

3 killed, thousands affected by floods in Manipur

IMPHAL, May 30 (PTI)

THREE persons were killed while thousands were affected by floods triggered by heavy rain in Manipur's Imphal valley, officials said on Thursday.

A 34-year-old man was killed and three others were injured in a landslide caused by heavy rain at Thonglang road in Senapati district on Wednesday. An 83-year-old woman drowned in the overflowing Senapati river, officials said.

In Imphal, a 75-year-old man died of electrocution on Wednesday when he came in contact with an electric pole during rain, they said.

The overflowing Imphal riv-



A flood-hit area following heavy rainfall in the aftermath of Cyclone Remal in Imphal on Thursday. (PTI)

er inundated several areas, with water entering hundreds of houses in Imphal valley, as a result, people took shelter at nearby community halls, they said. Flooding was reported from at least 86 areas.

SOUTHWEST MONSOON TO ARRIVE IN GUJARAT ON JUNE 15, SAYS IMD OFFICIAL: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday said the southwest monsoon will set in over Gujarat on June 15. "The southwest monsoon arrived in Kerala and parts of the northeast on Thursday. It will make onset over Gujarat on June 15, which is the normal date for the monsoon's arrival in the state," said Ramashray Yadav, scientist.

Agnikul launches Agnibaan

Agnibaan, world's 1st rocket with fully 3D-printed engine, launched from India's first privately developed launchpad called 'Dhanush' established by space start-up Agnikul

NEW DELHI, May 30 (PTI)

CHENNAI-BASED space start-up Agnikul Cosmos on Thursday successfully carried out a sub-orbital test-flight of its home-built 3D-printed semi-cryogenic rocket -- Agnibaan -- from its own launch pad at Sriharikota, making it India's second private entity to do so.

After four unsuccessful attempts, the test flight of Agnibaan Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD) on Thursday took place at 7.15 am without any live streaming and in the presence of fewer dignitaries at the Sriharikota launch pad located within ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

"Humbled to announce the successful completion of our first flight - Mission 01 of Agnibaan SOrTeD - from our own and India's first and only private Launchpad within SDSC-SHAR at Sriharikota," Agnikul Cosmos said on X. It said all the mission objectives of this controlled vertical ascent flight were met and performance was nominal. It was also launched from India's first privately developed launchpad called 'Dhanush' established by Agnikul at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The launch pad is located inside ISRO's rocket port in Sriharikota.

The test flight aims to demonstrate the in-house and homegrown technologies, gather crucial flight data, and ensure the optimal functioning of systems for Agnikul's orbital launch vehicle, the Agnibaan.

Agnikul is looking at flying an orbital mission towards the end of the financial year of 2025.



A remarkable feat: PM

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lauded the successful launch of a rocket powered by world's first single-piece 3D printed semi-cryogenic engine as a "momentous occasion" for India's space sector.

Modi, in a post on X, said, "A remarkable feat which will make the entire nation proud!"

"The successful launch of Agnibaan rocket powered by world's first single-piece 3D printed semi-cryogenic engine is a momentous occasion for India's space sector and a testament to the remarkable ingenuity of our Yuva Shakti. My best wishes to the @AgnikulCosmos team for their future endeavours," he said.

FASTEST

India to grow at 7 pc: RBI

MUMBAI, May 30 (PTI)

INDIAN economy is projected to grow at 7 per cent -- the fastest among major economies across the world -- in the current fiscal year, underpinned by a sustained strengthening of macroeconomic fundamentals, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its latest annual report on Thursday.

While the central bank expected headline inflation to moderate further, it flagged risks to food inflation saying that it remains vulnerable to supply-side



shocks. The RBI's balance sheet size surged 11.08 per cent to Rs 70.48 lakh crore (about USD 845 billion) as of March 31, 2024. This was nearly 2.5 times that of Pakistan's entire GDP of close to USD 340 billion.

The Indian economy, it said, expanded at a robust pace in 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024 financial year), with real GDP growth accelerating to 7.6 per cent from 7.0 per cent in the previous year -- the third con-

secutive year of 7 per cent or above growth pace. The economy showed resilience in FY24 despite persistent headwinds.

The GDP growth is robust on the back of solid investment demand which is supported by healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates, the government's focus on capital expenditure and prudent monetary, regulatory and fiscal policies, it said, adding the Indian economy is navigating the drag from an adverse global macroeconomic and financial environment.

IAF takes part in exercise Red Flag-Alaska in US

NEW DELHI, May 30 (PTI)

THE Indian Air Force on Thursday joined a 16-day multi-nation mega military exercise in Alaska in the US that is designed to provide realistic training to participating forces in a simulated combat environment.

The IAF deployed Rafale fighter jets for the 'Red Flag Alaska' exercise from May 30 to June 14. Approximately 3,100 service members are expected to fly, maintain and support more than 100 aircraft during the exercise, the US's Pacific Air Forces said.

"An IAF contingent arrived today at the Eielson AF Base of @usairforce, at Alaska, USA, to participate in the upcoming edition of the multinational exercise Red Flag 24," the IAF said on X.

"Able supported by its IL-78 air to air refuellers and the C-17 transport aircraft, the IAF Rafale fighters took a transatlantic flight with staging halts at Greece and Portugal," it said.

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Red Flag-Alaska is designed to provide realistic training in a simulated combat environment enabling joint combined forces to exchange tactics, techniques and procedures while improving interoperability with fellow service members.

It said Red Flag-Alaska training spans from individual skills to complex, large-scale joint

engagements.

"The exercises can be adapted to integrate various forces into a realistic threat environment using the more than 77,000 square miles of airspace in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex, which is the largest combat training range in the world," it said in a statement.