

world

# India scrubs Moon mission launch

● The agency did not say when it would attempt the launch again

● Scores of enthusiasts, including schoolchildren, had gathered to witness the launch

● A soft landing on the Moon would be a huge leap forward in India's space programme

Sriharikota, India

India yesterday postponed the launch of a lunar probe less than an hour before blast-off because of a technical problem, delaying its bid to become only the fourth nation to land a spacecraft on the Moon. The Chandrayaan-2 -- or Moon Chariot 2 -- mission is part of India's ambitious space programme, and its success would have propelled the South Asian nation into rarefied company: Russia, the United States and China are the only countries to have landed craft on the lunar surface. The spacecraft looked set for launch atop a Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV)



GSLV MkIII-M1 / Chandryaan 2 vehicle night view at the Second Launch Pad

Mk III -- India's most powerful rocket -- from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, but countdown was halted 56 minutes and 24 seconds before the planned liftoff at 2:51 am (2121 GMT Sunday). "A technical snag was observed in launch vehicle system at one hour before the launch," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said. "As a measure of abundant precaution Chandrayaan-2

launch has been called off for today. Revised launch date will be announced later." The agency did not say when it would attempt the launch again, and did not share any details about the technical issue. The spacecraft's Moon landing had originally been scheduled for September 6. Scores of enthusiasts, including schoolchildren, had gathered to witness the launch.

"We do not know what happened... We are disappointed. I hope they rectify whatever the issue is," one of the spectators was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India news agency.

### Low-cost missions

India has spent about \$140



India's first lunar mission -- Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 -- did not land on the Moon, but orbited the Moon searching for water using radar. New Delhi also has ambitions to land a probe on Mars, following the success of the Mangalyaan orbiter

file but low-cost Indian mission -- Mangalyaan -- which put a spacecraft in orbit around Mars in 2014 at a fraction of the cost of comparable projects by established space powers like the United States, which often cost billions of dollars. Chandrayaan-2 will follow Chang'e-4, launched by India's regional rival China, which in January became the first spacecraft to successfully land on the far side of the Moon. The Indian mission will involve a 2.4-tonne (5,300-pound) orbiter that will circle the Moon for about a year, imaging and studying the surface -- including a search for water -- and will also examine the lunar atmosphere. A 1.4-tonne lander Vikram -- named after Vikram A. Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme -- will head to the lunar south pole. It will carry with it a solar-powered rover named Pragyan -- "wisdom" in Sanskrit -- which will roam as far as 500 metres away from the lander to study the composition of the Moon's surface for one lunar day -- the equivalent of 14 Earth days.

## Aussie kids take stolen car on 1,000-kilometre road trip

Sydney, Australia

Four children took a stolen four-wheel drive on a 1,000-kilometre (620-mile) road trip across the Australian outback before being nabbed by police, officials said Monday. A 14-year-old boy, two 13-year-old boys and a 10-year-old girl began their epic journey on Saturday when they took cash and packed fishing rods in a vehicle belonging to one of their families in the coastal Queensland town of Rockhampton, police said. One of the children left a note for his family telling them of his plans. Queensland police said the car was spotted early on Sunday morning in the outback town of Banana, where the kids allegedly stole petrol, before travelling south. The car was found on Sunday night near Grafton, in the neighbouring state of New South Wales, about 11 hours' drive from Rockhampton. New South Wales police said officers had to force their way into the vehicle after the children refused to get out. "They have locked themselves in the car and police have had to use a baton to get in to arrest them," Coffs-Clarence district acting inspector Darren Williams told reporters. It was not clear which of the



Queensland police said the car was spotted early on Sunday morning in the outback town of Banana



The children, who were found unharmed, have been taken into care

children had been behind the wheel, but Williams said it was likely they had shared the driving. "It is a long way, in excess of 1,000 (km) from Rockhampton down to Grafton," he said. "I couldn't imagine one person driving that way in two days." Police are investigating several alleged offences committed during the road trip, Williams said. Williams said it was unclear what prompted the children to take the trip, but one of the boys was originally from Grafton.



BAHRAIN AIRPORT COMPANY wishes to invite proposals for the following Public Tender:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Tender Doc. Fees	Initial Bond	Tender Closing	
				Day/ Date	Time
Operation Readiness and Airport Transfer (ORAT) Registration Call Center	BAC/COM/54/2019	BD 15/- non-refundable	BD 500/-	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	1:30 pm

- Companies with the required experience are kindly requested to collect the appropriate tender Documents at Bahrain Airport Company (Building 124, Road 2403, Muharraq 224 Gulf Air Building 1st Floor Wing B) Procurement Department Tel: 17353428, 17353449 during the following working hours (8:00am – 2:00pm) after payment of tender fees specified above.
- Deposit each Tender Submission in the tender box provided at the Bahrain Airport Company, Procurement Department on the above closing date before 01:30 pm. Along with an initial bond for the amount specified above or at the rate of 1% of the quotation value whichever amount is the lesser, provided that no initial Bond's value shall be less than BD 500/-, in the form of a Certified Cheque, Bank Guarantee or Insurance Policy valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.
- Articles of the Decree by Law No. 36 for 2002, regarding the regulation of Government Tenders and Purchases, together with its executive regulations issued in Decree No. 37 for 2002, must be observed [www.tenderboard.gov.bh](http://www.tenderboard.gov.bh)
- The following conditions must also be observed:
  - Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate for the current year, which must include the Tender Subject as one of its activities.
  - Submit their Proposed Minimum Annual Guarantee and Proposed Fee Percentage (according to conditions) as per the criteria outlined.
  - Enclose a copy of a valid Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by Ministry of Labour.
  - All documents submitted as part of the tender (original or copies) must bear the stamp of the bidding Company / Establishment.
  - Kindly provide a business card when collecting the RFP document
- This advertisement is considered as complementary to the Tender Documents.