Indian scientists identify Martian analogue sites in Tamil Nadu and Chile

Researchers from Kerala University identified geological and chemical similarities with Mars in Tamil Nadu and the Atacama Desert.

Martian analogue sites are locations on Earth that possess geological, chemical, or physical characteristics similar to those found on Mars, used for scientific research.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Researchers from **Kerala University** identified Martian analogue sites in parts of **Tamil Nadu** and the Atacama Desert in Chile on **October 20, 2026**.
- The research team was led by **Dr. Sajin Kumar**, engaging in fieldwork across regions featuring hydrous sulfates and **gypsum**.
- Identifying terrestrial analogue sites helps scientists study **Mars paleoenvironments** and validate orbital data.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (**Mangalyaan**) was successfully launched on **November 5, 2013**, making India the first Asian nation to reach Martian orbit.

The **Atacama Desert** in Chile is widely recognized globally as one of the best dry Mars analogue environments due to its hyper-arid conditions.

ISRO was established on **August 15, 1969**, with its headquarters located in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Article 51A(h) of the Indian Constitution emphasizes the promotion of scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform as a Fundamental Duty.

REVISION FLASHCARD

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Syllabus Relevance: Important for science and technology updates in TNPSC Group 1 and Group 2 exams.

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