

Isro plans launch of first Gaganyaan mission by Dec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sriharikota, 16 August

Isro has targeted to launch the first mission of the ambitious Gaganyaan project by December, a top official said in Sriharikota on Friday. Currently, some of the rocket hardware for the human space programme has reached the Satish Dhawan Space Centre and the integration of the crew module was going on at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum, Isro Chairman S Somanath said.

“Today, we are working on the first mission of the Gaganyaan called G1. The first unmanned mission. The status today is the rocket, the S200 stage, the L1, C32 stage are all at Satish Dhawan Space Centre,” he said.

He said the Crew Module integration was going on at VSSC Trivandrum while Crew Escape hardware was also ready. “So, we have to complete with full wiring and test-

ing should be done. Our target is by November the whole system will reach here, possibly by December launch will happen,” he said, responding to a query.

To a query about the requirement for industries to partner with the ISRO for taking up commercial launch of LV missions, Somanath said a day-long meeting was recently held with the industry.

“I am hoping that the first technology transfer will happen in India between ISRO and industry. The Request for Interest (RFI) was released and as a single (entity) or as consortia, a company can show interest on the technology transfer (from ISRO) and what were the expectations from ISRO and how to qualify for such missions,” he said.

From the interactions held with the industry it emerged there was a huge amount of interest for them to learn about space, he added.