Glitch in Mars ops but mission ‘safe’

Bengaluru: Indian Space Research Organisation on Monday failed to fully meet the objective of the fourth orbit-raising operation conducted on Mars Orbiter Spacecraft as flow to the liquid engine stopped, but alleviated apprehensions over the ambitious venture to the Red Planet.

This manoeuvre planned to raise the apoapsis (farthest point to Earth) from 71,623 km to one lakh km but could only achieve 78,276 km on the back of an incremental velocity of 35 metres/second as against originally planned 150 metres/second.

"The spacecraft is in normal health. There is no problem at all in the system. Mars mission is 100 per cent safe," an ISRO spokesperson said after the operation raised an alarm.

Bangalore-headquartered ISRO has now planned a supplementary orbit-raising operation tomorrow at 0900 hrs IST to raise the apoapsis to nearly one lakh km. During the fourth orbit-raising operations, the redundancies built-in for the propulsion system were exercised - energising the primary and redundant coils of the solenoid flow control valve of 440 Newton Liquid Engine, and logic for thrust augmentation by the attitude control thrusters, when needed.

"However, when both primary and redundant coils were energised together, as one of the planned modes, the flow to the Liquid Engine stopped. The thrust level augmentation logic, as expected, came in and the operation continued using the attitude control thrusters. This sequence resulted in reduction of the incremental velocity", ISRO said.

While this parallel mode of operating the two coils is not possible for subsequent operations, they could be operated independently in sequence", according to the space agency.

During the orbit-raising operations conducted since November seven, ISRO has been testing the autonomy functions progressively that are essential for Trans Mars Injection (TMI).

SC dismisses petition to construct mosque wall

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition seeking its direction for construction of a wall of a mosque which was demolished in a Greater Noida village allegedly on the direction of then SDM Dhruv Sakhil Nagpal.

A bench headed by Justice H L Dattu slammed the petitioner NGO Sanskar Trust for filing a PIL for construction of wall and refused to entertain the plea.

The bench said that heavy cost be imposed on the petitioner for misusing the concept of PIL but refrained from imposing any fine after the NGO contended that it had filed the PIL for the first time in the court.

The petitioner contended that the state government has not taken any step for construction of wall that was demolished and pleaded that the state authority be directed to construct it.