



‘Agni-4’ Ballistic Missile test-fired

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday successfully test-fired ballistic missile Agni-4 from the integrated test range in Odisha’s Chandipur. The test-firing of the missile was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command. "Medium Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni-4' was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha on August 6," the defence ► **P11**

Mehbooba, daughter booked for “assault”

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti and her daughter Iltija Mufti have been booked for allegedly assaulting a police officer during PDP’s protest against abrogation of Article 370 two days ago, officials said here on Thursday.

A case under sections 132, 121 and 191(2) BNS has been registered against Mehbooba and Iltija for the alleged assault during the protest for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir’s special status on Tuesday, officials said.

Besides the mother-daughter duo, four more PDP leaders have been asked to ap-

Rs 23,731 Cr biogas scheme; 135 km corridor of NH-15 get Cabinet’s nod

■ PM hails Union Cabinet's decisions

NEW DELHI: The Union cabinet on Thursday approved a Rs 23,731-crore national scheme to accelerate production of compressed biogas (CBG), betting on agricultural and municipal waste to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and strengthen the country’s clean energy transition.

The GOBARdhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme, to be implemented between fiscal years 2027 and 2036, seeks to increase domestic compressed biogas production nearly ten-fold through assured offtake, administered pricing, capital subsidies, pipeline infrastructure and easier access to finance, the government said.

The programme, with a total outlay of Rs 23,731 crore, will involve the use of agricultural residue, cattle dung, sugar industry waste such as press mud, municipal organic waste and other bio-



mass to produce compressed biogas, which can be blended into CNG used in automobiles.

The scheme builds on existing initiatives, including the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) programme, under which more than 200 compressed biogas plants have already been commissioned, according to

the government.

As part of the new framework, city gas distribution companies will procure compressed biogas to meet mandatory blending obligations of 3 per cent in fiscal 2027, 4 per cent in fiscal 2028 and 5 per cent from fiscal 2029 onwards for compressed natural gas used in transport and piped natural gas supplied to ► **P11**

Human space mission ‘Gaganyaan’ moves closer to reality: Dr Jitendra

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Prime Minister’s Office, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Thursday informed the Rajya Sabha that India’s first human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, has achieved major milestones in the development and validation of critical human-rating systems, marking steady progress towards the country’s maiden indigenous human spaceflight mission.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the Human Rated Launch Vehicle (HLMV3)



has completed the development and ground testing of all propulsion stages and structures. He informed that the propulsion systems of the Crew Module and Service Module have been developed, tested and qualified, while

Will submit special package plan for flood-hit Rajouri-Poonch to PM: CM

■ Omar inspects progress of Sungal Tunnel

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said he will personally approach Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a proposal seeking a special central package for the flood-affected districts of Rajouri and Poonch. He also noted that the union territory does not have the financial capacity to meet the entire cost of restoration on its own.

"While there are some things we can manage on our own, the reality is that Jammu and Kashmir does not have the financial capacity to bear the entire cost of restoration.

"After last year's floods, the Central government approved a package of nearly Rs 1,400 crore for Jammu and Kashmir. This time too, we will prepare a detailed package and seek Central assis-



tance," the chief minister told reporters after chairing a review meeting on flood relief and rehabilitation in Rajouri.

He said floods, flash floods and cloudbursts are automatically treated as natural disasters and do not require any separate declaration before seeking Central assistance. "As soon as the proposal is ready, I will personally submit it to the prime minister," Abdullah said.

Reviewing the aftermath of the July 19 flash floods that

Struggle for Statehood to continue till restoration

RAJOURI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday asserted that his government and the National Conference (NC) would ► **P11**

claimed four lives in Rajouri district, the chief minister said the government’s response had been carried out in three phases -- rescue, recovery and rehabilitation.

"Our first priority was to minimise the loss of human lives. We regret the loss of four precious lives in this district. Had the district administration and police not acted promptly overnight, the death toll could have been much higher," he said. He said the ► **P11**

CJP forms National Working Committee

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR: In a bid to strengthen the organisation, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Thursday formed its National Working Committee, with founder Abhijeet Dipke (30) being appointed as its national convener.

CJP’s chief spokesperson Saurav Das (27) and spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka (30) will be the co-conveners of the outfit.

The announcement was made during a press conference here after the conclusion of the ► **P11**

1800 pilgrims leave for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra resumed from Jammu on Thursday after a day-long suspension due to heightened security across Jammu and Kashmir on the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370. A batch of 1801 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for Yatra to the cave shrine of Shri Amarnath in south Kashmir.

More than 4.71 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Ice Lingam of Lord Shiva at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine till now.

Officials said the 28th

batch of 1,801 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu at 2.45 am for the Baltal base camp under tight security.

No convoy was dispatched on the Pahalgam route, they said.

The batch comprised 1,347 men, 351 women, 89 sadhus and 14 sadhvis, travelling in 74 vehicles, they added. With the latest batch, the total number of pilgrims who have departed from Jammu for the yatra this year has reached 1,43,513, officials said. The 57-day annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine is scheduled to conclude on August 28.

Gen Z gathering: Mohan Bhagwat calls protest a ‘legitimate’ form of dialogue

MUMBAI: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said protest is a legitimate form of dialogue in a democracy and should be aimed at building consensus rather than creating divisions, comments coming in the backdrop of a recent stir by a fledgling pressure group on exam paper leaks.

Bhagwat noted the concerns being raised over India’s education system are genuine and battled for increasing spending on the key sector to 6 per cent of the GDP.

"Protest is also a way of dialogue. In a democracy, protest is a way of building consensus. Different views come together and a consensus evolves after discussion, he said, addressing a gathering of around 2,000 Gen Z and Gen Alpha members at India’s Interna-



tional Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN) 15th anniversary event in Mumbai.

"If, for various reasons, concerns are not heard through dialogue, people may turn to agitation. But the purpose of all this is to build consensus, not to create divisions.

The Gen Z grievances are genuine and I believe in their honesty," he emphasised.

Bhagwat’s interaction is being seen as the RSS’ most significant outreach to Gen Z (born roughly 1997-2012) and Gen Alpha (2013-2025) since the Cockroach Janta Party’s (CJP) protests over NEET paper leak culminated in Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation last month.

The BJP government’s handling of the protests, which turned violent during the July 20 march to Parliament in New Delhi called by the CJP, has invited criticism from different quarters.

Dialogue should always be the first step, he insisted.

"There should be dialogue. What should happen if ► **P11**

Drug supply chain busted, three held with heroin, cash

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Police have arrested three alleged drug peddlers and unearthed a narcotics supply chain, recovering heroin, electronic weighing machines, cash and mobile phones in Jammu city, officials said on Thursday.

The breakthrough came as part of the police’s ongoing drive against drug trafficking under the drug-free campaign when a Mahindra Thar was intercepted during routine checking at a traffic naka in Channi Himmat, they said.

During the search of the vehicle, police recovered two syringes, including one filled with a suspected narcotic substance and another empty syringe.

A personal search of the driver, Mohd Tabish Saleem, a resident of Mendhar in Poonch district, led to the recovery of a heroin-like substance, officials said. ► **P11**

Devotees flock Gyan Ganga Math on 8th day of Shravan

Lead life guided by the truth: Swami Vishwatamanandji

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI: The sacred ambience at the renowned Gyan Ganga Math in Sunderbani, Rajouri resonated with devotional fervour as scores of devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir gathered on the eighth day of the holy month of Shravan to offer prayers and seek divine



blessings.

A large number of devotees sought the blessings of His Holiness Atal Pethadeshwar Rajguru Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Shri Shri 1008 Shri

Swami Vishwatamanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, who blessed the devotees and prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of humanity. Addressing the gathering, His ► **P11**

Two shells defused along LoC

POONCH: Two rusted mortar shells were detected and safely destroyed by the Army in the Mankote sector of Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

The unexploded ordnance was found in the Choki Sagra area of the Mendhar sub-division, they said.

Army personnel of bomb disposal squad destroyed the shells in a controlled explosion after following all necessary safety protocols. No loss of life or damage to property ► **P11**

Altaf Thakur apologises for anti-women slogans

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: BJP leader Altaf Thakur on Thursday apologised for the anti-women slogans raised during a rally organised by the party to celebrate the abrogation of Article 370 in the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir a day earlier.

Thakur said the BJP firmly believes in respecting the dignity of women and remains committed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of women empowerment.

"I apologise to anyone who was hurt by the derogatory slogans," Thakur told re-

porters here, adding that demeaning words were used against women, who are "our sisters, mothers and daughters".

"Our party has always upheld the dignity and honour of women. The BJP has been at the forefront of empowering women, and the historic decision to provide 33 per cent reservation for women reflects that commitment," he said.

He said the objectionable slogans raised by some elements during the rally should not be attributed to the BJP as an organisation.

"Some individuals may have raised slogans ► **P11**

'Waste to Wonder' park inaugurated in Jammu Park showcases replicas of 14 iconic monuments from across the world

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday inaugurated a 'waste to wonder' park in Jammu and said it would emerge as a major tourist attraction, further asserting that his government is working to tap the tourism potential of every region in the UT.

Speaking after inaugurating the park here, Abdullah said Jammu, traditionally known as the "city of temples", needed to offer visitors more attractions beyond religious tourism.

Omar said he was delighted to inaugurate the new waste to wonder park, describing it as a unique addition to Jammu’s tourism landscape.

"As I said in my address, Jammu is known as the city of temples. People generally come here to pay obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and visit temples. But at the same time, they also want to see tourist attractions that are unique and not available elsewhere," he told reporters here.

The chief minister said the waste to wonder park, developed on land that was used as a garbage dumping site until two years ago, has now been transformed into a unique tourism asset.

The park features replicas of 14 iconic monuments from across the world, including the White House, the Colosseum, the Eiffel Tower, Bhutan’s Tiger’s Nest Monastery, the Statue of Unity, Hawa Mahal, Agra ► **P11**

