

ISRO, India: first to land Spacecraft near the South Pole of Moon

August 24, 2023

August 23, 2023: Bengaluru, India: “India lands spacecraft near South Pole of Moon in **Historic First,**” says Guardian, U.K. As the School children all over India see the landing on the moon in real time in their Schools, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** congratulates the Team of Scientists and Engineers at ISRO for a successful landing of the “Vikram” lander of the “Chandrayaan-3” moon mission.

A cartoonist celebrates the event as follows:



With this safe landing, India became the first country to reach the South Pole of moon.

Unsuccessful attempts to reach the South Pole of the moon have been made by Japan, Israel and Russia.

Vikram is carrying a 6-wheeled rover, called “Pragyan”. Pragyan has started exploring the region within 500 m of Vikram.

During the day on the South Pole (equivalent to 14 days on earth), Pragyan will move to different spots, excavate moon’s soil after drilling, test the soil for water and minerals and convey the data of the test to Vikram, which will send It to the

Orbiter. The Orbiter is continuously moving around the moon and it remains in touch with the Mission Operation Complex in Bengaluru, India.

The Orbiter has been moving around the moon since 2019 and belongs to the previous moon mission, Chandrayaan- 2, of India. It has a design life of 7 years.

ABOUT THE CARTOON: In India, Children’s literature refers to the moon as the “mama (maternal uncle)”. Many scientists refer to earth as “Mother Earth”.

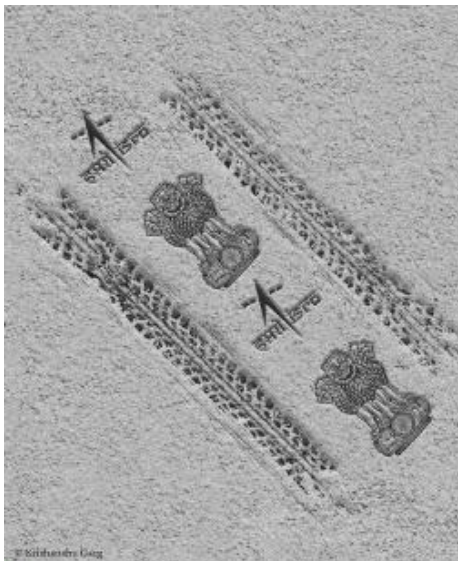
In the month of August is celebrated, in India, a **festival**, when the sisters tie a “Rakhi” (*Rakhi is a type of bracelet. In the simpler case, it can be a thick thread of affection.*) on the wrists of their brothers.

The cartoonist has shown the Vikram as a Rakhi.

----Permanent MARKINGS on the MOON----

On 23rd August, 2023, New York Times reported: “*India Is on the Moon’: Lander’s Success Moves Nation to Next Space Chapter*”.

ISRO has planned to leave a permanent imprint on the moon’s surface of the visit of Vikram and Pragyan. As Pragyan, the rover, moves on the moon, its wheels are designed to leave the imprint, shown in the photograph below. As there is no air on the moon, these marks will be on the moon’s surface, all around Vikram in the area, where Pragyan moves during the next 14 days.



The star-like etching is the symbol of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

The 3-Lion symbol is from a pillar of the Ashok, the Great, the pacifist King of ancient India. This is now the emblem of Government of India.