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India Observes Third National Space Day, Marking the Chandrayaan-3 Landing Anniversary

23 August 2026 ·

SCIENCE & TECH

GS3

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India Observes Third National Space Day, Marking the Chandrayaan-3 Landing Anniversary

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

India observed its **third National Space Day** on **August 23, 2026**, an anniversary commemorating the **Chandrayaan-3** mission's **Vikram** lander soft-landing at **Shiv Shakti Point** on the Moon's south polar region, background: since August 23, 2023, with the national event hosted at ISRO's **Space Applications Centre (SAC)**, Ahmedabad.

This Year's Theme

The 2026 observance carried the theme **“Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership,”** reflecting India's continued push from the Chandrayaan-3 milestone toward crewed spaceflight and a domestic space station.

Why This Matters

Chandrayaan-3 made India the **fourth country** to achieve a soft lunar landing and the **first** to land near the lunar south pole. National Space Day serves as an annual checkpoint on India's roadmap from Chandrayaan-3 toward **Gaganyaan** (India's crewed spaceflight programme) and the planned **Bharatiya Antariksh Station**, targeted for around 2035.

UPSC Relevance

This connects GS3 space technology achievements with GS1 government policies for scientific development and GS2 institutional architecture, including ISRO's role under the Department of Space and **IN-SPACe** as the private-sector single-window space regulator. A useful Mains angle examines how deepening private-sector participation via **IN-SPACe** and **NewSpace India Limited** can sustain India's space-sector momentum beyond flagship missions.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**NATIONAL SPACE DAY 2026:**

Chandrayaan-3 landing site: Shiv Shakti Point, lunar south polar region

Background, landing date: August 23, 2023; India is the 4th country to achieve a soft lunar landing, 1st near the south pole

2026 theme: “Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership”

Host institution: Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, Ahmedabad

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

India’s crewed spaceflight programme, Gaganyaan, and the planned Bharatiya Antariksh Station (target ~2035) represent the next milestones on India’s space roadmap

Sources: PIB, ISRO, Ministry of Science and Technology

Source: India Observes Third National Space Day, Marking the Chandrayaan-3 Landing Anniversary — Ujijari.com
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