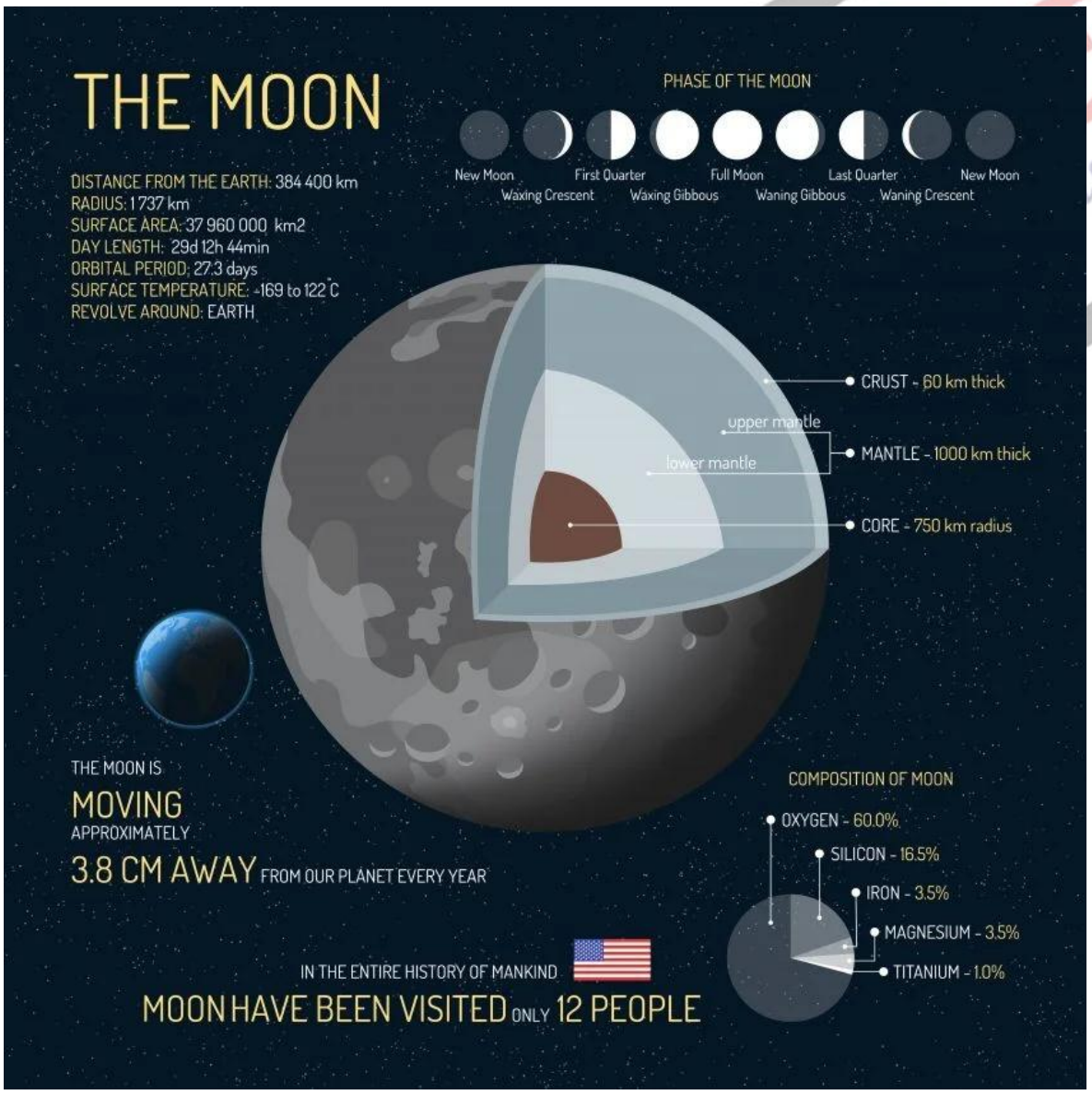
International Moon Day

Source: TH

20th July is observed annually as **International Moon Day** to mark the **historic first human landing on the Moon by the Apollo 11 mission in 1969**.

- The **United Nations General Assembly** officially recognised this observance in **2021**, following a recommendation by the **Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**, to promote **global cooperation in space exploration.**

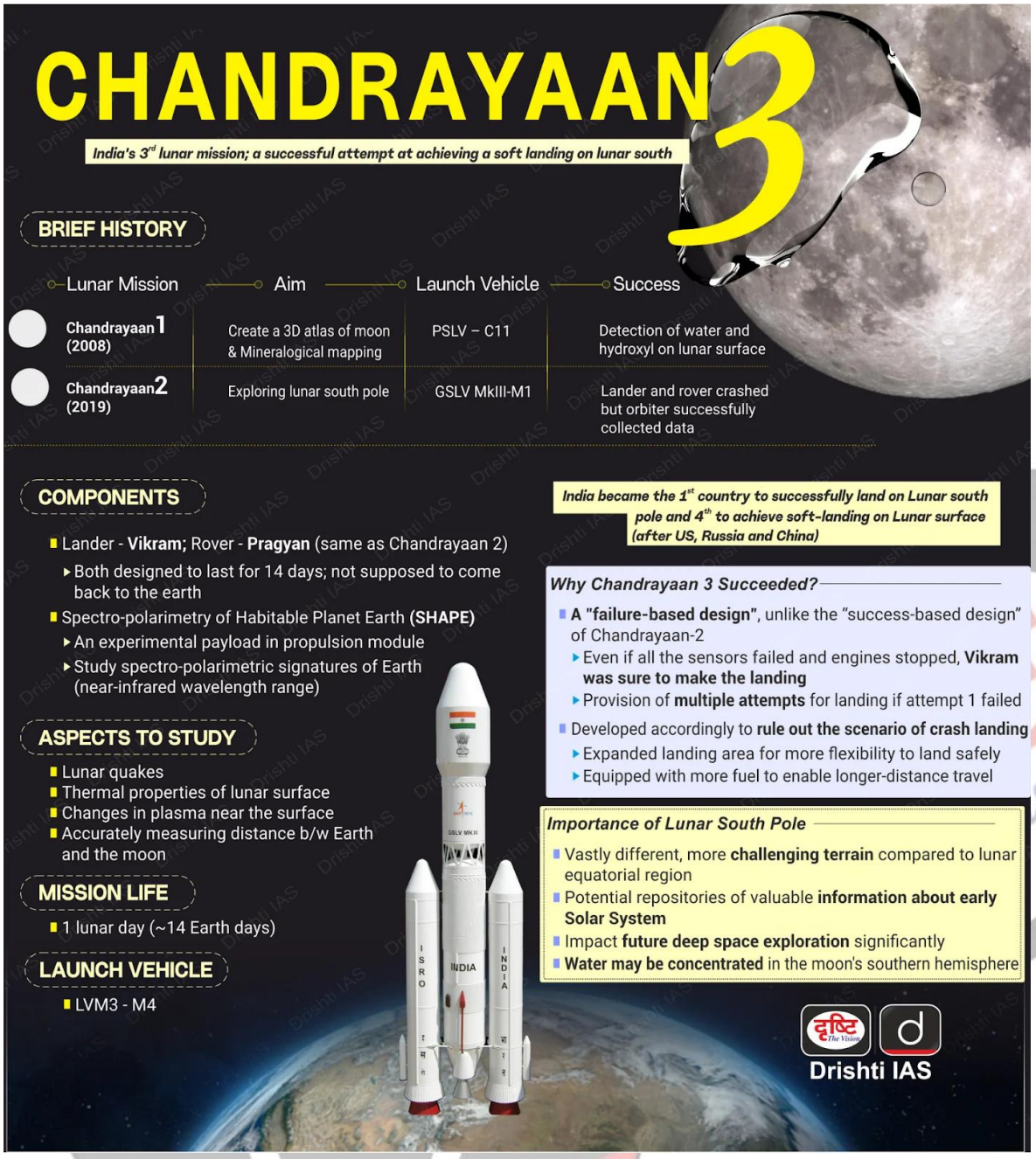


Apollo 11 Mission

- **Apollo 11**, launched by **NASA** on **16th July 1969**, was the **first successful crewed mission to land on the Moon and return safely to Earth**.
- On **20th July 1969**, astronauts **Neil Armstrong** and **Buzz Aldrin** became the **first humans to set foot on the lunar surface**, while **Michael Collins** remained in lunar orbit aboard the Command Module.
    - In total, there were **six successful lunar landings** under the Apollo program: **Apollo 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17**.

India’s Lunar Mission

- India’s Moon missions began with **Chandrayaan-1 (2008)**, which discovered water on the Moon, followed by **Chandrayaan-2 (2019)**, whose orbiter remains active despite a failed landing.
- **Chandrayaan-3 (2023)** achieved a historic **soft landing at the South Pole**, making India the **first to do so** (fourth nation to land on the Moon).
- Upcoming missions include **Chandrayaan-4 (2027)** for **sample return**, and **Chandrayaan-5 (LUPEX)**, a joint mission with **Japan (JAXA)** to explore **lunar water and ice**, planned for **2027–28**.



Read More: Chandrayaan-5 (LUPEX)

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