

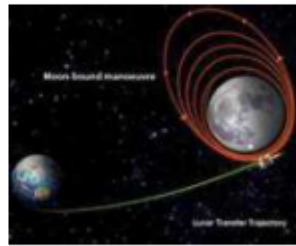
Chandrayaan-3 in lunar orbit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday completed the Lunar-Orbit Insertion (LOI) to successfully put the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft into the moon's orbit. The LOI manoeuvre, which commenced at 7 p.m., was performed from the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru.

"Chandrayaan-3 has been successfully inserted into the lunar orbit. A retro-burning at the Perilune was commanded from the Mission Operations Complex (MOX), ISTRAC, Bengaluru. The insertion was carried out by retro-burning at the Perilune for 1,835 seconds, starting at 7.12 p.m. IST," the space agency said. "The manoeuvre resulted in an orbit of 164 x 18,074 km as intended," said ISRO.

After the completion of the crucial manoeuvre, IS-



The LOI manoeuvre was performed from the ISTRAC in Bengaluru. PTI

RO posted on social media platform X, "Chandrayaan-3 Mission: MOX, ISTRAC, this is Chandrayaan-3. I am feeling lunar gravity."

Following the success of the LOI, ISRO will carry out four orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter into its final orbit at a distance of about 100 km from the moon's surface. The first of these manoeuvres, reduction of orbit, is scheduled to take place at 11 p.m. on August 6.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 13

Chandrayaan-3 enters lunar orbit

“The next operation - reduction of orbit - is scheduled for Aug 6, 2023, around 11 p.m. IST,” ISRO said. The Chandrayaan-3 consists of a lander module, a propulsion module and a rover. The separation of the two modules will happen on August 17. A series of deboost manoeuvres is also scheduled to take place before the power descent phase for soft-landing on the moon.

The lander is expected to touch down on the moon surface at 5.47 p.m. on August 23.

On August 4, the space agency said that India's third moon mission, which was launched on July 14, has covered about two-thirds of the distance to the moon. Chandrayaan-3 is India's second attempt at soft-landing robotic instruments on the lunar surface after the previous attempt, Chandrayaan-2, failed in 2019. Thus far, only three countries, the U.S., Russia and China, have successfully soft-landed on the moon.

The space agency said that this is the third time in succession that ISRO has successfully inserted its spacecraft into the lunar orbit, apart from doing so once into the Martian orbit.

“The health of the Chandrayaan-3 is normal. Throughout the mission, the spacecraft is being continuously monitored from MOX at ISTRAC, the Indian Deep Space Network (ISDN) antenna at Bialalu near Bengaluru with the support of ESA and JPL Deep space antenna,” it added.

Steps being taken to bring back over 5,000 artefacts excavated in Adichanallur: Nirmala

Laying the foundation stone for a museum in Adichanallur, where excavation has unearthed burial urns and objects used by ancient Tamils, she said the building would be equipped with modern technology, including a QR Code system, to help visitors easily understand importance of the artefacts

The Hindu Bureau
THOOTHUKUDI

Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday that steps were being taken to bring back over 5,000 artefacts that were excavated in Adichanallur, but were taken to foreign museums in the past.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for the museum in Adichanallur, which will showcase artefacts from the ancient Tamil civilisation, Ms. Sitharaman said that the excavation in the 'parambu' in Adichanallur had yielded several 3,400-year-old burial urns containing the remains of people from all walks of life as well as clothes, water, jewels and foodgrains, all of which had been placed inside the urns as a mark of respect for the dead.

The artefacts unearthed from this site would be displayed in the museum, to come up near the archaeo-



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Thoothukudi MP Kanimozhi at the excavation site in Adichanallur on Saturday. A. SHAKMOHIDEEN

logical site on Adichanallur - Srivaikundam Road with funding from the Centre, and the 5,000-odd artefacts taken either legally or illegally to various foreign museums would be brought back to this museum, Ms. Sitharaman said.

The museum would be equipped with modern technology, including a QR Code system, to help visitors easily understand the importance and history of aesthetically-displayed artefacts, she said, adding: "Since this museum is coming up on an advanta-

geous site on the Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur Road, it will attract many visitors every day. Moreover, I've suggested to officials of the Archaeological Survey of India [ASI] to create an amphitheatre here with light and sound shows to give visitors an idea about our

ancient civilisation in a modern way."

The excavation, led by Regional Director of ASI Arun Raj, had also unearthed metal and bronze objects used by ancient Tamils and a gold diadem. Subsequently, the Union government decided to set up an on-site museum at this hotspot of ancient Tamil civilisation and came out with its decision to build the museum in 2021.

Thoothukudi MP Kanimozhi said Adichanallur was reflective of the ancient Tamils' way of living and their rich culture.

Minister for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Anitha R. Radhakrishnan; Collector K. Senthil Raj; Director General of ASI Kishore Kumar; and Mr. Raj, among others, were present.

'Dream realised'

"Even though an excavation in Adichanallur was taken up in 1876 itself and there was a plan to establish a museum to exhibit

the artefacts recovered here, the dream has been realised only today, after 145 years. This is the first on-site archaeological museum in the country," said writer Muthaalaankurichi Kamarasu, who had approached courts to expedite the excavation in Adichanallur and to set up an on-site museum to showcase the artefacts.

Tourism circuits

Ms. Sitharaman said that the Centre had allocated ₹6,000 crore towards creating 15 tourism circuits to connect 75 cultural and religious heritage sites in 30 States.

She added that heritage towns and cities, including Ajmir, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwaraka, Gaya, Mathura, Puri, Velankanni, Warangal, Kanchipuram and Varanasi, would be developed with better drainage and waste management facilities and tourist-friendly infrastructure on an outlay of ₹500 crore.

President Droupadi Murmu visits Theppakadu elephant camp

The Hindu Bureau
MUDUMALAI

President Droupadi Murmu visited the Theppakadu elephant camp on Saturday and spent over one-and-a-half hours interacting with the caretaker couple Bomman and Belie, who had starred in the Oscar-winning documentary *The Elephant Whisperers*, and other caretakers.

The President, who came at 3.30 p.m. from Mysuru airport, was received at the helipad by Ministers K. Ramachandran and M. Mathiventhan.

Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Supriya Sahu; IGP West Zone R. Sudhakar; and Collector S.P. Amrith were present.

The President travelled by road to the elephant camp, located about 7 km away.

Fed sugarcane

She fed sugarcane to elephant Bommi, which was lined up along with two other elephants Kamatchi and Bham.



President Droupadi Murmu during her visit to Theppakadu elephant camp on Saturday. PTI

A three-tier security was provided to the President by the district police

She spent some time with Raghu, the elephant calf that was looked after by Bomman and Belie.

On her way back, the President alighted from the car, shook hands with onlookers and gave them chocolates.

She boarded the helicopter on her return journey to Mysuru airport around 5.15 p.m.

A three-tier security was

provided to Ms. Murmu throughout by the district police under the supervision of Superintendent of Police K. Prabakar.

Camp closed

The elephant camp was closed for tourists in view of the President's visit.

What is the Data Protection Bill of 2023?

How is the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 different from its previous iteration? What are the domains where it has made advances and the ones where it is lacking?

Radhika Roy
Tejasi Panjiar

The story so far:

The journey towards a data protection legislation can be traced back to 2017 when an expert committee was constituted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The major development came in December 2021 when the Data Protection Bill, 2021 (DPB, 2021) was released. However, it was withdrawn in Parliament by Minister for Communications and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on August 3, 2022. On November 18, 2022, a draft of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 (DPDPB, 2022) was released for public consultation. The submissions made under this consultation process were not made public. The request to publicly release the submissions was also denied in a Right to Information application. One year on, the 2023 Bill has been tabled in Parliament without clarifying how and on what basis these changes were incorporated.

Who does it protect?

In a first, the new Bill introduces duties and penalties on a data principal (DP). Clause 11 of Chapter III states that the DP has the right to request from the data fiduciary (DF), a summary of the personal data being processed, identities of all the DF with whom its personal data has been shared and so on, subject to a few exceptions. Under Clause 12, users can seek correction, completion, update and erasure of their personal data. Interestingly, the provision which allowed a DF to reject this request has

The Bill proposes to exempt government authorities from adhering to the law on five counts

been removed. Users have also been given the right of grievance redressal (Clause 13) and the right to nominate another individual in the event of death or incapacity to exercise their rights (Clause 14).

While the impetus for a data protection legislation must be to protect a DP's personal data from being unwittingly exploited, the Bill appears to be designed in a manner that this protection is compromised. Interestingly, the Bill further goes on to impose duties and penalties on the DP.

To exemplify the above, Clause 15(d) of this chapter states that the DP must ensure not to register a false or frivolous grievance or a complaint with a DF or the Data Protection Board (DPB), and failure to adhere with this may enable a penalty of ₹10,000 (Chapter VIII). This is an onerous obligation which may effectively prevent a DP from raising grievances.

Who does it exempt?

Data breaches are becoming regular occurrences. It was reported in June 2023 that a major privacy breach with respect to the CoWIN portal had taken place and personal details of vaccinated users had been leaked on Telegram. Recently, in July 2023, about 12,000 confidential records of State Bank of India employees were reportedly made public on Telegram. In view of this, a cause of great concern that arises in the Bill is the exemption under Clause 17(2)(a) which, if notified, is granted to the government and its authorities.

On five specified grounds, the Bill exempts government authorities, as notified, marking a discernible expansion of the scope of exemption. Personal data which is processed for research, archiving, or statistical purposes will also be exempted under Clause 17(2)(b).

While previous iterations of the Bill also provided exemptions, this has now been broadened to state that data processing undertaken by the Union government on information provided to it by an exempted instrumentality will continue to remain exempted from the purview of this law.

What does it seek to amend?

The changes that the Bill seeks to implement by way of Clause 44 are significant. For instance, Section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) imposes an obligation on corporates to award damages to affected persons in case of negligent handling of their sensitive data. Clause 44(2) of the Bill aims to exclude the application of Section 43A, thereby

rendering an individual who has suffered breach of their data without any relief.

Clause 44(3), which seeks to amend the entire Section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 and replace it with "information which relates to personal information", has received heavy criticism from stakeholders. Previously, qualifiers existed which narrowed the information that could be withheld by the public information officers. Now, the removal of "has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual" widens the scope of withholding information.

Does it protect users?

A widely appreciated departure from the previous iterations is the DF's obligation to notify the DP in case of personal data breach. Other obligations imposed on DF include notifying the DP about the purpose for which their data may be processed, and the manner in which they may make a complaint to the DPB, withdraw consent, and seek grievance redressal.

However, as discussed before, there is a deviation from DPB 2021 with removal of the provision for compensating a user affected by personal data breach. In further departure, Clause 5, which outlines notice obligations on DF does not mandate them to inform DPs about data being shared with third-parties, duration of storage of data, and transfer of data to other countries. Lack of obligation on the part of DF to notify DP at the offset makes the DP's right to obtain information pertaining to their personal data perfunctory.

The assumed consent framework of DPDPB, 2023, on the other hand, remains unchanged. In place of using the term "deemed consent", which was present in DPDPB, 2022, Clause 7 uses the term "certain legitimate uses", which outlines the various situations in which personal data may be processed without obtaining the DP's informed consent. The DPDPB, 2023 fails to differentiate between "personal data" and "sensitive personal data", consequently negating the elevated level of protection associated with the latter. Chapters V and VI deal with the DPB which is the primary authority for ensuring that DPDPB, 2023, is upheld. DPB's independence has also been in question since the 2019 version. DPDPB, 2023, mandates all its members to be appointed by the Union Government. A favourable evolution is the clarification that salary, allowances, and other terms of service of DPB members cannot be varied to their disadvantage post appointment. However, only adjudicatory and not regulatory powers have been bestowed upon the DPB.

Radhika Roy is the Associate Litigation Counsel and Tejasi Panjiar is the Associate Policy Counsel at Internet Freedom Foundation.



Starting point: According to the new Bill, users can seek correction, completion, updation and erasure of their personal data. ISTOCKPHOTO