

Moon to get first mobile phone network

What is in news?

“The moon will get its first mobile phone network next year, enabling high-definition streaming from the lunar landscape back to earth, part of a project to back the first privately funded moon mission Vodafone.”

Companies collaborating:

- ✓ Vodafone Germany, network equipment maker Nokia and carmaker Audi

About news:

- ✓ The moon will get its first mobile phone network next year. This will enable high-definition streaming from the lunar landscape back to Earth.
- ✓ The rovers cannot send the scientific data, HD video and photos they collect directly to earth because it takes too much power. Instead, they will

use the 4G network to stream the data to a base station, which will beam it back to earth.

- ✓ Vodafone said it had appointed Nokia as its technology partner to develop a space-grade network which would be a small piece of hardware weighing less than a bag of sugar.
- ✓ The companies are working with Berlin-based Company PTScientists on the project, with a launch scheduled in 2019 from Cape Canaveral on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, Vodafone said.
- ✓ They were working together to support the mission, 50 years after the first NASA astronauts walked on the moon.
- ✓ One executive involved said the decision to build a 4G network rather a state-of-the-art 5G network was taken because the next generation networks remain in the testing and trial stage and are not stable enough to ensure they would work from the lunar surface.
- ✓ This project involves a radically innovative approach to the development of mobile network infrastructure.

Prelims Question:

Q) Companies involving in the Moon to get first mobile phone network

1. Vodafone Germany
2. Nokia
3. SpaceX

Which of the given below code is/are correct?

- a. Only 1 and 2
- b. Only 1 and 3
- c. Only 2 and 3
- d. All of the above

Ans: a

Mains Question:

Q) Explain how First mobile phone network (Vodafone 4G) on moon will help the study of the moon surface.