

QT

Indian Experience



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EXPATS REJOICE AS INDIA ON THE MOON

Before India's successful lunar rover mission 'Chandrayaan-3', the only countries to safely land a lunar spacecraft were the US, the Soviet Union and China

"INDIA is on the Moon," Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief Sreedhara Panicker Somanath announced amidst cheers in the 'Chandrayaan-3' control room, moments after India became only the fourth country to successfully land its lunar rover on the Moon.

This was a milestone moment for India's space scientists, and since then, India's lunar rover has been taking a walk, sending pictures, digging into the lunar surface, and all set to explore the little-known southern side of the Moon, Indians across the world are re-joining over this huge scientific achievement.

And, like their compatriots worldwide, Indian expatriates in Qatar are ecstatic and hailing the Indian scientists behind this mission. A cross-section of Doha-based expatriates shared with Qatar Tribune their insight into this historic mission that has made every Indian proud. Excerpts:

'India's scientific fervour on full display'
Awadesh (CEO of Hyperthink Systems and Rishi Ventures)

On August 23, India achieved a momentous milestone that fills every Indian's heart with pride – the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's surface.



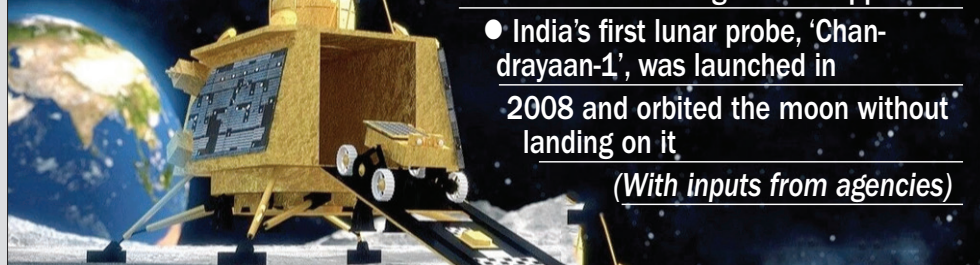
For years, India has been steadily building its reputation as a hub of science and technology, and this triumph has firmly placed the nation on the global map. The scientific fervor that courses through our country is now on full display for the world to witness.

But that's not all – India's prowess isn't limited to just science and technology. The country's entrepreneurial spirit is also gaining momentum. The convergence of these strengths holds the promise of a brighter future, where we can leave behind the shadows of poverty that have lingered in our past.

This success is not just a fleeting moment; it's a sneak peek into the transformation that lies ahead. With each achievement, India is writing a new chapter in its history, a chapter that speaks of progress, innovation, and a determination to overcome obstacles.

'Chandrayaan-3 will inspire future generations'
Shafana Kathija, (KG Teacher, Smart International Kindergarten)
"Hello Buddy" – he said with a warm smile

- India is the 4th country ever to manage a soft landing on the moon
- Chandrayaan means 'lunar vehicle' in Sanskrit
- The Vikram lander that touched down on the lunar surface carries the 6-wheeled Pragyan rover
- The probe took off on July 14, launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Station in the state of Andhra Pradesh
- India's success comes just days after a Russian lunar probe failed
- India's first journey failed in 2019 when the landing module crashed onto the moon's surface due to problems with the brakes during its final approach
- India's first lunar probe, 'Chandrayaan-1', was launched in 2008 and orbited the moon without landing on it



(With inputs from agencies)

on his face on that fine evening on the 23rd of August. Yes, I'm talking about our dearest friend Chandrayaan-3.

Like the whole nation, I and my daughter were curiously watching live on TV India's proudest moment. It was really an edge-of-the-seat moment for all.

Last Wednesday was indeed very special for all Indians. After much patience, hard work, and diligence, India finally landed the Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander on the South Pole of the Moon.



India's foray into space exploration has been marked by numerous accomplishments. Still, this lunar journey is the highest achievement so far, as the South Pole of the Moon was untouched before this. This success did not come overnight, its roots go way back in time.

The triumph of Chandrayaan-3 extends far beyond India's borders, resonating across the entire global scientific community. One of the most profound impacts of space missions lies in their capacity to kindle inspiration to future generations. Chandrayaan-3 with its aspirations and determinations has laid a

great path to young minds worldwide.

'A triumph of radical engineering innovations'
Saeedur Rahman (22-year-old space enthusiast)

There'd be hardly anyone who wouldn't have skimmed through the headlines of the past week seeing Chandrayaan-3 landing on the dark side of the Moon.

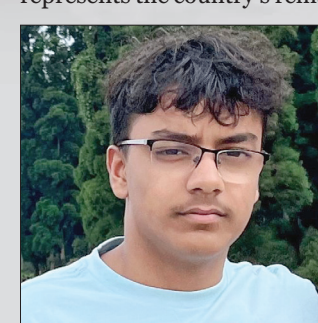


India has become the first country to land on the dark side of the Moon. After the long pause of the Apollo Missions, when India's Chandrayaan-1 made the exciting discovery of widespread frozen water on the lunar surface near its south pole, the space programmes around the world, both government-funded and private, geared up to become the first to successfully land on uncharted grounds – the lunar south pole.

It's all the more exciting now because the Pragyan rover is set to sample the layers of lunar craters that match the proper definition of a cold, dark abyss – craters that have never seen sunlight and where the temperature has never risen above -156°C.

'A dream come true for all of us'
Imad Mosharraf (Student at Sherborne Qatar School)

Chandrayaan-3, India's Moon mission, represents the country's remarkable foray into lunar exploration and scientific research.



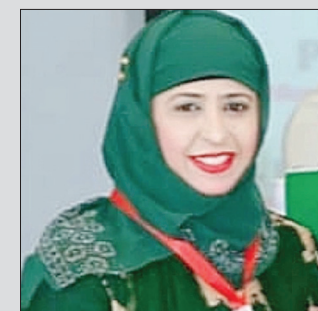
Launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Chandrayaan-3 mission aims to unravel the mysteries of the Moon, advancing our understanding of its origin, composition, and evolution. India's journey to make lunar history began in 2008 with the launch of Chandrayaan-1.

Building on the success of Chandrayaan-1, ISRO embarked on Chandrayaan-2, a more ambitious mission launched in July 2019. This mission consisted of an orbiter, a lander (Vikram), and a rover (Pragyan). While the orbiter continues to study the Moon from its orbit, the lander did experience a hard landing during its attempted descent rather than the planned soft landing.

Despite the setback, the orbiter remains operational and continues to provide crucial data, which helped in the development of Chandrayaan-3: the next big thing.

'Chanda mama door ke... and now so near to us'
Dr Ashna Nusrat (Dentist, president of AMU Alumni Qatar Toastmasters Club)

Since my childhood, the Moon has been an enigma to me. Its luminous glow and serenity have often captivated me, as I look at it deeply and longingly. When I was young, like many Indian mothers, my mom referred to the Moon as "Chanda mama" (maternal uncle) and sang the famous melody Chanda mama door ke... while coaxing me to eat toddler food. At night, the ethereal light shimmering through the window of my room would put me into a lullaby.



A big salute to the ISRO members who successfully scripted this moon mission.

Joy, pride and excitement for every Indian, says ICC vice-president

THE news of Chandrayaan-3's success filled Indian expatriates in Qatar with immense pride. This remarkable achievement not only reflects India's growing prowess in space exploration but also strengthens the sense of national identity and accomplishment among the Diaspora, says Subramanya Hebbagelu, vice-president of the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Doha, Qatar.

Reacting to India's successful lunar mission, he says, "As an individual, I am personally elated by this feat, seeing it as a testament to human innovation and perseverance."

"Furthermore, this achievement instils a sense of inspiration and aspiration among the youth in



Subramanya Hebbagelu

both India and Qatar. The successful landing serves as a beacon of hope, encouraging young minds to

pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). It reinforces the belief that

with determination and hard work, even the most audacious goals can be achieved," he points out.

"On a personal level, I see Chandrayaan 3's successful landing as a reminder of our collective potential as humans to transcend boundaries and explore the unknown. It ignites a sense of wonder and curiosity about the universe and our place within it.

"This achievement also prompts reflection on the remarkable progress made in the fields of science and technology, as well as the importance of international collaboration in achieving breakthroughs that benefit all of humanity."

The lunar mission's success, he notes, points to myriads of factors

among which leadership is pivotal. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has empowered the nation. The teamwork and the lessons learnt from Chandrayaan-2 and other lunar missions have played a crucial role. The approach adopted by ISRO is technically beyond any other risk-based approach adopted for engineering designs of complex and intricate projects."

The ICC vice-president sees Chandrayaan-3's success as a big boost to future missions, like 'Aditya', starting from the Sun to the remaining part of the solar system, which, he notes, would become a reality in a comparatively short duration.

"The imagination of people is now a reality," he avers.