

Title: The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office made a statement regarding successful launch of India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle – C8 (PSLV-C8) on April 23, 2007.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I am happy to inform this august House about the launch of India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C8 on Monday, April 23, 2007 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. This mission launched the AGILE satellite of the Italian Space Agency and an Advanced Avionics Module (AAM) of ISRO.

This is the first time that a PSLV Mission has carried and placed in orbit a commercial primary satellite belonging to an international party. Along with the Italian satellite, the PSLV-C8 also carried the AAM module consisting of next generation avionic packages. The current PSLV-C8, without the use of six solid strap on motors, is the first flight of the PSLV with such a configuration and has been developed so as to provide for lower satellite launch mass requirements, in a cost effective manner.

PSLV has emerged as the workhorse launch vehicle of ISRO with ten consecutively successful flights so far. This PSLV-C8 mission has demonstrated its reliability and versatility to launch satellites in various types of orbits as well as to carry out multiple satellite missions.

I am sure this House will join me in congratulating the entire ISRO team involved in the realization and management of this mission.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure the hon. Minister will convey the feelings, the great appreciation and pride that this House has for the achievement of our scientists. We compliment them on behalf of the House. I am sure all sides of the House will join me in thanking them.

*Placed in Library, See No. LT 6249/07.