

A photograph of a rocket launch. The rocket is ascending vertically, leaving a massive, bright orange and yellow plume of fire and white smoke behind it. The launch is taking place in a desert-like environment with some industrial structures and a tall service tower visible in the background under a clear sky.

Today in History

July 30, 2002

▲ The first successful test of a hypersonic “scramjet” engine, designed to fly seven times faster than the speed of sound, took place in the Australian desert

1909: Professor Cyril Northcote Parkinson, who devised Parkinson’s Law, that “Work expands to fill the time available for completion”, was born

1945: The U.S. cruiser Indianapolis, returning home after delivering nuclear material for the atom bomb, was sunk by a Japanese submarine

1974: A ceasefire deal was agreed to end weeks of fighting in Cyprus

2012: A power cut in north India left 700 million people without electricity