

ISRO's GSLV rocket places navigation satellite into orbit

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Monday successfully placed the NVS-01 navigation satellite, weighing about 2,232 kg, into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), which placed the satellite, lifted off with a thunderous roar precisely at 10.42 a.m. from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.

"After a flight of about 19 minutes, the NVS-01 satellite was injected precisely into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. Subsequent orbit-raising manoeuvres will take NVS-01 into the intended Geosynchronous orbit," ISRO said.

Talking from the control room ISRO Chairman S. Somanath congratulated the team responsible and said GSLV has placed the satel-

lite in the precise orbit. He said, "this mission happened after the debacle during the F10 mission where there was an issue in the cryogenic stage. I'm very happy about the corrections and modifications that we have done and the lessons that we learnt to make our cryogenic stage more reliable."

He also mentioned that NVS-01 is the first in the series of five satellites.

According to details provided by ISRO, the GSLV-F12 is the 15th flight of India's GSLV and the 9th flight with indigenous cryo stage. This is the 6th operational flight of GSLV with an indigenous cryogenic stage. The NVS-01 carried navigation payloads L1, L5 and S bands. Interestingly, for the first time, an indigenous atomic clock was flown in NVS-01.

Mr. Somanath said that ISRO will have to complete the navigation satellite constellation by launching four more NVS series satellites.

T.N., Japanese firms sign six MoUs worth ₹818 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Six memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were signed between Guidance Tamil Nadu and Japanese companies towards investments to the tune of ₹818.9 crore in the State. The MoUs were signed in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Tokyo on Monday.

Manufacturing plant

An MoU was signed between Guidance Tamil Nadu (the State's nodal agency for investment promotion and single window facilitation) and Kyo-Kuto Satrac, with an investment of ₹113.90 crore, for the establishment of a 13-acre plant at Mambakkam in Kancheepuram district to manufacture trailers and trucks, an official release said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

T.N., Japanese firms sign 6 MoUs worth ₹818.9 cr.



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and officials of Guidance Tamil Nadu and Japanese companies at the MoU-signing event on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The MoU with Mitsuba, entailing an investment of ₹155 crore, was to expand its plant at SIPCOT Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur district, which is involved in the manufacture of spare parts for two- and four-wheelers. The one signed with Shimizu Corporation was to promote construction, civil engineering and allied industries in Tamil Nadu.

Kohyei signed an MoU for building a plant at an investment of ₹200 crore that will manufacture polycarbonate sheets - components used in roof structures and extrusion lines for electronic components - for use in the construction industry.

Sato-Shoji Metal Works will invest ₹200 crore to set up a plant to manufacture high-quality steel components used in the space, defence and construction industries. Tofle will invest ₹150 crore to set up a plant to manufacture stainless steel specialised flexible hoses that are used in steel plants and solar and semiconductor industries.

Earlier, Mr. Stalin urged Japanese industrialists to expand their investments in Tamil Nadu and invest in infrastructure development projects in the State, which could complement their projects in the manufacturing sector. Speaking at an Investment Conclave organised jointly with the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) in Tokyo, he said most of the investments from Japan were primarily in the manufacturing sector.

The Tamil Nadu government was setting up various industrial parks, he said, and invited investments on that front as well. He appealed to investors to establish head offices in Tamil Nadu while setting up factories in the State.

Highlighting 'Naan Mudhalvan' - a skill development programme for school and college students, and the Tamil Nadu government's intention to promote all industrial activities in the State, Mr. Stalin called upon investors to capitalise on these two factors.

Ayush doctors cannot be allowed to perform ultrasound techniques on pregnant women, says Madras High Court

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has held that degree-holders in Indian systems of medicine such as ayurveda, unani, homeopathy, siddha and naturopathy are not entitled to carry out ultrasonogram or ultrasound techniques and related diagnostic procedures on pregnant women.

Justice S.M. Subramaniam rejected the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine's

stand that the syllabus of BAMS, BUMS and BSMS courses covers the basics of ECG, USG, X-ray, CT scan, and MRI, and therefore, those graduates could practice ultrasonogram techniques.

Holding that only those authorised under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, could perform ultrasonograms and ultrasound techniques, the judge said that graduates in Indian systems of medicine do not figure on



Only those authorised under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, could perform ultrasonograms and ultrasound techniques, HC said.

the list. "Basic knowledge of ECG, USG, X-ray, CT scan, and MRI taught in the (AYUSH) colleges would be insufficient and cannot be construed as a prescribed qualification within the meaning of the

1994 special central enactment and the rules framed under it in 1996," he observed.

The court gave the ruling while dismissing three writ petitions of the Tamil Nadu Ayush Sonologist Association, pending since 2017.

The association claimed that all its members had undergone a certificate course in ultrasonography after completing their degrees.

It sought to restrain the authorities from suspending the registration of any

genetic counselling centre, genetic laboratory, genetic clinic or hospital that permits its members to perform ultrasonogram techniques on pregnant women without violating the sex determination law.

The association also sought a declaration that degree-holders in Indian systems of medicine were fully qualified to carry out the technique if they had completed the certificate course in ultrasonogram. However, the judge rejected their plea by citing the provisions of the 1994 Act.

Northeast gets its first Vande Bharat Express



All aboard: Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma flagging off the train. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off northeast region's first Vande Bharat Express virtually on Monday. The train will connect Guwahati in Assam with New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal and the journey will take five-and-a-half hours. Earlier, the fastest train on the route took 6.5 hours to cover the distance of nearly 400 km.

Mr. Modi also dedicated 182 route km of newly elec-

trified sections to the nation. Now, 425 km of railway tracks in Assam and Meghalaya have been electrified. This will help provide pollution-free transportation at higher speeds and less running time.

Mr. Modi said that prior to 2014, the average Railway budget for the northeast was about ₹2,500 crore, which has grown to more ₹10,000 crore in the current year, which is a four-fold increase. "Now, the capitals of Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Megh-

alaya and Sikkim are being connected to the rest of the country. Very soon, all capital cities of the northeast are going to be connected by a broad gauge network," he said.

Mr. Modi said the Guwahati-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat train will strengthen the centuries-old ties between Assam and West Bengal. This will increase ease of travel and bring huge benefits to students as well as generate more job opportunities through tourism and business.

Symbols, substance

Religious rituals at the opening of new Parliament building defied propriety

The inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday was true to a style he has mastered: using every occasion to advance a form of politics that many of his critics find problematic. Mr. Modi presented the aesthetics of the new building as a representation of India's myriad diversity, its rich cultural heritage and its soaring aspirations. A multi-religious prayer was a part of the ceremony, but there was no mistaking that Hindu ritualism overshadowed all else. By weaving an artful tale around a *Sengol*, a sceptre gifted to the first Prime Minister of India by a Shaivite sect of Tamil Nadu, the current dispensation has sought to reimagine the founding principles of India's republican sovereignty. A *Sengol* symbolised divine right and is now installed in the Assembly of people's representatives. The symbolism strengthens Tamil Nadu's connection to the political centre of India, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is trying to make political gains from it. It is also notable that the day of the inauguration was also the birth anniversary of V.D. Savarkar, the founding father of Hindutva. A quest to transition Indian republicanism to a new iteration was apparent in the style and substance of the ceremony.

The new building also turns the spotlight, tangentially, on an approaching challenge of representation that will be upon India within the next decade. A nationwide delimitation will reallocate representation as per the current population, leading to a significant, relative reduction of the voice of linguistic minorities of the southern States in Parliament. The size of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha will likely expand in order to avoid an absolute reduction of representation of States that have stabilised their populations. But that may not be enough to assuage the feeling of disenfranchisement that is already palpable among many regions due to the geographical fragmentation of Indian politics. The BJP wins its parliamentary majority from its strongholds while many States remain outside its sphere of influence. On 38% of popular votes, the BJP has 55% of Lok Sabha seats currently. This imbalance will be aggravated after the delimitation. The BJP's outreach to regions and communities outside of its current catchment areas is to be welcomed. But the Centre and the BJP will have to show more seriousness, sensitivity and maturity to deal with the regional imbalances of India. For this, they will need to take recourse to more than just symbolism.



Girish Chandra Murmu

CAG voted in as WHO auditor for a second term

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has been re-elected as the External Auditor of the World Health Organization (WHO) for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027.

The CAG is already holding this position in the WHO since 2019 for a four-year term from 2019 to 2023.

The re-election was held on Monday in the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva, where the CAG of India was re-elected with an overwhelming majority (114 out of 156 votes) in the first round of voting itself.

The CAG is a member of the United Nations Panel of External Auditors.

EVA STALIN IAS ACADEMY - BEST IAS COACHING IN CHENNAI

12/24, Muthurangan Muthali St, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045

<https://www.evastaliniiasacademy.in/>

Contact Number - +91-8678969915, +91-9940332851



Srivastava sworn in as Central Vigilance Commissioner

Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava ((first from left in picture) was sworn in by President Droupadi Murmu as the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar attended the ceremony. Since December last year, Mr. Srivastava had been working as the acting CVC following the completion of his predecessor Suresh N. Patel's tenure. Mr. Srivastava had retired as Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat, on January 31, 2022. During his tenure with the government, he assisted in negotiations under the WTO as Director in the Department of Commerce.

EVA STALIN IAS ACADEMY - BEST IAS COACHING IN CHENNAI

12/24, Muthurangan Muthali St, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045

<https://www.evastaliniiasacademy.in/>

Contact Number - +91-8678969915, +91-9940332851

Triple jumper Selva Prabhu breaks National junior record

ATHLETICS ROUND-UP

Sports Bureau

Triple jumper T. Selva Prabhu broke Arpinder Singh's 12-year-old National junior record while winning gold at the Venizelia-Chania international meet, a World Athletics Continental Tour-Bronze event, at Chania on Sunday.

The 18-year-old produced a personal best 16.78m (Arpinder's OR 16.63, 2011) which carried him to the second rung in this year's u-20 world list.

Sable 10th in Rabat

National record-holder Avinash Sable finished 10th in the 3000m steeplechase in the Diamond League in Ra-



New mark: Prabhu came up with a 16.78m effort on way to gold.

bat on Sunday in 8:17.18s.

Amlan clocks 10.55

In the Netherlands, Amlan Borgohain timed 10.55s in the men's 100m heats at the T-Meeting in Tilburg on Monday and qualified for the final. Jyothi Yarraji also made the final after clocking 11.76s in the 100m

heats. However, both did not run the final. P. Muhammed Afsal was third overall after the men's 400m heats with 48.43s.

National 1500m record-holder Harmilan Bains was second in the women's 800m 'B' final with 2.04.36s in British Milers Club GP in Manchester.

The lack of teachers in higher education

Why are faculty shortages a problem? What are the two main obstacles which stand in the way of finding viable solutions to faculty shortages? Is the lack of educators really a quantitative problem or does it go beyond that?

EXPLAINER

Pushkar

Faculty shortages have existed in India's higher education sector at least since the 1980s, but seem to have become permanent today. The paucity of a sufficient number of faculty members undermines the growth of the country's knowledge sector and hinders its aspiration to be recognised as a "vishva guru". Colleges and universities need a sufficient number of teachers and researchers to create and disseminate knowledge. There are two main obstacles to finding viable solutions to faculty shortages. The first is a lack of reliable data on current faculty resources in colleges and universities and the second is the partial understanding of faculty shortages as merely a quantitative issue.

Why is there no reliable data on faculty shortages?

In 2009, the (erstwhile) Ministry of Human Resource Development set up a task force to look into the problem. Its 2011 report titled 'Report of the Task Force On Faculty Shortage and Design of Performance Appraisal System', made a damning observation - "the fact that there is a huge shortage of teaching staff or faculty in the higher education system in India is not a surprise. What is, however, surprising is that this perception is not substantiated by factual data. There is no standing mechanism to collect this information regularly."

The report called for a standing mechanism to monitor the size and quality of faculty resources and for data on faculty members to be made available on the website of every academic institution. More than a decade later, little has changed. Most academic institutions have messy and incomplete websites containing only partial information about their faculty bodies.

While the government does collect



The Faculty of Arts in Delhi University, in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

data on colleges and universities, including the number of faculty members, for the annual All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE); this is a voluntary process for various institutions. The responsibility for the accuracy of the data rests with the institution, meaning the information provided is not verified by any independent agency. Another problem is that there is often widespread use of adjunct faculty members and even 'ghost' members by colleges and universities. Adjunct or part-time faculty members are often counted as part of the regular faculty to show off a favourable teacher-student ratio. Therefore, it has become impossible to get a reliable estimate of faculty resources.

Are shortages a quantitative issue?

Stakeholders often misunderstand faculty

shortages to be a quantitative issue. The nature and scope of the shortage is actually more complex. In fact, it is possible to identify six types of shortages, each with a different (but sometimes also overlapping) set of remedial measures.

The first kind is related to the fact that the number of faculty members varies across disciplines, institutions and locations. There may even be an oversupply in some disciplines or locations and an acute shortage in others. The challenge here is to first achieve some kind of balance between demand and supply in specific disciplines, which could help plug the shortages at different institutions and/or locations. The second kind of shortage is one that many public institutions face - the inability to hire faculty despite a desperate need for them. The reasons for this are financial and

affect nearly all State universities. Most of them, and their constituent colleges, are grossly underfunded. Despite a large increase in the number of students, State governments have not created or sanctioned new positions. And even when such positions exist, they are kept vacant due to a lack of funds.

The third kind of shortage exists due to the unwillingness of institutions to hire faculty members. This is common in many private colleges whose primary purpose is profit-seeking. The owners and administrators at these institutions prefer to make do with less. They also hire less qualified people in poorly paid part-time positions instead of better qualified regular faculty members, to keep costs down. The fourth kind of shortage, common to all public institutions, is due to the reservations for members of Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe groups. Reservations reduce the pool of qualified people, sometimes severely. One result is that faculty positions remain vacant due to the unavailability of qualified applicants. However, in many cases, positions remain vacant due to caste-based discrimination.

The fifth kind is due to an unwillingness among faculty members to work at select institutions due to their unfavourable location and/or the working and living conditions they present. And finally, faculty shortages are also of a qualitative kind where actual shortages may not exist, say, in terms of the number of applicants with PhDs but due to just a few candidates being really qualified for the corresponding position. This requires us to improve the quality of PhD programmes at Indian universities.

The six types of faculty shortages identified here are not necessarily mutually exclusive. However, they do indicate that a shortage is not about the numbers alone, and that any attempt at addressing it will require a nuanced set of policies.

Pushkar is director, The International Centre Goa (Dona Paula). Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

▼ Faculty shortages have existed in India's higher education sector at least since the 1980s, but seem to have become permanent today. The paucity of a sufficient number of faculty members undermines the growth of the country's knowledge sector and hinders its aspiration to be recognised as a "vishva guru".

▼ While the government does collect data on colleges and universities, including the number of faculty members, for the annual All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE), this is a voluntary process for various institutions. The information provided is not verified by any independent agency.

▼ Stakeholders often misunderstand faculty shortages to be a quantitative issue. The nature and scope of the shortage is actually more complex.