

Far and Wide

Every week we share selection of six news from six continents that we believe will impact our world in the near or distant future

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A Historic first: Chandrayaan-3 lands on the moon; India becomes first country to land on the moon's south pole

Welcome to the newest edition of Far and Wide, where we bring a collection of interesting stories and developments from around the world. Our lead story this week covers the unique achievement of India as a space power. Entering the ranks of the only four countries (erstwhile) that have landed on the moon, India also became the first and only country to have landed on the south pole of the Earth's natural satellite. Why this is groundbreaking and has evoked such wide interest from across the world entails a glaring perspective; Antarctica's glaciers and Earth's own south pole, although formed 34 million years ago, was only discovered in the 1820s. Moreover, it is likely that in the near future, the moon's south pole, with its promise of frozen water, can become a possible source of oxygen to aid life. This will perhaps re-fuel forthcoming missions as a transit point into deeper space. And all this has been achieved for just under \$75 million, less than the budget of Hollywood's 2014 "Interstellar". We cannot however ignore the efficiency of the entire project. Though a laudable attempt, Chandrayaan-2 was lost in 2019. However, PRADAN, the orbiter, is currently in an orbit around the moon and was used to assist Chandrayaan-3's soft landing. Communication between both was established and recently in a post, ISRO said that the orbiter sent a welcome message "Welcome, buddy!" to lander VIKRAM. The health of both the VIKRAM-PRAGYAN (lander-rover) pair has been established, and now they will move on to collecting data from the surface. The Chandrayaan-3 mission's lander is named after Vikram Sarabhai, who is widely regarded as the father of the Indian space program. Dr. K. Sivan, who headed the project in 2019, had expressed confidence that this time the mission will be a "grand success", and so it was. More than a billion Indians were glued to their TV screens, and were overjoyed to see the hard work of the scientists, engineers and the enabling staff pay off for a collective win. We hope this story and the others in this edition of our newsletter will provoke thought and discussion among our readers.

INSIDE

Stories in Focus



Policy

Europe's sweeping rules for tech giants kick in, here's how they work



Global Trade

Critical minerals from Chile; Potatoes export to Guyana | India plans to cut reliance on few nations

Donald Trump rakes up high import tariffs by India, says would impose reciprocal tax

India's FTAs with UAE, Australia indicate high utilisation for beneficiary sectors



Space

As India celebrates, Chandrayaan-3's lander-rover start busy day at moon



Defence and Strategic Partnerships

In a first, Indian submarine deployed all the way to Australia

PM Modi arrives in South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS summit



Europe Europe's sweeping rules for tech giants kick in, here's how they work



Source: Business standard

https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/europe-s-sweeping-rules-for-tech-giants-to-kick-in-here-s-how-they-work-123082200276_1.html

Major tech companies such as Google, Facebook, TikTok, and others operating in Europe are making **comprehensive efforts to clean up the content users encounter online**. The **European Union's (EU) Digital Services Act (DSA)**, the first phase of a series of tech-focused regulations, comes into effect this month. The DSA aims to **enhance user safety online and curb the spread of harmful content**, including illegal or terms-of-service-violating material like promotion of genocide or anorexia. It also seeks to safeguard fundamental rights such as **privacy and free speech**. The DSA applies to several platforms, including social media (Facebook, TikTok, etc.), online marketplaces (Amazon, Alibaba AliExpress, etc.), search engines (Google, Bing), and more. Platforms with **45 million users or 10%** of the EU's population will face the highest level of regulation. The new rules require platforms to **implement ways for users to report illegal content and products**, and companies must promptly remove such content. Platforms have already started their exercise; for example, Amazon has set up channels for reporting illegal products, while TikTok has introduced additional reporting options for various types of problematic content.

Platforms are also **adjusting algorithms to reduce negative user experiences**, and **limitations are being imposed on ad targeting**, especially towards vulnerable groups like children. Companies found violating the DSA could face **fines of up to 6% of their global revenue** or even a **ban from the EU**. While some platforms, like Amazon and TikTok, are making changes to comply, some legal challenges have emerged from companies feeling unfairly compliant to the regulations. The DSA's global impact is being recognized, with platforms like Wikipedia implementing changes to provide more awareness on problematic users and content. The EU's regulatory actions **may influence digital practices and policies worldwide**, affecting entities that operate beyond Europe's borders.



North America

Donald Trump rakes up high import tariffs by India, says would impose reciprocal tax



Source: Times of India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/donald-trump-rakes-up-high-import-tariffs-by-india-says-would-impose-reciprocal-tax/articleshow/102885223.cms?from=mdr>

Former US President Donald Trump, currently seeking re-election, has once again raised concerns about India's **high taxes** on specific American goods, particularly **Harley-Davidson motorcycles**. He has warned that if he wins the 2024 presidential elections, he plans to impose equivalent taxes on Indian products. This isn't the first instance of Trump highlighting India's import tariffs. He previously **dubbed India a "tariff king" in 2018** and withdrew India's preferential market access under the **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** arrangement in 2019, citing unfair market access. Following Trump's criticism, India reduced customs duty on imported high-end bikes from 75% to 50%. Trump had also raised high Indian duty on American whiskey. During an interview with Larry Kudlow on Fox Business News, Trump **criticized India's high tax rates**, particularly mentioning Harley-Davidson. He noted that while Indian-made motorcycles entered the US without tariffs, American bikes faced steep duties of 100%, 150%, or even 200% when entering India. According to him, it is not in their interest to set up a plant in India just to evade tariffs. He conceded that countries like India and Brazil hold **significant economic influence**. However, they impose substantial tariffs, he said.

He further explained his stance on reciprocity, highlighting that if India imposes tariffs on the US, he would respond in kind. Trump emphasized that this approach might be seen as retribution or under a different name, but his principle is to **reciprocate if other countries apply charges on American goods**. Trump, currently navigating legal challenges and allegations, is leading the Republican presidential primaries. National polls indicate **significant support for him within the GOP**, with over half of the party's votes backing him.



South America

Critical minerals from Chile; Potatoes export to Guyana | India plans to cut reliance on few nations



Source: CNBC

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/economy/chile-critical-minerals-guyana-potatoes-export-guyana-india-trade-reliance-17528921.htm>

India's **Ministry of Commerce** has outlined its **strategy to diversify its trade partners for both exports and imports**, aiming to reduce reliance on a few countries. The focus is on exploring trade opportunities in areas with **untapped potential**. Initiatives include negotiations for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Peru and Chile in Latin America, driven by the desire to secure supply of critical minerals**. On the export front, India recently sent its **first shipment of potatoes to Guyana and participated in a buyer-seller meet promoting rice, bovine meat, and millet exports in Indonesia**. In the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, India is reviewing existing FTAs and has established a **Joint Committee** for this purpose. Any significant developments regarding this review are expected after the upcoming meeting on the ASEAN Trade and Goods Agreement (ATEG) later this month. Meanwhile, trade negotiations are progressing with other nations. The **fifth round of India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** negotiations recently concluded. India's negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with the **UK** are also underway. India and the UK have made substantial progress in their FTA negotiations, concluding 19 chapters out of 26. The Ministry highlights successful initiatives such as the export of 28.5 MT frozen meat under the i-CAS Halal certification from **Bihar to Vietnam**. Efforts are also ongoing to **expand the exports of gems and jewellery beyond major destinations like the US and China**. In terms of imports, officials declined to comment on speculation about changes in wheat import duties. Also, efforts are being made to encourage imports of products like **tomatoes from Nepal and other landlocked neighbours** to balance trade surpluses.

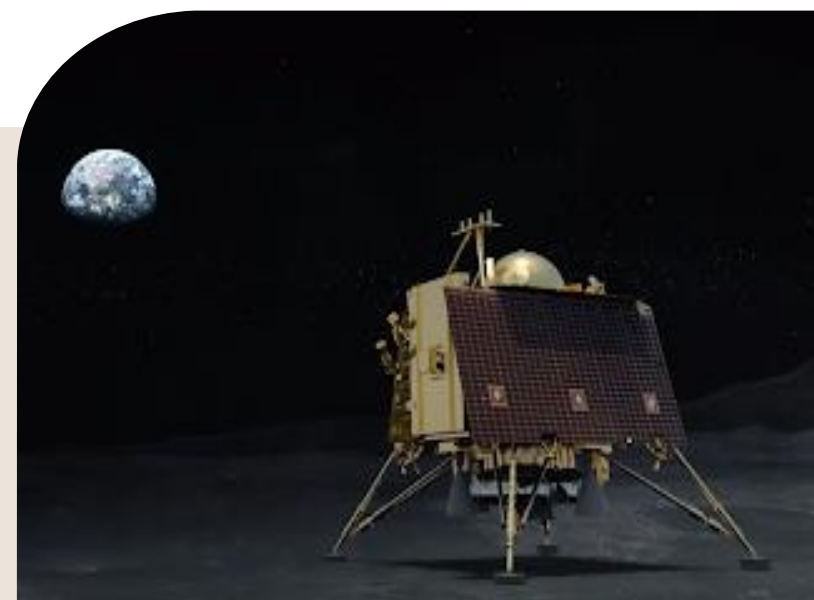


Asia

As India celebrates, Chandrayaan-3's lander-rover start busy day at moon

The Chandrayaan-3 mission achieved a significant milestone by successfully landing on the moon's surface, marking a historic moment for India, fulfilling the hopes of 1.4 billion people and **becoming a part of the elite group of space-faring nations**. The **Vikram Lander** and **Pragyan rover** are now operational on the lunar surface. Sharing the update, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) tweeted, "Chandrayaan-3 ROVER: Made in India Made for the MOON! The Ch-3 Rover ramped down from the Lander and India took a walk on the moon!" The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** shared updates on the rover's progress, highlighting that both the lander and rover are in good health. The **Pragyan rover has been deployed from the Vikram lander** and has begun its mission. Over the next 14 days, the six-wheeled Pragyan rover will conduct experiments on the lunar surface. Its **Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer** will analyze the chemical and mineralogical composition of the moon's surface. Additionally, a **Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope** on the rover will determine the elemental composition of lunar soil and rocks in the landing vicinity.

The Vikram lander also carries various scientific instruments. The **RAMBHA-LP (Langmuir Probe)** will measure **plasma density** and its variations near the lunar surface. The **ChaSTE** (Chandra's Surface Thermo Physical Experiment) will study **thermal properties in the polar region**. An **Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity** will gauge seismic activity around the landing site. The rover's mission, powered by **solar energy**, will eventually **slow down after 14 days of activity**. During this period, communication will be maintained through the Vikram lander, which will relay data back to ISRO. Notably, Chandrayaan mission's success marks India's accomplishment as the **first country to land a spacecraft near the moon's south pole, a location rich in frozen water** that holds potential as a source of oxygen and fuel.



Source: NDTV

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/chandrayaan-3-chandrayaan-3-updates-pragyan-rover-vikram-lander-pragyan-at-work-vikram-keeps-watch-busy-day-for-chandrayaan-3-duo-4324431>



Australia

In a first, Indian submarine deployed all the way to Australia

For the first time, an Indian Navy submarine, **INS Vagir**, is embarking on an extended-range deployment to Australia, coinciding with the **Malabar exercise involving the Quad navies** off Sydney. The deployment began in June, and INS Vagir, the **fifth Kalvari class submarine**, arrived in Fremantle, Australia, on August 20. The submarine will engage in exercises alongside units of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) on the **West Coast of Australia**. Simultaneously, on Australia's **East Coast, Exercise Malabar-23** was successfully conducted, involving Indian naval vessels INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata, along with aircraft. This exercise began on August 11 and continued until August 21. The Royal Australian Navy, for the first time, hosted this exercise, which it initially participated in 2020, amidst the India-China military standoff in eastern Ladakh. Subsequent to the Malabar exercise, a separate exercise called **AUSINDEX**, focusing on India-Australia naval cooperation, was held from **August 22 to 24**. The Indian Navy has outlined that the ongoing deployment will include a range of Anti-Submarine exercises at basic, intermediate, and advanced levels.

Source: Indian Express

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/in-a-first-navy-submarine-vagir-to-reach-australia-today-8900274/#:~:text=In%20a%20statement%2C%20the%20Navy,and%20is%20based%20in%20Mumbai.>



Africa

PM Modi arrives in South Africa to attend 15th BRICS summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a three-day official visit to South Africa, during which he participated in the **15th BRICS summit** and engaged in bilateral meetings with global leaders. He highlighted the significance of **BRICS as a platform for addressing concerns of the entire Global South**. The visit included participation in the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue events. This marked the **first in-person summit** of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) since **2019**. In his departure statement, PM Modi underscored BRICS' robust collaboration in various sectors. He appreciated the role of BRICS in discussing matters pertinent to the Global South, encompassing developmental needs and **multilateral system reforms**. The summit provided an opportunity to identify future areas of cooperation and assess institutional development.

During the visit, PM Modi attended the **BRICS Business Forum leaders' dialogue** and the **BRICS Leaders' Retreat**, which involved discussions on global developments and related concerns. On August 23, he participated in plenary sessions addressing intra-BRICS issues, **multilateral system reform, and counter-terrorism**. On August 24, a special event named "BRICS – Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue" took place, involving additional countries invited by South Africa. Discussions revolved around the priorities of the Global South, with a particular focus on partnering with Africa. Attention was also drawn to the potential meeting between PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, the first such bilateral meeting since the border standoff commenced in May 2020. Following the South Africa visit, PM Modi was **scheduled to travel to Greece, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in four decades**.



Source: Indian Express

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/pm-modi-south-africa-brics-summit-live-updates-8903194/>