

# THE INDIA MOMENT

From hosting a successful G20 Summit to rewriting the annals of space exploration and making the world dance to *Naatu Naatu*, 2023 saw India establish itself as more than a soft power

PHOTO: PTI



**GRAND FINALE:** Bharat Mandapam, India's largest convention centre, opened to host the G20 Summit on September 9-10. Built at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, it boasts the world's largest statue of Nataraja, made of 'ashtadhatu' (eight metals)



**ONE WORLD:** G20 leaders, including US President Joe Biden, South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, accompanied PM Narendra Modi to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial, Rajghat, in New Delhi

PHOTO: PTI



**ALL DRESSED UP:** Ahead of the G20 Summit, New Delhi and several other cities that hosted related events underwent major facelifts. Roads were smoothened, new streetlights were installed, and murals and paintings adorned city walls and buildings

PHOTO: PTI



**TOGETHER WE STAND:** India's stature on the global stage was consolidated with its successful move to include the African Union as a permanent member of G20. The unanimous Leaders' Declaration, despite differences over the Russia-Ukraine war, was also a milestone

PHOTO: PTI



**LUNAR LANDMARK:** India scripted history on August 23 with its Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft successfully landing on the Moon. With this feat, it became the first country to soft-land on the south pole of the lunar surface

PHOTO: X



**WELCOME PARTY:** India exhibited its diversity and cultural wealth to welcome G20 delegates. Some dignitaries even joined in the dance and songs performances organised at Delhi airport

PHOTO: PTI

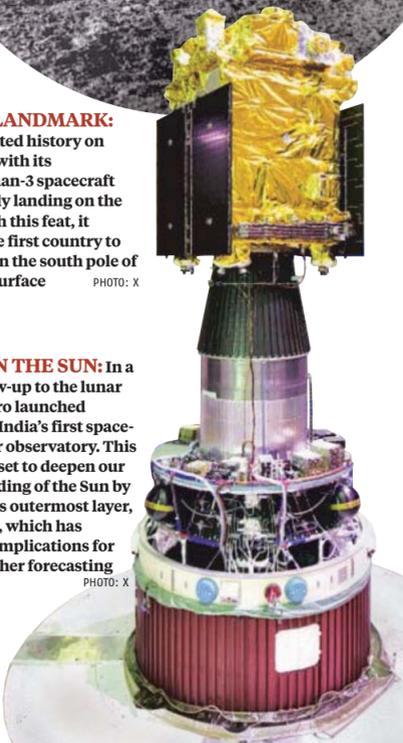


**SPOUSES' DAY OUT:** On the sidelines of the summit, events were organised for G20 leaders and their spouses. UK PM Rishi Sunak and his wife, Akshata Murthy, visited the Akshardham Temple in New Delhi

PHOTO: PTI

**PLACE IN THE SUN:** In a swift follow-up to the lunar success, Isro launched Aditya-L1, India's first space-based solar observatory. This mission is set to deepen our understanding of the Sun by studying its outermost layer, the corona, which has profound implications for space weather forecasting

PHOTO: X



**DAZZLING SCREEN:** A song from an Indian movie had the world tapping its feet. SS Rajamouli's *RRR* won the 'Best Original Song' Oscar for "Naatu Naatu". And Kartiki Gonsalves' documentary, *The Elephant Whisperers*, bagged the award for the best documentary short at the 95th Academy Awards. (From right to left) Music directors of *RRR* Chandrabose and MM Keeravaani, *The Elephant Whisperers* producer Guneet Monga and director Kartiki Gonsalves posing with their awards

PHOTO: REUTERS

