

NASA-ISRO radar mission to provide dynamic view of forests, wetlands

WASHINGTON, DC, Oct 28 (ANI)

NISAR, a joint Earth-observing mission between NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will help researchers explore how changes in Earth's forest and wetland ecosystems are affecting the global carbon cycle and influencing climate change.

Once it launches in early 2024, the NISAR radar satellite mission

will offer detailed insights into two types of ecosystems - forests and wetlands - vital to naturally regulating the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that are driving global climate change.

NISAR is a joint mission by NASA and ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), and when in orbit, its sophisticated radar systems will scan nearly all of Earth's land and ice surfaces twice every 12 days. The data it collects

will help researchers understand two key functions of both ecosystem types: The capture and the release of carbon, informed NASA in a release.

Forests hold carbon in the wood of their trees; wetlands store it in their layers of organic soil. Disruption of either system, whether gradual or sudden, can accelerate the release of carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. Tracking these land-

cover changes on a global scale will help researchers study the impacts on the carbon cycle - the processes by which carbon moves between the atmosphere, land, ocean, and living things. "The radar technology on NISAR will allow us to get a sweeping perspective of the planet in space and time," said Paul Rosen, the NISAR project scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California.

Osaka G7 meeting: India holds trade talks with Japan, UK

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (IANS)

COMMERCE and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday held bilateral talks on trade and investment in separate meetings with Japan Trade Minister Nishimura Yasutoshi and the UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Kemi Badenoch in Osaka.

Held a meeting with @Nishy03 , Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan, on the sidelines of the

G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Osaka.

Deliberated on adding further impetus to India-Japan trade & investment ties across diverse sectors, Goyal said in post on social media platform X.

Both ministers are in Japan for the Group of Seven (G7) trade ministers meeting in Osaka.

The bilateral trade between the two countries has surged after signing of the CEPA and crossed US\$20.0 billion in FY2022,

India to procure 26 Rafale marine jets from France

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (PTI)

INDIA has formally communicated to France its decision to procure 26 naval variant of the Rafale fighter aircraft for the Indian Navy, kick-starting the procurement process under an interGovernmental framework, people familiar with the matter said on Friday.

In July, the Defence Ministry approved the purchase of the Rafale (marine) jets from France, primarily for deployment on board the indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. The issue of procurement of the Rafale Marine jets is learnt to have figured during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent visit to Paris.

It is learnt that India has sent a letter of request to the French Government formally communicating its decision to procure the jets from Dassault Aviation under the Government-to-Government framework. The negotiations on pricing and other details are expected to take place after the Defence Ministry receives a response from the French side, the people familiar with the matter said.

Earlier this month, Chairman and CEO of Dassault Aviation Eric Trappier visited New Delhi and discussed various aspects of the proposed procurement by India.

'Women recruitment in Govt jobs doubled since 2014'

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (PTI)

UNION Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh on Saturday said women's recruitment has doubled since 2014 in Government jobs at different levels.

In his welcome remarks at the 10th Rozgar Mela, Singh said compared to just around 6-6.25% fresh women recruitments in the years preceding 2014, their numbers have more than doubled to 12-13% in the last nine years. "Prime Minister Modi has empowered the Nari

Shakti by enacting the Women's Reservation Act and providing Commissioned ranks to women in the armed forces. "Women are also entrusted with key responsibilities in ISRO," he said.

He said, 30 per cent reservation to women in the Parliament and State legislatures and the rising representation of women in Government jobs has ensured that women emerge as equal partners during the 'Amritkaal' in the next 24 years towards the goal of Viksit Bharat (Developed India).

A unique feature of the 10th

Rozgar Mela is that women represent 21 per cent of more than 50,000 fresh appointees.

"Overall, out of over 6.48 lakh appointees in the 10 Rozgar Melas held during the last year, more than 1.1 lakh are women employees, representing 17 per cent of the total fresh recruitment," the minister said. Singh said the railways accounts for a majority of the fresh appointees during the 10th Rozgar Mela.

PM Modi virtually distributed appointment letters to nearly 51,000 people recruited in different government

departments during the 10th Rozgar Mela.

Meanwhile, the Minister further said that during PM Modi's tenure, major works have been completed to bring the Kashmir valley on the rail map. The world's tallest rail bridge in the Reasi district of J&K has also been built as part of this project, he added.

Singh said that railway safety has also improved during the tenure of PM Modi. "Compared to an average of 171 accidents annually till 2014, this figure has come down sharply to 71," he added.

181 DNLA ultras surrender in Assam

HAFLONG (Assam), Oct 28 (PTI)

A TOTAL of 181 cadres of the Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA) on Saturday formally surrendered and joined the mainstream, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. At an official function here, the cadres, including five women extremists, formally laid down their arms and received financial aid from Sarma.

These militants also deposited 43 arms, including eight AK-series rifles, one M-20 rifle and one M-16 rifle, 1,161 ammunition and three grenades.

"With the blessings of PM Narendra Modi, Assam ended insurgency in tribal areas in April 2023 after signing of the peace deal with the DNLA in

the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah," Sarma said.

Each of the 181 surrendered cadres would receive a fixed deposit of Rs 4 lakh as a rehabilitation package, he added.

"Since May 2021, nearly 7,200 insurgents have surrendered in Assam. The number of lives lost to extremist violence stands at zero, which is a stark contrast to the tragic toll of over 400 two decades ago," Sarma said.

Among the militants who surrendered were DNLA chairman Kharmindao Dimasa alias Etika Diphusa, commander-in-chief Naiding Dimasa alias Mushrang and general secretary Prithamjit Jidongsa alias Galao Dimasa.

The DNLA was formed under the leadership of Naisodao

Dimasa and Kharmindao Dimasa in April, 2019 with around 30 cadres, and eventually its strength increased.

The organisation had its base in Dimapur, Nagaland from where it resorted to subversive activities in the twin hill districts of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao in Assam. Their main demand was a separate state, 'Dimaraji', covering Dima Hasao, parts of Karbi Anglong and Hojai districts.

Speaking at the function, Additional Chief Secretary for Home Ravi Kota said the overall law and order scenario in the context of extremist violence in the state has improved considerably.

"In 1991, the number of civilians killed in extremist violence in the state was 163," he added.

UN vote on Gaza

INDIA ABSTAINS

■ By Yoshita Singh

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 28 (PTI)

TERRORISM is a “malignancy” and knows no borders, nationality or race and the world should not buy into any justification of terror acts, India has told the UN General Assembly as it abstained on a resolution on the Israel-Hamas conflict.

India on Friday abstained in the UN General Assembly on a Jordanian-drafted resolution titled ‘Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations’ that called for an immediate humanitarian truce in the Israel-Hamas conflict and unhindered humanitarian access in the Gaza strip.

The 193-member General Assembly adopted the resolution that called for an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities.

The resolution, which garnered 121 votes in favour, 44 abstentions and 14 member States voting against it, also demanded the immediate, continuous, sufficient and unhindered provision of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip.

India’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Yojna Patel, in Explanation of Vote here said in a world where differences and disputes should be resolved by dialogue, this

August body should be deeply concerned at recourse to violence.

“That too, when it happens on a scale and intensity that is an affront to basic human values,” Patel said.

Patel said that violence as a means to achieve political objectives damages indis-

criminally and does not pave the way for any durable solutions. Describing the terror attacks in Israel on October 7 as shocking, Patel said they deserve condemnation. India’s explanation of the vote did not mention Hamas.

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ality or race. The world should not buy into any justification of terror acts. Let us keep aside differences, unite and adopt a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism,” she said.

India expressed hope that the deliberations of the General Assembly will “send a clear message against terror and vio-

lence and expand prospects for diplomacy and dialogue while addressing the humanitarian crisis that confronts us.”

India voted in favour of the amendment, along with 87 other nations, while 55 member States voted against and 23 abstentions.

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Voting results are displayed as the United Nations General Assembly voted on a nonbinding resolution calling for a “humanitarian truce” in Gaza and a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Gaza’s Hamas rulers, on Friday. (AP/PTI)