

Russia's Luna-25 Mission Could Land On Lunar South Pole Before Chandrayaan-3

Why In The News?

- As The Chandrayaan-3 Mission Tightens Its Orbit Around The Moon, Russia Is Set To Launch Its **First Moon-landing Spacecraft In 47 Years On Friday, August 11, 2023**. The Luna-25 Mission Is Scheduled To Land On The Moon On **August 23**, The Same Day As Chandrayaan-3's Planned Landing.



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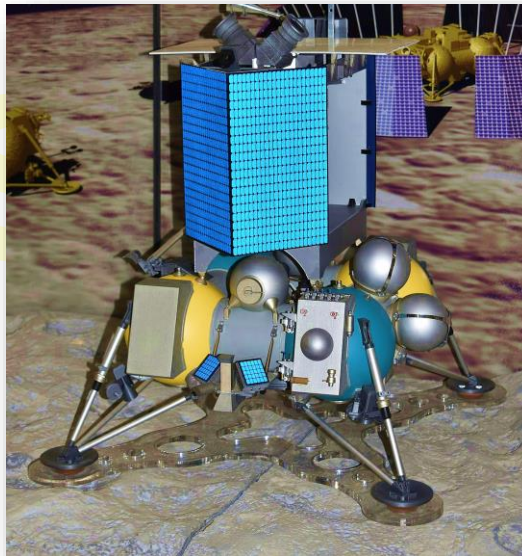
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What Do We Know?

- **Luna-25 Will Launch From The Vostochny Cosmodrome** In The Russian Far East Less Than A Month After Chandrayaan-3 Launched From The Satish Dhawan Space Center In Sriharikota.
- The Russian Mission Will Try To Land On **The Lunar South Pole** Just Like The Indian Mission, Aiming For A Prized Destination That May Hold Significant Quantities Of Ice That Could Be Used To **Extract Oxygen And Fuel In The Future**.
- If Either Of The Mission Succeeds Before The Other, It Will Be **The First One To Land On The Lunar South Pole In Human History**.
- Roscosmos, Russia's ISRO Counterparts, Said That **Luna-25 Will Practice Soft-landing, Analyse Soil Samples And Conduct Long-term Scientific Research** On The Moon's Surface.

Luna-25 Mission

- This Is **Russia's First Lunar Mission Since 1976** When The Country Was Part Of The Soviet Union And It Will Be Completed **Without Equipment From The European Space Agency (ESA)**. ESA Ended Its Cooperation With Roscosmos After Russia Invaded Ukraine.
- **Luna-25 Has A Mass Of 1.8 Tons And Carries 31 Kilograms Of Scientific Equipment**, Including Some That It Will Use To Take Rock Samples From Up To A **Depth Of 15 Centimeters** To Test For The Presence Of Water That Could Be Used To Support Future Crewed Missions To The Moon.
- Originally Scheduled To Launch In **October 2021** But Had Many Delays. The Russian Mission Will Take A Lot Less Time To Reach The Moon Than Chandrayaan-3 Because The Latter Is Taking A Longer Route That Takes **Advantage Of The Gravities Of The Earth And Moon To Use A Lot Less Fuel**.



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