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Anil Menon, Indian-origin NASA Astronaut, Embarks on ISS Mission

Anil Menon, NASA's first astronaut of Malayali origin, is set to begin an eight-month mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

Anil Menon is an Indian-origin NASA astronaut and flight surgeon, selected for space missions and groundbreaking research.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Anil Menon** is the first **NASA astronaut** of **Malayali origin**.
- He is scheduled to begin an **eight-month** mission to the **International Space Station** (**ISS**).
- The mission will launch from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in **Kazakhstan**.
- **Anil Menon** will be accompanied by **two Russian cosmonauts**.
- The **spacecraft** for this mission is the **Roscosmos Soyuz MS-29**.
- The press conference ahead of the expedition to **ISS** was held on **July 13, 2026**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

NASA stands for **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**, established in **1958**.

The **International Space Station** (**ISS**) is a habitable artificial satellite in **low Earth orbit**.

The **ISS** is a joint project involving **five space agencies**: **NASA**, **Roscosmos**, **JAXA**, **ESA**, and **CSA**.

The **Soyuz program**, including the Soyuz spacecraft, was developed by the **Soviet Union** and is now operated by **Roscosmos**.

The **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in **Kazakhstan** is the world's first and **largest operational space launch facility**.

Notable **Indian-origin astronauts** include **Kalpana Chawla**, **Sunita Williams**, Raja Chari, and Sirisha Bandla.

India's first **human spaceflight program**, **Gaganyaan**, is being developed by **ISRO**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Anil Menon, first Malayali-origin NASA astronaut, begins 8-month ISS mission from Kazakhstan.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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