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{ CHANDRAYAAN-3 }

Propulsion module moved to earth's orbit

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NEW DELHI : The propulsion module (PM) of Chandrayaan-3 was moved from an orbit around the Moon to an orbit around the Earth, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) said in a statement on Monday.

On August 23, the Indian space agency created history by successfully landing the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft near the lunar south pole, a feat that has not been achieved by any country before this.

Isro scientists said that the primary objective of PM was to ferry

the lander module from geosynchronous transfer orbits to the final lunar polar circular orbit and separate the lander. After the separation, the Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth payload in the PM was also operated, Isro said.

"The initial plan was to operate this payload for about three months... The precise orbit injection... and optimal earthy lunar burn manoeuvres, resulted in the availability of over 100kg fuel in PM after over one month of operations in the lunar orbit. It was decided to use the fuel to derive additional information for future missions..." the statement added.