

Chandrayaan-3 Landing Site Now Officially Called 'Shiva Shakti'

Why In News

- The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** has approved the Chandrayaan-3 landing site name **'Shiva Shakti'**. The approval came on March 19 after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement following the success of the mission on August 26, 2023.



- "IAU working group for Planetary System Nomenclature has approved the name station 'Shiv Shakti' for the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander," the Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature, which provides detailed information about planetary names by IAU said.

All You Need To Know

- The **IAU is the internationally recognised authority** for assigning names to planetary surface features. It follows some rules and conventions to do so.
- "This **gazetteer contains detailed information** about all names of topographic and albedo features on planets and satellites (and some planetary ring and ring-gap systems) that the IAU has named and approved from its founding in 1919 through the present time," it states.



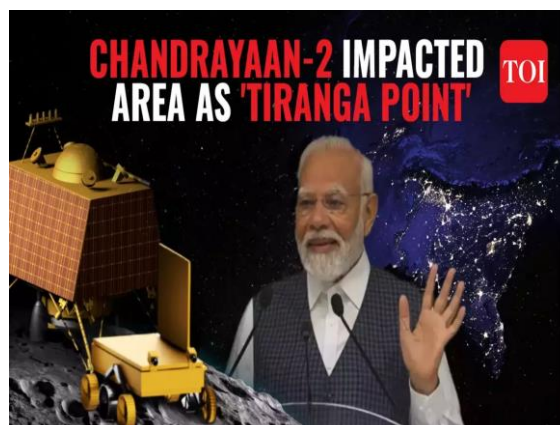
- For example, **Rule 4 emphasizes** the international nature of solar system nomenclature, with final name selection resting with the IAU, while **Rule 9 prohibits** the use of names with political, military, or religious significance, except for those of political figures predating the 19th century.
- **The Astrogeology Science Centre** of the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with the IAU and with funding from NASA, maintains the Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature, serving as a vital resource for planetary naming conventions and approvals.



- For the unversed, **ISRO's Chandrayaan-3** was launched on July 14, 2023, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre Second Launch Pad in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- **The spacecraft landed on the Moon's South Pole** on August 23, 2023. Shortly after the successful landing of the Chandrayaan-3, on August 26, PM Modi announced that the point where the moon lander of Chandrayaan-3 touched down would be called '**Shiv Shakti**'.



- The announcement defined the origin of the name as, a "compound word from **Indian mythology** that depicts **masculine (Shiva) and feminine (Shakti)** duality of nature; Landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram Lander.
- While the **Chandrayaan-2 landing failure** spot will be called "**Tiranga point**", the day of the touchdown of the Vikram Lander on the Moon (August 23) will be celebrated as "National Space Day" in the country, PM Modi had stated.
- "India has decided to name the touchdown point where Vikram Lander made a soft landing on the Moon as "Shiv Shakti Point".



- PM Modi has said that the Moon's Shiv Shakti point will be a **symbol of unity** from the Himalayas to Kanyakumari.
- "The Shiv Shakti Point will inspire future generations in the direction of the use of science for the welfare of humanity," PM Modi had underlined.