRO said.

ISRO said its System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations (IS4OM) team at ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) predicted Cartosat-2's atmospheric re-entry for February 14.

"Electrical passivation was completed on February 14th, and tracking continued until re-entry. The final telemetry frames confirmed successful passivation, with the satellite reaching about 130 km altitude," ISRO said.

This exercise provided an opportunity to assess indigenous tracking capabilities, with the multi-object tracking radar at the spaceport of Sriharikota utilised for tracking.

Hyderabad archer hits bullseye, scores perfect 300 in IIT JEE Mains

HYDERABAD, Feb 16 (ANI)

HYDERABAD'S archer, Sriyashas Mohan Kalluri, secured a 100 percentile in the JEE Mains by scoring 300 out of 300 in the exam.

He was supposed to participate in the recent Khelo India Youth Games in Chennai but could not attend the competition due to his JEE Mains exam.

Speaking to ANI, Sriyashas Mohan Kalluri says, "I am a student of FIITJEE Junior College. I am also an archer. I was selected to participate in the recent KHE-



LO India Youth Games and was one of the 18 archers selected from across the country. I hope to pursue archery in college along with a PhD, as I want to become a physicist in the future. I also scored 300 out of 300 in the recent JEE Mains. I have been shooting since the 3rd grade and it's something that I aim to continue in my adult life."

Kiran Chandra Kalluri, the father of the student-archer Sriyashas Mohan Kalluri, expressed immense pride as his son secured a perfect 100 percentile in the recently concluded JEE Mains.