

NASA and ESA to partner in Chandrayaan-II

HABIB BEARY

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Bengaluru: Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K Radhakrishnan on Thursday said both NASA and European Space Agency would be sending instruments on board Chandrayaan-II to be launched in 2013. Radhakrishnan said NASA and ESA would actively participate in the second unmanned moon mission.

NASA and ESA had deployed several instruments on Chandrayaan-I. M Annadurai, project director of Chandrayaan, said foreign agencies which had participated in the first lunar mission were happy with the results achieved. India had hosted six foreign instruments in its

maiden moon odyssey Chandrayaan-I - three from ESA, two from NASA and one from Bulgaria. Among other things, Chandrayaan-I discovered water sources in the moon.

ISRO officials said Chandrayaan-II will be equipped with lighter payloads and more propellants to enhance its lifespan.

Chandrayaan-I had to be terminated halfway due to malfunctioning of critical components. The satellite lost communication links with the earth.

Chandrayaan-II will have a rover to analyse samples from the moon's surface.

The launch of India's first moon mission has put ISRO on equal terms in planetary mission with international space players.



INDIA TO LAUNCH CARTOSAT-2B

■ India would shortly launch **Cartosat-2B**, a high-resolution remote sensing satellite, that would aid in infrastructure and urban planning, Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K Radhakrishnan said on Wednesday. The launch was expected by March end and the exact date would be finalised at the mission readiness review (MRR) meeting on Feb 10