



Europa Clipper: Toward Ocean Moon of Jupiter

A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket carrying NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft lifts off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at. After launch, the spacecraft plans to fly by Mars in February 2025, then back by Earth in December 2026, using the gravity of each planet to increase its momentum. With help of these "gravity assists," Europa Clipper will achieve the velocity needed to reach Jupiter in April 2030.

- ❖ The largest spacecraft NASA ever built for a mission headed to another planet, [Europa Clipper](#) also is the first NASA mission dedicated to studying an ocean world beyond Earth.
- ❖ The spacecraft will travel 1.8 billion miles (2.9 billion kilometers) on a trajectory that will leverage the power of gravity assists, first to Mars in four months and then back to Earth for another gravity assist flyby in 2026. After it begins orbiting Jupiter in April 2030, the spacecraft will fly past Europa 49 times.

Kerala Assembly to Pass Resolution Against Waqf Amendment Bill

The Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the central government to withdraw the controversial 2024 Waqf Amendment Bill. Kerala Minister for Minority Welfare, Sports, Waqf, and Pilgrimage, V. Abdurahiman presented a resolution urging the Central Government to withdraw the 2024 Waqf (Amendment) Bill, citing that it violates the basic principles of the Constitution.

- ❖ The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024: The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced in the Indian [Lok Sabha](#) on 8 August 2024.
- ❖ It seeks to repeal Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923 and amend the Waqf Act, 1995.
- ❖ The Act regulates waqf property in India, and defines Waqf as an endowment of movable or immovable property for purposes considered pious, religious, or charitable under Muslim law.

- ❖ Every state is required to constitute a Waqf Board to manage waqf. The Bill renames the Act to 'United Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995'.

Aishath Azeema to be new Maldives envoy to India

Aishath Azeema has been appointed as the new Maldivian envoy to India. Senior diplomat Aishath Azeema is set to replace Ibrahim Shaheeb as Maldives' top envoy to India. She is expected to take on the role of representing the Maldives in strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations. Azeema's appointment is a significant step in enhancing diplomatic relations, focusing on areas such as trade, security, and regional cooperation.

- ❖ Maldivian President: Mohamed Muizzu's
- ❖ Male, island and atoll, capital of Maldives, in the Indian Ocean. It lies on Male Atoll, about 400 miles (645 km) southwest of Sri Lanka.

- ❖ The Maldivian Rufiyaa is the official currency of Maldives.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Telangana CM Revanth Reddy Lay Foundation for Strategic VLF Radar Station

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with the Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, laid the foundation stone for the Indian Navy's Very Low Frequency (VLF) Radar Station at Vikarabad.

The VLF station is being built with the vision of securing the country's maritime interests and exuded confidence that it will prove to be a boon to the Armed Forces

- ❖ It will ensure secure and real-time communication between our ships and submarines with the command centres of the Armed Forces.
- ❖ The high-tech VLF station would not just be a military establishment but a strategic asset of national importance.
- ❖ Built at a cost of 3,200 crore rupees, the facility is spread across 2,900 acres.



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