

March-26

## NATIONAL

### INS Ganga decommissioned

- ❖ INS Ganga, an indigenously built frigate of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned after over three decades of service.
- ❖ INS Ganga is a Godavari-class guided-missile frigate of the Indian Navy and was built in Mumbai by Mazagon Dock Limited.
- ❖ It was commissioned on December 30, 1985.



- ❖ The Godavari class was the first significant indigenous warship design and development initiative of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ INS Ganga exhibits capabilities in all three dimensions of naval warfare.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ‘Chandrayaan-2’

- ❖ The launch of India’s second lunar mission ‘Chandrayaan-2’ has been postponed to October, 2018 as the experts have suggested some tests.

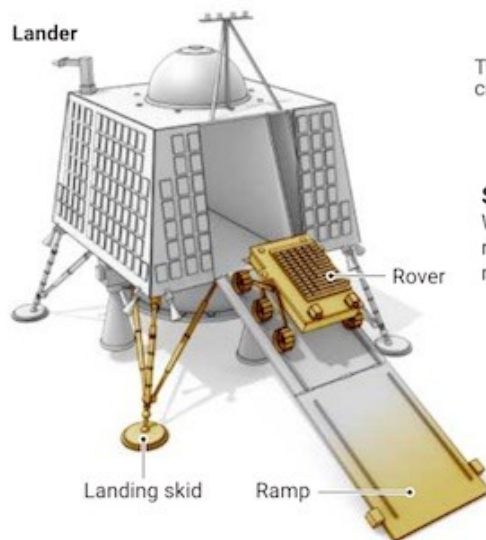
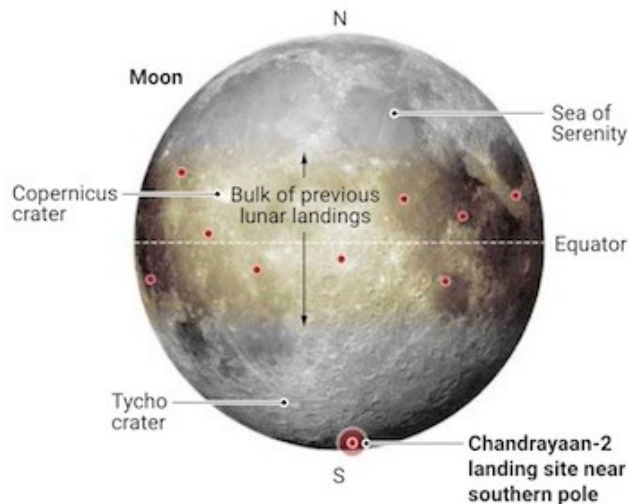
#### About Chandrayaan-2

- ❖ The 800-crore INR Chandrayaan-2 mission is a totally indigenous mission

- ❖ With Chandrayaan-2 ISRO is experimenting with an orbiter, a rover and a lander for the first time.

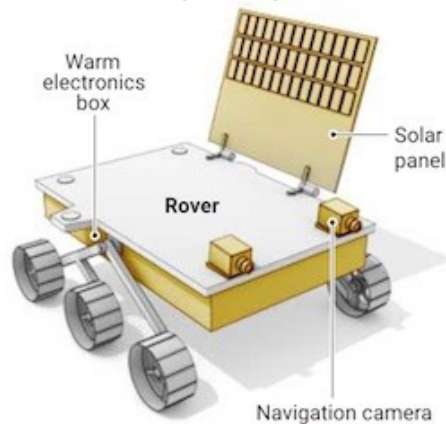
### Pole position

If all goes to plan, India's Chandrayaan-2 mission this summer will attempt a soft landing on an ancient high plain of the moon, some 600 kilometers from the south pole. It would be the first landing so far from the equator.



### Seeking ground truth

With spectrometers for assaying elements in the regolith, the briefcase-size rover hopes to make the most of the 14-Earth-day lunar day.

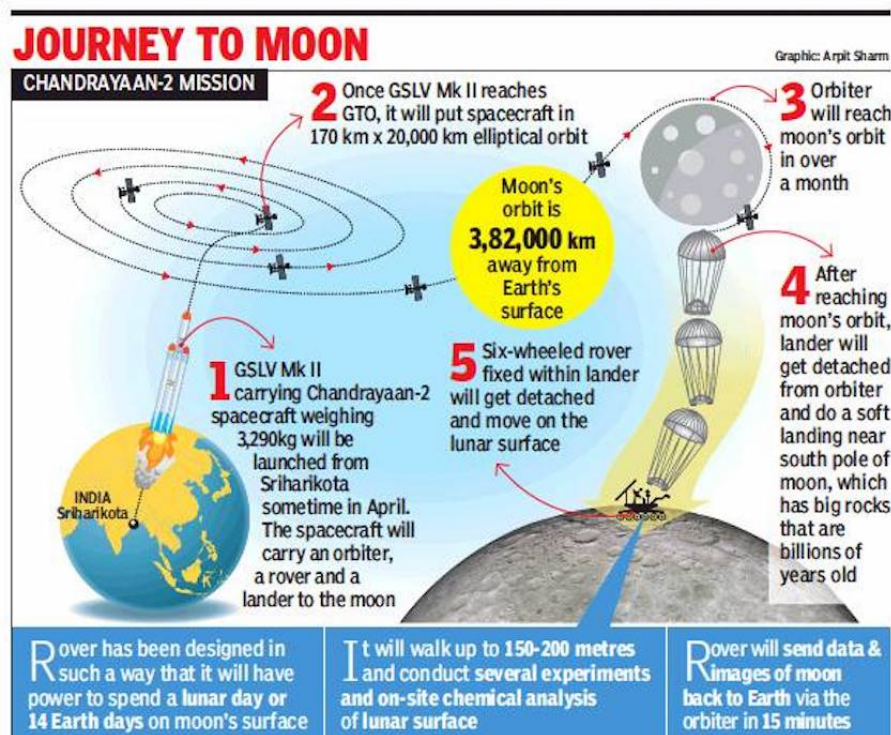


### Exploring lunar nova

The lander is equipped with a seismometer to listen for moonquakes and a Langmuir probe that will measure fluctuations in the wispy plasma enveloping the lunar surface.

- ❖ Once the GSLV-F10 put the spacecraft in the 170 km x 20,000 km elliptical orbit, the orbiter would be manoeuvred towards the 100-km lunar orbit by firing thrusters and then the lander housing the rover will separate from the orbiter.
- ❖ After a controlled descent, the lander will soft-land near the south pole of the lunar surface and deploy the rover.
- ❖ Soft-landing on the lunar surface is the most challenging part of the mission.
- ❖ Till now, only the US, Russia and China have been able to soft-land spacecraft on the lunar surface.

- ❖ During the 14 Earth days, the six-wheeled rover will have the power to move around 100-200 metre.
- ❖ The instruments, including a high-intensity camera, on the rover will observe the lunar surface and take images of the moon.



- ❖ It will send back data to the Earth via the orbiter within 15 minutes that will be useful for analysis of the lunar soil.
- ❖ Payloads of the 3,290kg Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft will collect scientific information on lunar topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, lunar exosphere and signatures of hydroxyl and water-ice.

## ENVIRONMENT

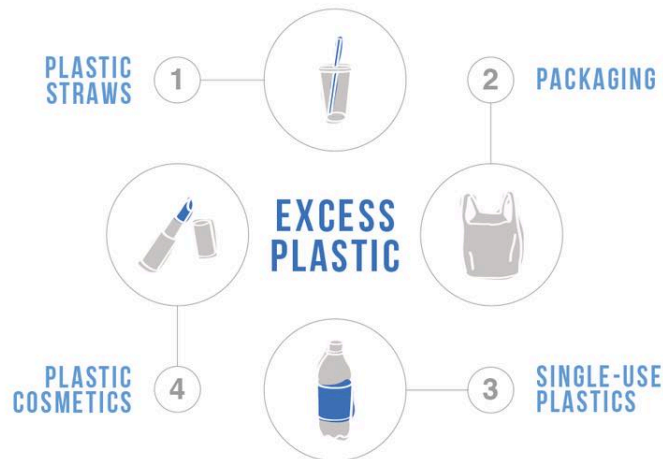
### Earth Hour

- ❖ The twelfth Earth Hour was observed on March 24 from 8:30PM to 9:30 PM
- ❖ Earth hour aims to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and wildlife.

- ❖ Earth Hour is the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment where citizens around the world unite to take a stand against climate change by turning off non-essential lights for one hour.
- ❖ It is a global initiative of the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), with a record participation of 178 countries and territories around the world.
- ❖ On the occasion of Earth Hour, 2018, WWF-India is launched the "Give Up to Give Back" initiative to inspire organisations, institutions and individuals to make the choice to curb some habits, practices and lifestyles that burden our lives and the environment.



# GIVE UP



# TO GIVE BACK

- ❖ The campaign includes taking steps like giving up single-use plastics, giving up fossil fuels, giving up lonely car rides for your employees, give up e-waste among others.

## STATES

### Naipunya Ratham – Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu flagged off Naipunya Ratham, a multi-utility vehicle which aims to bring technology and innovation to the remote corners of the state.
- ❖ The government will roll out 12 more Naipunya Rathams by May month.
- ❖ The first phase of the launch would cover 13 districts and 28 smart villages in collaboration with Hewlett Packard, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India and Guide Foundation for Development.



- ❖ The Naipunya Rathams are part of the ‘Smart Village Smart Ward Programme’ that will facilitate and look to improve digital literacy, digital skills.
- ❖ Schoolchildren can avail technical and educational information, youth can use it for their skill development purposes and the vehicle also possesses excellent system for entertainment purposes as well.

### Krem Puri

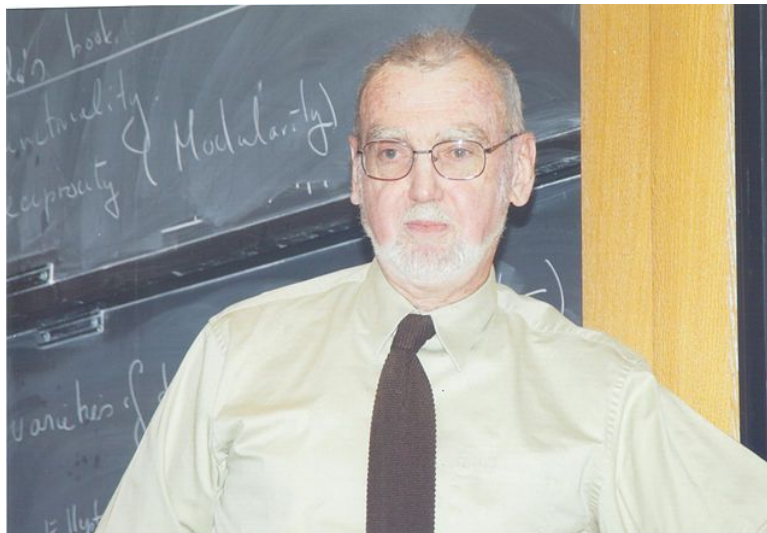
- ❖ The world's longest sandstone cave named Krem Puri was recently discovered in Meghalaya.
- ❖ 'Krem' means 'cave' in Khasi language.

- ❖ The cave system which is 24,583 metres long was discovered in near Laitsohum village, located in the Mawsynram area in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district.
- ❖ It has a length of 24.5 km, almost three times the height of Mount Everest, and contains some dinosaur fossils from 66-76 million years ago
- ❖ The previous world record holder in the longest sandstone cave category was Venezuela's Cueva Del Saman in Edo Zulia. This is an 18,200-metre (18.2km) long quartzite sandstone cave.
- ❖ The dinosaur fossils in the longest sandstone cave in the world include those of the Mosasaurus.
- ❖ It was a carnivorous aquatic lizard that resided on Earth around 66-70 million years ago.
- ❖ Meghalaya is also home to India's longest cave in the general category - the Krem Liat Prah-Umim-Labit limestone cave system located in Jaintia Hills. It measures over 31 km in length.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Abel Prize

- ❖ Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands won the prestigious Abel Prize.
- ❖ He was awarded for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory.



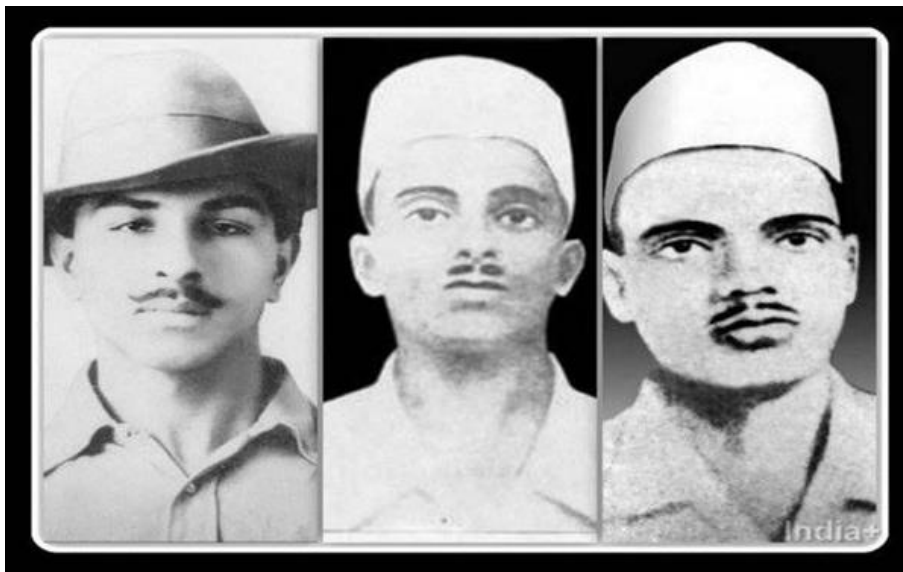
### About the Prize

- ❖ The Abel prize is awarded annually by the Government of Norway to one or more outstanding mathematicians.
- ❖ The prize has been named after Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel
- ❖ The award was established in 2001 by the Government of Norway and complements its sister prize in the humanities, the Holberg Prize
- ❖ It is the most prestigious international academic award in mathematics.
- ❖ Earlier, S.R. Srinivasa Varadhan, an Indian American mathematician was awarded Abel Prize in 2007 for his fundamental contributions to probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviation.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **Martyrs' Day – March 23**

- ❖ March 23 is marked as Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day to remember the day when three brave freedom fighters were hanged by the British.
- ❖ On March 23, 1931, Bhagat Singh along with his associates Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru were hanged to death for the assassination of 21-year-old British police officer John Saunders.

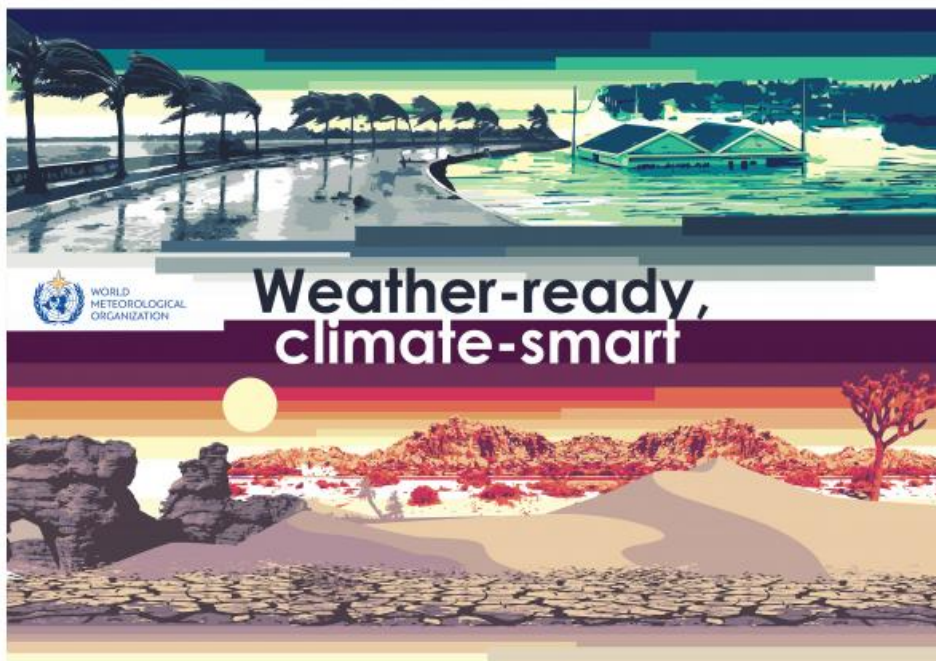


- ❖ The day they were executed is celebrated as Martyrs' Day throughout the country.

- ❖ Bhagat Singh was a socialist revolutionary and freedom fighter who was executed at the age of 23 for his dramatic violence against the British rule.
- ❖ They mistook Saunders for Superintendent James Scott, who was responsible for leading a lathi charge against Lala Lajpat Rai, who along with his followers was protesting against the Simon Commission.
- ❖ Lala Rajpat Rai succumbed to his injuries a few days later.
- ❖ Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were hanged to death 11 hours before the scheduled time for the Saunder's murder case.

### **World Meteorological Day – March 23**

- ❖ World Meteorological Day is observed every year on March 23 to commemorate the coming into force of the international convention establishing the World Meteorological Organisation on March 23, 1950.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'Weather-Ready, Climate Smart'.





- ❖ The theme highlights the need for informed planning for day-to-day weather and hazards like floods as well as for naturally occurring climate variability and long-term climate change.

### WMO

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 191 Member States and Territories.
- ❖ It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was founded in 1873.
- ❖ Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950, WMO became the specialised agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- ❖ The Organization is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

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