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INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES | *APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE



Russia's defence ministry blames mobile phone use by its soldiers for a deadly Ukrainian missile strike that, it says, killed 89 servicemen, raising the reported death toll from 63, **P 20**

Banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan threatens to target top leaders of two major parties PML-N and PPP, including PM Shehbaz Sharif, in the governing coalition if they continue to support tough measures against the militants, **P 20**

British PM Rishi Sunak is looking at plans to ensure all students study maths in some form until the age of 18, says he is making numeracy a central objective of edu system, **P 20**



Wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson ruled out of the T20I series against Sri Lanka due to a knee injury he suffered during the first match. Vidarbha's Jitesh Sharma in the squad for the next two games, **P 17**



6 test launches to precede final Gaganyaan mission: Isro

Isro will conduct six test missions, including three this year, before the final manned mission of Gaganyaan in 2024 involving three astronauts as the space agency "doesn't want to take any chances with human lives", Isro chairman S Somanath said on Wednesday, reports Surendra Singh.

Addressing reporters on the sidelines of the Indian Science Congress, the Isro chief said of the total six test missions, there will be four abort missions and two uncrewed missions. "Two abort missions and one uncrewed mission will be conducted between April-May. The remaining three will be conducted next year. And if all are successful, the final crew mission will be launched next year itself," he said.

Pointing out that human spaceflight capability is not developed overnight and that countries have taken decades to acquire those technologies, he said, "We are trying to launch the mission in the shortest possible time of four years. We had thought of buying some technologies from abroad. But they are coming at an exorbitant price. So now we are building them in house."

About Chandrayaan-3, Somanath said, "Satellite is in fully integrated condition. The lander and rover are ready. The moon mission can't be launched any day. We are waiting for the best launch window. So, the next window is in June-July. GSLV-MkIII will be used for the mission".

Somanath said the second development flight of the small satellite launch vehicle is likely to be held next month. If the launch is successful, the SSLV will be able to establish itself as a small launcher in the global market.