

GSAT-29 Launch - GSLV Mk III D2

Why in news?

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ISRO successfully launched GSAT-29 communication satellite on board GSLV-Mk III D2 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.

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What are the key features of GSAT-29?

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- With a mission life of 10 years, GSAT-29 is the 33rd communication satellite built by ISRO.

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- GSAT-29 is a multi-beam, multiband communication satellite.

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- Its payloads are designed to mainly focus on connectivity to the users in the hilly and geographically inaccessible areas.

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- Weighing 3,423 kg at lift-off, GSAT-29 is the heaviest satellite to be launched from India.

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- It will be placed in a geostationary transfer orbit.

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- At its closest point it will be 190 km above the Earth, and at its farthest it will be close to 36,000 km above the Earth.

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- GSAT-29 also carries a Geo High-Resolution Camera to aid in high-resolution imaging.

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- For the first time, an optical communication payload will be utilised for data transmission at a very high rate.

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- ISRO's Master Control facility at Hassan, Karnataka takes over the command and control of GSAT-29 soon after its separation from GSLV Mk III - D2.

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- It will be manoeuvred into a geostationary orbit, its final destination, in days.

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- Once placed, the satellite's solar panels and antennae will unfold and work will begin.

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Sky is the limit

The Satellite

- GSAT-29 is a 3,500 kg communication satellite for high quality Internet services
- It was built at an estimated cost of ₹360 crore with a lifespan of 10 years
- Will provide or augment digital communication in remote Village Resource Centres

A portion of the GSLV-MkIII-D2 being transported. ■ PHOTO: ISRO

The Launcher

- GSLV-MkIII-D2 is the second test flight of the heavy lift vehicle carrying the satellite
- D2's success will regularise the launch vehicle's services & ease dependence on foreign service providers

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- **GSLV MK III** - The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle, weighing 640 tonnes.

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- The first stage has two boosters with solid propellant, and the second is the core with liquid propellant.

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- The cryogenic engine forms the final stage.

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- The GSLV Mk III is the heaviest launch vehicle made in India.

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What is the significance?

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- The GSLV-GSAT launch enhances India's capacity to meet its communication needs.

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- Both launcher and satellite have certain characteristics that make them unique.

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- The launcher can carry payloads up to 4 tonnes to the geosynchronous transfer orbit and up to 10 tonnes to a low-earth orbit.

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- The launch shows that ISRO has developed the capability to lift four-tonne payloads using its new GSLV Mark -III rocket.

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- The GSLV-III is also likely to be used in the Chandrayaan-II mission in the early months of 2019.

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- The multi-band, multi-beam satellite can cater to the communication needs of people in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast.

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- **GSLV MK III** - The first successful experimental flight of the GSLV Mk III was in 2014 when it carried a dummy crew module as a payload.

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- Its first developmental flight was on June 5, 2017, when it launched GSAT19, weighing 3,136 kg.

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- The present launch marked the second developmental flight (D2) of the Mk III.

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- With these two successes, the developmental phase of the GSLV Mk III vehicle programme will be complete.

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- The launcher is declared 'operational' and joins the ranks of the working vehicles, the PSLV and the GSLV.

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- This is far fewer than the number of developmental flights the older launch vehicles were subjected to.

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- It sets the stage for trying out variations such as other types of engines, different fuel combinations and higher launch capacities.

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- The GSLV Mk III has also restored morale at ISRO, which had been dented by the [GSAT 6A setback](#).

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| Historic Launchers | Operational Launchers | Future Launchers |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV – 3)• Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)• Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)• Sounding Rockets• Small Satellite Launch Vehicle | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reusable Launch Vehicle – Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD) |

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Source: The Hindu, Business Standard

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