

GSAT-30 GIVES INDIA A COMMUNICATION BOOST

Relevant for: Science & Technology | Topic: Space Technology & related matters

Flying high: An Ariane 5 rocket carrying satellites, Eutelsat Konnect and GSAT-30, at Kourou in French Guiana. AFP

The nation's latest communication satellite, GSAT-30, was launched into space from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou at 2:35 a.m. IST on Friday.

The 3,357-kg satellite will replace INSAT-4A which was launched in 2005 and marks the first mission of the year for Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The high-power satellite is equipped with 12 normal C band and 12 Ku band transponders.

ISRO quoted its Chairman K. Sivan as saying, "GSAT-30 will provide DTH [direct to home] television services, connectivity to VSATs [that support working of banks] ATMs, stock exchange, television uplinking and teleport services, digital satellite news gathering and e-governance applications. The satellite will also be used for bulk data transfer."

ISRO opted for a foreign launch as the GSAT-30 is much heavier than the 2,000-kg lifting capacity of its geostationary launch vehicle GSLV-MkII.

While the newer and more powerful GSLV-MkIII that can lift up to 4,000 kg, the space agency plans to save the two or three upcoming MkIIIs for its first human space flight Gaganyaan of 2022 and two preceding crew-less trials, Dr. Sivan recently said.

The first Indian crew-less test flight is planned for later this year.

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