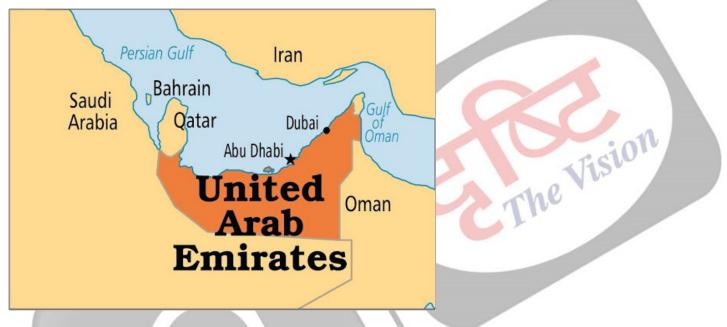
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UAE's Moon Mission

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 <u>China</u>.
 - 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, <u>Chandrayaan-2</u> was launched by India in 2019. However, the <u>lander Vikram</u> 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 <u>Mars probe named Amal (Hope)</u> 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.

Source: IE

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