The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has embarked on an exciting planetary exploration program through the successful launch of the first Indian mission to Moon, Chandrayaan-1, and a Mars Orbiter Mission successfully launched in November 2013, which is cruising smoothly to enter the Mars orbit in September 2014. A second mission to Moon, Chandrayaan-2, consisting of Orbiter, Lander and Rover will follow soon. Exploration of Asteroids and Comets will be a near future objective. For creating awareness amongst students and research scholars, particularly in the Universities and other Research Laboratories and Academic Institutions and to attract bright talented students to take up research work in the challenging area of Planetary Sciences and Exploration, the PLANEX programme of ISRO has been organizing workshops and training programmes periodically. The 15th Workshop in this series is planned to be held during 4–10 January 2015 on the theme ‘Mars and Moon: Remote Sensing and Analogue Studies’ at Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad. As a part of the workshop, we plan to organize a one day field trip to a Mars analogue site in Gujarat.

- The Workshop will consist of lectures by experts, group discussions, tutorials, team project work and presentations by participants.
- Based on the performance at the Workshop, interested and highly motivated participants will be offered the opportunities for further intensive training in specialized fields in Planetary Sciences under the PLANEX programme.

Final year M.Sc. students in Physics and Earth/Planetary/Space Sciences, final year B.E./B.Tech./M.Tech. students of Mechanical and Geoinformatics/Remote Sensing specializations, as well as Research Scholars working towards their Ph.D. degree may apply. Applications from Post-Doctoral Fellows and Teachers/Lecturers (below 35 years) will also be considered. Selected participants (about 35) will be provided travel support (Sleeper class by train or bus), accommodation and boarding for the duration of the workshop.

Interested students/scholars may apply to the following address before 10 October 2014, enclosing a brief bio-data, research interests (in ~200 words) and a reference letter from Department Head/Research Supervisor. Submission of applications and any further correspondence by e-mail is preferred. All correspondence from our side will be only through e-mail. Those who have attended earlier PLANEX workshops are not eligible. Only selected applicants will be intimated by e-mail, latest by 20 October 2014.

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