

# Daily News Analysis

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## Saturday, 21 September 2024







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## ADB approves \$500 million loan to boost Indonesia's energy transition

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$500 million policy-based loan to Indonesia.
- Objective: The loan aims to accelerate Indonesia's transition to sustainable and clean energy.
- Program Name: The initiative is called the Affordable and Sustainable Energy Transition Program.
- Target Goals: The program supports Indonesia's enhanced nationally determined contribution (NDC) and its goal to achieve net-zero power emissions by 2050.
- Current Energy Scenario: While Indonesia has expanded its electricity generation capacity, the energy system is still heavily dependent on fossil fuels such as coal, gas, and diesel.
- Program Focus:
- Establish a robust policy and regulatory framework for clean energy transition.
- Strengthen governance and financial sustainability within the energy sector.
- Ensure a just and inclusive transition to clean energy.
- Here's a concise overview of ADB's aid to Indonesia:
- Total Support: Over \$41 billion in loans, grants, and technical assistance since 1966.
- Key Sectors: Energy, infrastructure, disaster resilience, health, education, and social protection.

Q.What is the objective of ADB's \$500 million loan to Indonesia under the Affordable and Sustainable Energy Transition Program? To accelerate Indonesia's transition to sustainable and clean energy















## Venezuela joins international atomic agency's governing board

- Venezuela has been appointed as a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the 2024-2026 term.
- Regional Representation: Venezuela will represent the Latin American and Caribbean regional group on the board.
- IAEA General Conference: The designation took place during the 68th IAEA General Conference in Vienna, Austria.
- Objective: The goal of Venezuela's involvement is to promote the peaceful use of nuclear technologies and energy for human development.
- Candidacy: Venezuela's candidacy was presented in 2022, and the country has worked since then to secure one of the three regional seats.
- Regional Partners: Latin America and the Caribbean will also be represented by Argentina and Colombia, alongside Venezuela.
- IAEA
- Founded: Established in 1957.
- Mission: Promote peaceful nuclear energy use and prevent nuclear weapon proliferation.
- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.
- Membership: 178 Member States
- Director General: Rafael Grossi
- Focus Areas: Nuclear energy, medicine, agriculture, and global nuclear security.

Q.What role will Venezuela play on the IAEA Board of Governors from 2024-2026? Venezuela will represent the Latin American and Caribbean group on the IAEA Board















## Iran, Burkina Faso sign MoU for peaceful nuclear cooperation

- Burkina Faso signed a memorandum and understanding (MoU) for cooperation in peaceful nuclear activities.
- Venue: The MoU was signed during the 68th regular session of the IAEA General Conference in Vienna.
- Cooperation Areas: The agreement focuses on bilateral cooperation in research, education, and the implementation of joint projects.
- Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action: In 2015, Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with major countries, agreeing to limit its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.
- US Withdrawal: The JCPOA has been in jeopardy since the US withdrew in 2018 under former President Trump, reimposing sanctions on Iran.
- Stalled Negotiations: Efforts to revive the JCPOA have stalled since August 2022, despite multiple rounds of negotiations in Vienna.
- International Scrutiny: Tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear activities persist, with the international community closely monitoring the situation.

Q.What was the purpose of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) signed by Iran in 2015? To limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief from major countries.















#### Jordan first country to eliminate leprosy: WHO

- Jordan becomes the first country to eliminate leprosy, officially verified by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Leprosy background: Leprosy, caused by Mycobacterium leprae, affects skin, nerves, and the respiratory system. Despite being curable, it carries a significant social stigma.
- Jordan's efforts: The country implemented public health campaigns, early detection programs, and provided free treatment to eradicate the disease.
- WHO verification: WHO's rigorous criteria include reducing leprosy prevalence to below 1 case per 10,000 people, which Jordan successfully achieved exceeded.
- Strategies used: Training health workers, public awareness campaigns, surveillance systems, and societal reintegration of cured individuals contributed to success.
- Global implications: Jordan's success provides a model for other nations, especially in regions where healthcare access and stigma continue to be challenges.
- Jordan's milestone reflects a dedicated journey in combating leprosy, combining medical and social efforts to achieve what was once thought impossible in the realm of global public health.

Q.Which country becomes the first country to eliminate leprosy, officially verified by the World Health Organization (WHO)? Jordan















## Pakistan, Russia sign MoU to boost trade, economic cooperation

- Pakistan and Russia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing bilateral economic and trade relations.
- This agreement is between the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) and the Saint Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange (SPIMEX).
- Regional Agreement Accession: In addition to the MoU, Pakistan has announced its accession to the MoU on the Creation and Development of the International Transport Corridor. This corridor links several countries, including Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.
- Connectivity: The International Enhancing **Transport** Corridor is expected to improve connectivity and facilitate trade flows across the region, benefiting all linked nations.
- Economic Cooperation Benefits: The cooperation between Pakistan and Russia is set to pave the way for increased economic activities, resulting in mutual benefits for both countries.
- Areas of Collaboration: Both sides have committed to robust dialogue and cooperation in several key areas, including: Trade, Industry, Energy, Connectivity, Science, Technology & Education
- Anticipated Outcomes: The MoU and the establishment of the transport corridor are anticipated to strengthen economic ties and enhance trade opportunities within the region.

Q.What is the purpose of the MoU between PMEX and SPIMEX? To enhance bilateral economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Russia.















## Rajasthan Royals appoint Vikram Rathour as batting coach

- Rajasthan Royals have appointed Vikram Rathour as their batting coach for IPL 2025.
- Notable Background: Rathour, 55, is the second high-profile addition for the season, following Rahul Dravid's appointment as chief coach.
- Coaching Experience: He previously served as India's batting coach under Dravid, helping the team win the T20 World Cup earlier this year.
- Playing Career: Rathour has played six Tests and seven ODIs, with a total of 33 first-class centuries to his name.
- Developmental Role: From 2019 to 2023, he played a key role in the growth of players like Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill, and KL Rahul during critical phases of their careers.

Q.Who was recently appointed as the batting coach for Rajasthan Royals ahead of IPL 2025? Vikram Rathour















## Cabinet approves Chandrayaan-4, first module of Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2028

- The Union Cabinet approved the fourth Moon mission, Chandrayaan-4, to develop technologies for astronaut return and lunar sample collection.
- Objectives of Chandrayaan-4: Demonstrate technologies for docking/undocking, landing, and safe return to Earth. Collect Moon samples and analyze them on Earth.
- Future Plans for Moon Landing: Chandrayaan-4 aims to lay the groundwork for an Indian Moon landing planned for 2040.
- Chandrayaan-3 Success: Chandrayaan-3 successfully demonstrated safe and soft landing capabilities on the lunar surface, showcasing advanced technologies.
- Mission Budget and Timeline: Chandrayaan-4 is budgeted at Rs 2,104.06 crore and is expected to be completed within 36 months of approval.
- Development of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS): The Cabinet green-lit the construction of the first unit of the BAS by 2028, with plans for an Indian Space Station by 2035.
- Revised Gaganyaan Programme: The Gaganyaan Programme scope has been expanded to include additional uncrewed missions for BAS, with total funding increased to Rs 20,193 crore.
- Upcoming Missions: Eight missions are planned: four under the Gaganyaan Programme by 2026, and additional missions for technology demonstration and validation by December 2028. These initiatives reflect India's commitment to advancing its space exploration capabilities and establishing a robust human spaceflight program.

Q. What is the planned timeline for an Indian Moon landing? 2040















## Cabinet approves Rs 8,240 crore fund to develop reusable launch vehicle

- In an effort to develop the capability for an Indian crewed landing on the Moon by 2040, the Union Cabinet approved the development of a reusable next-generation launch vehicle (NGLV) with a total fund of Rs 8,240 crore.
- Key Features of NGLV:
- Payload Capability: Designed to have three times the current payload capacity.
- Cost Efficiency: Estimated to be 1.5 times the cost of the LVM3 launch vehicle.
- Reusability: Focused on low-cost access to space with a reusable first stage and modular green propulsion systems.
- Funding Details: The funding covers development costs, three developmental flights, essential facility establishment, program management, and launch campaigns.
- Development Phase Timeline: The NGLV project aims for completion within 96 months (8 years) through three development flights (D1, D2, D3).

Q.What is the budget approved by the Union Cabinet for the development of the next-generation launch vehicle (NGLV) aimed at enabling an Indian crewed Moon landing by 2040?Rs 8,240 crore











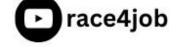




## ADB funded Rs 530 crore water supply schemes for 12 Tripura cities

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide Rs 530 crore to Tripura for upgrading drinking water supply.
- Project Launch: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha laid the foundation for the 'Mukhyamantri Nagar Unnayan Prakalp' (Chief Minister's Urban Development Scheme) in Udaipur.
- Beneficiaries: The project aims to benefit around four lakh people and resolve drinking water issues for over 75,000 families in 12 cities.
- Timeline: The ambitious plan is expected to be completed within three years.
- Target Cities: Udaipur, Amarpur, Belonia, Melaghar, Bishramgani, Khowai, Ranir Bazar, Mohanpur, Dharmanagar, Kailashahar, Kumarghat, Ambassa
- District Headquarters: Seven of the cities are district headquarters: Udaipur, Belonia, Bishramganj, Khowai, Dharmanagar, Kailashahar, and Ambassa.
- Implementation Phases: The first phase covers the 12 cities; the second phase will include additional cities, including the Agartala Municipal Corporation.
- This initiative aims to significantly improve drinking water access and quality in Tripura.

Q. What is the objective of the 'Mukhyamantri Nagar Unnayan Prakalp' launched in Tripura? To upgrade the drinking water supply















## Adani Ports sign MoU with Rorix Holdings for trade, logistics purposes

- APSEZ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rorix Holdings, a global trade facilitation and finance company based in Abu Dhabi.
- Objective of the MoU:
- The collaboration aims to integrate advanced technologies into their logistics and trading platforms.
- Both companies seek to create synergies that will transform the commodities market ecosystem.
- About Rorix Holdings:
- Rorix is a subsidiary of International Holding Company (IHC)/Sirius International Holding.
- The parent company has over 20 subsidiaries.
- APSEZ Overview:
- APSEZ is India's largest port developer and operator.
- Operates a total of 15 ports and terminals: seven on the west coast and eight on the east coast.
- Represents 27% of India's total port volumes.

Q.What is the main goal of the MoU between APSEZ and Rorix Holdings? To integrate advanced technologies into logistics and trading platforms



















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