

INDIA'S MOON MISSION: TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CHANDRAYAAN-2

Relevant for: Science & Technology | Topic: Space Technology & related matters

ISRO scientists work on the orbiter vehicle and lander of Chandrayaan-2 in Bengaluru. | Photo Credit: [The Hindu](#)

India's enterprising space mission to the [Lunar South Pole, the Chandrayaan-2](#), is set to be launched on July 15. The mission will give India a headway into discovering more about our luminous neighbour, thereby expanding the country's footprint in space.

- 1) The Chandrayaan-2 is an Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) lunar mission comprising an orbiter and lander (Vikram) carrying a rover (Pragyan).
- 2) The moon is the closest cosmic body at which space discovery can be attempted and documented. But its south polar region has never been explored by any country before.
- 3) This is the first space mission to conduct a soft landing on the Moon's south polar region which has a lunar surface area much larger than that of the North Pole and remains in shadow.
- 4) The GSLV Mk-III which will carry Chandrayaan 2 to its designated orbit is [India's most powerful launcher to date](#).
- 5) The mission life of the Orbiter is one year and the metre-long rover has an expected life of 14 Earth days (one lunar day).
- 6) In order to test the spacecraft's lander [Vikram, ISRO recreated lunar surface at its Lunar Terrain Test Facility in Challakere Science City](#), Bengaluru.
- 7) The soil used for this test was sourced from a few sites near Salem in Tamil Nadu. Geologists of various national agencies had found that it had the ['anorthosite' rock that somewhat matches lunar soil in composition and features](#).
- 8) The name Vikram means valour in Hindi. It was named after the father of the [Indian Space Programme, Vikram Sarabhai](#).
- 9) [Chandrayaan-2 will have 14 Indian payloads](#) or study devices including scientific ones to study topography, seismography, mineral identification and distribution, and surface chemical composition.
- 10) After its launch on July 15, [it will take 53 to 54 days to travel the 3.84 lakh km from the earth to the moon's surface](#).

(With inputs from ISRO)

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Citing a report from U.S.-based West American Analytical Laboratories, Shiv Shankar Gupta, chairman of Godhum Grains and Food Products, accused some

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