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## EFFORTS TO WAKE UP ROVER, LANDER TO CONTINUE OVER LUNAR DAY: ISRO

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**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Space Research Organisation will continue attempts to revive Vikram lander and Pragyan rover till the next lunar sunset on October 6, scientists at the space agency said on Saturday, a day after the Sun rose on the lunar surface prompting ambitious efforts to kickstart a "bonus" phase of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. There is no certainty as to when contact with the instruments will be re-established, Isro chairman S Somanath said. "It could be tomorrow, or it could also be on the final day of the lunar day. But we are trying. It will be a great achievement," Somanath said. →P2

## Isro to wait 14 days for Vikram, Pragyan signals

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ments will be re-established, Isro chairman S Somanath said.

"We don't know when it will wake up. It could be tomorrow, or it could also be on the final day of the lunar day. But we are trying. It will be a great achievement if the lander and rover wake up," Somanath said.

There is a possibility that the lander and rover will remain unresponsive after spending a lunar day - 14 Earth days - in complete darkness and temperatures as low as -200 to -250 degrees Celsius which are pun-

ishing for the batteries that store power for the devices.

But, the scientists are hopeful that as the lunar day progresses and the temperatures on the Moon's surface rise, the possibility of a revival will also increase.

Earlier, Somanath had explained that while the rover has been tested to survive the low temperatures, the lander Vikram has not.

"Rover has been fully tested. But a lot of the design is similar for Pragyan and Vikram. This means that the tests that worked

for Pragyan should also work for Vikram," he told HT.

On schedule, Isro started the attempts for revival of lander and rover on Friday, when the Sun's elevation was deemed enough to repower the instruments that were put to sleep in preparation of the lunar night. Senior officials said that before the equipment was put to sleep, the batteries were left fully charged and the solar panels were oriented in a way that it receives light as soon as the Sun rises.