

NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY APPLAUDS THE LANDING ON CHANDRAYAAN 3 ON LUNAR SOUTH POLE

NSS's Indian Chapters Jubilant Over Successful Touchdown

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLORIDA, USA, August 24, 2023

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Just a few days after Russia's Luna 26 lander apparently impacted the lunar surface, India's Chandrayaan 3 lander successfully touched down near the lunar south pole on August 23. It is the first lander and rover to reach the polar area, and India is just the fourth nation to successfully land a spacecraft anywhere on the Moon, after the Soviet Union/Russia, the United States, and more recently, China.



Jubilation in the ISRO control room. Credit: ISRO

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Dale Skran, National Space Society COO

"The NSS joins the people of India in cheering this signal achievement, marking the ascension of India to the first rank of spacefaring nations," said Dale Skran, COO of the NSS. "We look forward to India being joined by Japan and numerous private U.S. companies over the next few months and years as humanity at long last returns to the Moon in force, this time to stay."

Touchdown occurred at 8:33 am Eastern Time (1233 GMT or 6:03 p.m. India Standard Time), said the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). The ISRO chairman,

Sreedhara Somanath, declared, "We have achieved soft landing on the Moon! India is on the Moon!"

Just hours after touchdown, images from the lander were posted to social media. The landing site appeared to be relatively flat and should offer a smooth drive to the small rover, called

Pragyan, once it departs the lander, called Vikram.

[Madhu Thangavelu](#), a lecturer at the University of Southern California, Vice President of NSS-India Relationships, and member of the NSS Board of Directors, said, "Lunar touchdown is hard, as we have seen from past missions. Polar landing is harder because of highland topography. India has nailed the first lunar polar touchdown. We're excited to see how the rover mission proceeds ... there is a lot to learn and much hard data to glean in support of upcoming missions."

Chandrayaan 3 follows the first two Chandrayaan missions. Chandrayaan 1, an orbiter, was successful, with the orbiter of Chandrayaan 2 also successful but the lander/rover element of that mission losing contact shortly before impacting the lunar surface. The successful landing of Chandrayaan 3 shows significant growth in India's robotic exploration program.



The Indian Space Research Organization's depiction of Chandrayaan 3 on the Moon. Credit: ISRO

The Chandrayaan mission duration is expected to be one lunar day, or 14 Earth days.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY

The National Space Society was founded in 1987 via a merger of the National Space Institute and the L5 Society. The NSS is the preeminent citizen's voice on space exploration, development, and settlement. To learn more about the NSS and its mission to establish humanity as a spacefaring species, visit us on the web at space.nss.org.

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