



August 13, 2021 – Friday

Key Developments

Airlines can operate maximum of 72.5% pre-Covid domestic flights: Govt

Airlines can now operate a maximum of 72.5 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights instead of the 65 per cent allowed till date, the Ministry of Civil Aviation stated on Thursday. The carriers have been operating 65 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights since July 5 according to the ministry's order. Between June 1 and July 5, the cap was at 50 per cent. The ministry issued a fresh order on Thursday, wherein it modified the July 5 order stating that "65 per cent capacity may be read as 72.5 per cent capacity". Thursday's order also noted that the 72.5 per cent cap will "remain in place until further order".

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/airlines-can-operate-maximum-of-72-5-pre-covid-domestic-flights-govt/articleshow/85283057.cms>

Green ministry drops antibiotic effluent limits from new rules

In a debatable move, the Green ministry has dropped specification of limits for antibiotic residues/effluents for bulk drug formulation/pharmaceutical industry, in its latest set of rules notified this week. While this eases off regulatory pressure on India's growing pharmaceutical industry which is staving off Chinese competition, the decision comes against the backdrop of a serious threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in India and the dangers of unchecked antibiotic residues contaminating the water bodies. Currently, there are no maximum limits specified for these antibiotic residues in pharmaceutical effluents.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/green-ministry-drops-antibiotic-effluent-limits-from-new-rules/articleshow/85283831.cms>

Niti Aayog releases handbook for EV charging infra implementation

Niti Aayog on Thursday released a handbook to help state governments and local bodies in framing policies for setting up charging networks for electric vehicles. According to an official statement, the objective is to enhance charging infrastructure and facilitate a rapid transition to electric mobility in the country.

'The Handbook for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Implementation' has been jointly developed by Niti Aayog, Ministry of Power (MoP), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), and World Resources Institute (WRI) India. The handbook provides a systematic and a holistic approach for adoptions by implementing authorities and other stakeholders involved in planning, authorisation and execution of EV charging infrastructure, the statement said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/niti-aayog-releases-handbook-for-ev-charging-infra-implementation-121081201236_1.html

Economy

July retail inflation eases to 3-month low of 5.59%; June IIP at 13.6%

India's retail inflation eased to a three-month low in July, back within the Reserve Bank's tolerance level (2 per cent-6 per cent) after staying above the upper band for two straight months, government data released on Thursday

showed. The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation cooled to 5.59 per cent in the last month from 6.26 per cent in June. Food inflation fell substantially to 3.96 per cent in July from 5.15 per cent in June.

The RBI in latest monetary policy review has kept the rates and stance unchanged and pledged to remain accommodative in the near future, while raising its inflation forecast to 5.7 per cent during 2021-22. RBI projected 5.9 per cent in the second quarter, 5.3 per cent in third, and 5.8 per cent in the fourth quarter of the fiscal, with risks broadly balanced. CPI inflation for Q1FY23 is projected at 5.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, Industrial output for the month of June rose 13.6 per cent, in a sign that the low base effect of the last year is waning. Factory output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had contracted 16.6 per cent in the same month of last year and rose by 29.3 per cent in May.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/retail-inflation-cools-to-3-month-low-of-5-59-in-july-june-iip-at-13-6-121081201362_1.html

PM hails women SHGs, releases Rs 1625 cr as capitalisation support fund

Faulting previous governments for not taking adequate measures to economically empower women in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said his government was constantly creating an environment in which women self-help groups can connect villages with prosperity as he released Rs 1,625 crore as capitalisation support fund to over four lakh such groups. In a virtual interaction with the women self-help groups (SHGs) under the "Aatmanirbhar Narishakti se Samvad" (dialogue with self-reliant women) initiative, Modi said in a changing India, opportunities are increasing for women to move forward.

The movement of woman SHGs has intensified in the last 6-7 years with over 70 lakh of them working across the country, a figure over three times more than earlier, he said, adding over eight crore women are connected with these groups.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/pm-hails-women-shgs-releases-rs-1625-cr-as-capitalisation-support-fund-121081201310_1.html

Business risk environment worsened in Q1 due to Covid second wave: Rubix

Risk environment for Indian businesses has worsened in the first quarter of the current fiscal due to restrictions imposed to deal with the second wave of Covid even as things are showing signs of improvement in the second quarter, a study by risk management and monitoring platform Rubix Data Sciences has shown. Rubix analysed the extent of risk deterioration in the 9,963 business entities to check how many of the three risk variables it monitors, namely, GST compliance, provident fund compliance and external credit rating had deteriorated for each of the companies.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/business-risk-environment-worsened-in-q1-due-to-covid-second-wave-rubix/articleshow/85272354.cms>

Share of agriculture sector in employment sees steady increase: CMIE

Government efforts to boost manufacturing through production linked incentives or liquidity support to medium and small scale enterprises have not been effective in stemming the decline of manufacturing in India as there is a steady increase in the share of agriculture in total employment, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy said. CMIE data from the consumer pyramid household survey shows the share of agriculture in total employment has gone up from 35.3% in 2017-18 to 36.1% in 2018-19 and then to 38% in 2019-20.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/share-of-agriculture-sector-in-employment-sees-steady-increase-cmie/articleshow/85266073.cms>

Majority Indians feel confident of preparedness for 3rd Covid wave: Survey

As many as 58 per cent of citizens surveyed feel confident that India is well prepared to handle the third wave of COVID, LocalCircles said on Thursday. The question how confident do people feel about India's preparedness to handle a possible third COVID wave in August-December 2021, received 8,880 responses in a survey conducted by LocalCircles, a community social media platform.

As many as 26 per cent of respondents said they are highly confident. About 32 per cent said they are somewhat confident and 25 per cent noted that they have very little confidence. Nearly 13 per cent said they have no confidence at all, while 4 per cent did not have an opinion. "On an aggregate basis, 58 per cent of citizens feel

confident that India is well-prepared to handle the 3rd COVID wave in the coming months," LocalCircles said in a statement.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/majority-indians-feel-confident-of-preparedness-for-3rd-covid-wave-survey-121081201221_1.html

Banking and Finance

Bank credit grows 6.11 pc in fortnight ended July 30: RBI data

Bank credit grew by 6.11 per cent to Rs 109.1 lakh crore and deposits by 9.8 per cent to Rs 155.49 lakh crore in the fortnight ended July 30, according to RBI data. Bank advances stood at Rs 102.82 lakh crore and deposits at Rs 141.61 lakh crore in the fortnight ended July 31, 2020, according to RBI's Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position in India as on July 30, 2021 that was released on Thursday. In the previous fortnight ended July 16, 2021, bank credit increased by 6.45 per cent and deposits by 10.65 per cent. In 2020-21, bank credit increased by 5.56 per cent and deposits by 11.4 per cent.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/bank-credit-grows-6-11-pc-in-fortnight-ended-july-30-rbi-data/2309698/>

GIFT City gains momentum, thanks to regulatory changes

GIFT City, India's obstacle-free gateway to the world of exotic and complex global finance, has gained sufficient traction in the past two years to achieve what was considered improbable a decade ago, with tweaks to existing rules helping the facility rival global hubs and draw business that was earlier only an overseas monopoly. The number of entities surged to around 260 until August across the special economic zone this year from 140 in 2019, with banking transactions crossing the \$100 billion mark in July. It is only set to accelerate with the likes of Deutsche, HSBC, Citigroup, Bank of America, Standard Chartered and Barclays opening up offices to facilitate rising Indian trade and capital movement.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/gift-city-gains-momentum-thanks-to-regulatory-changes/articleshow/85277498.cms>

Govt to sell up to 25 pc stake in NSC via IPO; invites bids from merchant bankers for listing process

The government has kickstarted the process of selling up to 25 per cent stake in National Seeds Corporation (NSC) through an initial public offering (IPO). The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has invited bids from merchant bankers and legal advisors for working on the proposed IPO and subsequent stock exchange listing of the PSU under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The last date for submitting bids by merchant bankers and legal advisors is September 1.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-to-sell-up-to-25-pc-stake-in-nsc-via-ipo-invites-bids-from-merchant-bankers-for-listing-process/articleshow/85275025.cms>

Industry

Passenger vehicle sales up 45% in July 2021

Sales of passenger vehicles rose 45% to 264,442 units last month, albeit on a low base, driven by pent-up demand as more and more states eased restrictions imposed to check the spread of the second wave of the pandemic. As per data available with industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), as many as 182,779 passenger vehicles were sold in the local market in the year-ago period. The sales numbers do not include wholesale volumes of Tata Motors, which has stopped reporting data on a monthly basis to SIAM.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/passenger-vehicle-sales-up-45-in-july-2021/articleshow/85265231.cms>

Indian FMCG industry clocks 37% value-based growth in April-June quarter: Report

Indian FMCG industry recorded a 36.9 per cent value-based growth in April-June 2021, the quarter hit by the second wave of the pandemic, over the corresponding period a year ago, data analytics firm Nielsen has said. However, when compared with this year's January-March quarter, the industry saw a 2 per cent drop, it added. E-commerce grew in the double-digit in the April-June quarter and traditional trade channels like grocers and chemists remained

buoyant in the quarter, according to FMCG Snapshot released by NielsenIQ's Retail Intelligence team. Indian FMCG firms were largely immune to the second wave of the Covid pandemic, the report said. In the comparative April-June quarter last year, the market faced a nationwide lockdown imposed by the government to tackle the spread of Covid-19 and then subsequent easing of restrictions happened in phases.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/indian-fmcg-industry-clocks-37-value-based-growth-in-april-june-quarter-report/2309607/>

Demand for lab-grown diamonds picks up in India

Revenge shopping for lab-grown diamonds, which cost half the price of natural diamonds, has picked up in India since July as the deadly second wave of Covid-19 has waned. The demand surged 50-60% year-on-year in July and the trend is continuing, according to leading retailers and producers. Retailers said that consumers have become price conscious due to the financial uncertainty created by the pandemic, yet they want to purchase something precious and environment-friendly. The demand has also surged, they said, as millennial brides are preferring lab-grown diamonds for their special day as families have cut down wedding budgets.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fashion/-/cosmetics/-/jewellery/demand-for-lab-grown-diamonds-picks-up-in-india/articleshow/85273706.cms>

PFC net profit up 28 pc at Rs 4,554 cr in June quarter

State-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC) on Thursday posted an over 28 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit at Rs 4,554.98 crore in the June 2021 quarter, mainly due to higher revenues. Its consolidated net profit was Rs 3,557.23 crore in the quarter ended June 30, 2020, a BSE filing said. Total income in the quarter under review rose to Rs 18,973.93 crore from Rs 16,932.24 crore in the same period a year ago.

The board in its meeting on Thursday also approved interim dividend at the rate of Rs 2.25 per equity share (subject to deduction of TDS) on the face value of the paid-up equity shares of Rs 10 each for 2021-22. Further, it also informed that "Wednesday, 1st September, 2021 shall be reckoned as the 'Record Date' for the purpose of ascertaining the eligibility of shareholders" for payment of interim dividend for 2021-22.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/pfc-net-profit-up-28-pc-at-rs-4554-cr-in-june-quarter/2309602/>

Infrastructure

Flexible workspace operators to expand portfolios by over 30% in next 2-3 years, survey

The flexible workspace operators are looking to expand their portfolios by more than 30% across India in next 2-3 years owing to the companies' need for fluidity of the workforce and portfolio re-optimization, showed a FICCI-CBRE survey of co-working space providers operating in the country. The emergence of hub-and-space Models, enhanced financial gains, rising numbers of strategic partners, acquisition, demand-backed expansions, focus on technology, health, and safety are some of the key factors that will drive the growth of the co-working offices sector.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-/cstruction/flexible-workspace-operators-to-expand-portfolios-by-over-30-in-next-2-3-years-survey/articleshow/85274238.cms>

Telecom

India is the fourth largest market for 5G phones, despite a lack of network support

India is nowhere close to launching 5G services but it has already become the fourth largest market for smartphones supporting the next gen technology in terms of shipments, according to market research firms. The country was behind only China, USA and Japan in terms of 5G smartphone shipments in the April-June 2021 period, with the lowest average selling price at \$410 (Rs 30,448), said IDC.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/india-is-the-fourth-largest-market-for-5g-phones-despite-a-lack-of-network-support/articleshow/85283227.cms>

Energy

Coal India's e-auction allocation up 29% in April-July this year

State-owned Coal India on Thursday said its e-auction allocation stood at 35.5 million tonnes (MT) during April-July 2021 under five auction categories, registering a sharp 28.6 per cent increase over the same period a year ago. Its e-auction allocation was 27.6 MT in the corresponding four months of the 2020-21 fiscal.

Coal India Ltd's (CIL) actual e-auction net sales were worth over Rs 4,700 crore during the first quarter of the ongoing fiscal, posting a jump of 87 per cent year-on-year. The sale volume was 30.2 MT in the June quarter this fiscal as against 15.9 MT in the same period last year when the pandemic slowed down the sales, it said in a statement.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/coal-india-s-e-auction-allocation-up-29-in-april-july-this-year-121081201143_1.html

Power Ministry to govt offices: Switch over to prepaid smart meters on priority

The power ministry has advised all central ministries and departments to switch to pre-paid smart electricity meters. The Ministry of Power has issued an advisory to all central ministries of the government to direct organisations under their administrative control to ensure switch over to prepaid smart meters on priority," a power ministry statement said. As part of the same process, the ministries have also been asked to issue all enabling orders in this regard.

This follows a clarification issued by the Ministry of Finance enabling all central ministries and central departments to make advance payments for pre-paid metered electricity without insisting on any bank guarantees, while at the same time ensuring proper accounting arrangements, it stated.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/power-min-to-govt-offices-switch-over-to-prepaid-smart-meters-on-priority-121081201375_1.html

Discom losses to spike up as revenues remain constrained: Crisil

Losses of power distribution companies will remain elevated at around ₹46,000 crore this fiscal, working out to 40 per cent higher than the ₹33,000 crore seen in the pre-pandemic levels of fiscal 2020.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/discom-losses-to-spike-up-as-revenues-remain-constrained-crisil/article35872481.ece>

Renewable energy capacity addition surges in Q1

There has been a marked increase in new capacity additions of wind and solar, particularly rooftop solar, in the first quarter of 2020-21. The total renewable energy capacity in the country, as of July 31, was a shade under the 1-lakh MW mark — which means it could well touched the mark as of today.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/renewable-energy-capacity-addition-surges-in-q1/article35871174.ece?homepage=true>

States

Bengal: Covid-restrictions extended till Aug 30, night curbs relaxed

The COVID-related restrictions in West Bengal was extended till August 30 with relaxations in the curbs during the night hours, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced on Thursday. The restrictions, first imposed on May 16 amid the second wave of the pandemic and extended at regular intervals, were about to expire on August 15.

"The COVID situation in Bengal is quite good but the danger of the third wave is still lurking. This is one of the reasons we have not allowed local trains," Banerjee said, addressing a press conference. "So, we have decided to extend the ongoing COVID restrictions for 15 more days till August 30," she added. The chief minister announced that the night hours during which stringent restrictions are imposed will be reduced.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/bengal-covid-restrictions-extended-till-aug-30-night-curbs-relaxed-121081201189_1.html

Maharashtra government directs schools to waive off fees by 15%

The Maharashtra government on Thursday directed school managements across all boards and mediums to waive off 15 per cent of the fees for the academic year 2021-22. As per a Government Resolution (GR) issued by the school education department, fees if paid fully should be refunded by schools or the excess amount should be utilised for the next academic year. In case of a dispute, a petition should be filed with the divisional fee regulatory authority and its decision will be binding on all, the order stated. The government has also directed school managements not

to prevent students from availing online or offline education, or bar them from sitting for examinations and withhold results if they haven't paid their fees.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/maharashtra-government-directs-schools-to-waive-off-fees-by-15/articleshow/85277751.cms>

MP police launch e-FIR registration service for select cases

The Madhya Pradesh police on Thursday launched an initiative on an experimental basis to allow people to get FIRs registered online regarding thefts of vehicles or theft of cash and items up to Rs 1 lakh, an official said. "Any aggrieved person who has suffered a vehicle theft (up to Rs 15 lakh) and simple (monetary) theft which can be of any thing like cash, jewellery, mobile, equipment (up to Rs one lakh) was free to lodge an e-FIR", Additional Director General of Police of State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) Chanchal Shekhar told PTI. Nearly, 50,000 such cases are reported every year, he added.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/mp-police-launch-e-fir-registration-service-for-select-cases/articleshow/85280428.cms>

Healthcare

Moderna Covid vaccine 76% effective against Delta, Pfizer 42%: Study

Vaccines against Covid-19 that were developed by US drug makers Pfizer and Moderna may not be as effective against the 'Delta' variant compared to as they were against the original strain of the virus, suggests a new study. Researchers from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, US, found that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was only 42 per cent effective against infection in July, while the Moderna vaccine was only 76 per cent effective, the Daily Mail reported. "Comparing rates of infection between matched individuals fully vaccinated with mRNA-1273 (Moderna Covid vaccine) versus BNT162b2 (Pfizer Covid vaccine) across Mayo Clinic Health System sites in multiple states (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Arizona, Florida, and Iowa), mRNA-1273 conferred a two-fold risk reduction against breakthrough infection compared to BNT162b2," the researchers wrote in the study, not yet peer reviewed, and published on pre-printer server medRxiv.org.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/moderna-covid-vaccine-76-effective-against-delta-pfizer-42-study-121081201173_1.html

Health, Ayush ministries to work in synergy to integrate Ayush in India's healthcare system

A high-powered meeting of ministers, secretaries and other senior officials of the Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was organised to strengthen the process of integration of Ayush system in public health. Cabinet ministers, Mansukh L Mandaviya (MoHFW) and Sarbanand Sonowal (MoAyush) both ministries committed to streamline and operationalise a comprehensive approach of integration in the field of healthcare delivery system in the country as expected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A well-defined mechanism has been put in place to achieve the intended integration of Modern medicine and Traditional Health systems of the country.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/health-ayush-ministries-to-work-in-synergy-to-integrate-ayush-in-indias-healthcare-system/articleshow/85285460.cms>

Covid jabs may not provide absolute protection but reduces risk of death, complications: Soumya Swaminathan

Emphasising the importance of mass Covid vaccination through easy availability and accessibility, WHO's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan on Thursday said even though vaccines may not be able to provide absolute protection against different variants of SARS-CoV2, it can certainly reduce the risk of death and complications. The World Health Organisation's chief scientist said there will be a need to be on guard in the months to come as well. She called on Science and Technology minister Jitendra Singh and discussed various aspects of the current COVID-19 pandemic as well as a wide range of other issues.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/covid-jabs-may-not-provide-absolute-protection-but-reduces-risk-of-death-complications-soumya-swaminathan/articleshow/85277647.cms>

External

India's sugar exports touch 5.11 mn tonnes so far this year: AISTA

Sugar mills have exported 5.11 million tonnes of the sweetener so far in the ongoing 2020-21 marketing year ending September, with maximum shipments to Indonesia, trade body AISTA said on Thursday. About 2,02,521 tonnes of sugar is under loading. An additional 6,78,237 tonne of sugar is in transit for delivery to port-based refineries, it said. Mills have contracted to export the entire 6 million tonne sugar quota assigned by the food ministry in January this year, All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA) said in a statement. An additional 8,00,000 tonnes of sugar has been contracted under the OGL (open general license) route without subsidy support. The sugar marketing year runs from October to September.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-sugar-exports-touch-5-11-mn-tonnes-so-far-this-year-aista-121081200947_1.html

Zinc body calls for strict BIS oversight for quality checks

The International Zinc Association has called for stricter enforcement of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) quality, especially with imports and unorganised players harming the sector.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/zinc-body-calls-for-strict-bis-oversight-for-quality-checks/article35873782.ece>

Spice trade seeks government help as container shortage, soaring freight costs hit exports

The Indian spice trade has sought the Centre's intervention to tide over the crisis arising out of a shortage of containers for export and soaring freight costs.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/spice-trade-seeks-government-help-as-container-shortage-soaring-freight-costs-hit-exports/article35872298.ece>

India for closer cooperation in agri sector within SCO amid COVID-19 challenges

Given the impact of COVID-19 on food security, India on Thursday pitched for closer interaction and knowledge sharing about agriculture within the eight-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to keep food supply chains active and protect the farmers. Addressing virtually the 6th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the member countries of SCO, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said: "In view of the long-term impact of the COVID pandemic on food security and supply chains, maintaining the normal functioning of the food supply chain in order to ensure food and nutritional security requires close contact and cooperation between countries," India, along its broad growth trajectory in the agriculture sector, will continue to share best practices and capacity building of other developing countries bilaterally as well as in collaboration with international organizations to make them self-sufficient and food-secure, he said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/india-for-closer-cooperation-in-agri-sector-within-sco-amid-covid-19-challenges/articleshow/85273670.cms>

Soymeal exports decline by 73% in July

The export of soymeal dropped sharply by 73 per cent to 25,000 tonne in July due to low production as there was a spurt in the cost of raw material in the country. The country exported 93,000 tonne of soymeal in the same month of the last year, an official of the Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA) said on Thursday. According to processing industry insiders, oil plants cut down oil seeds processing due to high prices of soybean which impacted the overall production of soymeal.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/soymeal-exports-decline-by-73-in-july/articleshow/85275827.cms>

India doubles frequency on India-UK route to 30 flights per week

India has agreed to double the weekly quota of flights from 15 to 30 flights, after a public outcry over high fares on India-UK routes from 16 August. While 26 flights have been granted to Air India, Vistara has been allowed to operate four. Average economy-class fares on international flights operating on key routes connecting India have risen significantly, with one way economy fare costing over Rs one lakh. Scheduled international passenger flights have been suspended in India since March 23 last year amid the coronavirus pandemic. However, limited special international passenger flights have been operating since July 2020 under air bubble arrangements formed with 28 countries, including the UK.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-doubles-frequency-on-india-uk-route-to-30-flights-per-week-121081201088_1.html

Miscellaneous

ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 detects presence of water molecules on moon

Chandrayaan-2, ISRO's second lunar mission, has detected the presence of water molecules on the moon, data obtained from the mission has revealed. In a paper co-authored by A S Kirankumar, former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman, said imaging infrared spectrometre (IIRS) is one of the payloads on-board Chandrayaan-2, which is placed in a 100 km polar orbit to acquire global scientific data.

The initial data analysis from IIRS, clearly demonstrates the presence of widespread lunar hydration and unambiguous detection of OH and H₂O signatures on the Moon between 29N and 62N lat., after incorporating physics-based thermal correction to reflectance data, the paper which was published in Current Science journal said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/isro-s-chandrayaan-2-detects-presence-of-water-molecules-on-moon-121081200886_1.html

GSLV failure to have an impact on India's human space mission

The failure of Indian rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F10s (GSLV-F10) cryogenic engine midway during a mission on Thursday will have its impact on India's ambitious moon mission. India presently has three fully operational rockets -- the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and two GSLV variants - GSLV-Mk II with a carrying capacity of 2.5 tonnes and GSLV-MkIII with a payload capacity of four tonnes. The GSLV is a three stage/engine rocket. The core of the first stage is fired with solid fuel and the strap-on motors by liquid fuel. The second is the liquid fuel and the third is the cryogenic engine developed indigenously. India is planning a human space mission- Gaganyaan- using GSLV-MkIII rocket. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to send two unmanned missions to check its rocket and the human capsule before sending its astronauts into the space.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/gslv-failure-to-have-an-impact-on-india-s-human-space-mission-121081200178_1.html



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