

# Experiment to brew beer on Moon not selected to fly on TeamIndus spacecraft

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NEW DELHI: The US based Team Original Gravity - which had proposed to brew beer on the Moon as part of its yeast based experiment - has not been finally selected to fly on the TeamIndus spacecraft.

An international jury has, however, selected other innovative entries from India and different parts of the world.

The successful entries include an experiment to test the effectiveness of using a colony of Cyanobacteria as a shield against harmful radiation in space and another one to explore photosynthesis in space.

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The Bengaluru-based TeamIndus is the only Indian team competing for the Google Lunar XPRIZE which is a global competition to challenge and inspire engineers and entrepreneurs to develop low-cost methods of robotic space exploration.

Explaining the latest development, the TeamIndus in a statement said, "Earlier this month, an international jury comprising K Kasturirangan, former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation, Alain Bensoussan, former President of Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) and former Chairman of Council, European Space Agency and Priyamvada Natarajan, Professor in the Departments of Astronomy and Physics at Yale University examined in granular detail the prototypes of these experiments that came in from all over the world.

"Team Space4Life, which proposed an experiment to test the effectiveness of using a colony of Cyanobacteria as a shield against harmful radiation in space and India based Team Z?, which proposed an experiment to explore photosynthesis in space, have been shortlisted to fly aboard the TeamIndus Spacecraft".

According to the statement, six other teams and their experiments that have qualified include Team Callisto (India) - Lunar Dust Accumulation Analyser, TeamEARS (India) - Electrostatics Active Radiation Shield Experiment, Team Kalpana (India) - Instrument for Lunar Dust Analysis, Team Killa Lab (Peru) - an experiment Testing Microbial Growth And Decomposition, Team Lunadome (UK) - an Inflatable Dome experiment, Team Regolith Revolution (USA) - looking at the Effect on Plant Growth in Moon Regolith.

"The US based Team Original Gravity which had proposed a yeast based experiment, is not in the final shortlist of teams that has qualified to fly on the TeamIndus spacecraft", said the statement.

The issue had figured in the Parliament last week when the Trinamool Congress member Sisir Kumar Adhikari wanted to know whether an Indian Spacecraft is planning to brew beer on the Moon.

Though the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Jitendra Singh told the Lok Sabha in his written response on March 15 that there was no plan to brew beer on the Moon by any spacecraft to be made by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), he while referring to certain media reports noted about a proposal.

The minister had said, "As understood, the aim of this experiment is to test and observe the survivability of yeast in space and how it performs under Moon's gravity conditions. The experiment plans to brew a small batch of beer in space".