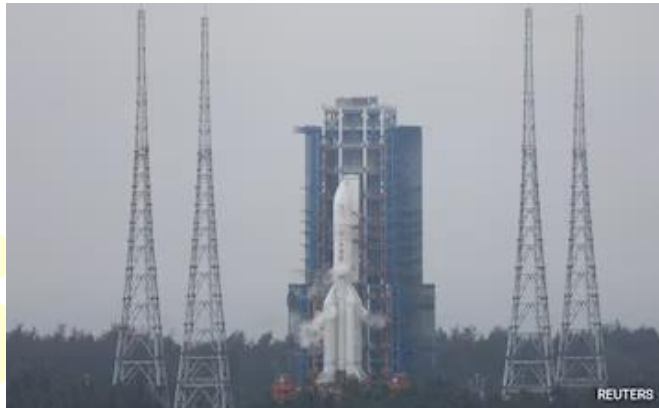


China To Launch Space Tourism Vehicle

Why In News

- **Chinese commercial space company CAS Space** announced its "space tourism vehicle" will first fly in 2027 and travel to the edge of space in 2028. The announcement comes just days after **Jeff Bezos-backed Blue Origin** announced that its New Shepard Rocket, which flies cargo and humans on short trips to the edge of space, would resume flights on Sunday, ending a near two-year pause of crewed operations.



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All You Need To Know

- **CAS Space said that its vehicle will** include a tourist cabin that has four panoramic windows and can carry seven passengers per flight. The company plans to arrange a launch **every 100 hours** from a newly-built aerospace theme park, with ten vehicles available to take tourists to the edge of space in shifts.
- Tickets will cost **2 million to 3 million** yuan (\$415,127) per person per trip, state media said.



CAS SPACE

- Guangzhou-based **CAS Space** was founded in 2018 and its second-largest shareholder is China's biggest state research institute, the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



- China's space exploration program has recently narrowed the gap with the United States and could become the **first country to return samples** from the far side of the moon after it launched the **Chang'e-6 mission** earlier this month.



- That launch attracted hordes of tourists to the launch site on **China's island province of Hainan**. Before blast-off tens of thousands of people gathered in different viewing spots near the launch site, causing long traffic jams