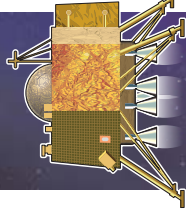




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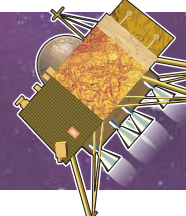
'The 15 minutes of terror'

No mission in the past has attempted a soft-landing near the South Pole of the lunar surface. India's Chandrayaan-2 aims to do so between 1.30 a.m. and 2.30 a.m. today. A look at the last 15 minutes of the lander Vikram's journey:



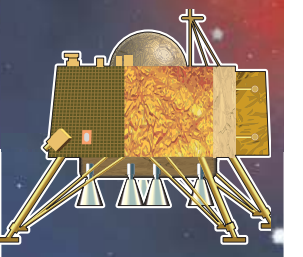
30 km above the moon

At this point, Vikram's throttleable engines will fire, marking the beginning of its descent. The engines will decelerate the lander in stages as it descends towards the moon's surface



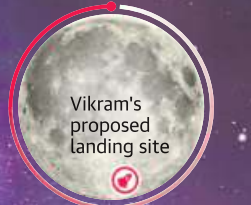
Getting into position

Using the controls in the throttleable engines, the lander will be prepared for vertical descent. Vikram is equipped with sensors which will sweep the topography of the touchdown spot to avoid craters, boulders and slopes



Final touchdown

The engines will be shut off when the lander is about 2 m from the lunar surface, from where it will be allowed to fall free. A central thruster will be used to reduce the vertical velocity and blow off lunar dust to prevent clouding after the soft-landing



Hello, South Pole!

The soft-landing will be attempted between two craters, Manzinus C and Simpelius N. The region is estimated to hold 100 mn tonnes of water, and is untouched by sunlight for billions of years, thus offering an undisturbed record of the solar system's origins

With inputs from Reuters

IN BRIEF



Aircel-Maxis case hearing adjourned

NEW DELHI
 In an unprecedented happening, a Delhi court on Friday adjourned sine die the hearing in the Aircel-Maxis corruption and money laundering cases against former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram and his son Karti.

Zimbabwe's former President Mugabe dies

HARARE
 Robert Mugabe, the first Prime Minister and later President of independent Zimbabwe, who traded the mantle of liberator for the armour of a tyrant and presided over the decline of one of Africa's most prosperous lands, died on Friday. He was 95.

Former Pakistan spinner Abdul Qadir passes away

LAHORE
 Former Pakistan spinner Abdul Qadir, credited with reviving the art of leg-spin bowling in the 1970s and 1980s, died of a heart attack in his home town Lahore, his son said on Friday.

SPORT PAGE 20

Madras High Court Chief Justice to resign

Upset over transfer to Meghalaya

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S. CHENNAI



Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani

Madras High Court Chief Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani, the senior-most High Court judge in the country, has decided to put in her papers in the wake of a decision taken by the Supreme Court Collegium (comprising top five judges) to transfer her from the chartered High Court to a relatively small High Court of Meghalaya.

She made her decision public on Friday night during a dinner hosted by six Madras High Court judges, who were made permanent recently.

The dinner party was held at the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy building here and was attended by almost all judges of the High Court, barring a few who had been deputed to the Madurai Bench.

Thanking the puisne

judges for their cooperation ever since she took over as the Chief Justice on August 12 last year, Justice Tahilramani told them that she had discharged her duty without any fear or favour right from the time she assumed office as a judge of the Bombay High Court in June 2001. She had also served as an acting Chief Justice of her parent High Court on three different occasions between 2015 and 2018.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Free metro ride for women unviable: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday voiced scepticism about the Delhi government's scheme to make metro rides free for women, saying the move may become financially unviable for the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. A Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra said rather than handing out sops, the government should make proper use of public money.

"Why should anyone be given free rides? Who will bear the losses?" he asked. The court said the financial health of the DMRC should be of prime concern for the Delhi government as the metro is an essential mode of public transport in the city. However, in a relief for the Delhi government, the court said the Centre should equally share the land costs for the Phase IV project of the Delhi Metro.

SIT finds multiple lapses in Pehlu Khan case probe

Stage set for appeal in Rajasthan HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Rajasthan police, constituted to review the original investigation of the Pehlu Khan lynching case which resulted in the acquittal of all the six accused by a sessions court in Alwar last month, has found multiple lapses and irregularities in the probe.

The 84-page SIT report, submitted to Director General of Police Bhupendra Singh on Thursday, could set the stage for an appeal against the trial court's judgment in the Rajasthan High Court. After the trial court's indictment of the investigating officers (IOs), the Congress government, headed by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, drew criticism for not correcting the course of the probe during the seven months of its tenure prior to the judgment.



Pehlu Khan

The SIT, headed by Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Special Operations Group) Nitin Deep Blagran, was formed on August 16 after the State government decided to challenge the sessions court's August 14 verdict through an appeal. Police officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the SIT had found lacunae in the investigation as well as some laxity in the prosecution.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Another IAS officer quits from service

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner S. Sasikanth Senthil, a 2009 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer of the Karnataka cadre, resigned from the ser-

vice on Friday, stating that it would be "unethical" on his part to continue in service "when the fundamental building blocks of our diverse democracy are being compromised in an unprecedented manner".

"I also feel strongly that the coming days will present extremely difficult challenges to the basic fabric of our nation," he said in a statement.

INTERVIEW PAGE 13

News majors to fight disinformation

The Hindu joins BBC and others in global campaign against fake narratives

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The Hindu is partnering with the BBC and other leading global news and technology organisations in a new industry collaboration to tackle disinformation. The collaboration was announced by the BBC and the partners in the early hours of Saturday.

Under this collaboration, news and technology majors will work together to protect their audiences and users from disinformation, particularly around crucial events such as elections. Earlier this year, the BBC convened a "Trusted News



Summit', bringing together senior figures from major global technology firms and publishing.

It was precipitated by events such as the Indian elections, which highlighted the dangers of disinforma-

tion and underlined the importance of working together.

The summit agreed to work collectively on various initiatives, including creating systems where organisations can warn each other

quickly when they discover disinformation that threatens human life or disrupts elections. The emphasis of the 'early warning system' will be on moving quickly and collectively to undermine disinformation before it can take hold.

The summit also agreed to work towards a joint online media education campaign, and also to co-operate on election-related information such as explaining how and where to vote. "Disinformation and so-called fake news is a threat to us all. At its worst, it can present a serious threat to democracy and

even to people's lives. This summit has shown a determination to take collective action to fight this problem and we have agreed [upon] some crucial steps towards this," said Tony Hall, Director-General of the BBC and European Broadcasting Union (EBU) president.

The BBC's partners who attended the summit were the EBU, Facebook, Financial Times, First Draft, Google, The Hindu, and the Wall Street Journal. Other partners were AFP, CBC/Radio-Canada, Microsoft, Reuters, the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, and Twitter.

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