

Gaganyaan: ISRO to hold 3 more test vehicle missions after maiden test flight on Oct 21

MADURAI (TN), Oct 15 (PTI)

ISRO will conduct three more test vehicle missions under the ambitious Gaganyaan programme after the maiden TV-D1 test flight, which is scheduled on October 21, the space agency's chairman S Somanath has said. The Gaganyaan project envisages a demonstration of the human spaceflight capability by launching a human crew to an orbit of 400 km and bringing them safely back to earth by landing in Indian sea waters.

The test vehicle development flight (TV-D1) will be conducted at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh to test the crew module that is scheduled to house Indian astronauts during the human spaceflight late next year. "The first test vehicle flight (of the Gaganyaan mission) will be conducted on October 21. After that we have planned for three more test missions, D2, D3, D4. We will hold thorough tests during the test



The preparations for the Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) is underway as ISRO is about to commence unmanned flight tests for the Gaganyaan Mission in Sriharikota.

(ANI/file photo)

flight sequence," Somanath told reporters in Madurai on Saturday.

Radiation Detection Equipment to be set up along Pak, B'desh, Myanmar, Nepal borders

NEW DELHI, Oct 15 (PTI)

RADIATION Detection Equipment (RDE) will soon be installed at eight land crossing points along India's borders with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal to check the trafficking of radioactive materials for its possible use in making nuclear devices, officials said.

The RDE will be installed at the Integrated Check Posts and land ports of Attari (Pakistan border), Petrapole, Agartala, Dawki



and Sutarkandi (all on the Bangladesh border), Raxaul and Jogbani (Nepal) and Moreh (Myanmar). Work order for supply, installation and maintenance of Radiation Detection Equipment at eight operational ICPs has been awarded by the government through an agreement executed last year and the vendor will supply and complete the installation process shortly, an official privy to the development said.

The Central Government has taken the

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2.3 MILLION GAZA CIVILIANS STRUGGLE FOR

FOOD WATER SAFETY



CLOUD OF DUST AND HAZE: Israeli armoured carriers roll towards the Gaza Strip border in southern Israel on Sunday. (AP/PTI)

DEIR AL-BALAH, Oct 15 (AP)

GAZA'S 2.3 million civilians faced a deepening struggle for food, water and safety on Sunday and braced for a looming invasion a week after Hamas militants launched a deadly assault on Israel.

While hundreds of thousands sought to heed Israel's order to evacuate the North, others huddled at hospitals there.

Israeli forces, supported by a growing deployment of US warships in the region, positioned themselves along Gaza's border and drilled for what Israel said would be a broad campaign to dismantle the militant group.

A week of blistering airstrikes have demolished entire neighbourhoods but failed to stem militant rocket fire into Israel.

The Gaza Health Ministry said 2,329 Palestinians have been killed since the fighting erupted, more than in the 2014

Gaza war, which lasted over six weeks. That makes this the deadliest of the five Gaza wars for both sides. More than 1,300 Israelis have been killed, the vast majority of them civilians killed in Hamas's October 7 assault.

This is the deadliest war for Israel since the 1973 conflict

with Egypt and Syria.

Israel dropped leaflets over Gaza City in the North and renewed warnings on social media, ordering more than 1 million Palestinians — almost half the territory's population — to move South.

The military says, it is trying to clear away civilians ahead

of a major campaign against Hamas militants in the North, including in what it said were underground hideouts in Gaza City. Hamas urged people to stay in their homes.

The military said on Sunday that it would refrain from targeting a single route South from

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Minister of State for Civil Aviation General Vijay Kumar Singh (retd.) receives the Indian nationals evacuated from Israel at New Delhi airport on Sunday. (PTI)

471 Indians return home

NEW DELHI, Oct 15 (PTI)

TWO flights from Tel Aviv carrying a total of 471 Indians landed in the national capital on Sunday morning. One flight was operated by Air India and another by SpiceJet.

A total of four flights have been operated under Operation Ajay, which was launched by the Government to facilitate the return of Indians from Israel.

Sell your tech to us, Nasa said: Isro chief

'American Scientists Were Astonished To See Isro's Low-Cost, High-Tech Devices'

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New Delhi: During the run-up to the launch of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, a delegation of Nasa scientists, on a visit to the Isro headquarters, was "astonished" to see the sophisticated technologies Indian space scientists has developed "at such low cost" to go to the Moon's south pole and wanted India to sell them to the US, Isro chairman **Somanath** said on Sunday.

Addressing students at an event organised by the Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Foundation in Ramswaram to commemorate the 92nd birth anniversary of the late former President, the Isro



'Times have changed. We are capable of building the best of equipment and best of rockets. India will be a very powerful nation one day,' the Isro chairman said

chairman said, "About 5-6 people from Nasa's jet propulsion laboratory came (to the Isro head-

quarters) and we explained to them the Chandrayaan-3 technology. That was before the soft

landing (on August 23). We explained to them about the design, technology and how our engineers made it and how we were going to land on the Moon's surface...and they just said, 'We have no comments. Everything is going to be good'. They also said one thing, 'look at the scientific instruments, they are so beautiful and very cheap. Very easy to build and they are high technology. How did you build it? Why don't you sell this to America', they were asking."

"Times have changed. We are capable of building the best of equipment, best of devices and best of rockets. Our knowledge and intelligence levels are one of the best in the world. India will be a very powerful nation one day. We will be powerful in tech-

nology," he said.

Reiterating the moments on the day India landed on the lunar south pole, Somanath said, "At the launch of Chandrayaan-10, one of you (referring to the students) will design a rocket that will go to the Moon and one of you will be sitting inside that rocket and most probably it will be a girl child. A girl astronaut will go from India and land on the Moon... You don't have to wait till 2047. It will be much before that."

After the failure of the GSLV launch, Somanath said, "I was asked to inform Dr Kalam, who was then the President, to explain the reason for the failure. Being a rocket engineer himself, he asked me a lot of questions. But later he said, 'keep trying and you will succeed'. And we succeeded."

US fear of war with Russia & China 'unhealthy': Putin

Moscow: President Vladimir Putin Sunday said suggestions the US should prepare for a war against Russia and China were nonsense, and warned the West that any war against Russia would be on a whole different level to the conflict in Ukraine.

A bipartisan panel appointed by the US Congress said on Thursday that Washington must prepare for possible simultaneous wars with Moscow and Beijing by expanding its conventional forces, strengthening alliances and enhancing its nuclear weapons modernization programme.

Putin, who is to visit China this week, said the US had stoked tensions with Beijing by building the "AUKUS" security alliance of US, Australia and Britain, and that Russia and China were not building a military alliance.

Putin told a Kremlin reporter thoughts of war between Russia and the US were unhealthy but that if people were making such thoughts public, they could not but cause concern to Moscow. "I don't think these are healthy thoughts in the minds of healthy people, because to say the US is preparing for war with Russia, well we are all preparing for war because we follow the ancient principle: if you want peace, get ready for war."



“But we want peace,” Putin said with a chuckle. “Moreover, to fight with both Russia and China, it is nonsense — I don't think it is serious. I think they are just scaring each other.” He added, “If they want to fight with Russia then it will be a completely different war — it will not be carrying out a special military operation.” REUTERS

P20 keeps Israel-Hamas fight out of its joint declaration

Indonesia, Few Other Nations Wanted Condemnation Of Israel

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New Delhi: The joint declaration at the 9th G20 Nations' Speakers Conference (P20) was adopted amid objections from Indonesia and a few other countries as they sought condemnation of Israel's attacks on Gaza and the human rights "violations".

"Indonesia and some other countries made the demand but the joint statement had been adopted by that time. We suggested that they could put forth their views during the deliberations and the member countries shall look into them," Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who presided over the two-day session, said at a press conference.

Indonesian news agency Antara reported that the country's House of Representatives (DPR) speaker Puan Maharani had objected to the absence of the Palestinian issue in the joint statement.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla delivers the closing remarks at the valedictory ceremony of the P20 Summit in New Delhi

Responding to the joint statement adopted by speakers of parliaments from G20 member countries in New Delhi on Saturday, she pointed out that while it addressed the "war in Ukraine", it did not mention equally significant global issues such as Palestine.

Maharani said that she, along with her counterparts

from Turkiye, China, South Africa and Russia, had signed a joint reservation expressing hope that the Palestinian issue would be accommodated in the statement. She said the joint reservation was not aimed to dispute the Ukrainian issue. However, the absence of other crucial global issues, including the Palesti-

nian one, created an imbalance in the joint statement.

Birla, however, asserted that the statement was adopted with consensus.

The joint statement (Point 20) states, "Concerning the war in Ukraine, while recalling the discussion in Bali, we reiterated our national positions and resolutions adopted at the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly and underscored that all states must act in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in its entirety."

Asked whether any speaker from the G20 countries had raised the issue of presence of people in India who were pursuing separatist activities abroad, Birla said India condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and no such terror group was operating from the country's soil. "All sources of terror have to be defeated with collective determination," Birla said.

UN peacekeeping HQ in Lebanon hit with rocket amid 2-front war spectre

Beirut: Israel's northern border with Lebanon is often tense, the legacy of past conflicts. But as Israel readies to invade Gaza, its army faces the threat of a two-front war.

Repeated fire in recent days has claimed lives on both sides of the UN-patrolled border between Lebanon and Israel, which remain technically at war. If Israel does invade the Palestinian enclave of Gaza in its war on Hamas, Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement has warned it may escalate its military involvement.

Israel's defence minister Yoav Gallant said on Sunday that "we have no interest in a war in the north, we don't want to escalate the situation".

He urged Hezbollah to show restraint while also warning the group that, if it "chooses the path of war, it will pay a very heavy price".

Late Sunday the UN peacekeeping mission said "our headquarters in Naqoura was hit with a rocket and we are working to verify from where. Our peacekeepers were not in shelters at the time." "Fortunately, no one was hurt."

Over the years, cross-border strikes and incursions have been frequent but carefully calibrated, with both sides at pains to project strength but avoid escalation. This has threatened to change since October 7 when Gaza's Hamas move-

Reuters



An Israeli tank near Lebanon border

ment staged its unprecedented attack on Israel in which its gunmen shot, stabbed and mutilated 1,400 in Israel.

A grieving and enraged Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas and responded with a devastating bombing campaign on Gaza that has killed more than 2,670, stoking fury across the Arab world. Tit-for-tat fire in recent days between Hezbollah and its allied Palestinian factions on the one side and Israel on the other have killed at least 11 people in southern Lebanon and two in Israel. Most of the casualties in Lebanon have been Hezbollah and Hamas fighters, but three civilians, including a Reuters journalist, have also been killed.

Israel, which has massed tanks and troops in the north, on Sunday closed a four-kilometre (2.5 mile) stretch along the border to civilians. It took the measure after a civilian was killed, with Hezbollah claiming responsibility. AFP