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NASA solar probe begins second orbit of Sun

WASHINGTON

NASA's Parker Solar Probe has begun its second orbit of the Sun and is on track for its closest approach to our star, the U.S. space agency said. Just 161 days after its launch, the Parker probe completed its first orbit of the Sun on January 19. The spacecraft has now begun the second of 24 planned orbits, on track for its second perihelion, or closest approach to the Sun, on April 4. Parker Solar Probe entered full operational status on January 1, with all systems online and operating as designed.

The spacecraft has been delivering data from its instruments to Earth via the Deep Space Network, and to date more than 17 gigabits of science data has been downloaded. The full dataset from the first orbit will be downloaded by April. "It's been an illuminating and fascinating first orbit," said Andy Driesman, of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, which manages the mission for NASA. "We've learned a lot about how the spacecraft operates and reacts to the solar environment, and I'm proud to say the team's projections have been very accurate," said Mr. Driesman, who is the Parker Solar Probe Project Manager. "We've always said that we don't know what to expect until we look at the data," said Project Scientist Nour Raouafi, also of APL.

"The data we have received hints at many new things that we've not seen before and at potential new discoveries. Parker Solar Probe is delivering on the mission's promise of revealing the mysteries of our Sun," said Mr. Raouafi. In preparation for the next encounter in April, the spacecraft's solid state recorder is being emptied of files that have already been delivered to Earth. In addition, the spacecraft is receiving updated positional and navigation information and is being loaded with a new automated command sequence, which contains about one month's worth of instructions.

The closest approach in April will bring the spacecraft to a distance of about 15 million miles from the Sun just over half the previous close solar approach record of about 27 million miles set by Helios 2 in 1976. The spacecraft's four instrument suites will help scientists begin to answer outstanding questions about the Sun's fundamental physics – including how particles and solar material are accelerated out into space at such high speeds and why the Sun's atmosphere, the corona, is so much hotter than the surface below.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nasa-solar-probe-begins-second-orbit-of-sun/article26120288.ece>

चीन ने अमेरिका तक मार करने वाली बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल तैयार की

चीन ने मध्यम रेंज की एक नई बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल का फुटेज जारी किया है। यह मिसाइल अमेरिका के गुआम द्वीप तक मार करने में सक्षम है। इसलिए इस मिसाइल को 'गुआम किलर' भी कहा जा रहा है। हांगकांग के अखबार साउथ चाइना मॉर्निंग पोस्ट के अनुसार, डोंगफेंग-26 (डीएफ-26) बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल की रेंज 3,567 मील (5,740 किलोमीटर) तक है। इसका मतलब हुआ कि प्रशांत महासागर में स्थित अमेरिका का गुआम द्वीप इसकी जद में आ जाएगा।

इस मिसाइल के सफल परीक्षण के सीसीटीवी फुटेज पर विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि अमेरिकी नेतृत्व को संदेश देने के लिए यह फुटेज जारी किया गया है। अखबार ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया की मैक्वेरी यूनिवर्सिटी के चीनी शोधकर्ता एडम नी के हवाले से कहा, 'चीन यह दिखाना चाहता है कि वह अमेरिका के रणनीतिक स्थानों मसलन सैन्य अड्डों और विमानवाहक पोतों को खतरे में डाल सकता है। यह उस इरादे को सुदृढ़ करने का प्रयास है कि चीन की सेना पीपुल्स लिबरेशन आर्मी अमेरिकी विमानवाहक पोतों को डुबोने और अमेरिकी बलों को नुकसान पहुंचाने की क्षमता रखती है।

दोनों देशों में बढ़ती रणनीतिक प्रतिस्पर्धा और तनाव के संदर्भ में ताजा परीक्षण इन स्थितियों को बढ़ाने का संकेत है।' हांगकांग की चाइनीज यूनिवर्सिटी में तुलनात्मक राजनीति पढ़ाने वाले जेम्स फ्लॉयड डाउंस ने भी कहा कि वह नए फुटेज को हवाइट हाउस को चेतावनी देने के नजरिये से देखते हैं। उल्लेखनीय है कि अमेरिका और चीन के बीच पिछले साल कारोबारी जंग उस समय बढ़ गई थी जब राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने चीन से अरबों डॉलर के आयात पर निशाना साधा था। चीन विवादित दक्षिण चीन सागर में अमेरिकी दखल से भी चिढ़ा हुआ है। वह लगभग पूरे दक्षिण चीन सागर पर अपना दावा करता है।

<https://naidunia.jagran.com/world-china-created-ballistic-missile-which-can-be-hit-in-america-2788251>

Chandrayaan-2 to launch by mid-April, will place rover on Moon

Chandrayaan-2 is among the 32 missions that the ISRO is planning for 2019. Among the highest priorities for ISRO this year is the ambitious Gaganyaan mission that aims to put three Indians in space

HIGHLIGHTS

- Chandrayaan-2 has been delayed because ISRO was not able to complete some tests
- ISRO is planning to launch twice the number of missions it did in 2019
- The manned space mission may launch in December 2021



Chandrayaan-2, India's second Moon mission, is currently scheduled to be launched in mid-April, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said today.

Chandrayaan-2, which will place a rover on the Moon, has been delayed twice -- it was first set to be launched late in 2018 but was postponed to January this year.

However, that launch was postponed as well with ISRO chairman K Sivan saying today that some tests for the mission could not be completed on time. "Right now it is scheduled from March 25 to April end... normal targeting date is mid April," Sivan said at his annual press conference today.

Sivan expressed confidence that ISRO would meet this target date. When asked about the next launch window in case the April deadline was missed, Sivan said that it would be sometime in June. But, the ISRO chief added, the space organisation is targeting to get the launch done by April itself. Chandrayaan-2 is among the 32 missions that the Isro is planning for 2019, K Sivan said.

This number is double the number of missions ISRO launched in 2018, Sivan said. At the press conference, Sivan also announced the mission timeline for Gaganyaan, an ambitious mission that aims to put three Indians in space. An Indian -- Rakesh Sharma -- has been to space, but he did so on a Russian spacecraft. The Gaganyaan mission will be an Indian affair with possible some help from outside the country. The launch vehicle and the crew capsule will be Indian made. The selection and initial training of the astronauts will also be done under an Indian system, Sivan said.

The Gaganyaan project will have three launches -- two unnamed test missions (one in December 2020 and the other in July 2021). The ambitious manned mission to space is targeted for December 2021.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/chandrayaan-2-launch-date-isro-announcement-k-sivan-1428539-2019-01-11>

ISRO CHIEF BATS FOR SCIENTIFIC TEMPER IN YOUTH

Pune, Jan. 29: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Sivan Tuesday said inculcating scientific temper among the younger generation was the only way to protect the future.

He also said that researchers have a responsibility to generate future human resource by involving students in various stages of the world of space research.

Mr Sivan was speaking at the National Space Science Symposium co-hosted by Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, National Centre for Radio Astrophysics and Savitribai Phule Pune University. "ISRO has launched 'Samvad with Students' initiative. It is also establishing six technology incubation centres and research institutes covering all the regions of the country to provide a strong foothold to science research," he said. — PTI