

Vaccine chikungunya

- On November 9, the world's first vaccine for chikungunya was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the U.S.
- The vaccine has been developed by European vaccine manufacturer Valneva and will be available under the brand Ixchiq, and has been approved for administration in people who are 18 years or older, and are at increased risk of exposure to the virus.
- It was approved using the Accelerated Approval pathway, which allows the FDA to clear certain products for serious or life threatening conditions based on evidence of a product's effectiveness that is likely to provide clinical benefit.

What is chikungunya?

- Chikungunya, is characterized by severe joint pain and impaired mobility, and comes with fever.
- It is a viral infection (CHIKV) transmitted primarily by the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes and has been described as "an emerging global health threat."

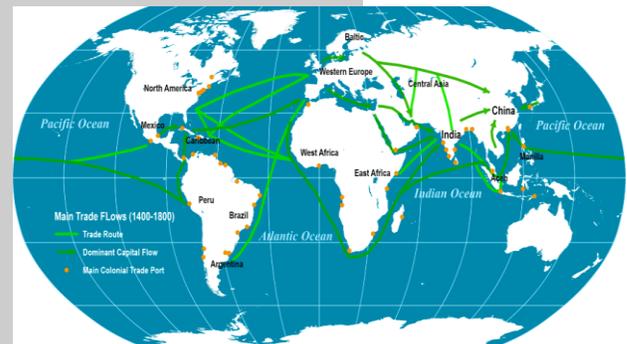
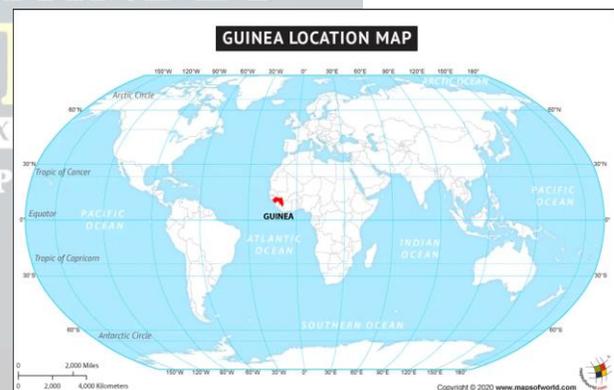
- The WHO fact sheet says Chikungunya is prevalent in Africa, Asia, and the Americas; but sporadic outbreaks have been reported in other regions.

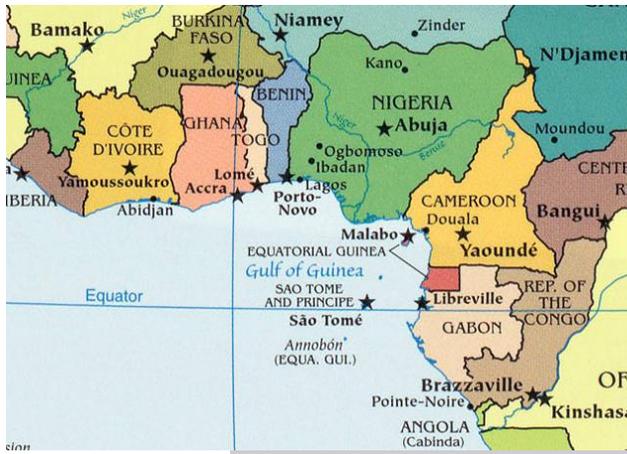
What is the vaccine composition?

- Ixchiq is administered as a single dose by injection into the muscle.
- It contains a live, weakened version of the chikungunya virus and may cause symptoms in the vaccine recipient similar to those experienced by people who have the disease.

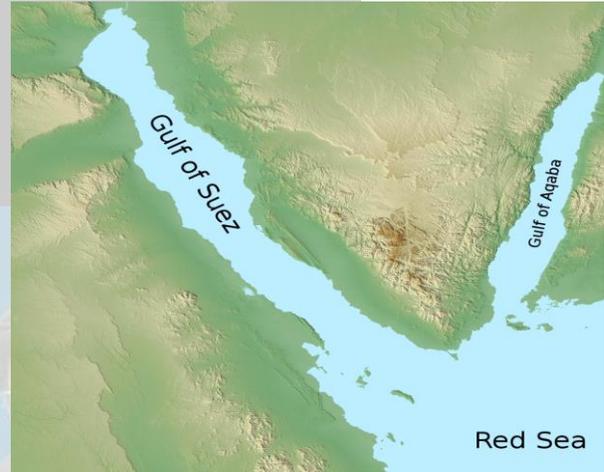
The Hindu

Gulf of Guinea





A gulf is a large inlet from the ocean into the landmass, typically with a narrower opening than a bay, but that is not observable in all geographic areas so named.



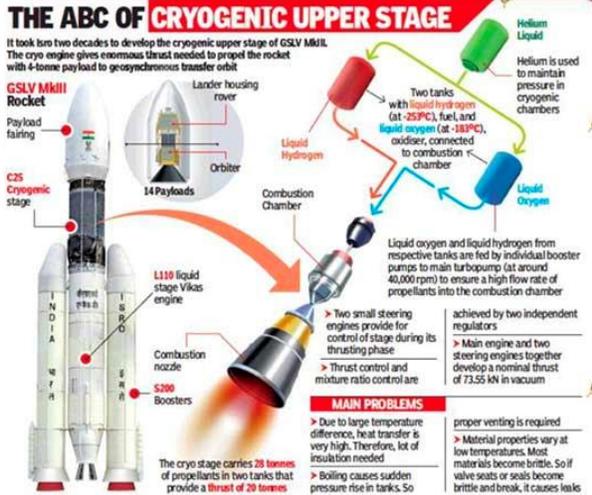
- The Indian Navy has completed its second antipiracy patrol in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) in the Atlantic Ocean.
- The offshore patrol vessel INS Sumedha, which is on an extended range operational deployment and is currently operating in the Atlantic Ocean along the west coast of Africa, undertook a 31-day antipiracy patrol.
- The maiden Gulf of Guinea antipiracy patrol was undertaken by INS Tarkash in September-October 2022.
- INS Sumedha's deployment also ensured enhancing Navy to Navy connect with regional Navies, including Senegal, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Angola and Namibia.
- Another highlight of the deployment was the ship's participation in the maiden India EU Joint Exercise

What is GULF?

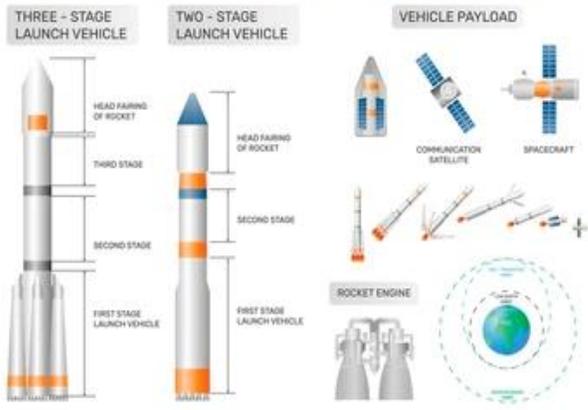
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Cryogenic stage

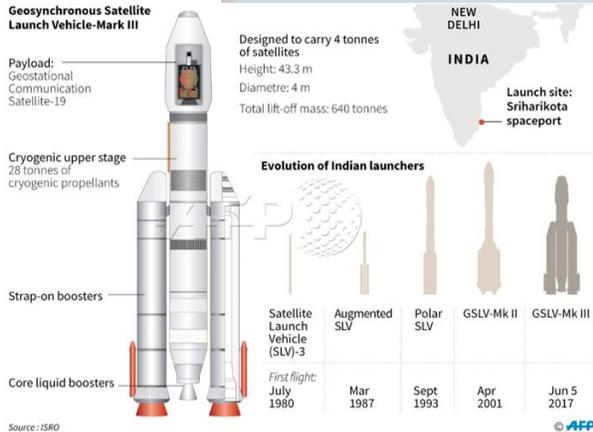
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has said that the cryogenic upper stage of the LVM3 M4 launch vehicle which launched India's Chandrayaan 3 moon mission has made an uncontrolled reentry into the earth's atmosphere on November 15.
- The agency added that the final ground track did not pass over India.
- "This rocket body (NORAD id 57321) was part of the vehicle that successfully injected the Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft into the intended orbit



MULTISTAGE ROCKET INFOGRAPHICS ELEMENT

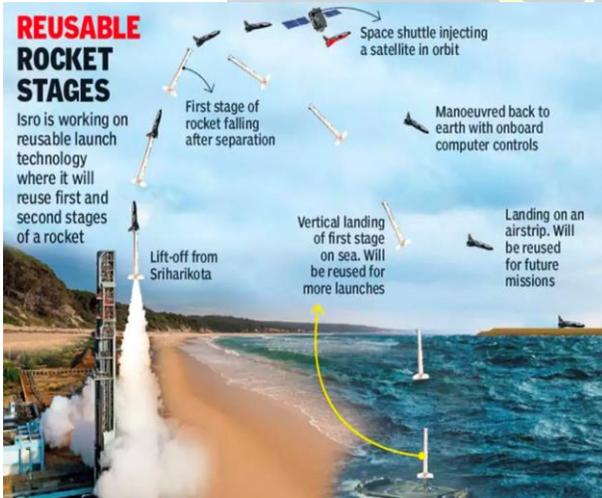


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UN Human right council

- The Council was created by the United Nations **General Assembly** on **15 March 2006** by resolution **60/251**.
- Its first session took place from 19 to 30 June 2006. One year later, the Council adopted its "**Institution-building package**" to guide its work and set up its procedures and mechanisms.



UPSC BRILLIANCE

- The Human Rights Council is an **inter-governmental body** within the **United Nations system** responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them.
- It has the ability to discuss all **thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention**

throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

- The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly.
- The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- The Hindu

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Election Commission had both said that the sale of electoral bonds had become an avenue for shell corporations and entities to park illicit money and even proceeds of bribes with political parties

Electoral Bond

How An Electoral Bond Works

- 01 Notified banks are chosen
- 02 The notified bank issues electoral bonds
- 03 The donor buys an electoral bond using a cheque/digital payment
- 04 The donor gives the party of his/her choice the bond within the specified timeframe
- 05 The party deposits the bond in an account, the details of which are with the Electoral Commission

THE HINDU

Flow of funds

A look at what the petition filed by the NGO says:

- The Finance Act of 2017 introduced the use of electoral bonds, which are exempt from disclosure under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, opening doors to unchecked, unknown funding to parties
- Contribution received by any eligible political party in the form of electoral bonds will be exempt from income tax

- The amendments have removed the existing cap of 7.5% of net profit in the past three years on campaign donations by companies and have legalised anonymous donations



The Election Commission vide letter dated May 26, 2017 and the RBI in letters on 31.01.2017, 14.09.2017, 27.09.2017 had objected to electoral bonds and advised against the issuance of electoral bonds as a mode for donation to political parties

Benefits of Electoral Bonds

WILL BRING substantial transparency in political donations against the present system of contributions in the election funding mechanism

HOW MUCH funding comes, what kind of funding it is, the source of funding and where it will be spent will be known clearly

NON DISCLOSURE of recipients will ensure people are free to donate to any political party of their choice

WILL REINFORCE the idea of moving away from a cash system towards clean money which cheque system could not achieve

15 DAYS between buying and selling will ensure they don't turn into a parallel economy

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) was retrospectively amended through the Finance Act of 2016 to permit Indian subsidiaries of foreign companies to donate to political parties.

The Hindu