



## India's Satellite Launch by SpaceX

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Recently, India's [GSAT-N2 \(GSAT-20\) communication satellite](#) was successfully launched by **SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket** from Cape Canaveral, Florida, US.

- Falcon-9 launched the GSAT-N2 into a [geosynchronous transfer orbit \(GTO\)](#), an **elliptical orbit** with an altitude of **around 37,000 km**, which is the first step toward reaching a [geosynchronous or geostationary orbit \(GSO\)](#).
  - The spacecraft **circularises the GTO orbit** by turning parallel to the **equator** at apoapsis and **firing** its rocket engine to reach **GSO**.
    - **Apoapsis** is the point in an orbit when an **object is farthest away** from the body it is orbiting.
- This is **India's first collaboration** with Elon Musk's SpaceX.
- The satellite belongs to [NewSpace India Limited \(NSIL\)](#), which is the **commercial arm of ISRO**.
  - NSIL has been mandated to **build, launch, own and operate** satellites in "**demand-driven mode**" to meet service needs of the user.
- The GSAT-N2 is the **2<sup>nd</sup> demand-driven satellite** of NSIL. Its first demand-driven satellite was [GSAT-24](#) launched in **June 2022**.

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