

NASA invites India to join Moon Base mission

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (PTI)

IN A major move to deepen bilateral space collaboration, NASA has invited the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to join its ambitious programme to build humanity's first lunar outpost near the Moon's South Pole.

The project named Moon Base mission is aimed at setting up a permanent habitat for astronauts to live, work, and explore through a series of crewed and uncrewed missions. According to the US space agency, the aim of the project is to unlock new scientific discoveries, and prepare for future deep space exploration.

India and the US explored expanding their space cooperation at a meeting of their Civil Space Joint Working Group (CSJWG) held in Bengaluru last week.

"The NASA invited ISRO to join its Moon Base programme, building on the two countries' partnership under the Artemis

accords," according to a joint press statement.

The two sides also agreed to advance discussions for cooperation on open scientific data sharing under the accords, it said.

The meeting advanced civil and commercial space cooperation under the US-India Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology (TRUST) initiative.

The TRUST was unveiled in February last year to promote application of critical and emerging technologies in areas like defence, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum, biotechnology, energy, and space.

"Both sides discussed expanding cooperation following the successful launch of the joint NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission last year, as well as pursuing future science and human space flight technology collaborations," the joint statement said.

Navy's next generation patrol vessel 'Shruti' launched

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (PTI)

NEXT Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) -- 'Shruti' -- was launched on Tuesday, marking yet another significant milestone in Indian Navy's pursuit towards indigenous shipbuilding, officials said.

The construction of NGOPVs is concurrently being undertaken at two shipyards -- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata. Yard 3037 ('Shruti') was launched at GRSE, Kolkata in the presence of Vice Admiral Sanjay Sadhu, Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition, the Defence Ministry said.

The event reflected the rich traditions and ethos of the Indian Navy.

These indigenously designed and built ships will augment the existing vessels for multi-domain operations, such as maritime surveillance, search and rescue, protection of offshore assets, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) and anti-piracy missions, the officials said. These ships derive their name from India's rich heritage, with the new ship being named 'Shruti' referring to four Vedas, the Ministry said.

Nepal, India ink MoUs for projects worth over NRs 800 million

KATHMANDU, Aug 11 (PTI)

INDIA on Tuesday pledged over Nepali Rs 800 million to Nepal for eight high-impact development projects in areas including education, health and agriculture. Agencies of the Nepal Government signed MoUs for eight different projects across the country through grant assistance of Nepali Rs 803 million from India, said a press release issued by the Indian Embassy.

The projects include the digitalisation of BP Koirala Institute of Health and Sciences in Sunsari district, construction of Krishi Utpadan Sankalan Tatha Bikri Kendra in Bhojpur district and a Municipal Agricultural and Livestock Centre Building in Dhading district.

Border issue will reflect on bilateral ties: Delhi to Beijing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Arunachal Pradesh is indisputably an integral and inalienable part of India, govt asserted Tuesday in response to Beijing's rejection of its decision to formally identify and map 27 places in the state. Following recent reports about fresh border tensions, govt also reiterated that "the state of border affairs will reflect on the state of larger bilateral ties".

The home ministry had last week identified 27 locations in Arunachal Pradesh by "standard place and feature names" on the official maps of Survey of India, saying this would facilitate their accurate recognition and better awareness among the public. China, which has at least on six occasions assigned new names to places in Arunachal to reinforce its claim over the state, called the action "illegal, null and void".

"Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India, and this is a self-evident fact. Nothing can change this indisputable reality," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, responding to queries about remarks by the Chinese foreign ministry.

The Indian exercise had followed unconfirmed reports of incursions by PLA into Arunachal Pradesh.



Arunachal is an integral and inalienable part of India, and this is a self-evident fact, MEA said

CM Pema Khandu had denied there was any such incursion by Chinese troops.

The MEA said India had always emphasised that the maintenance of peace in border areas was of the utmost importance. "We have also stated that the state of border affairs will reflect on the state of our larger bilateral ties," Jaiswal said, adding this was reiterated at the 36th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China border affairs, where the two sides engaged in "frank discussions" and reviewed the situation along LAC.

"It was agreed to continue to use existing diplomatic and military channels... to avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation along LAC," the official said.

Russian attacks kill 10 in Ukraine; N Korean missiles used: Zelensky

Kyiv: Russia attacked Ukrainian cities with missiles, drones and glide bombs Tuesday, killing at least 10 civilians, officials said, as President Volodymyr Zelensky said Moscow is getting new military help from North Korea for its more than 4-year-old invasion.

Zelensky said Russian forces used ballistic missiles supplied by North Korea in an overnight attack on the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, where officials said seven people were killed and 24 wounded. Three more people, including a 15-year-old boy, were killed by Russian drones and artillery in the central Dnipropetrovsk region, authorities said. In addition to the ballistic missiles, North Korea is preparing to deploy more of its troops to Russia, Zelensky said late Monday. AP