

ISRO's LVM3-M6 Mission successfully placed the Bluebird Block-2 Satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

LVM3-M6 is the **Sixth Operational Flight** of LVM3 and the **third dedicated commercial mission** to launch the **BlueBird Block-2 satellite** of AST SpaceMobile, USA.

- Launched from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**, the mission is a part of commercial agreement between **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** and **AST**, a US based Company.
 - ⌚ **NSIL** Incorporated in 2019, as a **wholly owned Government Company** under **Department of Space** and serves as the **commercial arm of ISRO**.

About Blue Bird Block -2

- **Part of a global LEO constellation:** Provides **direct-to-mobile connectivity** through satellite; Enable 4G and 5G voice and video calls, texts, streaming, and data, etc.
 - ⌚ LEO is an orbit **relatively close to Earth's surface** with an altitude around 160-1000km, useful for **satellite imaging** and is the site of **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- **Key Features:** 223m² phased array, making it **largest commercial communications satellite** ever deployed into LEO.
 - ⌚ It is also the **heaviest payload (6,100 kg)** to be **launched by LVM3**.

About ISRO's LVM3 Launch Vehicle

- **Three Stages:** Comprising **two solid strap-on motors (S200)**, a **liquid core stage (L110)**, and a **cryogenic upper stage (C25)**.
- **Key Features:** Lift-off mass of 640 tonnes, payload capability of 4,200 kg to **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**.
 - ⌚ GTO is an **elliptical orbit** with an altitude **around 37,000 km**, for transferring spacecraft to **geosynchronous (and also geostationary) Earth orbits**.
- **Previous Missions:** Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, and two OneWeb missions carrying 72 satellites.

Industrial Parks (IP) emerging as a key pillar of India's Innovation and Industrial Growth

Developed in partnership with **state governments and private sector**, they offer **shared infrastructure, streamlined approvals** and a **predictable regulatory environment**.

Status of IP in India

- Currently, India has more than **4,500 industrial parks** as per **India Industrial Land Bank (IILB)**.
- **306 plug-and-play industrial parks** and **20 parks and smart cities** are being developed under **National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)**.

Key Benefits offered by Industrial Parks

- **Economic Growth:** Integrate **scarce factors of production**, generate higher productivity and **operational efficiency**, **attract FDI** (India among the top 5 global destinations for greenfield projects as per UNCTAD), creating jobs, and improved wages, etc.
- **Environmental and Social Responsibility:** Promote eco-friendly practices, support **resource efficiency**, etc., along with offering **gender sensitive facilities, health and security systems** to employees.

Initiatives taken to promote them

- **Plug-And-Play Industrial Parks:** Union Budget 2025-26 allocated **Rs. 2,500 crores** for their development.
- **India Industrial Land Bank (IILB):** Developed by **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** as a centralized **Geographic Information System (GIS)-enabled platform** offering spatial and non-spatial information on industrial land.
- **Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS):** **Comprehensive framework** for assessing performance and quality.
 - ⌚ **IPRS 3.0** was launched in September 2025 with enhanced parameters on **sustainability, skill linkages, digitalization, etc.**
- **Ease of Doing Business Reforms:** Through **National Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP), 2014**; Goods and Services Tax (GST), reducing compliance burden, etc.

Key Essentials of an Industrial Park



Regulatory Regime

Incentive-based rules for labor, land use, and foreign investment.



Integrated Infrastructure

Shared facilities like telecom, labs, clearances, training and security systems.



Defined Geography

Master-planned land with uniform standards for buildings and facilities.



Dedicated Management

Single authority overseeing firm entry and regulatory compliance.



Multi-tenant Clusters

Multiple firms collaborate and share resources within the park.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced liquidity infusion measures for the banking system

RBI will conduct an Open Market Purchase (OMP) of Government Securities (G-Sec) of ₹2 lakh crore and a USD/INR 3-year Buy/Sell Swap auction of **USD 10 billion**.

- **Open Market Operations (OMPs)** are the market operations conducted by the RBI by way of **sale or purchase of G-Secs to/from the market** with an objective to **adjust the rupee liquidity conditions** in the market.
 - ⊕ E.g. **In case of excess liquidity** in the market, RBI resorts to sale of securities thereby sucking out the rupee liquidity.
- **USD/INR Buy/sell Swaps:** Central bank purchases dollars (US dollars or USD) from banks in exchange for Indian Rupees (INR) and then immediately enters into an opposite agreement with banks agreeing to sell dollars at a later date.
 - ⊕ **Authorised Dealers (ADs) Category 1 banks** are the eligible entities to participate in the auction.

Need for Liquidity Infusion

- **RBI's Foreign Exchange Market Interventions:** When the rupee depreciates sharply, the RBI sells US dollars from its forex reserves.
 - ⊕ Banks pay rupees to the RBI to buy dollars, tightening systemic liquidity.
- **Strong Credit Growth:** When banks lend, excess reserves with banks decline.
- **Other reasons:** Such as Advance tax outflows, significant foreign portfolio investors selling in Indian equities, etc.

Other Liquidity Infusion Instruments

- **Quantitative tools:** Liquidity Adjustment Facility (Repo and Reverse repo), Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), Bank Rate, etc.
- **Qualitative tools:** Credit Rationing, Moral Suasion, Selective Credit Control (SCC), Margin Requirement, etc.

Annual Report 2024-25 of Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks released

It showcases key trends related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) landscape of India.

Key highlights

- **India's IP filings:** Hit a record high, with total IPR applications rising ~20% year-on-year to about **7.5 lakh**.
 - ⊕ Trademark formed the largest chunk with more than 5,50,000 being filed.
- **Patent applications:** Crossed 1,10,000, with Indian residents accounting for over **61.9%** of all filings marking a shift toward self-reliance in innovation and R&D.
- **Others:** Trademark, design, copyrights and Geographical Indication filings also increased.

About IPR

- **Definition:** Rights given to persons over creations of their minds giving them an exclusive right over the creation for a certain period of time.
- **Types:** 8 types of IPR are covered under IPR Policy Management (IPRPM) framework: (i) Patents, (ii) Trade mark, (iii) Industrial Designs, (iv) Copyrights, (v) Geographical Indications, (vi) Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Layout Design, (vii) Trade Secret, and (viii) Plant Varieties.
- **Administered by** Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
 - ⊕ However some IPRs such as on **Plant variety** is administered by **Ministry of Agriculture**.

Steps taken to foster IP activities

- **National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM)** to educate one million students about intellectual property.
- **International collaboration:** India has joined its several treaties eg. Locarno Agreement for Industrial Designs, Vienna Agreement on trademarks etc.
- **Capacity Building** E.g. **SPRIHA Scheme** aims to integrate IPR education into higher learning institutions across the country.
- **National IPR Policy, 2016 under DPIIT:** Comprehensive framework to promote IP creation, protection, and commercialization; aligned with global best practices.
- **Digitization eg. IP Saarthi chatbot** (an AI-powered assistant).



India's Creator Economy to drive over \$1 trillion in Consumer Spending by 2030: Report

As per Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report, **2-2.5 million creators in India** are influencing more than **30% of consumers** with around **\$350-400 billion in consumer spending**.

Rising Creator influenced Spending in India: Report Highlights

- **Supporting Infrastructure in India:** E.g. **Digital content watch time** (in hours per week) increased from 6.6. (FY 2020) to 10.9 (FY 2024) with **internet users increasing** from ~740 Million (FY2020) to ~950 Million (FY2024).
- **Demographic Expansion:** Ecosystem is expanding beyond **Gen Z** and **metropolitan centres**, reaching varied age groups and city tiers.
- **Leading Categories:** **Short-form video** remains the dominant content format, with comedy, films, daily soaps, and fashion being the most consumed genres.
- **Brand Spending:** 70% of brands are expecting to increase their creator budgets by **1.5- 3 times over the next 2-3 years** signalling a shift in marketing driven by **digital creator ecosystem**.

About Creator (or Orange) Economy

- **Meaning:** Ecosystem involving **creators, platforms, brands, and third-party intermediaries** who collaborate and generate revenue through **content-driven models** like advertising, sponsorships, subscriptions, commerce, etc.
 - ⊕ **Creators,** makes content like videos, posts for engaging audience, and **bring authenticity, relatability and niche expertise**.
- **Significance:**
 - ⊕ **Economic Growth:** YouTube reported its creative ecosystem contributed **over Rs 16,000 crore to India's GDP in 2024**.
 - ⊕ **Jobs and Innovation:** Provides livelihoods to influencers, editors, IT professionals, etc., through **monetisation opportunities** in platforms like YouTube, Instagram, etc.
- **Key Challenges:** **Inconsistent monetization opportunities**, stringent **platform algorithms**, Intellectual property protection, trust and authenticity (fake followers, etc.).

Also In News



Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

President of India presented the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar- 2025**.

About Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- **Objective:** Recognise notable and inspiring contributions made by **individuals or teams** in fields of science, technology, and innovation.
- **Eligibility:** All scientists, technologists and innovators working in **government or private organizations**.
 - ⊕ Also includes Indian origin individuals in abroad with **exceptional contributions benefitting Indian communities or society**.
- **Given in four categories:**
 - ⊕ **Vigyan Ratna:** Lifetime achievements.
 - ⊕ **Vigyan Shri:** Distinguished contributions.
 - ⊕ **Vigyan Yuva:** For young scientists.
 - ⊕ **Vigyan Team:** Comprising three or more scientists/researchers/innovators.
- Given in **13 domains** like Physics, Engineering Sciences, etc.



Group of Monuments at Hampi

Union Finance Minister expressed concerns over 'poor maintenance' of Hampi.

About Group of Monuments at Hampi

- It comprises mainly the remnants of the Capital City of **Vijayanagara Empire (14th-16th Century AD)**.
- **Location:** Tungabhadra basin in Vijaynagar District (Karnataka).
- **Important remains:** Krishna temple, Narasimha, Ganesa, Hemakuta group of temples, Achyutaraya temple complex, Vitthala temple complex etc.
 - ⊕ **Vitthala temple** is the most exquisitely ornate structure on the site and represents the culmination of **Vijayanagara temple architecture**.
- It was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in **1986**.



Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (LEP)

Union Minister of Power, Housing & Urban Affairs, inaugurated the **commercial operation** of Unit-2 (250 MW) of **2000 MW Subansiri LEP**.

About Subansiri LEP

- India's **largest hydropower project**, comprising 8 units of 250 MW each, designed as a **Run-of-the-River scheme**.
 - ⊕ **Run-of-river projects** use **natural downward flow of rivers** and micro turbine generators to capture **kinetic energy carried by water**.
- **Undertaken by:** National Hydroelectric Power Corporation private Ltd (NHPC).
- **Location:** **North Lakhimpur** on the border of **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam**.
- **River Subansiri** is a major tributary of **River Brahmaputra**.



Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port

Kuwait signed an agreement with China to build **Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port**.

About Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port

- **Location:** **Boubyan Island, Kuwait**.
- **Aim:** Enhance regional trade and transportation, contributing to Kuwait's economic diversification, reducing its reliance on oil.
- **Operationalisation:** Entire project is expected to be operational by 2026.
- **Part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** BRI or New Silk Road, is China-led infrastructure projects launched in 2013. It has **two components:**
 - ⊕ **Silk Road Economic Belt:** **Land routes** across Europe, Middle East, Central Asia and Asia.
 - ⊕ **Maritime Silk Road:** **Sea routes** across East Asia, South Asia, Middle East and Africa.



Mahasagar Doctrine

India has announced a **USD 450 million reconstruction assistance package** for cyclone Ditwah-affected Sri Lanka, in line with its MAHASAGAR policy.

About the MAHASAGAR doctrine

- It is an extension of **SAGAR doctrine** with a shift of focus from just maritime security to economic and geopolitical concerns.
 - The term '**MAHASAGAR**' suggests more ambitious undertones to India's maritime objectives as it means 'Great Ocean'.
- Overall Objective:** To strengthen India's **leadership in the Indian Ocean and Global South** through inclusive growth, security, and sustainable development.

About SAGAR Doctrine

- Launched in 2015, SAGAR aimed to **improve India's maritime engagement** through five pillars. i.e.
 - Security Cooperation, Trade and Economic Integration, Capacity Building and Disaster Management, Sustainable Development, Connectivity and Infrastructure.



Thanjavur Painting

Department of Posts transported **Thanjavur Painting** of Lord Ram from Bengaluru to Ayodhya.

About Thanjavur Painting

- Classical art form** named after the town of **Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu**. (Thanjavur was the **capital** of the Chola dynasty).
- Flourished under **Chola, Nayaks** of Vijaynagara, and **Maratha rulers**.
- Key Features:**
 - Also called '**Palagai Padam**,' meaning **picture on a wooden plank** as they are crafted on wooden planks.
 - Embellished with **glass beads, semi-precious gems/stones, vibrant natural colors, and gold foil** providing a **three-dimensional effect**.
 - Known for their **extravagant depictions of deities**.
- Received the **Geographical Indications (GI)** tag.



International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council

India has been re-elected to the ICAO Council for the term 2025-2028.

About ICAO Council

- It is a **governing body** responsible for Secretariat oversight, and for ongoing diplomatic and technical decision making through ICAO while the Assembly is not in session.
- It comprises **36-members**, elected by the 193 Member States during the ICAO Assembly, and serves as the **governing body for a 3-year term**.

About ICAO

- It is a **specialized United Nations agency** established in 1944 under the **Chicago Convention**.
- Membership:** 193 members in total. India is one of its founding members.
- It coordinates **global standards** for safety, efficiency and sustainability in **air transport**.
- It ensures the **smooth operation of the global air mobility network**; promotes trade, cultural exchange, tourism, socio-economic development.

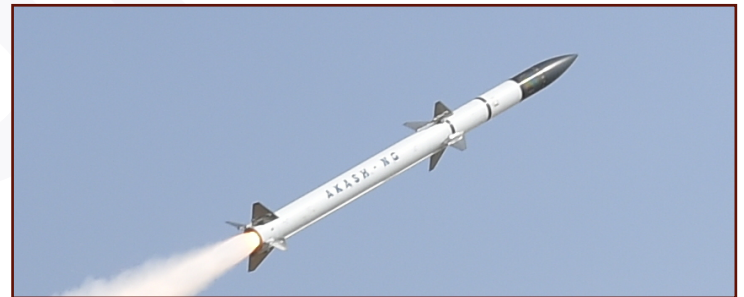


Akash-NG Missile

Recently, DRDO successfully completed the Evaluation Trials of Akash-NG system.

About Akash- New Generation (NG) Missile

- Type:** Surface-to-air missile (SAM) defense system designed to work against diverse aerial threats e.g. high-speed, low-altitude and long-range high-altitude targets etc.
- Developed by:** DRDO along with Bharat electronic limited (BEL).
- Features:** It is equipped with an indigenous Radio Frequency seeker and propelled by a solid rocket motor.



Personality in News



Swami Shraddhanand Saraswati (1856 – 1926)

Union Home Minister paid tribute to Swami Shraddhanand Saraswati on his martyrdom day.

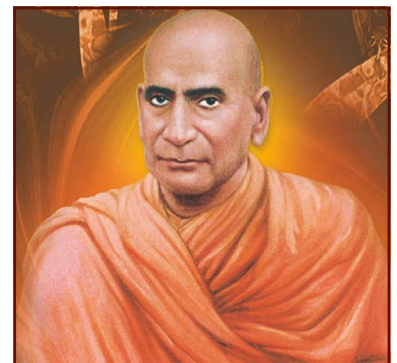
About Swami Shraddhanand Saraswati

- Born in Talwan village of Jalandhar District, Punjab.
- Also known as Mahatma Munshi Ram Vij, was an Indian Independence activist and an Arya Samaj sannyasi

Key contributions

- Education:** In 1902 he established a Gurukul in Kangri, India near Haridwar (now recognized as Gurukul Kangri University).
- Social Reform:** Played a key role in the Shuddhi (re-conversion), a Hindu reform movement in the 1920s.
- Freedom Struggle:** Actively participated in anti-British protests e.g. Rowlatt Satyagraha, Non co-operation movement etc.
- Assassinated on **23 December 1926 in Delhi**; remembered as a **karmayogi** who fused spirituality with nationalism.

Values: Social Equality, nationalism, educational reform etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI