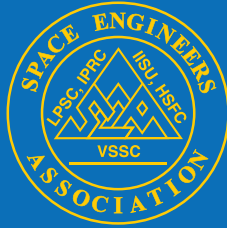


SEANETWS



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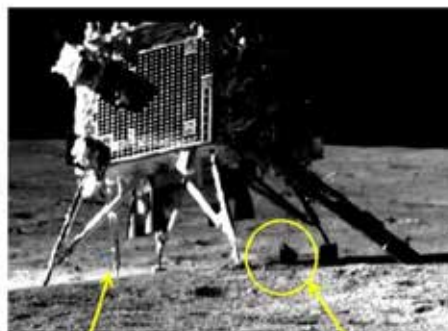
Rollout of the Rover as observed by
Lander Camera on August 23, 2023

CHANDRAYAAN 



Vikram as seen by Pragyan

August 30, 2023, 07:35 Hrs. IST



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ILSA

SEA
congratulates
Scientists/Engineers
associated with
CHANDRAYAAN-3 &
ADITYA L1
mission.

A Century of Women's Franchise in India

**Senthil Kumar A., Head, Program Planning & Evaluation Cell,
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Women in United States of America (USA) got the right to vote in 1920, the United Kingdom (UK) in 1928, and Switzerland in 1974.

Women in India, on the other hand, was endowed with the right to vote even before our independence, in the year 1923, exactly 100 years ago.

While the USA became independent on 4 July 1776, women franchise was allowed in only with the 19th amendment which was ratified on August 18, 1920.

In the UK, the 1918 Act provided for suffrage for women of above 30 years who met minimum property qualifications, whereas men over the age of 21 were eligible. It was the Equal Franchise Act 1928 that allowed men and women over the age of 21 the right to vote.

As India embraces progress and inclusivity, let us take a look at the path which led to women's right to vote in India.

The Indian Struggle

The struggle for women's franchise in India started in first half of twentieth century. When the first war of independence broke out in India is 1857, the British Parliament took over the governance of Indian territories from the East India Company through the Government of India Act 1858. The elective element for the natives in British India was introduced for the first time under the Indian Councils Act 1901.

Lord Minto, the then Governor-General of India and Lord Morley, the then Secretary of State for India came out with the Morley-Minto reforms scheme in 1906. The first central Legislative council constituted under the Act comprised of 68 members with 27 of them being 'elected' members. They were, however, not chosen by the common people of India.

During the early 1900s, various organisations like

Women's India Association, the National Council for Women in India and the All India Women's Congress (AIWC), among others, had come into being. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy (1888-1968), a founder member of AIWC, was also the first woman medical graduate in the country, passing out in 1912.

In 1917, an all India Women's delegation presented a petition to Mr. Montague, Secretary of Indian Affairs in the British Government, when he visited India. The petition demanded that the meaning of the phrase "Indian People" should also include and imply Indian women as well.

From 1918 to 1919, the Southborough Franchise Committee was entrusted with the task of framing franchise regulations in India. However, the Committee rejected the demand stating that social conditions were not favourable enough to allow women to participate in the voting process.

Subsequently, a four-member delegation comprising Sarojini Naidu, Annie Besant, Herabhai Tata and Mithan Tata went to England to submit evidence before a joint Parliamentary Committee. Based on these discussions, the elected legislature in India was provided the option to decide on offering suffrage to women.

A series of legislations followed in different provinces in India allowing limited franchise to women, which meant that only those women who qualified certain property and education criteria were allowed to vote.

In 1921, the Madras Province was the first to grant limited franchise, followed by the Bombay Province.

In 1923, the central legislature granted women the right to vote for the Indian Legislative Assembly. This was a major milestone in the history of Indian women's participation in governance.

General elections in British India

The process of Indians participating in governance started with first General Elections in British India in September 1930. The newly elected Central Legislative Assembly, comprising of Nationalist Party, Independent Groupings, Minor Parties and Europeans, met for the first time on 14 January 1931.

In the same year, women were given the right to contest elections, though subject to property and education-specific criteria.

General Elections were again conducted in British India in the year 1934. The constituencies were Assam, Ajmer-Merwara, Bengal, Bihar & Orissa, Bombay, Burma, Central Provinces, Delhi, Madras, North West Frontier Province, Punjab and United Provinces. The total enrolled electorate in the contested constituencies were 11,35,899, of which 62,757 were women. However, only 14,505 women had actually used the ballot, out of total polled votes of 6,08,198.

Subsequently, the Government of India Act, 1935, relaxed the franchise qualifications for women with the following provisions:

- (a) Minimum age of 21 years
- (b) Ownership of property and a tax payer
- (c) Ability to read and write in any Indian language/ dialect
- (d) Wives/widows of tax paying male
- (e) Wives/widows of officers and soldiers of Majesty's regular forces.

The Act also reserved some seats for women in federal and provincial legislations. Even with these relaxations, it was just 0.06 per cent of women who were eligible to contest.

Nevertheless, this was a progress in the right direction.

Elections in Independent India

The general outlines of electoral system had been laid down by years of practise under the British. In independent India, the draft electoral roll preparation started in November 1947 with the number of voters leaping to 173 million, which included 80 million women.

However, four million women had registered their status as wife, daughter or widow. The government made it clear that this was not permissible and that women had to register as individuals. Various organisations also appealed to women to register as individuals.

Consequently, the exercise was redone though over 2.8 million women voters had to be excluded from the rolls as they had failed to disclose their names.

The participation of women in making of India, all through the journey from British India to Independent India and contemporary India is very evident.

However, as per a report published on March 05, 2022 by the Times of India, India ranked at 148 among 191 countries for the number of women in its parliament. Evidently, it is still a long way ahead. Credit is, however, due to the efforts of those women, whose actions and campaign resulted in women's franchise being initiated in the country a century ago.

Life Lessons - Reflections

Anjana SJ, VSSC

Prelude

It is natural to feel as if you are floating through the air or falling as low as the tides. That is nothing to be ashamed of. I want to share with the readers some thoughts about life that I'm sure many of you have had at different points in your lives.

You may all agree that experience is a harsh teacher who delivers the test first and teaches later. The intricacy is increased because the question paper pattern is unpredictable as if generated by a random number generator.

My perception

Life is never easy. We can try to make things easier for ourselves, sometimes by ignoring things and sometimes by accepting reality. We tend to dream big and keep ourselves going with HOPE. However, when unforeseen falls occur, it isn't easy to even hope for a light at the end of the tunnel. The healing takes a long time. But, in the end, we must all rise and conquer. Life, as they say, must carry on. It takes faith to believe that each ascent will bring us new opportunities.

It's tough sometimes ...

In our society, we often wonder why straight trees are always cut first. I recall watching a short WhatsApp video of a cock crowing and waking its owner. What is seen in the following visual is the poor bird getting fried in a pan to fulfil the same owner's hunger. This irony is a fact of life. We must train ourselves to swallow the profound sighs arising from our powerlessness rather than just becoming prisoners of our circumstances.

A typical example would be disappointments, denial of opportunities or rejections at one's workplace. When you appear perplexed, unable to fathom your situation, any advice, sought or not, on the ups and downs of life, falls on deaf ears. We expect all

ramifications to follow our actions with the same speed and precision as ISRO's textbook launches.

When you give your 100% energy to something, and then if it is not duly acknowledged, your motivation wanes, and your belief in the system dwindles. You feel you can't go on. In such situations, it would do us well to recall the Bhagavad Gita's teachings, which state, "You have the right to perform your duties, but not to the fruits of your labour. Never believe yourself to be the source of the outcomes of your actions, nor should inaction limit you." You must convince yourself that when the going gets tough, the tough must get going. It is, however, easier said than done. It would help if you persevered, more than simply longing for better circumstances.

Expecting nothing from others is a talent you must learn for your peace of mind. It is also important to avoid toxic characters. Paulo Coelho was right when he stated, "If you expect the world to be fair with you because you are fair, you're fooling yourself. That would be like expecting the lion not to eat you because you didn't eat him." However, you can still choose to be fair since it is your life, and you are the only one responsible for it. Your character and integrity define you.

Rising unto challenges

It is astonishing that humans have so much energy to bounce back when faced with uncertainty and adversity. The fear of the unknown is deeply ingrained in all of us. However, a ship cannot be docked just for fear of sinking. Thus, we must consciously let go of our inhibitions often to go the extra mile and attain our goals. That could imply much hard work and a shift in our attitude. While you grow outside of your comfort zones, you must surround yourself with people who encourage you. Ensure your family's support throughout this journey.

The challenges faced by each one of us might be

unique. A comparison exercise will not help in negotiating difficult situations. The strategies to tackle life's challenges for everyone must be devised on a case-by-case basis. Count on your strengths, target your weaknesses, and hang in there.

A gentle touch

Tragedy can strike us in the form of the loss of a loved one, a much-needed job, a crucial career promotion or anything else. When no amount of pondering or philosophy relieves your agony, the reassuring words of "Relax" coming from your loved ones, or even their simple presence, may give you the gentle caressing much-needed at this time. Hand-holding is essential if you are not to lose your mind. Friendship and love are the most effective forms of therapy. It is priceless. Make sure that you cultivate and nurture deep and enriching bonds with decent people. You need close friends to remind you that "your attitude, and not your aptitude, decides your altitude in life".

If you are led astray by your instincts and worries, your mind becomes your greatest adversary. It takes much courage not to let our emotions take over our senses at challenging times. Like Tagore urged his readers, the mind can be trained to be fearless in the face of countless challenges. We can choose to hold our heads high so as not to receive blows from anyone. The way we conduct ourselves defines our class.

Be kind!

Kindness makes the world lovely and a worthwhile place to live. It brightens both the giver's and the recipient's day. Believe that anyone who can irritate you has control over you. Learn to forgive, not only for the sake of others but also for the sake of yourself.

Be brave enough to keep a tender heart amidst the brutality and insensitivity you see around.

"Don't expect someone else to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden to adorn your soul" - This is one of the sweetest Good Morning texts I've ever received.

Being positive

Friends, let me conclude by sharing a quote from the internet on having a positive mindset - "When there is a storm, all large trees get uprooted, but regular grass always survives. Being simple and egoless makes us more powerful and stable."

We must be vigilant so that the mistakes and disappointments of the past do not dominate and drive our future. We must accept that only the present is within our control and that, too, only to a limited extent. However, do everything possible to attain your goals - die with memories, not dreams. This is precisely the lesson on 'Sthithapraghatha' (Equanimity) that Lord Krishna taught the great warrior Arjuna in the epic Mahabharata.

Wishing you all a fun rollercoaster ride fighting battles inside and outside of yourself, overcoming obstacles and facing fears head-on. Invest in your dreams, follow your goals, spend time with your family & friends and indulge in your interests. Enact your roles in this stage so well that they become lovely memories for at least a few other beings.

Let us all recognize that life is not a sprint to the finish line. When you reach the summit, you may discover that the journey was far more memorable than the destination.

January 2023

Sri. Yella Venkata Narayana
LPSC



Sri. Anandapadmanabhan EN
VSSC

February 2023

Sri. Gopakumar N
LPSC



Sri. Radhakrishnan K
VSSC



Sri. Srinivasan P
IPRC

March 2023

Sri. Alex A
LPSC



Sri. Girish V
VSSC



Sri. Jose Paul
LPSC



**Sri. Muruganantha
Baskaran J**
IPRC



Sri. Sudhir George Verghis
VSSC

April 2023

Sri. Dilip k varma
VSSC



Sri. Gopakumar PN
VSSC



Sri. Jojo Mathew
VSSC