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ISRO Loses Connection with Vikram Lander

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India's attempt to create history by becoming the first nation to land close to the south pole of the Moon **might have turned to despair** after **Chandrayaan 2's lander 'Vikram' lost communication**

- The Chandrayaan-2 approached the Moon as normal until an error occurred about **2.1km (1.3 miles) from the surface**, seconds before the ship was expected to land.
- The descent hoped to **reduce its speed from 6048 km per hour to about 7 km per hour** or lower to enable a soft landing.
- India **would have been the fourth nation** to make a soft landing on the Moon if Chandryaaan-2 mission had gone successfully.
- However, according to **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, **only 5% of the mission has been lost** (Vikram the lander and Pragyan the rover), **as Chandrayaan 2 orbiter - is orbiting the moon successfully.**
 - The mission life of the **Orbiter is one year.**
 - The Orbiter is meant to **map the lunar terrain**, examine the **intensity of solar radiation** and the **presence of major elements** such as Magnesium, Aluminium, Silicon, Calcium, Titanium, Iron, and Sodium etc.
 - It will also conduct a **quantitative estimation of water-ice** in the polar regions of the Moon.
- **Chandrayaan-2** is an integrated 3-in-1 spacecraft comprising of an **Orbiter of the Moon, Vikram, the lander and Pragyan, the rover**, all equipped with scientific instruments to study the moon.

Source: IE