Indian-origin NASA astronaut Anil Menon completes his 4th spacewalk at the International Space Station

International, Science, Technology & Indices · 30 October 2026 · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/30



News

Indian-origin NASA astronaut Anil Menon, with Joshua Kutryk of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), completed a 7-hour 11-minute spacewalk (EVA) at the International Space Station (ISS) on 29 Oct 2026 (US time; early hours of 30 Oct IST), installing the station's 7th IROSA (roll-out solar array); the 8th and final one is planned for a 5 Nov spacewalk. It was Menon's 4th career spacewalk; he has now logged 26 h 31 min of spacewalking on this mission. It was the 100th US spacewalk from the ISS without a Space Shuttle docked, and Kutryk's first. Menon reached the ISS on 14 July 2026 aboard Russia's 'Soyuz MS-29' from Baikonur, Kazakhstan.

Key facts

Spacewalk	29 Oct 2026 – 7 h 11 min; Menon's 4th; installed 7th IROSA solar array
Partner	Joshua Kutryk (Canada, CSA) – his first
Mission	Soyuz MS-29 – 14 July 2026, Baikonur (Kazakhstan); with Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina (Russia); Expeditions 74/75
Anil Menon	Born Minneapolis (USA); father of Kerala roots, mother Ukrainian; physician; NASA class of 2021; former SpaceX flight surgeon

Comparison	Sunita Williams – 9 spacewalks, 62 h 6 min (most among Indian-origin astronauts)
Wife	Anna Menon – SpaceX engineer; flew 'Polaris Dawn' (2024)

Background

- India in space: Rakesh Sharma – first Indian in space; flew Soviet 'Soyuz T-11' to the 'Salyut 7' station on 3 Apr 1984 (Interkosmos programme). Asked by Indira Gandhi how India looked, he replied 'Saare Jahan Se Achha'.
- Indian-origin astronauts: Kalpana Chawla (Karnal, Haryana) – first India-born woman in space; STS-87 Columbia (1997); died in the Columbia disaster (STS-107) on 1 Feb 2003. Sunita Williams – 9 spacewalks. Raja Chari – NASA astronaut (father from Telangana).
- Axiom-4 (Ax-4): Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla lifted off on 25 June 2025 on SpaceX Falcon 9 / Dragon and became the first Indian to visit the ISS – the second Indian in space, 41 years after Rakesh Sharma.
- Gaganyaan: India's human spaceflight programme (ISRO). On 27 Feb 2024 at VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram, four astronaut-designates were named – Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap and Shubhanshu Shukla (all IAF).
- Science: a spacewalk (EVA – Extra-Vehicular Activity) is work done outside a spacecraft in a pressurised suit. The first spacewalk was by Alexei Leonov (USSR) on 18 Mar 1965.

Tamil Nadu link: human-rating tests of Gaganyaan engines are done at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tirunelveli district.

Shanmugam IAS Academy – your next step

- **Courses:** TNPSC Group 1, 2 / 2A (Prelims + Mains), Group 4, UPSC / IAS – Coimbatore · Madurai · Online – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/fees
- **Books (PDF):** TNPSC PYQ books, UPSC books – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/study-materials
- **Free quiz + daily PDFs:** https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · All news of this day: https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/30

Admissions – call / WhatsApp: 99941 46662 · 99944 27714 · www.shanmugamiasacademy.in