

>

Title : References regarding India's successful launch of Agni-V Missile and  
National Panchayati Raj Divas.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, on 19 April 2012, India successfully launched the Agni-V missile from a test range off the coast of Odisha. The surface-to-surface missile having a strike range of 5000 kms. is hailed as a major leap forward in India's missile technology and military deterrent capabilities. With the launch, India has now joined the elite club of nations possessing Intercontinental Ballistic Missile capabilities.

The House extends its heartiest congratulations to the Indian scientists on their achievement and wishes them success for all their future endeavours.

Hon. Members, today is the National Panchayati Raj Divas. On this day, 19 years ago, Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Gram Swaraj concretized into reality with the coming into force of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 on 24 April, 1993. This indeed has been an epoch making measure in our democratic polity. Panchayati Raj devolves power to the people at the village level with a view to strengthening the very roots of democratic system in our country. Let us on this occasion extend our good wishes to elected representatives of Panchayats and Panchayati Raj Institutions to strengthen democracy in our country.

---