



UAE's Moon Mission

Why in News

Recently, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has decided to send an **unmanned spacecraft to the moon in 2024**.



Key Points

- **Name:** The rover would be named **Rashid** after **Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum**, one of the original founding rulers of the UAE.
 - **Rover** is a vehicle for exploring the surface of a planet or moon.
- **Aim:** The rover will **explore the surface of the moon in areas that have not been explored** previously by human missions such as **NASA's Apollo**.
 - Participating in the moon exploration is part of the **UAE's space strategy** to build new knowledge capabilities and advance the country's scientific, technical and research environment.
- **Fourth Nation:** If successful in 2024, the **UAE could become the fourth nation to land a spacecraft on the moon** after the **USA, the former Soviet Union and China**.
 - **India, Israel and Japan have tried but failed** in landing a spacecraft on the moon.
 - Planned to land on the South Pole of the Moon, **Chandrayaan-2** was launched by India in 2019. However, the **lander Vikram hard-landed**, which crushed India's dream to become the first nation to successfully touch down on the lunar surface in its maiden attempt.

- India has planned a new moon mission named **Chandrayaan-3**. It is likely **to be launched in early 2021**. It will be a mission **repeat of Chandrayaan-2** and will include a **Lander and Rover** similar to that of Chandrayaan-2, but will **not have an orbiter**.
- **Artemis** is a crewed spaceflight program of **NASA** that has the goal of landing "the first woman and the next man" on the Moon, specifically at the lunar south pole region by 2024.

UAE's Space Mission

- In July 2020, the UAE launched a **Mars probe named Amal (Hope)** from Japan, marking the **Arab world's first interplanetary mission**.
 - Amal is set to reach Mars in February 2021, the year UAE will celebrate 50 years of its formation.
 - UAE has also set a **goal to build a human colony** on Mars by 2117.
- UAE is a **federation of seven sheikhdoms** on the Arabian Peninsula.
- In 2019, the **UAE sent its first astronaut to the [International Space Station](#)**.

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