

India for safe, sustainable space: Modi PM virtually addresses 1st International Space Summit

NEW DELHI, Sept 10 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India supports a safe, secure, and sustainable space domain anchored in international law, underlining that scientific data must serve the common good with openness and integrity.

Virtually addressing the first International Space Summit, Modi also said that ISRO's technologies and partnerships serve not only India, but the wider world.

The Prime Minister said for centuries, space inspired people's imagination and now, it shapes life on earth, from climate and crops to oceans and communities.

"The promise of space is infi-

nite. Our responsibility is collective. As orbits become more crowded, technologies more powerful, and actors more numerous, our choices must be clear: cooperation over confrontation; sustainability over short-term gain; and inclusion over exclusion," he said.

Modi said India's approach is rooted in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' -- 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', and this spirit must now travel beyond the planet.

"We support a safe, secure, peaceful and sustainable space domain anchored in international law, dialogue and multi-lateral cooperation. Scientific data must serve the common good, with openness and integri-

ty," he said.

The Prime Minister said India's space journey reflects this phi-

losophy and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which stands at the heart of this

journey, has earned global admiration for its excellence and cost-effective missions.

He said its capabilities serve farmers and fishermen, weather forecasting, disaster management and navigation.

"More than 430 satellites from 34 countries have travelled to space aboard Indian rockets. ISRO's technologies and partnerships serve not only India, but the wider world," he said.

Modi said behind this global trust is the dedication and hard work of generations of Indian scientists, engineers and technicians. "Working day and night, they have built ISRO's global reputation mission by mission, success by success, and given India a place of pride among space-faring nations," he said.

The Prime Minister said the Chandrayaan-3 made India the first nation to land near the lunar south pole and Aditya-L1 is

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India, France step up space cooperation with new private sector 5mn euro deals

PARIS, Sept 10 (PTI)

INDIA and France are stepping up cooperation in the space sector, with companies from the two countries signing three new agreements covering satellite launches, space surveillance and microsatellite technology, according to an official announcement.

The agreements, announced at the International Space

Summit in Paris, include contracts worth more than 5 million euros between France's Safran Space and India's Dhruva Space for technologies to be used in India's planned 52-satellite space-surveillance constellation. The new agreements come against the backdrop of more than five decades of space cooperation between India and France, built around the partnership between the Indian

Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and France's space agency CNES.

The first edition of the International Space Summit is being held from September 9-10, bringing together Governments, companies, space agencies and scientists.

The summit featured 51 announcements representing about 20 billion euros in

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Prince Aga Khan V, Modi discuss agriculture, rural development

NEW DELHI, Sept 10 (IANS)

PRINCE Rahim Aga Khan V, 50th Imam of the Ismaili Muslims, on Thursday met Prime Minister

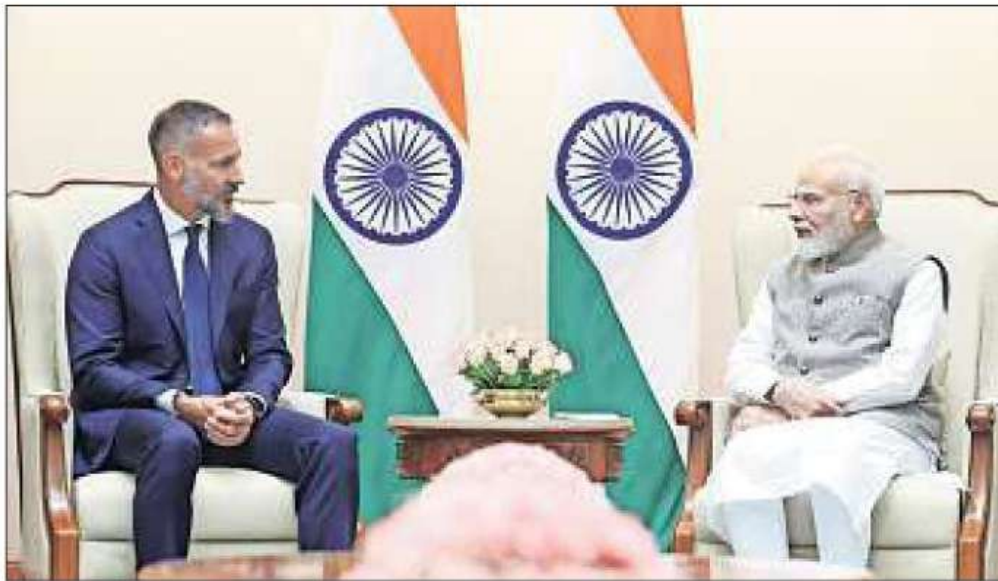
Narendra Modi and the two held discussions on India's partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in agriculture and rural devel-

opment, among other areas. Prince Rahim Aga Khan V is visiting India from September 9 to 15 following an invitation from Vice President C P Radhakrishnan.

"Happy to meet His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan V. Fondly recalled his father, the late Aga Khan IV and his enduring contributions to development efforts. Discussed ways to further strengthen our partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network in healthcare, agriculture, rural development, youth and women empowerment," Modi said in a post on X.

Later in the day, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar also met Prince Rahim Aga Khan V, in New Delhi on Thursday.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with Prince Rahim Aga Khan V, in New Delhi. (PTI)

ISRO tests cryogenic engine at 220 kN THRUST

■ Boosts payload capability of launch vehicle

NEW DELHI, Sept 10 (ANI)

THE Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a flight acceptance hot test of its CE20 cryogenic engine at uprated thrust conditions of 220 kN (kilonewton), advancing efforts to enhance the payload capability of the LVM3 launch vehicle and supporting the Gaganyaan programme.

The test was conducted on September 9 at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, ISRO said on Thursday.

In a post on X, the space agency said, "Flight acceptance hot test



Flight acceptance hot test of CE20 cryogenic engine earmarked for the C32 upper stage of upcoming LVM3 mission at uprated thrust conditions of 220kN successfully carried out, at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri. (PTI)

of CE20 cryogenic engine earmarked for the C32 upper stage of

upcoming LVM3 mission at uprated thrust conditions of 220kN is successfully carried out at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri on September 09, 2026." ISRO also said the performance of the LOX Tank Pressurisation Module (LTPM), intended for the C32 stages of the Gaganyaan missions, was successfully demonstrated during the test. The CE20 engine powers the upper cryogenic stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle. The space agency has been working to operate future LVM3 missions with an uprated C32 stage using the CE20 engine at 22-tonne thrust to enhance the vehicle's payload capability.

The latest test follows a sea-level hot test of the CE20 engine conducted in March at the (Contd on page 5)

Xi, Putin, others all set to attend BRICS summit

Xi's first trip to India after a 7-year gap

NEW DELHI, Sept 10 (PTI)

IN a strategic balancing act triggered by escalating global trade tensions, India is leveraging the two-day BRICS summit starting Saturday to position the grouping as a complementary engine for economic growth while championing the Global South's core developmental priorities - most notably safeguarding food, energy, and supply chain security. With New Delhi putting the finishing touches on the summit, China has confirmed President Xi Jinping's attendance, marking



National flags of countries participating in the 18th BRICS Summit hoisted at Mandi House, in New Delhi on Thursday. (ANI)

his first trip to India after a seven-year gap.

Iranian President Masoud
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PM shares video of BRICS venue

NEW DELHI, Sept 10 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday shared a video clip featuring a montage of visuals of the decorated Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the BRICS Summit, and the preparations for the mega conclave.

The nearly 30-second video, pepped up with catchy background music, was shared by the Prime Minister on Instagram, X and other social media platforms.

"All set for BRICS 2026! @brics2026," Modi posted.

The video contains visuals of the
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JAPANESE FIGHTER JET'S MAIDEN INDIA VISIT

'Significant milestone for defence ties'

COLOMBO, Sept 10 (IANS)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday welcomed the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) fighter aircraft's first visit to India, terming it a "significant milestone" for defence partnership between the two nations.

Singh said mutual exchanges like Exercise Veer Guardian further strengthen synergy between India and Japan. JASDF's fighter aircraft touched down in India to participate in Exercise Veer Guardian 2026.

"A significant milestone for India-Japan defence partnership! The maiden visit of the JASDF fighter aircraft to India reflects our growing trust and shared commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. Following our highly productive



Japan's F-2A fighter aircraft during the bilateral air exercise 'Veer Guardian-2026' IAF and JASDF, at Air Force Station Jodhpur. (PTI)

discussions in New Delhi last month, mutual exchange of visits such as Exercise Veer Guardian further strengthens this synergy," Singh wrote on X. He made the statement in response to a post shared by Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, in

which he mentioned the JASDF fighter aircraft's maiden visit to India. Koizumi stated that the JASDF fighter aircraft's first visit to India, three years after Indian fighter aircraft visited Japan, marks the realisation of mutual visits by fighter aircraft.

India's nuclear arsenal estimated at 190 warheads, says report

■ By Sagar Kulkarni
WASHINGTON, Sept 10 (PTI)

INDIA'S nuclear arsenal is estimated at 190 warheads, which includes 30 additional warheads for new missiles under production, according to a US nonprofit policy think tank.

The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) derived the estimates from analyses of a combination of open sources, State-originating data and commercial satellite imagery.

"Based on available public information about its nuclear-capable delivery force structure and strategy, we estimate that India may have produced around

190 nuclear warheads," according to the article titled 'India's Nuclear Weapons-2026' penned by FAS Nuclear Information Project Director Hans Kristensen.

India's nuclear arsenal includes over 160 warheads for operational launchers as well as additional warheads for new missiles in production, it said.

The article, published on Wednesday, noted that India continued to modernise its nuclear arsenal, with several new weapon systems fielded in recent years and several more under development to complement or replace existing nuclear-capable aircraft, land-based delivery sys-

tems, and sea-based systems.

"We estimate that India may have produced enough military plutonium for 140 to 225 nuclear warheads and might have assembled up to 190. With more weapons systems in development, the country's warhead stockpile will likely increase further," it said.

India adopted the no-first-use doctrine after the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998 and continues to adhere to the policy.

"India is committed to maintaining credible minimum deterrence and a posture of 'no first use' of nuclear weapons," the Government told Parliament recently.