

India's 'Eye in sky'

Country's first ever imaging satellite placed in geo-orbit

■ By R Sathyanarayana

SRIHARIKOTA, Sept 4 (PTI)

THE Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday made its way into history books yet again with the successful launch of the country's first ever imaging satellite in geo-orbit, placing the over 2,300 kg payload into a precise orbit using a GSLV rocket.

"The eye in the sky," as one of the senior scientists involved in the mission described the satellite, is set to provide real-time imagery and help the nation in areas including agriculture, and disaster management.

Friday's launch marked the space agency's maiden success for the year 2026.

The EOS-05 satellite was successfully placed in the intended sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit, about 18 minutes after it lifted off from the spaceport here, ISRO announced.

The space agency dismissed speculations that EOS-05 was a "spy satellite".

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ISRO's GSLV-F17 rocket carrying EOS-05 satellite lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. (X via PTI)

India exploring ideas to end Ukraine war: Jaishankar in Poland

WARSAW, Sept 4 (IANS)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Friday said that India has been maintaining continuous engagement with both Ukraine and Russia, while exploring ideas and suggestions that could help de-escalate the ongoing conflict between the two countries and pave the way for its cessation.

Addressing a joint press conference with Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski in Warsaw, EAM Jaishankar also responded to questions on India's role in diffusing tensions between Moscow and Kyiv.

"You will appreciate that beyond a point, I can't go into specifics. What I can tell you is



Jaishankar with Polish President Karol Nawrocki.

that we've been in continuous touch with the Ukrainian side, also with the Russian side. I myself was in Moscowa few days

ago. Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) and President (Vladimir) Putin met in Bishkek three days ago and then I went to Kyiv. So what we had were discussions, fairly detailed discussions with the Russian side. Yesterday, with the Ukrainian side. And, what we are trying to do is to see if, you know, there are ideas and suggestions that can be developed in some way in which they would contribute to the mitigation, ideally the cessation of the conflict," EAM Jaishankar said.

Reiterating that the Ukraine conflict can be resolved by dialogue and diplomacy, EAM said that India has a responsibility to meet energy needs for 1.4 billion people given the current situation in the world.

IAF chief in UAE as both countries explore avenues to strengthen defence ties

ABU DHABI, Sept 4 (IANS)

CHIEF of the Air Staff (COAS) Air Chief Marshal A P Singh on Friday explored avenues to strengthen India-UAE cooperation in military and defence fields during his meeting with Major General Staff Rashid Mohammed Al Shamsi, Commander of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force and Air Defence.

"The UAE Air Force and Air Defence received Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the two sides discussed a range of issues of mutual interest and explored avenues for further strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly in the military and defence fields, in a manner that supports their joint efforts and contributes to enhancing security and stability in the region," UAE's Ministry of Defence stated on X. In June, the UAE's Land Forces' Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Staff Mohamed Khomees Mohamed Al-Hassani, called on Indian Army chief, General Upendra Dwivedi, in New Delhi and held discussions on enhancing bilateral military cooperation.



"Brigadier General Staff Mohamed Khomees Mohamed Al-Hassani, Deputy Commander, United Arab Emirates Land Forces, called on General Upendra Dwivedi, COAS. The interaction underscored the growing depth of India-UAE defence relations, with discussions focused on enhancing bilateral military cooperation, expanding professional exchanges and identifying new avenues for collaboration between the two armies," the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) wrote on X. According to the ADGPI, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening institutional ties.

US hits Cuba with new sanctions as island's crises multiply

HAVANA, Sept 4 (AP)

THE US Government on Thursday slapped new sanctions on Cuba in a fresh push to strangle the island's economy and deepen its multiple crises.

Among those hit with sanctions are Fidel Ernesto Castro, grandson of former President Raul Castro, and Cuba's Oil Industry Supply Import Company, known as Abapet. The company is responsible for importing special equipment and spare parts needed to sustain Cuba's crumbling power grid.

The sanctions aim to push Cuba's critical machinery offline and exacerbate its energy crisis, said Brett Erickson, a sanctions expert and managing principal at Obsidian Risk Advisors, a consulting firm.

"The US is trying to really tighten the screws as much as possible," he said.

"The Trump administration seems to have no seriousness to accept any change from Cuba other than a toppling of regime. Marco is not going to let that go," he added, referring to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

India, Belgium agree to boost civil aviation ties



Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu with Belgium Prime Minister Bart De Wever.

NEW DELHI, Sep 4 (IANS)

UNION Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu held talks with the Belgium Prime Minister, Bart De Wever, on further strengthening civil aviation cooperation between the two nations, an official statement said

on Friday.

The discussion included talks on direct air connectivity options between the two countries, air cargo improvements focused on the high-value pharmaceutical sector and advanced air mobility initiatives.

The Belgian Prime Minister is on a three-day official visit to India from September 2 to 4, during which he held high-level bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deepen trade and investment ties between the two countries and the timely implementation of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Work on uncrewed Gaganyaan mission in full swing: ISRO chief



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan addresses a press conference after the successful launch of a GSLV-F17 rocket carrying EOS-05 satellite, at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, on Friday. (PTI)

SRIHARIKOTA, Sept 4 (PTI)

ISRO chief V Narayanan on Friday said that “vigorous, systematic work,” is on for the launch of the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission during this calendar year.

The launch of the earth observation satellite (GSLV-F17/EOS-05) is the first success for ISRO during this financial year, Narayanan said adding, “reward

for hard work is more work.”

Accordingly, the ISRO team, along with industries and other organisations, is working on the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission.

In his address following the successful launch of EOS-05, he said that activities were underway very “vigorous and systematically,” for the uncrewed mission launch during this calendar year.

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership, Narayanan said that six more launches, including the navigation satellite NVS-03, are targeted for this financial year.

Later, addressing a press conference, the ISRO chief said the earth observation satellite’s operational lifetime is nine years and dismissed speculations that it was a “spy satellite.”

Meanwhile, the BJP on Friday hailed the successful launch of India’s first-ever imaging satellite in geo-orbit and said the country’s space programme continues to soar to extraordinary new heights. This launch marked the space agency’s maiden success for 2026.

El Nino may intensify through Feb 2027, WORSENING INDIA'S HEAT, RAINFALL RISKS

NEW DELHI, Sept 4 (PTI)

THE prevailing El Nino conditions over the equatorial Pacific are most likely to intensify into a very strong event in the coming months and persist through February 2027, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has said.

associated risk of floods, drought and extreme heat.

In a statement on Thursday, WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo said, “El Nino in Spanish means boy child” but it has the potential to deliver a massive blow to communities and economies across the world.

“We are already seeing dis-

as El Nino intensifies.” The WMO projections came just days after the India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its forecast for September, said that El Nino conditions could persist till February next year.

El Nino is one of the three phases of El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a climate phenomenon characterised by changes in sea temperatures along the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, accompanied by fluctuations in the atmosphere overhead. While El Nino is known to have a warming effect on the planet, its opposite phase, called La Nina, usually results in a cooling effect. ENSO also has a neutral phase. El Nino conditions typically lead to less rainfall in India. That is why it did not come as a surprise when the IMD, on August 31, confirmed that the overall rainfall in India during the month was deficient due to prevailing El Nino conditions.



It said this could have substantial impacts on rainfall and temperature patterns and the

ruption and devastation from droughts and floods, and we expect these impacts to increase