

# MOON KI BAAT

## After Perfect Launch, Chandrayaan-3 Starts 40-Day Trek. To Leave Earth Orbit July 31, Enter Moon Orbit August 5

**Chethan.Kumar**  
@timesgroup.com

**Sriharikota:** In 16 minutes, the Chandrayaan-3 launch was proclaimed a success. Now we have to wait 40 days to see if India's third Moon mission will be a success.

Isro's LVM-3 lifted off from Sriharikota at 2.35pm amidst roars and applause from 10,000-odd spectators at the spaceport — and millions who watched the livestream. At 3.01pm, the “mooncraft” was in a precise transfer orbit of 36,500km x 170km. The Moon landing — as first reported by TOI on Friday — is planned for 5.47pm on August 23, Isro chairman S Somanath announced.

“It soars high, elevating the dreams and ambitions of every Indian,” PM Modi tweeted from France. “This momentous achievement is a testament to our scientists' relentless dedication. I salute their spirit and ingenuity!” Chandrayaan-3 project director P Veeramuthavel confirmed that all the health parameters of the spacecraft are normal. “The journey has begun,” he said. “Now

Photo: PTI



### Chandrayaan-1

Launched on  
**October 22, 2008**

Mission life:  
**2 years**

Orbiter, with  
11 payloads,  
**successfully  
orbited the Moon**

### Chandrayaan-2

Launched on  
**July 22, 2019**

Carried a lander  
and a rover. Partial  
success; **lander  
crashed on Moon**

Orbiter, with eight  
payloads, still active

### Chandrayaan-3 (pic)

Launched on  
**July 14, 2023**

Mission life:  
**1 lunar day (14 Earth days)**

Carries lander and a  
**rover with six payloads**  
and a propulsion module  
with one payload

for the critical soft-landing.” Beginning Friday, Chandrayaan-3 will go around Earth 10 times till July 31, each time scientists carrying out ma-

noeuvres to increase its farthest point from Earth (apogee).

► **Related report, P 11**