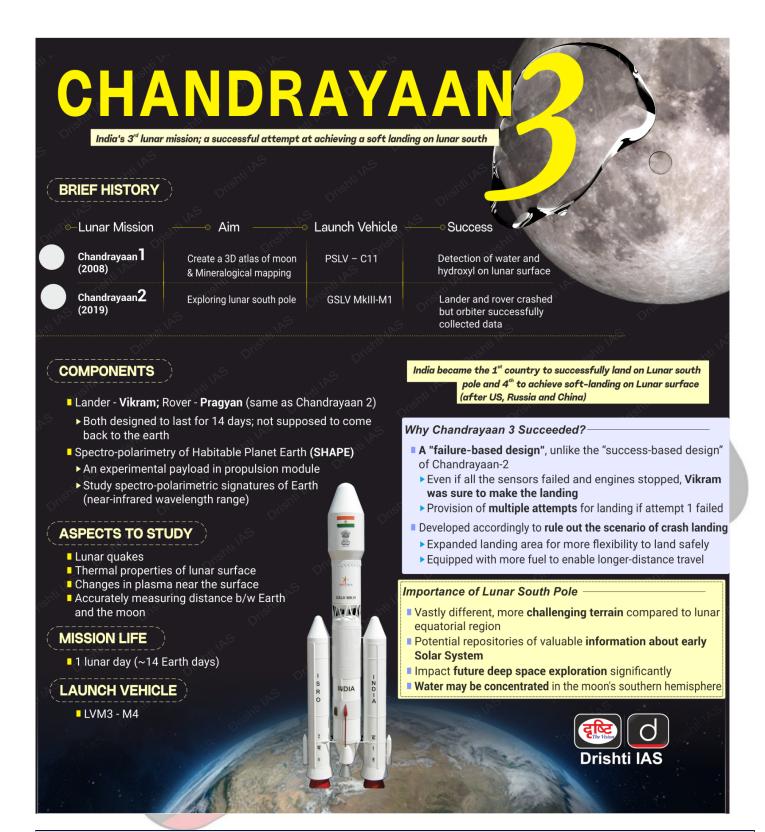


Blue Ghost Mission 1

Source: TH

A US company, **Firefly Aerospace**, successfully landed its **Blue Ghost Mission 1** on the Moon, marking the **2nd private lunar landing** and the **1st to land upright**.

- The mission is nicknamed "Ghost Riders in the Sky", and was launched in January, 2025, aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- It landed (lander name: Golden) near Mons Latreille, a volcanic formation on the Moon's northeastern near side.
- It is part of NASA's collaboration with industry to reduce costs and support the <u>Artemis</u>
 <u>Program</u>, the mission to return astronauts to the Moon.
- Upcoming Lunar Missions:
 - **IM-2 mission:** Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission, featuring its lander **Athena**, will be launched in **March 2025.**
 - In February 2024, Intuitive Machines became the **first private company** to achieve a **soft lunar landing** and the first US landing since **Apollo 17** in **1972.**
 - NASA's CLPS Program: The US aims to establish routine private lunar missions through NASA's USD Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) program.



Read More: Challenges in Lunar Landing Missions