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HONOURING A SCIENTIST



Dr K Sivan, chief of ISRO, Prof Raja Kumar, Director IIT Bhubaneswar at the Convocation of the institute on Saturday. #SNS

Chandrayaan-2 mission has achieved 98 per cent objectives, says ISRO chief

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Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K Sivan on Saturday said the Chandrayaan-2 mission has achieved 98 per cent of its objectives, even as scientists are working hard to establish contact with lander Vikram.

Sivan also said Chandrayaan-2 orbiter is doing well and performing scheduled science experiments.

"Why we are saying Chandrayaan-2 achieved 98 per cent success is because of two objectives - one is science and the other technology demonstration. In case of technol-



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ogy demonstration, the success percentage was almost full," he said, before heading to IIT-Bhubaneswar to attend its eighth convocation ceremony.

Sivan said ISRO is focusing on another moon mission by 2020. "Discussion is on

about the future plan... nothing is finalised. Our priority is on an unmanned mission by next year. The second unmanned human space plane, we target for July 2021. But, first, we have to understand what exactly happened to the lander," he said, adding,

"By December 2021, the first Indian will be carried by our own rocket ... This is the target ISRO is working for."

He said a national-level committee comprising academicians and ISRO experts are analysing the cause of the communication loss with Vikram. "We have not been able to establish communication with the lander yet. As soon as we receive any data, necessary steps will be taken," Sivan said.

Noting that the orbiter was initially planned for a year, the ISRO chief said there is every possibility that it will last for another seven-and-a-half years.