



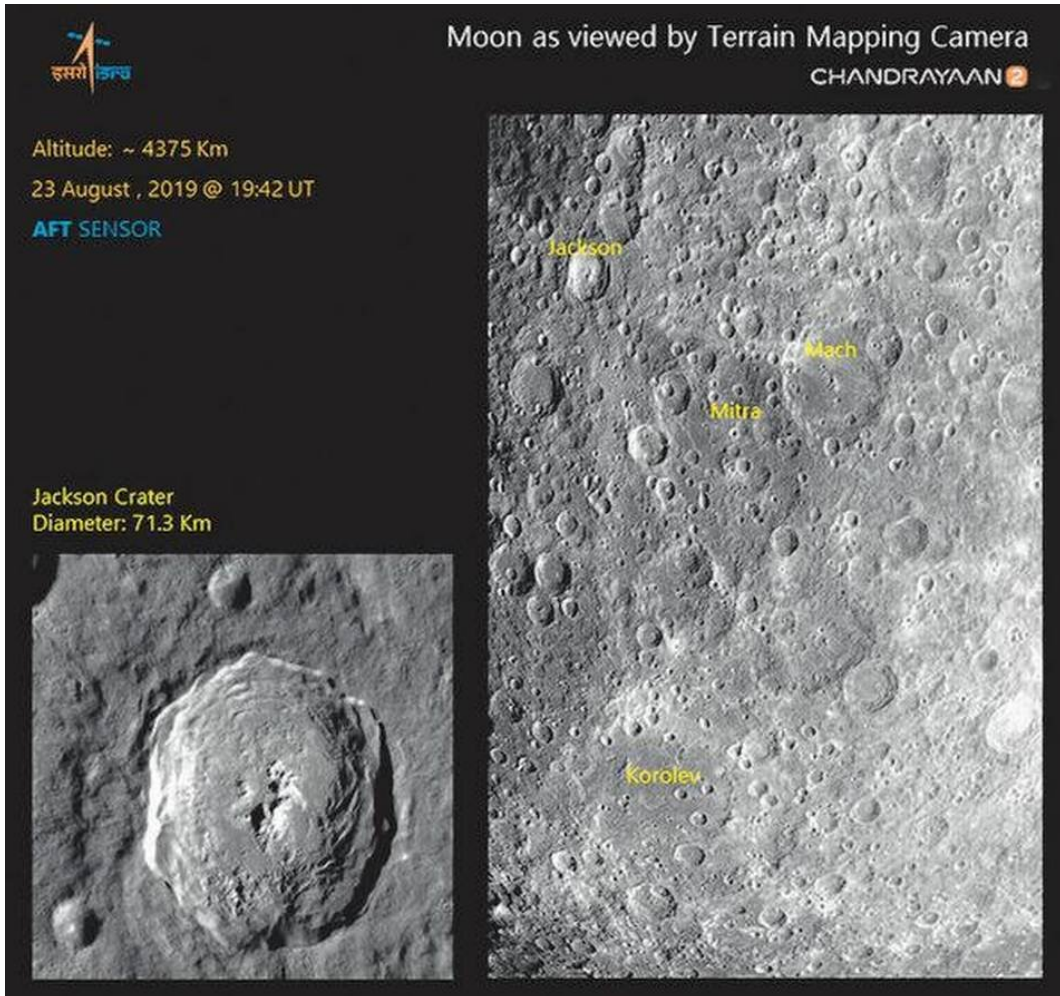
Chandrayaan-2 Scans Mitra Crater

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Recently, the Chandrayaan-2's orbiter has scanned a crater on the moon named after 20th century's acclaimed radio physicist Sisir Kumar Mitra.

The set of images taken by the **Chandrayaan-2**, also include the images of impact craters namely:

- **Jackson:** Named after a Scottish astronomer.
- **Mach:** Named after an Austrian physicist and philosopher.
- **Korolev:** Named after the father of the space programme of the erstwhile USSR.



The **Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union (IAU)**—the global authority for naming planetary features in the solar system— had named the impact based crater after **Professor Sisir Kumar Mitra in 1970.**

Sisir Kumar Mitra

- **Sisir Kumar Mitra was an Indian physicist who led the research in the ionosphere**– the upper region of the atmosphere–and radiophysics.
- He was the **first to introduce the teaching of radio communication in India.**
- His book, **'Upper Atmosphere'** is considered as the Bible for research workers in the field of the ionosphere.
- In the 1950s, he advocated space research and high altitude rocket research programmes which had been successfully conducted by the US and USSR.

Lunar Craters

- Lunar Craters are **bowl-shaped landforms** created by **Volcanism and Cratering.**

- There are hundreds of thousands of moon craters ranging from less than a mile across to giant basins.
- The **largest crater on the Moon** is called **South Pole-Aitken Basin**.
- Moon's lack of water, atmosphere, and tectonic plates, there is little erosion, and craters are found that **exceed two billion years in age**.

Chandrayaan-2

- It will attempt to soft-land the **lander -Vikram** and **rover- Pragyan** in a high plain between **two craters, Manzinus C and Simpelius N**.
- It is the **first Space Mission** to conduct a **soft landing on the Moon's south polar region**.
- It is the **First Indian expedition** to attempt a **soft landing on the lunar surface with home-grown technology**.
- India is the **fourth country** ever to soft-land on the lunar surface.

Source: TH