

Newspaper Clips

February 14, 2011

Hindustan Times, ND
14-Feb-11 p-8

ELIGIBILITY TEST FOR LAW GRADUATES ON MARCH 6

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NEW DELHI: For the first time, around 23,000 fresh law graduates will appear in a mandatory open book written exam on March 6, the result of which will determine whether they would be eligible to practice as lawyers in Indian courts.

The exam will be conducted by the Bar Council of India (BCI), the regulator for legal profession and education in the country, in 10 languages at 27 centres across the country.

The candidates will start receiving the admit cards for the exam from February 15 onwards, according to the BCI.

The entry-level exam were earlier scheduled for December 5 last, but was postponed following objections from some state bar councils and law ministry.

"The exam will be of three hours and thirty minutes duration with mainly multiple choice questions to be answered by ticking the correct one. The candidates will be allowed to use reference books during the exam," said professor VB Coutinho, the chairman of BCI's directorate of legal education.

Candidates will have to score a minimum of 40% marks to qualify this exam, but there is no limitation on number of chances for a candidate to pass this test, which will be held twice a year from this year onwards.

The BCI has made it clear that only the fresh law graduates, that is the students graduating in law during the academic session 2009-10 and later, need to pass the exam.

"Law graduates who got their degrees before the 2009-10 academic session but for some reason did not register with the BCI do not need to appear in the exam," said an official.

BCI sources said the move to hold the exam followed a direction from the Supreme Court in December 2009, which the law ministry included it in the blueprint for legal reforms.

Times of India ND 14/02/2011 P-15

Pesticide users more at risk of developing Parkinson's?

Washington: US researchers said on Friday they have found that people who used two specific varieties of pesticide were 2.5 times as likely to develop Parkinson's disease.

The pesticides, paraquat and rotenone, are not approved for house and garden use. Previous research on animals has linked paraquat to Parkinson's disease, so it is restricted to use by certified applicators.

Rotenone is approved only for use in killing invasive fish species.

"Rotenone directly inhibits the function of the mitochondria, the structure responsible for making energy in the cell," said study co-author Freya Kamel, a researcher at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

"Paraquat increases production of certain oxygen derivatives that may harm cellular structures.

"People who used these pesticides or others with a similar mechanism of action were more likely to develop Parkinson's disease."

The study examined 110 people with Parkinson's disease

and 358 people who served as a control group from the Farming and Movement Evaluation (FAME) Study.

FAME is part of a larger Agricultural Health Study looking at the health of approximately 90,000 licensed pesticide applicators and their spouses. The study appears in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*. AFP

GREEN ALERT

Times of India ND 14/02/2011

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This smart spacecraft is its own master

Like The Vehicle In '2001: A Space Odyssey', It Will Take Own Decisions & Reason Like Humans

London: In what sounds like a plot from a science fiction, scientists are developing a spacecraft which they say can make its own decision and reason like humans.

It is a concept that had fatal consequences for astronauts in "2001: A Space Odyssey" after their computer running on artificial intelligence reasoned it had to kill them in order to continue the mission.

British engineers, who are supported by European Space Agency (ESA) in this project, said they are developing control systems that can be used in satellites, robotic exploration vehicles and spacecraft capable of controlling themselves. The space vehicles will be able to learn,

identify problems, adapt during missions, carry out repairs and take their own decisions about how best to carry out a task, they said.

Details of the research have emerged as ESA prepares to launch the second of its Automated Transport Vehicles (ATV2) to deliver supplies to the International Space Station later this month, the Telegraph reported. The ATV2, which was designed and built by space company Astrium, will follow a preprogrammed route to the space station before using on-board sensors and collision-avoidance systems to dock safely at space station.

ESA has also revealed it has plans to build its first spaceship capable of



FROM REEL TO REAL?

carrying humans into space and returning them safely back to Earth. Professor Sandor Veres, an expert in autonomous control systems at Southampton University who has been leading the project to develop artificially intelligent control systems, said the technology could eventually find its way into spacecraft used to transport human crew.

He said: "I think to begin with we are going to see it used in robotic, unmanned missions and in many ways will reduce the need for humans to be in space.

"Communication satellites and space exploration missions that currently need around the clock monitoring by human controllers on Earth

will be able to operate of their own accord, which would greatly reduce the cost. We are looking at the next generation of vehicles from the ATV.

"We have been able to demonstrate that the prioritisation and decision making that only humans could make before can now be done by machines in a limited knowledge area." Professor Veres has been developing the spacecraft control system, called s-brain, so that it can use natural language to obtain new instructions or new information.

It means the spacecraft's control system would be able to read documents written in English rather than needing specially programmed code to be uploaded. **PT**

Times of India ND 14/02/2011
P-1 EDUCATION TIMES

Follow the rules

AICTE-APPROVED INSTITUTES OFFERING A ONE-YEAR POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT (PGDM) ARE IN A TIGHT SPOT WITH A SET OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS LIKELY TO CURB THEIR AUTONOMY. REEMA KAUR REPORTS

IN order to bring about transparency and put an end to erratic capitation fees, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to regulate post graduate diploma in management (PGDM) programmes in India. As per the new guidelines, the fee and curriculum would be decided by committees and councils of the respective state governments. In a move to standardise the admission criterion, selection of candidates will be made through common entrance tests such as CAT/MAT and other state-conducted examinations.

The regulations are likely to affect over 500 AICTE-approved institutions offering a one-year certificate/diploma programme in management. Says Prabhat Kumar Sahoo, regional director, AICTE, Western region, "There is no reason to think that the state government is taking over. They will just regulate the fees and the admission process to ensure transparency. Common admission tests demand a CAT high standard and that is good for students."

However, H Chaturvedi, alternate president, Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) is of the contrary view. He says, "The AICTE regulations are likely to stifle management education at a time when it is heading towards globalisation. Also, the Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have already notified that a chunk of the students will be from the respective states."

Calling the proposed directives as regressive in nature, Pranabesh Ray, dean (academics), XLRI Jamshedpur, says, "There is a need to segregate the top-10 management institutions and give them the freedom to prove their autonomy. We have established ourselves as a brand. We will lose that once the admission is controlled by the state-government."

According to Bakul H Dholakia, former director, IIM-Ahmedabad, "Autonomy and quality go hand in hand." He adds that out of the 390 institutions that impart the PGDM course, more than half are misusing the power in the name of autonomy. However, he reiterated that a one-size-fits-all approach is unwarranted and the directive would damage the credibility of the institutions that have been doing a good job.

It is easier to monitor the progress once everything comes under a regulatory authority, but the quality of students remains a national concern. "It will probably be easier for students to focus on their institution of choice by restricting the number of entrance exams. Exams like CAT are recognised globally, so the selection process can be made more centralised. But the issue of fees can be debated upon as resources are needed to ensure quality faculty, exchange programmes, and modern infrastructure," says Devi Singh, director, IIM-Lucknow.

Shobha Mishra Ghosh, director, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), points out that any regulatory move should be facilitating in nature. "A fixed fee structure might restrict B-schools from providing adequate resources to students to maintain academic excellence."

With the institutions sceptical about the regulations, bodies like Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) and Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) are ready to approach the Prime Minister to apprise him on the matter and win government support.

"If the matter is not resolved soon, we may resort to the legal route and approach the Supreme Court," Chaturvedi concludes.

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Beware of iPod-itis: Turn down volume or you may go deaf

London: Are you emotionally attached to your iPod and enjoy it in full volume? Beware, you may suffer from 'iPod-itis' and even risk going deaf, a British audiologist has warned.

Those who play their music at full blast on their daily commute are at greater risk of developing iPod-itis, claimed Dr Tony Kay, senior chief audiologist at a Liverpool hospital.

These are the people at risk going deaf in later life, warned Dr Kay, who coined the term iPod-itis to refer tinnitus or the ringing in the ears problem caused by over use of iPod. "We all have emotional attachment to our music players but if music lovers are not careful this sustained exposure could eventually lead to complete hearing loss," Dr Kay was quoted as saying by the Daily Mail.

"Going out every night or working in close proximity to loud music blaring out of speakers can be extremely hazardous," he said.

"Youngsters who listen to music on personal music players do not understand the damage they are causing." Dr Kay, who is alarmed by teenagers suffering from tinnitus because of high levels of exposure to loud music, said the number of young music lovers visiting his clinic with hearing complaints has

© Chris Carroll/Corbis



AN EARFUL: Those who play music at full blast are at greater risk of developing iPod-itis, say doctors

increased dramatically in the last two years.

Usually a complaint suffered by those in middle or old age, the problem can lead to deafness if it is not carefully monitored, he said. "In the last two decades we have seen more people in their late teens and early 20s with tinnitus because they have been exposed to music that is too loud," he said. "Often on trains, people will turn up their music players to drown out background noise, which is hammering their ears. If you can hear the music a person is listening to three seats away, imagine how loud it must be for them." ❧

Times of India ND

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SHORT CUTS

'Cherry juice reduces muscle damage caused by exercise'

Are you a fitness freak? Then, drink cherry juice regularly, as a new study has claimed that it helps reduce muscle damage caused by exercise. Researchers at London South Bank University found that cherry juice contains powerful antioxidant compounds that help cut athletes' muscles damage and allow them to recover more quickly. Athletes' taking cherry juice concentrate are faster compared to when they drank other juices without the same nutrient content of cherry juice, the study found out.

BP drug may harm stroke patients: A drug commonly used to treat high blood pressure may harm patients if given following a stroke, according to a new Norwegian research. The Oslo University study which looked at 2,000 stroke patients, who all had high blood pressure, found that more of those treated with the drug 'candesartan' suffered from kidney failure than those who were not given it. More also suffered symptoms due to low blood pressure, such as dizziness, according to the study published in British medical journal 'The Lancet'.

2011 Banner Year for Business Schools

Multinational recruiters lining up at campuses with 20% higher salaries, more offers

PARAG DAVE & AVINASH NAIR
AHMEDABAD

India's top business schools anticipate that 2011 will be the best year yet for campus placements as recruiters beat a path to their doors in search of the cream of management graduates.

Prospective employers are expected on B-school campuses in larger numbers, hiring many more students and paying a lot more than in the past, a pointer to the improving

economic health of Western economies, particularly financial firms and banks.

At IIM-Ahmedabad, the mainstay recruiters — investment banks and consulting firms — kicked off the placements season on Saturday. Their hiring is up and they are offering salaries that are up to a fifth higher than last year, those involved in the process say. Placements at IIM-Bangalore will begin on March 5, to be followed by IIM-Calcutta and Lucknow.

The confidence is a remarkable turn-

around, for just two years ago even IIM-A was forced to extend its placements window and struggled to pair all its students with employers. Campus recruitments at the IIMs and other top B-schools are closely watched because they are a barometer of corporate confidence. In good years, like 2008, which was the best for placements so far, hiring and salaries rise. But in bad years, like 2009, many recruiters shy away from campuses.

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Multinationals are expanding

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"Multinationals are expanding. They spent two years putting their own house in order post slowdown. Now there is more work for management consultants as regulators are pushing for stronger risk management mechanisms," says Atul Khosla, the India head of Oliver Wyman.

His management consulting firm plans to hire 15 graduates from the IIMs and Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business, twice the number last year. The Boston Consulting Group and McKinsey have already bettered their last year's record of employing eight candidates each. BCG was the top recruiter, hiring 11 IIM-A graduates; McKinsey made 10 offers. These include the pre-placement offers to students after a two-month internship.

"I believe that 2011 will be the best placement season for IIMs," says T Muralidharan, an IIM-A alumnus and the chairman of TMT Group, a provider of HR-related services for 20 years.

Information technology companies, which are offering higher-value services to clients in the US and Europe, will play a crucial role in raising the average level of pay, he adds.

"Even if you take into account the increasing inflation levels, year on year I am sure average salaries will be 30-40% higher than 2008 levels."

In 2010, the average domestic salary at IIM-A was ₹ 14.94 lakh while at IIM-C it was ₹ 15.32 lakh.

While management institutes are usually loath to reveal the salaries that are offered to students, this season onwards, IIM-A will disclose the highest, average and lowest salaries at the end of the placement process. It has also decided not to calculate non-guaranteed part of the student's salary including fringe benefits and variable pay while calculating the salary packages.

As a reflection of the improving global situation, there have been a greater number of international offers this year at IIM-A. Investment banks, present at the campus in larger numbers, are making offers for roles

in Singapore and London, in addition to Mumbai.

IIM-A placed 283 students last year, while IIM-B and IIM-C placed 268 and 278 students, respectively. This year, the batch size at IIM-A has grown to 314 students for the flagship post-graduate programme in management while there are 36 students studying agribusiness management.

IIM-B is the numbers of recruiters at its campus to increase from 100 last year to 130-140, says Sapna Agarwal, the head of career development services at the institute.

"This is partly because the batch size has gone up from 267 last year to 348. Also, more companies have started showing interest in campus placements."

IIM-Lucknow, which is starting final placement in early March, expects better participation from consulting, finance and FMCG firms, says Apoorva Gupta, a member of the placement committee.

The first lot of around 25 employers at IIM-A included international investment banks, consulting firms, and private equity and venture capital firms. Those such as Bain & Company, Booz & Company, Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan made 100 job offers on the first day IIM-A saw around 80 pre-placement offers this year compared to 60 last year.

Sanjit Paul Singh, director at Gurgaon-based HR firm S&S Associates says global consulting companies and investment banks are recruiting more because they are expanding their businesses in the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) nations and the US.

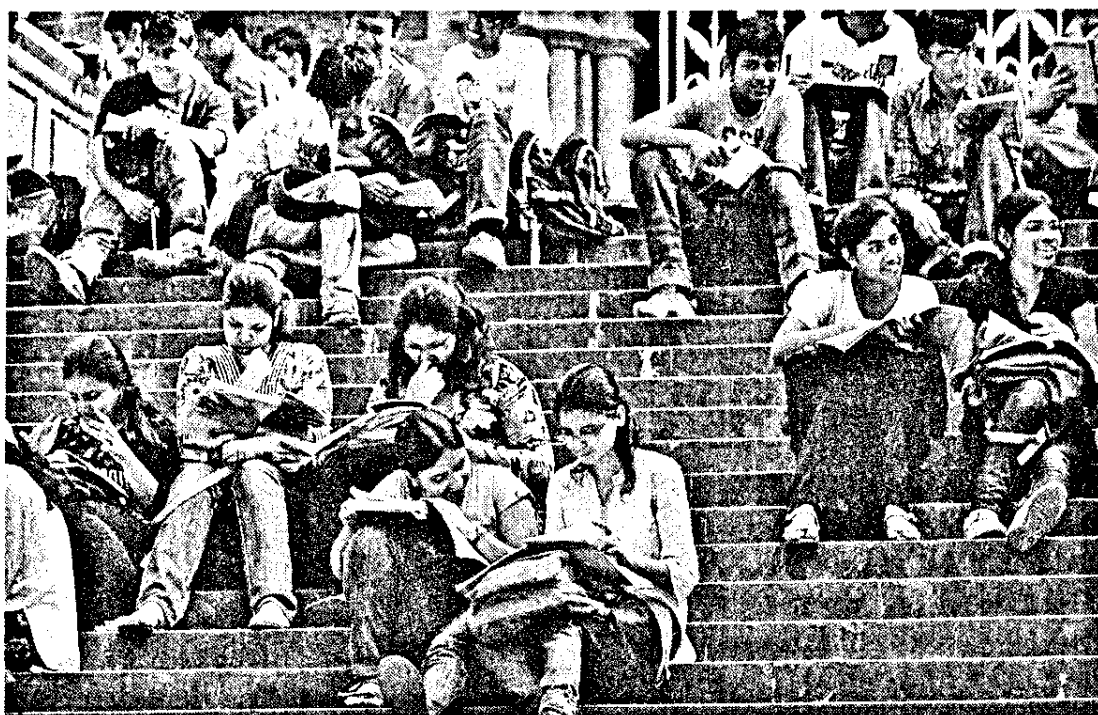
"Earlier, they used to hire talent from India to offer products like debt trading or derivatives to their clients based in the US and Europe. Now, they want local people to offer their products to local markets."

Wyman's Khosla too says multinationals are bullish on India and Brazil. His firm is expanding in Latin America and drawing up sizeable growth plans for Southeast Asia and China.

"I can say our global hiring may be 20% higher this year," says Khosla, who also handles a part of Wyman's global hiring.

AICTE REFUSES TO BUDGE ON NEW GUIDELINES

Council says B-schools involved in malpractices are behind the court case



WHAT AICTE SAYS...

- All PGDM admissions via CAT/MAT or state examination
- Fee charged to be approved by state governments' fee fixation committee
- Model curriculum to be issued by council
- Examination and arbitration matters to be decided by AICTE

...B-SCHOOLS COUNTER

- CAT/MAT may dilute student quality. Various state government exams can't be of uniform standard
- Fee restrictions to impact infrastructure, faculty remuneration and promote charging of capitation fee
- Syllabus formation is a highly skilled and professional job
- Will result in conflict of interest

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the country's technical education regulator, has decided to slug it out with business schools in court.

AICTE says it will not revoke the PGDM guidelines over which 200 B-schools have decided to approach the Supreme Court this week.

Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) and the Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) will file writ petitions on behalf of these B-schools.

"We know that this (approaching the court) is the handiwork of select institutes. We have received complaints against many of these institutes in the

past. Some of these institutes are involved in malpractices, some are charging hefty fee, some are not conducting classes and exams well. We have weighed all options and decided on this," said a senior AICTE official.

B-schools want a stay order on all AICTE guidelines. In the absence of which, the management institutes would not accept students qualifying through state-level interviews and group discussions, they say.

In December 2010, AICTE came out with guidelines on post graduate diploma in management (PGDM). Among other guidelines, one which is being strongly opposed by the B-schools is: admission to all PGDM courses to be done through common entrance test such as Common Admission Test or Management Aptitude Test (CAT/MAT) or examinations con-

ducted by the respective state governments for all institutions other than minority institutions.

Specialised institutes which cater to industries like communications and rural management will be impacted adversely as state government may not be competent enough to cater to the needs of the specialised institutes. Also, as Common Admission Test (CAT) is a computer-based examination students from rural regions may not be familiar with any aspect of this examination.

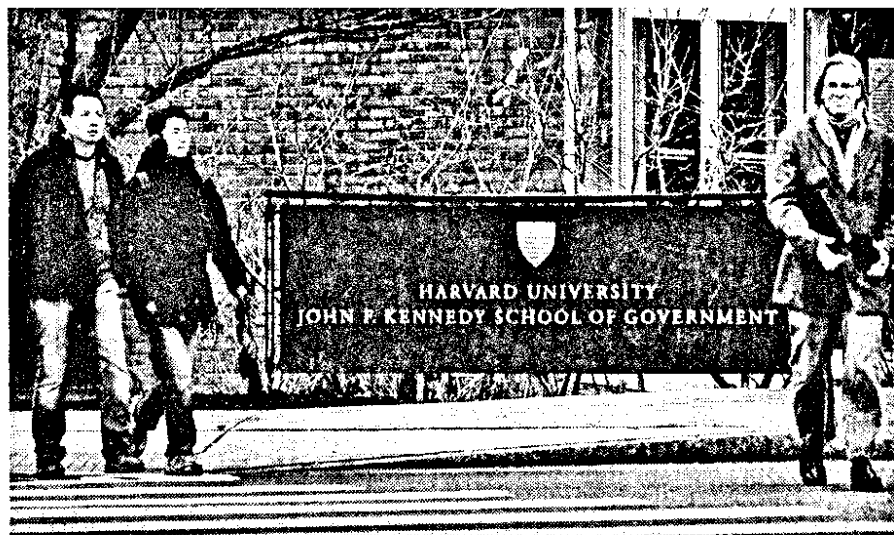
AICTE also suggest issuing a model curriculum for all PGDM programmes. "Syllabus formation is a highly skilled and professional job to be handled by education experts. A compulsory curriculum will also take the responsibility away from the institutes resulting in decline in quality of education delivered," said a sector expert.

B-schools consider these guidelines a threat to their autonomy and argue that AICTE's notification will stifle growth of management education.

"If AICTE's guideline of conducting PGDM programme with duration of not less than 24 months is followed, it may negatively impact the recruitment process for the institutes and industry too," said a B-school director.

Also, the notification, it is said, violates the landmark judgments of the Supreme Court in TMA Pai and PA Inamdar cases which defined the autonomy of self-finance PGDM institutes.

There are over 2,000 B-schools offering MBA and PGDM programmes in India with an annual student capacity of over 172,000. Of this 391 B-schools offer PGDM programme with a student capacity of 44,318.



Stanford, Harvard university gifts fall

JANET LORIN

Stanford University and Harvard University, the top fundraisers among U.S. colleges, saw donations decline in fiscal 2010 as a recovering stock market failed to instill donors with confidence.

Donations to the nation's colleges rose 0.54 percent to \$28 billion in the 12 months ended June 30 from \$27.9 billion a year earlier, the Council for Aid to Education, a nonprofit organisation in New York. When adjusted for inflation, the amount fell 0.62 percent. Gifts to Stanford fell 6.4 percent to \$599 million, while Harvard saw a decline of 0.78 percent, to \$597 million, according to the report. Stanford topped Harvard for the sixth year in a row.

The national total for gifts to universities rose less than the stock market because donors didn't regain confidence, said Eugene R. Tempel, president of the Bloomington-based Indiana University Foundation, whose fundraising surged 38 percent to \$343 million mostly because of a \$60 million injection from Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index rose 12 per-

cent in the year ended June 30.

"The stock market increased dramatically, but it's not back to where it was and people still don't have the same wealth that they used to have and they remember that," Tempel, 63, said in a telephone interview.

More donors are emerging now, Tempel said. The Indiana foundation received 425 gifts of stock in December, up from 322 a year earlier, according to data from the university. Donations to U.S. colleges can be expected to climb for fiscal 2011 "if the S&P continues to hold," Tempel said. The S&P index has risen 27 percent so far in fiscal 2011.

Stanford on Top

College gifts outperformed the S&P index in the decade through June 30, rising 21 percent from \$23.2 billion at the end of fiscal 2000. The S&P index fell 29 percent during the period.

Stanford, near Palo Alto, California, raised the most money in fiscal 2010, and Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Harvard placed second, according to the council report. Of the 20 universities that collected the most, 13 recorded declines from fiscal 2009.

"Our donor constituency

was still recovering from the dramatic stock market decline and economic recession that began in 2008 and continued well into 2009," Martin Shell, Stanford's vice president for development, said in an e-mail.

Recession Ended

The U.S. recession that began in December 2007 ended 18 months later, in June 2009, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, in Cambridge.

Stanford's 8.5 percent growth in donors to 76,500 in fiscal 2010 is an indicator of future support, Shell said in a telephone interview.

Alumni of Stanford, which opened in 1891, include Philip Knight, 72, chairman of Nike Inc., based in Beaverton, Oregon.

Harvard, the nation's richest university, was "very pleased with the momentum that we have seen," Tamara Elliott Rogers, vice president for alumni affairs and development, said in a statement. "Last year, Harvard fundraising held steady despite the unpredictable economic circumstances that all alumni and donors faced."

— Bloomberg

Business Standard ND

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Nasa lab asks Isro to join moon mission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 13 February

With the US lifting sanctions on Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), a top National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) laboratory has approached the Indian space agency with a proposal to collaborate for a moon mission aimed at getting back a kilogram of rocks from the lunar surface.

The iconic Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which has sent missions to Mars and Venus, wants Isro to put a satellite around the moon to be a link between its lunar lander probe and the earth. "The mission is similar to the Chandrayaan-I mission. JPL has asked Isro

to put a satellite around the moon," Isro Chairman K Radhakrishnan said here.

The Space Commission, India's apex space policy body, has given Isro the go-ahead to partner with JPL for the project named 'Moon Rise', which could be launched by the Nasa under its New Frontiers Programme announced in 2009.

As part of the project, JPL plans to drop a robotic lander into a basin at the moon's south pole to send lunar rocks back to Earth for study.

The mission, if selected, would be launched in 2016. The 400-500 kg satellite is being planned to have a life of up to five years and could also carry some scientific experiments of Isro, Radhakrishnan said.