

Apollo 11 Mission

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In News: NASA astronaut Michael Collins at 90, who piloted the historic mission of Apollo 11 spacecraft Columbia in 1969, recently passed away due to cancer.

About Apollo 11 Mission-

- The **primary objective** of Apollo 11 was to complete a **national goal set by President John F. Kennedy** on May 25, 1961- to perform a crewed lunar landing and return to Earth.
- **Additional flight objectives** included scientific exploration by the lunar module (LM), crew; deployment of a television camera to transmit signals to Earth; and deployment of a solar wind composition experiment, seismic experiment package and a Laser Ranging Retroreflector.
- Apollo 11 was **launched from Cape Kennedy on July 16, 1969, carrying Commander Neil Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin.**
- Armstrong described the event as he took "...one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind" on July 20, 1969.
- Under the Apollo program, there were five more successful lunar landing missions and one unplanned lunar swing-by, Apollo 13.
- The **Apollo 17 mission's Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt were the last men to walk on the moon.**