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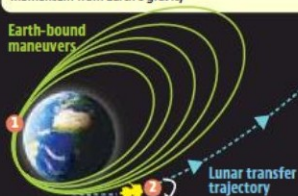
The next step in India's leap to the Moon

A fortnight after its launch, Chandrayaan-3 finished its orbit sequence around the Earth and shot towards the Moon to embark on the next phase of the mission. A look at why this is significant

1 THE LAUNCH

July 14: Chandrayaan-3 takes off from Sriharikota's space centre, then conducts five orbits around the Earth, gaining momentum from Earth's gravity

Earth-bound maneuvers



2 LEAVING EARTH'S INFLUENCE

Aug 1: Chandrayaan-3 completes its orbit sequence around Earth, and moves to trans lunar orbit - moving out of Earth's orbit and closing in on the Moon's orbit - between 12am and 1am. Officials say the spacecraft's health is normal and orbit was raised to 288km x 369,328km, thus, entering the Moon's sphere of influence



3 LUNAR APPROACH

Aug 5: Enters lunar orbit; it will orbit the Moon four times

Aug 17 (tentative): Separation of propulsion module from lander-rover module

4 THE LANDING

Aug 23 (planned date): Spacecraft will land, making India 4th nation to land on Moon's surface; first to land near south pole. This is a crucial phase as this is where Chandrayaan-2 failed