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Gaganyaan astronauts may use Russian-made spacesuits, docs show

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NEW DELHI: The Indian astronauts who will be travelling to space on the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Gaganyaan spacecraft will likely wear Russian-made spacesuits, despite speculation that the indigenously made Intra Vehicular Activity (IVA) suits may be used.

Documents reviewed by HT show that while the space agency has nearly completed work on its IVA suits, developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space, the Gaganyaan mission—which is India's first manned spaceflight—will see ISRO sticking to Plan A of suiting up the three Indian astronauts in Russian space suits.

"Considering the programmatic requirements and to doubly ensure the crew safety, it is planned to induct Russian space suits for the (Gaganyaan) mission," one of the documents said.

ISRO chairman S Somanath said earlier this month that 2024 will be the "year for Gaganyaan". The coming months will see several rounds of tests and technology demonstration for the mission, which

WHILE ISRO HAS NEARLY FINISHED WORK ON ITS IVA SUITS, IT WILL STICK TO PLAN A OF SUITING UP THE THREE ASTRONAUTS IN RUSSIAN SPACE-SUIT, DOCS SHOW

aims to demonstrate ISRO's human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400km for a three-day mission and bringing them back safely.

"On September 3, Indian cosmonauts who have been training for a spaceflight in Russia under the contract of Glavkosmos, visited Zvezda, where their anthropometric parameters were measured for the subsequent production of spacesuits," Glavkosmos, a subsidiary of the Roscosmos, the Russian space agency said in a statement last year.

ISRO scientists that HT spoke to, however, said that this was not a confirmation that the final choice would definitely be the Russian-made suits.