

**20 August 2019**



(Picture credits: ISRO)

***Anniversary of Lunar Orbital Insertion (2019)***

**Space agency/country:** ISRO  
**Mission:** *Chandrayaan 2*

On this day in 2019, India's golden spacecraft known as *Chandrayaan 2* entered the lunar orbit. With this mission, India became the fourth nation to execute a soft landing on the Moon, after Russia, the United States and China, and the first country ever to land on the southern half of our natural satellite. The mission included three vehicles, an orbiter, a lander and a rover. All three were launched on 22 July 2019 and landed less than one month later. The main goal of *Chandrayaan 2* is to study the Moon's mineral composition, exosphere and topography. Among the mission's three vehicles, the lander was named after the founder of India's space programme, Vikram Sarabhai.

**For more information:**

<https://www.planetary.org/space-missions/chandrayaan-2>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/chandrayaan-2-india-historic-moon-mission-launches>

**20 August 2024**



(Picture credits: *NASA/JPL-Caltech*)

**Mission:**

*Voyager 2*

*Voyager 1* and *Voyager 2* are two twin missions developed by NASA. Both of them were first launched in 1977, *Voyager 2* a few weeks before *Voyager 1*. The first project focused on Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune, and was also designed as a backup plan for *Voyager 1*. Luckily, there was no need for *Voyager 2* to execute *Voyager 1* task, so it could carry on its own path, taking picture of moons and rings that had never been captured before. It also became the second spacecraft to ever exit our solar system on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and the first robe to get close the four giant planets previous mentioned and conduct accurate studies on them. It is now more than 20 billion kilometers away from the Earth.

**For more information:**

<https://www.space.com/voyager-2>

<https://science.nasa.gov/mission/voyager-2>

***Launch anniversary (1977)***

**Space agency/country:** NASA