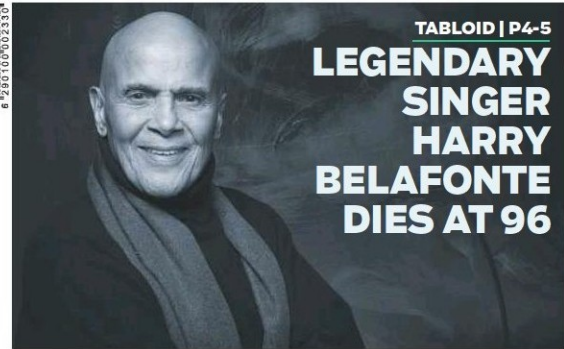


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# Japanese firm loses contact with Rashid Rover lander

MISSION NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM A SUCCESSFUL LANDING; PROBE UNDER WAY

**DUBAI**  
 BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN  
 Senior Reporter

**T**he Japanese company that sent a lander carrying the UAE's Rashid Rover to the Moon lost contact with the HAKUTO-R Mission 1 Lunar Lander post the planned landing time last night.

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in Dubai tweeted: "ispace has updated that they have lost communication with the HAKUTO-R lander and have not been able to confirm a successful landing. Their engineers are continuing to investigate the situation and will update once they finish investigation."

The mission control centre announced that it would continue to investigate on the lander communication, it added.

**Live broadcast**

The announcement from ispace during its live broadcast came around half an hour after the Moon landing time at 8.40pm in the UAE as the mission control in Tokyo could not secure contact with the lander.

"Currently, we have not confirmed the communication from the lander," founder and CEO of ispace Takeshi Hakamada said.



Courtesy: MBRSpaceCentre

■ Moon's surface seen from orbit of HAKUTO-R Mission 1 Lunar Lander, the spacecraft carrying the Rashid Rover, yesterday.

He said the company had established contact with the lander till the very end of the landing process. "However, now we have lost communication."

He added that the engineers at the mission control centre would continue to investigate

the status of the lander. "At this moment, what I can tell is...we are very proud of the fact that we have already achieved many things during this mission... We will keep going and never quit," he added.

On December 11, 2022, the lander carrying the Emira-

ti-built Moon explorer was launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, in Florida, USA, beginning a journey that took the lander around 1.4 million kilometres into deep space and into the lunar orbit.

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# Challenges of landing on Moon explained

CHANCES OF MISSED TRAJECTORY, COMMUNICATION LOSS

**DUBAI**

**BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN**  
Senior Reporter

**A**s the UAE attempted to become the first Arab country to land on the Moon last night, the Mohammad Bin Rashid Centre (MBR-SC), the agency behind the Emirates Lunar Mission (ELM), explained the challenges that lay ahead for the Emirati-built Rashid Rover during landing.

ispace, the Japanese company that sent a lander carrying Rashid Rover lost contact with the Hakuto-R Mission 1 Lunar Lander post the planned landing time yesterday.

The announcement from ispace during its live broadcast came around half an hour post the Moon landing time at 8.40pm in the UAE as the mission control in Tokyo could not secure contact with the lander.

## Communication lost

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in Dubai tweeted that "ispace engineers are continuing to investigate the situation and will update once they finish investigation".

The challenges include the lander derailing from its trajectory, communication loss, harsh landing and surface threats like craters and boulders.

The success rate of lunar missions is only 50 per cent. Only the US, the former Soviet Union, and China have successfully made soft lunar landing attempts. Both India and Israel made hard landings on the moon, causing the landers to crash.

## Stunning images

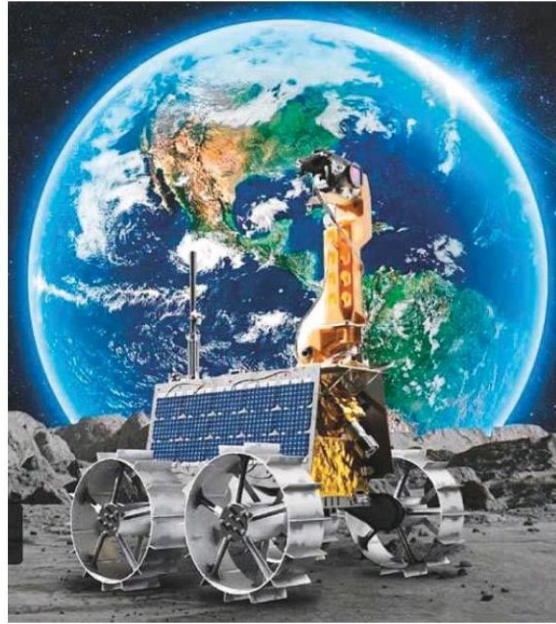
Meanwhile the Japanese lander sent back stunning images of the Moon on Monday.

"We are excited to share a new photo of the Moon taken by the lander's on-board camera from an altitude of about 100km above the lunar surface," ispace said in a tweet on Monday evening.

"We've received another incredible photo from the camera onboard our Mission 1 lander! Seen here is the lunar Earthrise during solar eclipse, captured by the lander-mounted camera at an altitude of about 100km from the lunar surface," ispace said in its second tweet later.

## Landing site

According to ispace, the Japanese lunar exploration company that built the lander, the primary landing site was



■ On December 11, 2022, the Japanese lander carrying Rashid Rover was launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral in Florida, beginning a 1.4 million km space journey into the lunar orbit. Picture for illustrative purposes.



Courtesy: ispace

■ The lander's camera on Monday sent a picture of the Earth taken from an altitude of about 100km above the lunar surface.

**The success rate of lunar missions is only 50 per cent. Only the US, former Soviet Union, and China have succeeded in soft lunar landings.**



All you need to know about Rashid Rover's attempted Moon landing

the Atlas Crater, located in the northeastern quadrant of the Moon. The site Mare Frigoris is also known as the Sea of Cold that lies in the far lunar north.

"The site meets the technical specifications of the lander technology demonstration

mission, the scientific exploration objectives for the @MBR-SpaceCentre mission, as well as the mission requirements of our other customers," ispace said in a tweet yesterday.

"Landing site selection was accomplished through collaboration with MBRSC and @Crgp-Nancy," it added, referring to a French research laboratory for Earth and Planetary Sciences.

The Emirati-built rover was expected to study the Moon's surface for about 10 days.