ISRO completes its Reusable Launch Vehicle technology demonstrations through LEX trio

STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: agency ISRO on Sunday said it has achieved a third consecutive success in the Reusable Launch Vehicle Landing Experiment by demonstrating autonomous landing capability of the launch vehicle under more challenging con-

This mission simulated the approach and landing interface and high-speed landing conditions for a vehicle returning from space, reaffirming the Indian Space Organisation's (ISRO) expertise in acquiring the most critical technologies required for the development of a Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV), the space agency said.

The third and final test in the series of Landing Experiment (LEX-03) was conducted at 07:10 1ST at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga, Following the success of the

RLV LEX-01 and LEX-02 missions, ISRO in a release said, RLV LEX-03 redemonstrated autonomous landing capability of the RLV under more challenging release conditions (cross range of 500 m against 150 m for LEX-02) and more severe wind condi-

The winged vehicle, named 'Pushpak', was released from an Indian Air Force Chinook



Helicopter at an altitude of 4.5 km "from a release point 4.5 km away from the runway. Pushpak autonomously executed cross-range correction manoeuvres, approached the runway and performed a precise horizontal landing at the runway centreline," it

Due to this vehicle's low lift-to-drag ratio aerodynamic configuration, the landing velocity exceeded 320 kmph, compared to 260 kmph for a commercial aircraft and 280 kmph for a typical fighter aircraft, it added.

ISRO said, after touchdown, the vehicle velocity was reduced to nearly 100 kmph using its brake parachute, after which the landing gear brakes were employed for deceleration and stop on the

During this ground roll phase, Pushpak utilises its rudder and nose wheel steering system to autonomously maintain a stable and precise ground roll along the runway,

According to the space agency, this mission simulated the approach and landing interface and high-speed landing conditions for a vehicle returning from space, reaffirming ISRO's expertise in acquiring the most critical technologies required for the

development of a Reusable

Launch Vehicle (RLV). Through this mission, the advanced guidance algorithm catering to longitudinal and lateral plane error corrections, which is essential for the future Orbital Re-entry Mission has been validated, the space agency noted.

The RLV-LEX uses multisensor fusion including sensors like Inertial sensor, Radar altimeter. Flush air data system, Pseudolite system and NavIC, it said, adding "Notably, the RLV-LEX-03 mission reused the winged body and flight systems as such without any modification, from the LEX-02 mission, demonstrating the robustness of ISRO's capability of design to reuse flight systems for multiple

missions. The mission, led by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), was a collaborative effort involving multiple

Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) and Satish (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

The mission received sig-

nificant support from the

Indian Aeronautical Development Establishment, Aerial Delivery Research and D e v e l o p m e n tEstablishment, Regional Military Centre forAirworthiness under Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification, National Aerospace Laboratories, Institute Indian Technology, Kanpur, Indian aerospace industrial partners, Indian Oil Corporation of India and Airport Authority of India

S Somanath, Chairman, ISRO/Secretary, Department of Space, congratulated the team for their efforts in maintaining the success streak in such complex missions.

Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair. Director of VSSC, emphasised that this consistent success boosts ISRO's confidence in the critical technologies essential for future orbital re-entry missions.

J Muthupandian is the Mission Director and B Karthik is the Vehicle Director for this successful

Excise scam: Delhi HC refuses interim bail to bizman, receiving adequate medical treatment in jail

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has refused to grant interim bail to businessman Hyderabad Arun Ramchandran Pillai, who is lodged in judicial custody in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi Excise scam, noting that he is receiving adequate medical treatment in jail.

Pillai, who sought to be released on interim bail on medical grounds, submitted that his family has taken opinion from ayurvedic doctors who have opined that he needs to be admitted at an ayurvedic centre to undergo 21 days "panchkarma therapy" with further rest of 21 days. The high court said, "Without commenting on the efficacy of Panchkarma treatment with regard to the back pain, suffice to say that the applicant needs to follow the treatment advice of the doctor and even thereafter if he does not get relief and then if so advised, he would be at liberty to file an application to explore the alternative remedies of ayurveda/ panchkarma treatment etc".

A vacation bench of Justice Ravinder Dudeia noted that none of the medical reports even remotely state that Pillai is suffering from any life threatening ailment or that treatment for such ailment is not available in the referral hospitals.

"As of now, I find no justification for grant of interim



bail to the applicant (Pillai). The application is accordingly dismissed. Needless to say that the jail authorities would continue to provide the requisite medical attention to the accused as per the advice of the doctor," the judge said.

Pillai, who was arrested by the ED in March last year, sought interim bail for eight weeks for medical reasons, including back pain.

His counsel submitted that he wanted to explore the alternative treatment as his condition was not improving with the present treatment being given to him.

The interim bail plea was opposed by the ED's counsel, who submitted that no hospital, including Max Super Speciality Hospital, from where he is presently undertreatment, referred him for panchkarma therapy. The interim bail is being sought without any expert opinion of any doctor and without there being any necessity of the applicant to be released on interim bail, the ED's counsel argued, adding that panchkarma therapy is merely a massage/ rejuvenating therapy which is an optional therapy.

The court, in its order, said it is conscious of the State's responsibility to provide adequate medical care to the accused.

"However, need of seeking bail on medical grounds arises only when the prison authorities/referral hospitals are incapable of providing required care or treatment essential for the treatment of the accused. Essentially, the ailment should be of such a nature that if the accused is not released on bail, he cannot be ensured proper treatment for his ailment," it said.

The court said the obligation to provide necessary medical treatment does not mean that despite best treatment available in the super speciality hospital like Max and other referral hospitals. Pillai would still be entitled to the grant of interim bail. After perusing the report

from the medical officer of Tihar Jail, the court said it

accused is receiving adequate treatment, both at the jail dispensary as also at the

referral hospitals. It noted that there was no lapse on the part of the jail administration or even alleged by the accused regarding the treatment provided to him and observed that the report showed that Pillai himself was not taking

as advised by the doctors. Pillai was arrested by the ED on March 6, 2023 following allegations that he represented the "South Group" at meetings with other accused when the 2021 excise policy was being formulated and implemented.

laser physiotherapy sessions

The South Group is allegedly a cartel of liquor businessmen and politicians who were claimed to have paid Rs 100 crore in kickbacks to the ruling AAP dispensation for favours.

The excise policy was scrapped in 2022 after the Delhi lieutenant governor ordered a CBI probe into alleged irregularities and corruption involving its formula tion and execution.

The ED has claimed that Pillai is a close aide of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha, daughter Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, and the frontman for the South Group. Kavitha is also in Oncology, ophthalmology, orthopaedic & joint replacement

Hoarding crash: Ad firm paid Rs 46 lakh to company of IPS officer's wife, claims Somaiya



MUMBAI: BJP leader Kirit Somaiya on Sunday alleged that ad firm director Bhavesh Bhinde had paid Rs 46 lakh as bribe to a company of the wife of then GRP commissioner, who gave permission to install a hoarding which collapsed here last

Somaiya in a series of post on X also claimed that Rs 5 crore was paid by the Ego Media Pvt Ltd (where Bhinde was the director) to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials for "two dozen illegal hoardings" in Ghatkopar and Dadar areas of Mumbai.

The former BJP MP said he has written a letter to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Devendra

Fadnavis, requesting him to Railway

Quaiser

Hoardings Scam BRIBE". A giant hoarding collapsed in Mumbai's Ghatkopar area on May 13 during gusty winds and unseasonal rains, killing 17 persons and injured more than 70 others, according to police.

Khalid for "Ghatkopar

Commissioner

The land in question was in possession of the Government Railway Police hoarding near a petrol pump was given to M/s Ego Media Pvt Ltd for 10 years with the approval of then-GRP Commissioner Quaiser Khalid, a senior official ear-

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) had been into the hoarding collapse incident.

"Ghatkopar Hoardings Tragedy. Proof & Bank Entries of ?46 lacs Bribes detected by Police SIT. Bhavesh Bhinde paid ?46 to Kaiser (Railway Police Commissioner) Mohammad Arshad Khan. Mohammad Arshad Khan deposited this ?46 lacs in Mahapatra Garments Pvt

post on X on Sunday. He said the Mahapara Garments Pvt Ltd was incorporated/formed June 20, 2022 by Summana Quaiser Khalid, the wife of Quaiser Khalid, and Mohd Arshad K Khan.

Ltd." Somaiva claimed in a

"Bhavesh Bhinde of EGO Media Pvt Ltd transferred ?46 lacs to this company during the year 2022/25 Somaiya alleged.

Till now, five persons have been arrested in connection with the Ghatkopar hoarding tragedy, he said.

"Expecting action against Railway Police & BMC Officials," the BJP leader

centres to come up at Army hospital (R&R) **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The state-of-Hospital Armv(Research & Referral) has set the wheels in motion for a significant expansion in its infrastructure with three new medical centres for oncology, ophthalmology orthopaedic and joint replacement set to come up in its sprawling campus here in the next one to two years.

Lt Gen Ajith Nilakantan, Commandant. Hospital (R&R), said this during an interaction with a group of mediapersons on the premises AHRR Saturday

The 1200-bed hospital is a "quaternary" facility and provides treatment largely to the patients referred to it from tertiary or similar-level hospitals, he said.

With its campus in Delhi the apex medical institute of the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS).

"No hospital can be updated and remain relevant if it. doesn't expand and keep in touch with the latest advances in technology and facilities. That is why we

have recently started the construction of a full-fledged oncology (cancer) centre with all the latest facilities, an ophthalmology (eye) centre is being constructed and also an orthopaedic and joint replacement centre also constructed," AHRR commandant said.

"We hope that in the coming one to two years these will be ready," he added.

The three new centres once completed will give a boost to the medical infrastructure and services offered by the hospital, which has been located at its current campus here since the late 1990s. The AHRR had recently

announced the opening of a skin bank facility, a first-ofits-kind facility to be established within the AFMS. While the skin bank housed

in its department of plastic reconstructive was formally inaugurated on June 18 by DGMS (Army) Lt Gen Arindam Chatterjee, it had received its first skin donation on May 29, a senior official said.

This donor, a woman, was the mother of an army personnel and had died at the

AHRR, another official said. This skin bank is the first

in the AFMS. In fact there are very few centres in the country which have a skin bank. Basically, it is for severe burns. Skin has to be replaced, otherwise, infection can prove fatal, said Lt Gen Nilakantan.

"It is very important to cover the exposed area and sometimes adequate skin may not be available with the have to take skin from somebody else and use it for an initial period until the base skin comes back. As part of our organ donation system, we have an armed forces organ retrieval system, it's called AORTA (Army Organ Retrieval and Transplant Authority), and various organ donations are organised, and this is the latest where skin donation is also part of our.... And, it's a licenced skin bank," he said.

The AHRR commandant said it is being hoped that treatment of serious burn

injuries will be augmented with this skin bank.

This bank will serve as a centralised hub for the collection, processing, storage and distribution of skin grafts, providing a "critical resource" for military medical centres across the country.

By establishing this facility, the armed forces are ensuring that the personnel and their families have access to the most advanced skin replacement therapies

The visiting mediapersons were later also given a tour of some of its key departments, which have cutting-edge medical equipments such a high-tech simulator for eye surgery. Some of the mediapersons also interacted with the patients, who have recently undergone liver or heart transplant procedures at this hospital. Lt Gen Nilakantan said the

AHRR has "all the broad specialities, and all the super specialties, and altogether we have 35 departments, including specialities and super

besides, 300 defence civilian," he said in response to a Asked what has been some

specialties departments".

'We have about 300 doctors, and 300 nursing offi-

cers. Also, we have large

number of outsourced para-

medical staff, almost 1,000...

of the lessons for the hospital from the COVID-19 pandemic, he said, firstly, "we had the advantage that we went for vaccination of frontline workers and our people were immunised (against

Covid) at the outset". And, with that confidence. at most of the hospitals in the AFMS, "we endeavoured to make sure that while we treated Covid, we also did not stop treatment of other diseases", the commandant said.

"This has been our endeavour. I can say it with pride that we did succeed to a extent, including this hospital. Work here could be carried on to the fullest possible extent, with treatment of patients having other diseases as well," he asserted.

"Today, we can look back and say that probably that is the way to get the whole infrastructure, establishment to work, in case we face similar situation in future. We were quite fully functional except for a brief period. Now, we are wiser, and next time it happens, we will be better," the comman-

CPI(M) demands HRD minister's resignation over paper-leak row

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Sunday demanded Education Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation amid a raging controversy around the National Testing Agency (NTA) in the wake of paper-leak allegations and cancellations of exams.

In a statement issued here, the CPI(M) politburo said it is "deeply anguished over the sinister developments which have engulfed the centralised all-India examination processes".

Mentioning exams like the NEET-PG and UGC-NET, which have been cancelled, the Left party said, "The combined impact of this are irregularities and complete collapse of the processes which affects vital sectors of higher education in the country.

The statement said it is not



just a result of corruption, but also of centralisation, commercialisation and communalisation of education

"This is not merely the result of corruption, which is prima facie established. This has emerged from centralisation, commercialisation and communalisation in the education sphere and which is an essential ingredient of the National Education Policy," it said.

The CPI(M) said asking the Central Bureau

Investigation (CBI) to probe the allegations is an approach to "whitewash" and demanded the minister's resignation as well as the scrapping of the

"The new government summoning the services of the CBI to investigate these scams confirms its approach to whitewash, like it did with the Vyapam scam. These reflect the complete collapse of the policy prescriptions in higher education for which the entire

government is accountable, particularly the HRD minister. He must resign." the statement said.

"The politburo demands that in a country as big and as diverse as India, the centralisation of governance of higher education should be reversed and the first step should be to scrap the centralised NEET exams," the Left party said.

Every state should be allowed their own separate procedures for conducting admission tests to regulate entry into professional educational institutions, it added.

On Saturday, the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-PG, conducted for admission to postgraduate medical courses and scheduled to be held on June 23, was postponed as a "precautionary measure" in the wake of recent allegations on the integrity of some competitive exams including the Undergraduate (UG).

On Friday, the June edition of the Joint Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test (CSIR-NET) was postponed citing unavoidable circumstances and logistical issues.

It came two days after the cancelled agency Grants University Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) within 24 hours of its conduct, saying the integrity of the exam had been compromised and a massive row has erupted regarding the NEET-UG over alleged irregularities, with the issue now before the Supreme

All these exams are conducted by the NTA.

Delhi metro station to have three interchanges as green line expands



STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The New Delhi Metro station is all set to emerge as a triple interchange facility with the expansion of the Green Line from Inderlok to Indraprastha, officials said on Sunday. The 12.37 km long Inderlok -Indraprastha corridor will expand the already operational Brigadier Hoshiar Singh - Inderlok Green Line corridor (28.78 km), they said.

On this new extension, the New Delhi station will be expanded as an interchange facility where three lines - Yellow, Orange (Airport Line), and now the Green Line will meet each other, the officials said.

This will be a major connectivity boost for the entire city as now, commuters coming from Bahadurgarh as well as parts of west Delhi such as Nangloi, Rajdhani Park, Udyog Nagar etc. will be able to travel directly to the New Delhi railway station, adjacent to the New Delhi Metro station, they stated. This will make access to the New Delhi sta-

tion more convenient and help decrease congestion near the station as more people will prefer to travel by metro than by road, they said. Like the existing New Delhi station, the new expansion for the Green Line shall also be underground. Presently, Kashmere Gate is the only triple interchange station on the Delhi

Metro network where the Yellow, Red, and Violet lines meet. After Phase 4, three more stations, Lajpat Nagar, Azadpur and New Delhi will also emerge as triple interchange facilities, Currently, about 86 kilometres of new lines are being constructed as part of the Delhi Metro's Phase 4 expansion. Construction of three lines - Janakpuri West - RK Ashram Marg (Violet), Majlis Park - Maujpur (Pink)

and Aerocity - Tughlakabad (Golden) is in progress right now, and over 50 per cent of civil work has been completed on these sections, the officials said. Two more corridors - Inderlok - Indraprastha and Saket G Block - Lajpat Nagar - have also

received approval earlier this year. The DMRC at present, is processing for statutory clearances, including land taking over from DDA, CPWD and PWD and forest clearance requirements, they said.

Delhi airport bomb scare: 13-year-old boy apprehended, sent email 'just for fun'

NEW DELHI: A 13-year-old boy was apprehended for allegedly sending an email to the Delhi Airport falsely claiming that a bomb had been planted in the Dubaibound flight, police said on Sunday.

The boy had sent the mail "just for fun" after being influenced by the news of another teenager who made a hoax bomb threat call a few days ago, Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Usha Rangnani said. The incident occurred on Monday when a com-

plaint was registered regarding a bomb threat on a Dubai-bound flight on June 18, DCP said. Based on the complaint, an FIR was lodged, and an investigation

All the guidelines, protocols and SOPs were followed to ensure the safety and security of the passengers, DCP said. "Airport was put on high alert, and an emer-

gency was declared," she said. However, during the investigation, the email was found to be a hoax, she said. "During the investigation,

it was revealed that the e-mail ID was deleted just after sending the email. The email was traced at Pithoragarh in Uttranchal," Rangnani said, A team was sent, and the boy was apprehended for sending the hoax email, she said. "The boy told the police team that his parents had given a mobile to him for study purposes through which he sent the email and later deleted his ID.

He did not share any information with his parents as he was scared. He was apprehended and handed over to his parents," she added.