

# Chandrayaan-3 launch on July 14, lunar landing on August 23 or 24

Landing date is decided based on when there is sunrise on the moon; if the landing does not take place as planned, then ISRO will wait for one month to make another attempt in September, says space agency Chairman S. Somnath

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

India's much-awaited moon mission Chandrayaan-3 will be launched at 2.35 p.m. on July 14 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced on Thursday.

On the sidelines of the G-20 Space Economy Leaders Meeting, ISRO Chairman S. Somnath told presspersons that if the launch took place as scheduled on July 14, the landing on the lunar surface would take place in the last week of August.

"If the launch takes

place on that day, then we will be ready for landing on the moon possibly by the last week of August. The date (landing date) is decided when there is sunrise on the moon. When we are landing, sunlight must be there. So the landing will be on August 23 or 24," Mr. Somnath said.

The space agency chief said that if the landing did not take place as planned, then the ISRO would wait for another month to make a landing attempt in September.

"The lander and the rover will stay on the moon for 14 days until sunlight is there. When there is no sunlight, a small solar pa-



**Moving forward:** ISRO Chairman S. Somnath addresses a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

nel which is on the rover will generate power to charge the battery for the next 14 days until light comes. The temperature

there goes down to minus-40 degrees Celsius, and in such an environment, there is no guarantee that the battery and

electronics will survive, but we did some tests and have the feeling that they will survive," he said.

The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft will be launched by the Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3) and launch window for the mission is between July 12 and 19.

Chandrayaan-3 will demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.

The mission has an indigenous lander module, a propulsion module and a rover with an objective of developing and demonstrating new technologies required for inter-planetary missions.

## Now, use an app to buy products from cooperative stores

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Minister for Cooperation K. R. Periyakaruppan on Thursday launched a mobile app for marketing products of cooperatives, including Mangalam, Marudham, Kamadhenu, Ardhanareeswarar and Kanchee.

The app, called Coop Bazaar, can be used on Android phones and downloaded from the Playstore. At present, 64 products including turmeric, oils, dals, honey, sugar, bath soaps and even fertilizers can be purchased online.

The Cooperative department has tied up with a few partners for delivery of these products.

Speaking to reporters after the event, the Minister said that the launch of the

application was announced in the State Assembly this year.

### Catalogue expansion

More consumer products would be added to the list soon. Payment can be done via UPI and credit/debit cards. The products are from cooperative societies in Erode, Thiruchengodu, Salem, Pollachi and Kolli Hills.

Officials explained that the USP for these products is their cost and their quality.

“These are more cost effective than similar products of other brands. Their quality is also assured,” an official said. Secretary Food D. Jagannathan and Registrar of Cooperative Societies N. Subbalyan were present on the occasion.

## T.N. notifies rules for electric fences, aims to protect wild animals

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

The State government has notified the Tamil Nadu Power Fences (Registration and Regulation) Rules 2023 to protect wildlife from getting electrocuted by high-voltage electric fences and prevent damage to agricultural produce by wildlife in forests adjoining farms.

The rules will be applicable "only within 5 km from notified reserve forest areas". They include provisions such as mandatory permission to erect power fences including solar ones, and registration of already-erected power fences.

"All companies in the business of erecting power fences are now mandated to comply with BIS standard viz., BIS-302-2-76 (India) Norms," said a press release issued by Supriya

Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests.

### Joint inspection

To ensure compliance, the government has ordered that a joint team of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) and the Forest Department take up field-level inspections once a fortnight and document the details.

The owners of properties that already have power fences shall apply within 60 days from the date of publication of these rules to the District Forest Officer (DFO) to obtain a registration certificate, the rules stated. The DFO and TNEB officials have to inspect the site and verify conformity to the rules. Once permission is given, the owner must set up the power fence within 90 days.

## Momentum softens

Food inflation threatens to undermine efforts to ensure price stability

**T**he latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India's manufacturing sector and the Services Business Activity Index for the economy's broader services sector from S&P Global, posit a softening in momentum in economic activity. Its survey of about 400 manufacturers shows that production growth at major private sector factories eased marginally last month, with the June PMI reading dipping to 57.8, from 58.7 in May. On the services front, the index signalled the expansion in output decelerating to a three-month low, dragged down by activity in the transport, information and communication sectors registering a sequential slowdown. The softer readings of the manufacturing and services indices for June can be attributed to a large extent to their multi-year peaks in May and April, respectively, especially when the underlying constituents of the index are viewed separately. While manufacturing PMI surged to a 31-month high in May, the index for services had in April registered its highest seasonally adjusted figure in almost 13 years. June's data show that new orders at factories, which constitute about 30% of the manufacturing PMI's weight, grew at the strongest pace in 28 months, while demand and higher labour costs spurred charge inflation – the rate of increase in prices of manufacturers' finished goods – to a 13-month high. Similarly, service providers noted a quicker expansion in intake of new business, pointing to demand remaining robust, and buoying firms' confidence in growth prospects to the highest level in 2023.

On the face of it, S&P Global's survey findings ought to reassure policymakers that the Reserve Bank of India's inflation-battling interest rate increases till the end of the last fiscal have still not sapped domestic demand for manufactured goods and services. However, the PMI survey panels do not include MSMEs, which collectively are estimated to contribute more than a third to the gross value added generated by the manufacturing sector as a whole. The absence of data on the MSME segment, which is a key bulwark of manufacturing employment, means that estimating the overall strength of job creation in the formal economy relying largely on PMI as an indicator may be risky. While S&P Global's surveys point to private sector employment strengthening further, with manufacturers recording a stronger expansion in jobs than service providers, CMIE data point to the June unemployment rate having spiked to 8.5%, from 7.7% in May. Policymakers will also need to keep a watch on the upward trend in output prices at manufacturers and service providers, given that the resurgence in food inflation threatens to undermine the RBI's efforts to anchor inflation expectations and ensure growth-supportive price stability.