ISRO's GSLV rocket places NVS-03 satellite successfully into orbit



A GSLV rocket carrying second-generation navigation satellite NVS-03 lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. (PTI)

■ By Jemima Raman

SRIHARIKOTA, Oct 31 (PTI)

INDIA'S independent regional navigation satellite system NavIC was restored to its minimum operational configuration of four satellites on Friday as ISRO successfully launched its navigation satellite NVS-03, which was placed into the designated injection orbit by a GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) rocket.

The second-generation navigation satellite NVS-03 with indigenous and procured atomic clocks has a wide array of applications including civilian use like real time tracking of trains, vehicles, and shipping vessels.

Further, the NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is an important component of the 'one nation, one time' project, ISRO chief V Narayanan said after the successful mission launch.

NavIC constellation restored

The NVS-03 satellite is all set to complement three other navigational satellites in operation including the NVS-01 and it will strengthen infrastructure for a robust IST with the Government recently notifying the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026. The nation's own satellite navigation system 'NaVIC,' is the Indian version of

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'To overcome technical hurdles, ISRO flew NVS-03 satellite with pyro valves open'

SRIHARIKOTA, Oct 31 (PTI)



V Narayanan

ISRO chief V Narayanan on Saturday said that in order to ensure mission reliability and bypass previous technical hurdles, the NVS-03 satellite was operated with "three pyro valves open".

Addressing the media at a post-launch press conference, Narayanan revealed that this bold technical decision was validated after rigorous vibration and shock testing by a national-level committee chaired by former ISRO chief Kiran Kumar.

Pyro valves are crucial in spacecraft propulsion, and it may be recalled that the NVS-02 (launched in 2025), the second spacecraft in the NVS series, was a failure.

A high-level panel, after thorough analysis, concluded that "the drive signal did not reach the pyro valve of the oxidiser line of the engine meant for orbit raising."

In February 2026, ISRO, quoting the panel, announced that the most

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PM congratulates scientists, engineers at ISRO on launch

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated scientists and engineers at ISRO on the successful launch of GSLV-F18 carrying NVS-03 and said the mission marks an important step in strengthening NavIC, the country's indigenous satellite navigation system.

Modi also said that equipped with enhanced capabilities, NVS-03 will further India's pursuit of self-reliance in critical technologies and support navigation services that benefit the people.

G20 Ministers head to end Atlanta meet without consensus

■ By Matthew Leeap
ATLANTA, Oct 31 (AP)

TOP diplomats from the Group of 20 largest world economies are wrapping up two days of talks in Atlanta on Saturday without reaching consensus on several critical global security issues after divisions, notably over Russia's war with Ukraine, overshadowed the start of the meeting.

As a result, the group will not release a joint communique but will rather rely on a chairman's statement summarising the talks, which Secretary of State Marco Rubio will release at the conclusion, according to diplomats who attended.

Rubio, who opened the talks with an appeal for unity, had canceled the traditional group photo of the foreign Ministers on Friday after European diplomats objected to the inclusion of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and threatened to boycott or walk out of the snapshot that often kicks off such gatherings. Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, who was representing his country for the first time as a guest at a G20 meeting, said Friday he was not surprised by the failure to reach consensus. "We have wars going on, and we have participants in those wars around the table, so it's very difficult to agree on a common line," he told reporters.

Other participants in the meetings, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the closed-door talks, said all had agreed to try to overcome their differences despite the long odds and to work to make next month's G20 leaders summit hosted by President Donald Trump in Florida a success.

Military solutions not working, give diplomacy a chance: Jaishankar at G20

■ By Sagar Kulkarni
WASHINGTON, Oct 31 (PTI)

INDIA on Friday said military solutions will not work in tackling global challenges and diplomacy must be given a chance to address such issues.

Addressing the first plenary session of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also flagged the issue of attacks on seafarers and stressed the need to preserve freedom of navigation and ensure cessation of attacks

(Contd on page 5)

Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit becomes 29th Chief of Air Staff

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (PTI)

AIR Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit -- an accomplished fighter pilot with over 3,500 flying hours across 20 aircraft types -- assumed charge as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff on Saturday, taking command as India actively works to boost its military capabilities amid complex regional security environment.

He succeeds Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, who retired from service after an illustrious 42-year career marked by his pivotal role in executing Operation Sindoor -- a mission that underscored the Indian Air Force's operational precision, combat capability, and strategic resolve.

"Beyond operational leadership, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh will be remembered for his deep and personal connect with air warriors across the length and breadth of the organisation," the IAF said in a statement, adding his interactions with personnel at the grassroots level reflected his conviction that the strength of the force rests in its people.

The IAF accorded a ceremonial guard of honour to Air Chief Marshal Singh at the Race Course Air Force Station before he handed over the baton to Dixit.



Outgoing Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh (L) hands over command to Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit (R), as Singh bids farewell in New Delhi. (PTI)

Air Chief Marshal Dixit, known for his strategic planning and who played a key role during Operation Sindoor, was serving as the Vice Chief of the force. As Chief of Air Staff, his focus is likely to be on modernisation of the force.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Dixit was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 6, 1986.

QUAD to step up cooperation in AI, critical minerals

■ By Sagar Kulkarni
WASHINGTON, Oct 31 (PTI)

FOREIGN Ministers of QUAD grouping on Saturday expressed their intent to provide technical assistance to expand access to trusted Artificial Intelligence (AI) across the Indo-Pacific even as the US committed to provide USD 10 million for recycling critical minerals in India and ASEAN countries.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta.

The Ministers also announced the first-ever QUAD Business Leaders' Forum to foster greater ties across public and private sectors, including the promotion of commercial deals in key sectors. The QUAD export credit agencies will meet in Tokyo on November 18 to identify opportunities for practical cooperation, further demonstrating the commitment to deepening economic cooperation.



(L to R) Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong pose for photographs in the QUAD Foreign Ministers Meeting in Atlanta on Saturday. (AP/PTI)

"The QUAD Ministers highlighted the importance of Artificial Intelligence and initiatives like Pax Silica to the future of economic growth and expressed their intent to provide over USD 85 million of technical and financial assistance to support access to trusted SI across the Indo-Pacific, including through the Quad AI Accelerator," a joint statement issued after the meeting said.

EAM holds meetings with Foreign Ministers from G20 nations

WASHINGTON, Oct 31 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met European Commission Vice President Kaja Kallas and discussed the Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia.

Jaishankar met Kallas, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Atlanta on Friday. "Discussed the Ukraine conflict and the Gulf situation with EU HRVP Kaja Kallas," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

Jaishankar also met his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand and assessed the steady growth in India-Canada cooperation. "Delighted to meet FM @AnitaAnandMP of Canada today. Assessed the steady growth of our cooperation," Jaishankar said in a post on X on Friday. He also met Anand and and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and discussed the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership.

Jaishankar also met foreign ministers of Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and Germany.

In his meeting with Argentina's Foreign Minister Pablo Quirno, he discussed trade, critical minerals, defence and nuclear cooperation, and multilateral issues. The Minister said his meeting with Mexico's Foreign Minister Roberto Velasco Alvarez was focused on giving a new impetus to bilateral relations. "A pleasure to sit down with FM Mauro Vieira of Brazil. Our conversation covered bilateral and global issues," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar also met German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

"Great to meet FM Johann Wadephul of Germany. Always look forward to my discussions with @AussenMinDE," he said.

INDIA BACKS POLAND'S G20 BID, SAYS POLISH MINISTER: POLAND has secured India's support for its bid to become a permanent G20 member and hopes to join during the US presidency, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said.

Responding to a question from IANS at a press conference, Sikorski said the United States had tabled a resolution proposing permanent membership for Poland. He said he had been lobbying colleagues to support the move and had sought India's backing.

US clears $2.1 bn sale of 500 Patriot missiles to Ukraine

WASHINGTON, Oct 31 (IANS)

THE US State Department has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to



Ukraine of 500 Patriot PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) interceptors and related equipment, at an estimated cost of $2.1 billion, with the purchase to be paid for by allies rather than Washington.

The Bureau of Political-Military Affairs announced the approval on Friday and said it had notified Congress.

AUSTRAHIND: India, Aus military interoperability on display



NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (IANS)

IN A step towards deepening India-Australia Defence cooperation, the military of both countries showcased enhanced interoperability and joint operational capabilities during a joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) training in coastal terrain as part of Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

During the exercise, the Indian Navy's INS Sharda and a Sea King helicopter, in coordination with the Indian and Australian armies, carried out a swift ship-to-shore troop insertion, demonstrating the seamless integration of land, sea and air capabilities. Sharing the details on Saturday, the Indian Navy's Southern Naval Command said, "During AUSTRAHIND 2026 at Thiruvananthapuram, Indian Navy's INS Sharda and Sea King helicopter, in close coordination with the Indian Army and Australian Army, executed a swift ship-to-shore troop insertion as part of joint HADR training in coastal terrain."

"The exercise showcased seamless integration of land, sea and air capabilities, reinforcing jointmanship, interoperability and operational readiness while strengthening India-Australia defence cooperation," it added.

Rupee should be India's 'first line of defence' against energy shock: IMF

WASHINGTON, Oct 31 (IANS)



THE International Monetary Fund has said the rupee should be India's "first line of defense" against the energy shock from the war in the Middle East, signalling a preference for exchange rate flexibility over heavy central bank intervention, even as it kept its 7 per cent growth forecast for the Indian economy.

Responding to a question at her regular press briefing in Washington on Thursday about the Reserve Bank of India's recent intervention to support the rupee, IMF Communications Director Julie Kozack said she was echoing the head of the Fund's Asia and Pacific Department, Krishna Srinivasan. "Given the ongoing energy shocks that India is confronting, like all countries, our view is that the rupee should be the first line of defense in the face of these shocks," Kozack said. "So, allowing the exchange rate to move freely to reflect the impact of these shocks is important to help the Indian economy adjust to these shocks," she said. Kozack said the Fund's advice would change if a weaker currency started to push up prices across the economy.

"If significant rupee depreciation leads to broad-based increases in inflation, then our advice would be that monetary policy tightening could be considered to preserve price stability," she said.

She did not rule out intervention altogether. "And more generally, foreign exchange intervention can be appropriate when market conditions become disorderly," Kozack said, adding that this would be consistent with the IMF's Integrated Policy Framework.

"But in the case of India, our view is that exchange rate flexibility remains the preferable policy response," she said.

On growth, Kozack described India as "really an engine of growth in the world economy."

"We do project growth in India at 7 pc both for FY 2026-2027 and FY 2027-2028," citing robust domestic demand and strong services activity. "So, India right now has quite a lot of growth momentum," she added.

Above-normal maximum temp likely over most parts of India in Nov: IMD

Below-normal maximum temperatures likely in regions along foothills of Himalayas

NEW DELHI, Oct 31 (PTI)

ABOVE-NORMAL maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of India in November, except for some regions along the foothills of the Himalayas where normal to below-normal maximum tempera-



tures are expected, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

It also stated that during the month, above-normal minimum temperatures are expected over most parts of the country, except in many parts of Central and eastern India where normal to below-normal minimum temperatures are likely. The IMD noted that in November, below-normal rainfall is likely over most parts of the country except for some areas in central, North-West, and North-East India, where normal to above-normal rainfall is likely. India as a whole is likely to witness 77 per cent of Long Period Average (LPA) rainfall during the month. LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given interval, such as a month or season, averaged over a long period, typically 30 to 50 years.

The LPA of rainfall over the country during the month of November, based on data from 1971 to 2020, is about 29.7 mm.

New cyclonic storm brewing over Bay of Bengal: IMD

BHUBANESWAR, Oct 31 (PTI)

A DEPRESSION over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Narsapur on the morning of November 3, the IMD said on Saturday.

The system is expected to bring wind speeds of 100-110 kmph, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said. The development comes days after severe cyclonic storm Arnab hit Andhra Pradesh and Odisha on October 28.