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A goal without a
plan is just a wish.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

ISRO's Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Programme

- Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) informed that it is all set to carry out the **third and final RLV Landing Experiment (RLV LEX)** under the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Programme.

RLV-LEX missions involve taking an unmanned winged prototype, christened Pushpak, to a designated height and releasing it to land safely under varying conditions.

The configuration of RLV-TD is similar to that of an aircraft and combines the complexity of **both launch vehicles and aircraft.**

The winged RLV-TD has been configured to act as a flying test bed to evaluate various technologies, namely, *hypersonic flight, autonomous landing, and powered cruise flight.*

In the future, this vehicle aims to be scaled up to become the **first stage of India's reusable two-stage orbital launch vehicle.**

- **Third and Final RLV LEX**

- The unmanned winged prototype, christened **Pushpak**, will be carried to a height of 4.5 km and 500 metres to one side of the runway using an IAF Chinook helicopter and released.






- **Global Demonstration**



- **NASA:** Reusable space vehicles have been in existence for a long time with NASA space shuttles carrying out dozens of human space flight missions.

- **SpaceX:** The use case for reusable space launch vehicles has revived with the **private space launch services** provider SpaceX demonstrating partially reusable launch systems with its **Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy** rockets since 2017.

- a. SpaceX is also working on a fully reusable launch vehicle system called Starship.




Mercy Petition

- 
- President Droupadi has turned down the mercy petition of a terrorist who was sentenced to death in the December 2000 Red Fort attack.
 - **About Mercy Petition**
 - **Article 72:** Grants the President of India the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment, or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offense.
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- In all cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial.
 - In all cases where the punishment or sentence is for an offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the Union extends.
 - In all cases where the sentence is a sentence of death.

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- **Article 161:** Provides similar powers to the Governor of a state.
 - There is no time limit given in these two Articles for Mercy Plea.
 - These Articles have no binding effect on the President and the Governors of the states to accept all the Mercy Petitions.

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FATE OF PETITIONS

➤ At 45, **R Venkataraman** rejected the maximum number of mercy petitions





➤ President **Pranab Mukherjee** comes second as he has rejected **31 of the 33 petitions** he has received from convicts

➤ **S Radhakrishnan, Zakir Husain** and **V V Giri** received **57, 22 and 3 mercy petitions**, respectively, and all **deaths** were **commuted to life**

➤ **K R Narayanan** and **A P J Abdul Kalam** **kept pending almost all** pleas they received



25 years of Kargil War

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- To honour the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War victory, the Indian Army has launched a Pan-India Motorcycle Expedition
 - **After the Indo-Pak War of 1971**, several military conflicts occurred between India and Pakistan. Both countries conducted nuclear tests in 1998, escalating tensions that led to the **Kargil War in 1999**. The Kargil War **fought between May and July 1999** in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir (now part of Ladakh), resulted in an Indian victory.
- 



Factors Leading to the Kargil War:

Strategic Objectives: Pakistan aimed to internationalize the Kashmir issue and cut off Ladakh from India by capturing strategic points in Kargil.

Vacated Border Posts: Pakistan exploited India's strategy of vacating border posts during winter, infiltrating troops and militants.

India-Pakistan Rivalry: Long-standing animosity over Jammu and Kashmir fueled the conflict.

Ignoring Past Treaties: Pakistan's actions defied the Simla Agreement of 1972, which prohibited unilateral changes to the Line of Control (LoC).

Hope for International Mediation: Pakistan hoped the conflict would prompt international mediation, especially by the U.S., favouring their stance on Kashmir.

- **Operation Vijay:**

- In 1999 **Pakistani troops infiltrated the Indian side** of the Line of Control (LoC) under **Operation Badr**, aiming to cut off Indian troops in Siachen. In response, the **Indian Army** **launched Operation Vijay.**

- We celebrate 'Kargil Diwas' on 26th July 2023.
- It is a stark reminder of the valour of the armed forces and the evolving dynamics of India's security concerns.
- The Kargil War is a testament to the nation's resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to protecting its sovereignty against all odds.



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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
