

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 14, 2019**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced in the assembly that a ₹ 634 crore desalination plant will be set up in Tuticorin**
  - ✓ The plant will have the capacity to handle 60 million litres a day to address the water requirements of industries located in Tuticorin and nearby areas
  - ✓ He also announced that Sipcot will sign joint ventures with individuals who have 100 acres or more of land to set up industrial parks in all districts
  - ✓ The Chief Minister also said that a new Tidel Park will be set up at a cost of ₹200 crore in Coimbatore
  - ✓ A ₹100 crore centre of excellence will be set up in the defence park at Ambattur
  - ✓ The government will create investment ambassadors through Tamil citizens living abroad, Tamil sangams and industry groups to create awareness about investing in the state, provide consultations and attract investments.
  - ✓ The government will also create a special division called 'Yaadhum Oorey' (the world is a global village) and a website for the purpose
  - ✓ 'Biz Buddy', an integrated mechanism will be set up to ensure complaints of business houses are addressed within a period of four weeks.

### **NATIONAL**

- ◆ **The ministry of human resource development – to make the process of 'accreditation' mandatory for all institutions**
  - ✓ The ministry also proposed to invest ₹1,012 crore by 2024 for the accreditation reforms
  - ✓ For those institutions that do consistently well, incentives such as financial assistance, enhancement of programmes and autonomy, and participation in international rankings is also being proposed

# THE NEW PLAN

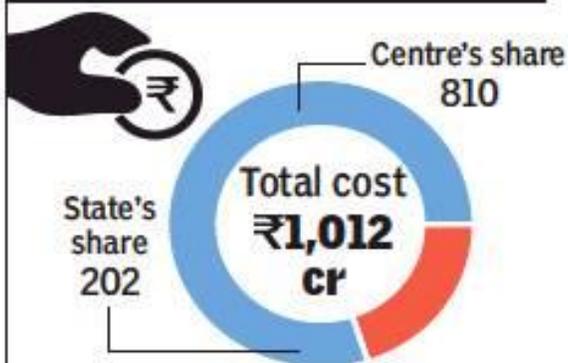
## PROPOSALS

### PUSHING THE PEDAL ON ACCREDITATION

Accreditation body	No. of higher education institutes or programmes under jurisdiction	Accredited institutions/ programmes	%
NAAC	42,000 institutions (universities, colleges, standalone institutions)	8,700	20
NBA	15,000 programmes in engineering, management, pharmacy, architecture, etc	3,050	20

- Widening the accreditation network
- Categorisation of institutions into different levels of quality
- Establishment of mentoring system for non-accredited HEIs
- Expansion of capacities of existing accreditation bodies
- Generation of market usefulness of accreditation: Can act as an incentive for institutions to opt for quality and accreditation
- Making participation in NIRF rankings mandatory and setting up NIRF as an independent organisation
- All publicly funded institutions be mandated to participate in NIRF rankings
- Expanding the scope of NIRF to include rankings in popular branches of study and enable a larger number of institutions to become visible in the ranking lists

### PROPOSED INVESTMENT TILL 2024



### OBJECTIVE

- 1 To make accreditation mandatory for all institutions
- 2 To ensure 80% of HEIs are brought into the net of quality assurance by 2024

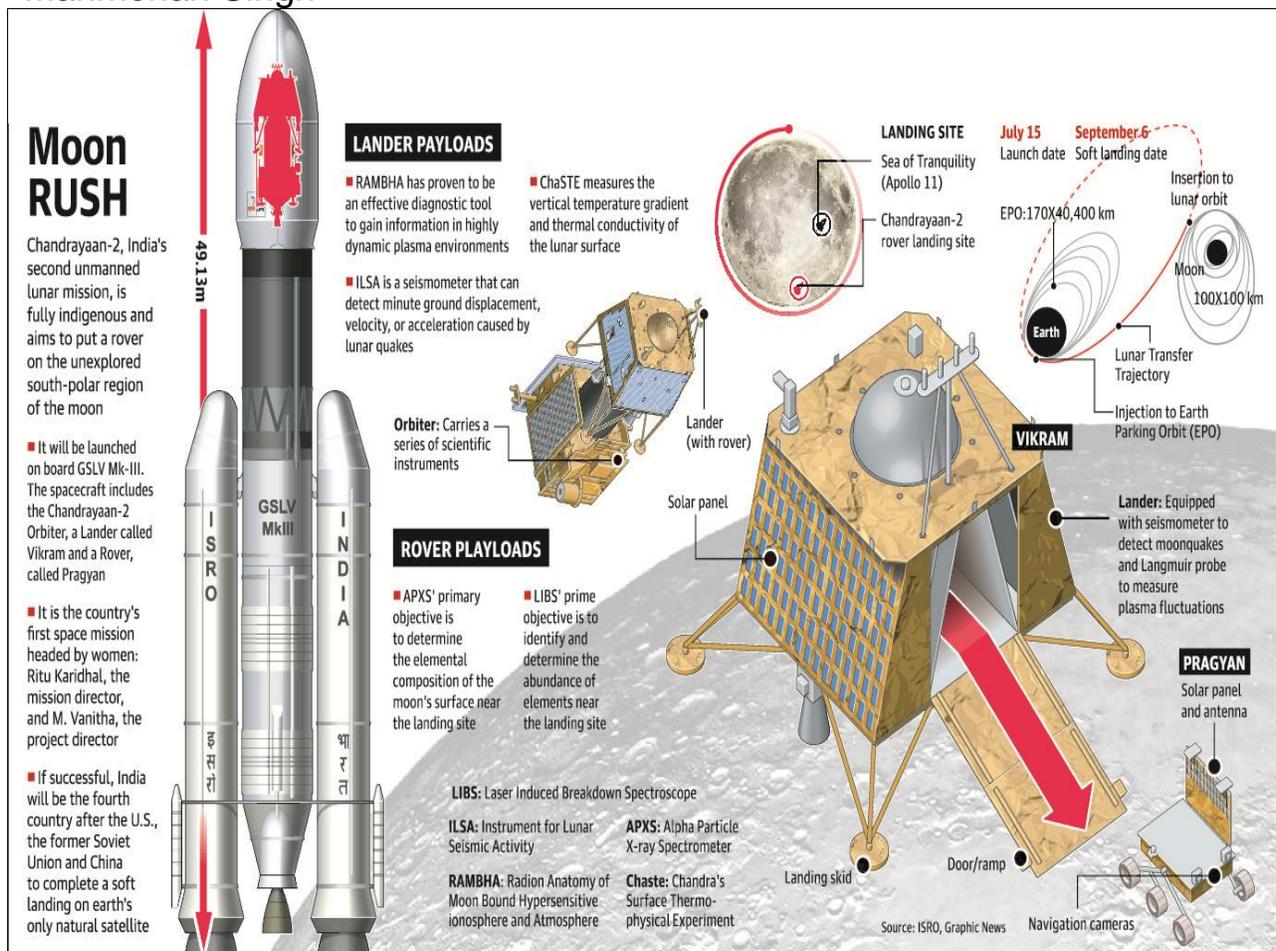
- ✓ National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) are the two major accreditation bodies for higher education institutions (HEIs) in India
- ✓ Of the over 42,000 universities, colleges and standalone institutions, according to MHRD, only 8,700 have being accredited so far by NAAC, while of the 15,000 technical programmes just 3,050 are been accredited by the NBA

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

### ◆ India – to start its second trip of 3.84 lakh km to the Moon through 'Chandrayaan 2' from the Sriharikota spaceport at 2.51am on July 15

- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 will ride aboard a GSLV-MkIII rocket
- ✓ And the countdown is set to begin at 6.51 a.m. on July 14
- ✓ The Rs 978-crore mission involves an orbiter around the Moon, a lander (Vikram) and a rover (Pragyan).
- ✓ The entire assembly weighs about 3,840 kg, according to ISRO, which is nearly four times its predecessor, Chandrayaan 1
- ✓ The exercise would take 52 days, with the lander-rover combine programmed to reach the lunar terrain on September 6

- ✓ India is the fourth nation to land a probe on Moon after United States, Russia and China
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 was a project cleared in September 2008 by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh



- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 will mark as the first attempt by any nation to make a landing on the moon's mineral rich South Pole in between two craters, Manzinus-C and Simpelius N, at a latitude of about 70° South
- ✓ The lander-rover combo has an expected lifetime of 14 days, while the orbiter will continue for a year.
- ✓ There have been 38 attempts so far at "soft-landing" on the moon, with a success rate of 52%, as per ISRO

**WHAT THE MISSION WILL ACHIEVE**

- Demonstrate capability to soft-land on Moon and operate a rover
- Study the presence and distribution of water among other molecules
- Map the lunar surface to understand various aspects
- Learn about the composition and structure of lunar elements
- Learn about early solar system to understand the history of Earth

- ✓ It will also try to understand the history of early solar system, and learn secrets of Earth's formation.
- ✓ Its predecessor Chandrayaan-1 was launched on October 22, 2008 from Sriharikota, using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)
- ✓ It had orbited the moon at a distance of 100 km
- ✓ On the moon, the mission conclusively detected traces of water along with magnesium, aluminium and silicon.
- ✓ The first moon landing occurred on July 20, 1969, on the Apollo 11 mission which was launched on July 16.

## SPORTS

- ◆ **The 27-year-old Romanian, Simona Halep – defeated Serena Williams (US) in straight sets to lift her first Wimbledon Tennis crown on July 13**



- ✓ This is Halep's second major win after the 2018 French Open
- ✓ Williams was seeking her record-equaling 24th Grand Slam singles title, but she failed in a final for the third time
- ✓ Williams lost to Angelique Kerber in last year's Wimbledon final and lost to Naomi Osaka in the championship match at the U.S. Open.
- ✓ Serena Williams still holds the record for most major singles titles in the professional era with 23, one more than Steffi Graf.
- ✓ But Margaret Court has 24 titles overall, with 13 of her Grand Slam singles titles in the amateur era
- ◆ **India's Udhayveer Sidhu - collected a double gold on day one of competitions at the Combined World Cup for junior shooters in Suhl, Germany**



- ✓ Udhayveer shot 575 in the junior men's 25m standard pistol event to lead a clean sweep for India
- ✓ Adarsh Singh (568) and Anish Bhanwala (566) won silver and bronze respectively at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) tournament for rifle, pistol and shotgun shooters.
- ✓ Udhayveer then combined with Adarsh and his twin Vijayveer Sidhu to also pick up the team gold in the event with a combined effort of 1707, a junior world record

◆ **India's Pardeep Singh - created a new clean and jerk record on his way to a total of 350kg and the gold medal in the men's 102kg class in the Commonwealth weightlifting championships in Apia, Samoa**

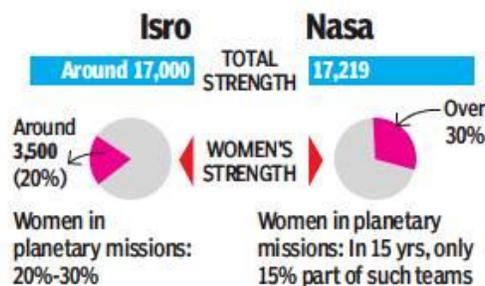


- ✓ Pardeep bettered his own record of 201kg by 1kg

## WOMEN SCIENTISTS IN CHANDRAYAAN-2 – A REPORT

◆ **For the first time in India's history, the space mission 'Chandrayaan-2' is being led by two women scientists of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)**

- ✓ Vanitha Muthayya is heading the country's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 as project director
- ✓ Ritu Karidhal is the mission director.



### CHANDRAYAAN-2 LEADERS

#### 1 Vanitha Muthayya: PROJECT DIRECTOR

Headed telemetry and telecommand divisions in digital systems group, Isro Satellite Centre (now U R Rao Space Centre). Worked as deputy project director for TTC-baseband systems for Cartosat-1 and deputy project director for Oceansat-2 and Megha-Tropiques satellites. Awarded Best Woman Scientist Award in '06.



#### 2 Ritu Karidhal: MISSION DIRECTOR

Was deputy operations director of Mars Orbiter Mission, India's first interplanetary mission. From a middle class family in Lucknow, Karidhal, as a child, always thought about what existed beyond the dark space. Karidhal, who joined IISc to pursue her masters in aerospace engineering, has been working for Isro since 1997. In 2007, she received the Isro Young Scientist Award from former President A P J Abdul Kalam



- ✓ Women scientist in Gaganyaan

- ✓ Under its Gaganyaan mission, India is planning to send one woman astronaut, along with two others, to space.
- ✓ Another woman scientist V R Lalithambika, as head of the human space programme office, is coordinating the mission and working with Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC)
- ✓ HSFC is the nodal centre for Gaganyaan mission, led by its director S Unnikrishnan Nair



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