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Gaganyaan abort test demo likely on Oct 25

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NEW DELHI: The test flight to demonstrate the abort capabilities for Gaganyaan is expected around October 25, senior officials from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said, putting a date to an event that will take India one step closer to its ambitious first human spaceflight mission.

A senior official from Indian space agency said the abort capability demonstration can be expected later this month, if "all goes per plan".

"... mission preparation is going as per plan. We are targeting for the abort test demonstration to happen around October 25. After that is achieved, we will go ahead with preparations of the uncrewed mission," the official added.

The Gaganyaan project aims to show ISRO's human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400km for a three-day mission and bringing them back safely.

"The prerequisites for Gaganyaan mission include development of many critical technologies including human rated launch vehicle for carrying crew safely to space, life support sys-

THE GAGANYAAN
AIMS TO SHOW
ISRO'S HUMAN
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CAPABILITY

tem to provide an earth like environment... crew emergency escape provision and evolving crew management aspects for training..." ISRO said in its mission document.

Demonstrator missions ahead of the human spaceflight mission include integrated air drop test, pad abort test and test vehicle flights — all of which are expected to be scheduled before the first quarter of 2024. Astronauts who have been chosen for the mission are undergoing training at various ISRO facilities. Early this week, the Indian Air Force released the first-look images of these astronauts, who will be called 'Gaganauts', without revealing their identities.

Meanwhile Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre director S Unnikrishnan Nair said the work around Gaganyaan is progressing at a promising rate. "All vehicle systems have reached Sriharikota for the final assembly," he said.