

# Soil at Chandrayaan-3's landing site resembles that of 1st lunar meteorite

NEW DELHI, July 4 (PTI)

THE soil analysed by Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover in the southern high-latitudes on the Moon's nearside has a geochemical composition closely resembling that of the first meteorite confirmed to have a lunar origin, according to a new study.

For instance, both the meteorite, called ALHA 81005, and the soil at the Shiv Shakti Statio -- Chandrayaan's landing site -- contain nearly similar amounts of aluminium oxide and a combination of iron oxide and magnesium oxide.

The study -- "Chandrayaan-3 APXS measurements reveal Lunar highland compositional diversity and meteorite connections" -- was conducted by



scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad.

It was published in the "npj Space Exploration" journal, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said in a statement on Friday.

The study, however, noted that the findings do not mean "the Lunar meteorite came from the Shiv Shakti Statio; rather, it indicates that both represent a similar type of magnesium-rich

lunar crust and regolith (unconsolidated material found on the surface of the Moon)".

ALHA 81005 was discovered in the Allan Hills region of Antarctica during a 1981-1982 expedition.

The analysis also revealed that the soil at Shiv Shakti Statio is a mixture of materials from different layers of the Moon's crust.

The surface appears to contain not only material from the upper crust but also fragments of magnesium-rich rocks, likely derived from the Moon's deeper layers, according to the ISRO.

"By linking the Shiv Shakti Statio to the Moon's first recognised meteorite, the Chandrayaan-3 mission has opened new avenues for understanding the formation of the ancient lunar crust," ISRO said.

# Indian envoy pitches greater pharma exports, Chinese investment to deepen ties

BEIJING, July 4 (PTI)

CHINA opening its market to Indian products, especially pharmaceuticals, coupled with investments in New Delhi, will be “good for the larger country-to-country relationship”, envoy Vikram Doraiswami said on Saturday.

“Obviously, we would like to be able to export more to China. There is nothing unreasonable about suggesting that, particularly in areas where we believe we have a competitive advantage such as pharmaceuticals,” the Indian ambassador said.

The envoy made these remarks during a panel discussion on Protectionism and Global Economic Governance at the World Peace Forum organised by China’s Tsinghua University here.

“For instance, we’re one of the world’s biggest exporters of pharmaceuticals to advanced markets,” he said, answering a question on India, China trade and investment ties.

Trade and commerce constitute an important component of India-China relations.

China has overtaken the US to emerge as India’s largest trading partner in 2025-26, with bilateral trade reaching USD 151.1 billion. However, the country’s trade deficit with Beijing widened to an all-time high of USD 112.16 billion during the period, according to the Indian Ministry of Commerce data.

India’s exports to China rose 36.66 per cent to USD 19.47 billion during the last fiscal year, while imports increased 16 per cent to USD 131.63 billion. The trade deficit swelled to an all-time high of USD 112.6 billion in 2025-26 as against USD 99.2 billion in 2024-25.

India has long been demanding that China open its IT, pharmaceutical and agriculture sectors, which are the country’s strong areas.

Doraiswami recently held talks with Wang Liping, Director General of the Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Commerce of China, to discuss initiatives to step up trade ties. The envoy expressed hope that Chinese partners will work with India to ensure that firms producing high-quality generic medicines, which are exported to the US and other places, can be exported to the Chinese market as well.

# Iran begins dayslong funeral for late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei

■ By Nasser Karimi and Jon Gambrell

TEHRAN, July 4 (AP)

**HUNDREDS** of thousands of mourners began a days-long funeral Saturday for Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, beating their chests in sorrow before the glass case containing his flag-draped coffin in Tehran

and calling for revenge against Israel and the United States.

The funeral for Khamenei, who ruled Iran for decades before being killed at age 86 in a Feb. 28 airstrike in the opening moments of the Iran war, could provide a boost for the country's theocracy and its new supreme leader, his son Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei.

That is particularly important as Iran

tries to leverage its hold on the Strait of Hormuz in negotiations with the US over a permanent end to the war and as concern still lingers that Israel could attack yet again.

During the ceremony, Iran's top negotiator issued a warning to France and the United Kingdom over their comments about potentially launching joint

*(Contd on page 5)*



Mourners attend the start of the dayslong funeral ceremonies for slain Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and members of his family at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla Grand Mosque in Tehran, Iran, on Saturday. (AP)

## Ghalibaf, Araghchi break down in tears during farewell to Ayatollah Khamenei

TEHRAN, July 4 (ANI)

**IRANIAN** Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi broke down in tears during the farewell ceremony for former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran on Friday, according to Fars News, as mourning ceremonies began for the late leader, who was killed in US- Israeli strikes on February 28 this year.

*(Contd on page 5)*

# Putin hails capture of key city Konstantinovka

MOSCOW, July 4 (ANI)

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Friday (local time) described the military capture of Konstantinovka city as a “key” that opens a direct path to the rest of the Donetsk region after the nation’s forces claimed successful capture of the heavily fortified Ukrainian stronghold in the Donbas region.

According to reports from *Russia Today*, the city, which served as a crucial pillar of the Sloviansk-Kramatorsk-Konstantinovka defensive agglomeration, had been transformed into a “fortress” over the decade following the 2014 Maidan events.

Following the city’s fall, President Putin visited an auxiliary command post on Friday to receive a tactical briefing from



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks while visiting one of the command posts of the Joint Group of the Russian Forces in an undisclosed location. (AP/PTI)

Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov and senior commanders. During the session, the President framed the seizure of the city as a critical development in the ongoing conflict.

## Ukrainian drones hit St Petersburg oil terminal in long-range attack on Russia

MOSCOW, July 4 (AP)

A UKRAINIAN drone attack struck an oil terminal in St Petersburg on Saturday, Russian officials said, as Kyiv presses on with bombardment of Russia’s oil infrastructure.

Almost daily long-range attacks on Russian oil facilities have created a fuel crisis and heaped political pressure on the Kremlin as its all-out invasion of Ukraine stretches into its fifth year. Governor

Alexander Beglov said the city’s Kirovsky district on the Baltic Sea was hit. He also said that air defences shot down 72 Ukrainian drones across Russia’s second-largest city and the surrounding region. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the attack as part of Ukraine’s “long-range sanctions” against Russia. He said that Ukrainian forces also hit a military target on the island of Kronstadt, just off the coast of St Petersburg.

“The capture of Konstantinovka is only the first, but very important stage in destroying Kyiv’s remaining positions in the region,” Putin declared.

# Monsoon session of Parliament from July 20 to Aug 13

NEW DELHI, July 4 (PTI)

---

**THE** Monsoon session of Parliament will be held from July 20 to August 13 amid dramatically altered political equations after the recent Assembly elections..

The 25-day session with 19 sittings comes after the ruling BJP's victories in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry Assembly polls.

The aftermath of the rebellion in the TMC and Shiv Sena (UBT) will also play out in the forthcoming session. A decision by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on the demands of 20 TMC and six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs seeking recognition as separate groups is awaited.

The Government is now redrafting the bill to possibly increase Lok Sabha seats of all States uniformly by 50 per cent.

# Iran begins dayslong funeral for late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei

■ By Nasser Karimi and Jon Gambrell

TEHRAN, July 4 (AP)

**HUNDREDS** of thousands of mourners began a days-long funeral Saturday for Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, beating their chests in sorrow before the glass case containing his flag-draped coffin in Tehran

and calling for revenge against Israel and the United States.

The funeral for Khamenei, who ruled Iran for decades before being killed at age 86 in a Feb. 28 airstrike in the opening moments of the Iran war, could provide a boost for the country's theocracy and its new supreme leader, his son Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei.

That is particularly important as Iran

tries to leverage its hold on the Strait of Hormuz in negotiations with the US over a permanent end to the war and as concern still lingers that Israel could attack yet again.

During the ceremony, Iran's top negotiator issued a warning to France and the United Kingdom over their comments about potentially launching joint

*(Contd on page 5)*



Mourners attend the start of the dayslong funeral ceremonies for slain Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and members of his family at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla Grand Mosque in Tehran, Iran, on Saturday. (AP)

## Ghalibaf, Araghchi break down in tears during farewell to Ayatollah Khamenei

TEHRAN, July 4 (ANI)

**IRANIAN** Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi broke down in tears during the farewell ceremony for former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran on Friday, according to Fars News, as mourning ceremonies began for the late leader, who was killed in US- Israeli strikes on February 28 this year.

*(Contd on page 5)*