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{ 100TH SATELLITE LAUNCH } 'SYSTEMS REMAIN HEALTHY'

Hitch for Isro mission, but Plan B in the works



Isro's GSLV-F15 lifted off from Sriharikota on January 29. ISRO

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MUMBAI: The Indian Space Research Organisation's (Isro) 100th satellite launch has encountered a technical setback four days after liftoff from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Isro said in a statement on Sunday that while the satellite's solar panels were successfully

deployed with nominal power generation and ground station communication was established, a crucial orbital maneuver could not be executed.

"The orbit raising operations towards positioning the satellite to the designated orbital slot could not be carried out as the valves for admitting the oxidizer to fire the thrusters for orbit raising did not open," the state-

ment read.

The space agency said the satellite systems remain healthy, though the spacecraft continues in an elliptical orbit. "Alternate mission strategies for utilising the satellite for navigation in an elliptical orbit is being worked out."

The NVS-02 navigation satellite was launched aboard GSLV-

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ISRO LAUNCH

F15 on January 29 at 6.23am, marking Isro's historic 100th launch from its Sriharikota facility. The launch was the eighth operational flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle with an indigenous cryogenic stage.

The launch was particularly significant as it was the first under Isro's new chairman V Narayanan, who took office on January 16, 2025. During the launch, Narayanan had termed it "a very significant milestone of India."

The satellite is part of the NavIC constellation, designed to aid terrestrial, aerial and maritime navigation and precision agriculture. During the launch, the satellite was successfully injected into the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit, with all launch vehicle stages performing as planned.