

Countdown to first Mars mission begins

NEWS NETWORK

on Sunday the final
-a-half-hour count-



down for the
much-
awaited
launch of
the Mars Or-
biter Mis-
sion (MOM)
kicked off.

The Rs
450-crore
Mars mis-

ion has attracted world-
est, is slated for lift off
on November 5 from
Chandrabhanu Space
Complex in Andhra

Pradesh. On
November 1, Isro's
authorization board had
given the final green signal for
the launch of the MOM. This
was followed by the flawless launch
on October 31. With
only a few days left for the lift off,
the mission on Sunday received a
blessing from the Red
Empire. The launch will be tele-
cast live from 2pm on
November 5. P 5

By August, CCTVs to keep an eye on the city

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Closed Circuit TV cameras will come up across Pune by August next year, said Vineet Agarwal, secretary, home department.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Agarwal said the Rs 224.31 crore contract for setting up 1,285 cameras and maintaining them for five years had been awarded to M/s Allied Digital Services Ltd.

Besides the police commissioner's office and that of the deputy commissioner of police, every police station will be able to view visuals of cameras put up in their jurisdiction. The data will be stored in a data centre near Pune. The software will enable photographing of the number plate of every car that passes the CCTVs. The footage will then be given a serial number and stored.

"This will help the police know which vehicles have



Besides the police commissioner's office and that of the deputy commissioner of police, every police station will be able to view visuals of cameras put up in their jurisdiction

passed through the city," said Agarwal.

Mumbai will have to wait longer for its CCTV cover. Agarwal said that a fresh Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued next week.

"If all goes according to plan then the RFP will be finalised in 3-4 months. The commissioning should take another year if we are third time lucky," said Agarwal. The government plans to install 6,000 CCTV cameras across the city and the cost is estimated at Rs 864 crore.

Last time, when the government called for an Expression of Interest, the process ran into hurdle following doubts over credibility of a consortium that had bid for the project. The government then appointed a panel to look into the controversy, invite fresh tenders and avoid making mistakes it had made in previous tenders.

State officials had said fresh tender conditions would ensure a thorough scrutiny of the funding of the applicant and its consortiums and a clear demarcation of police cameras, civic ones and cameras installed by residential societies.

Reasons

£3,000 'security bond' for