

## *Hubble discovers moon orbiting the dwarf planet Makemake*

*Date:* April 26, 2016

*Source:* NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

*Summary:*

*Peering to the outskirts of our solar system, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has spotted a small, dark moon orbiting Makemake, the second brightest icy dwarf planet -- after Pluto -- in the Kuiper Belt.*

## *New state of water molecule discovered*

*Date:* April 22, 2016

*Source:* DOE/Oak Ridge National Laboratory

*Summary:*

*Neutron scattering and computational modeling have revealed unique and unexpected behavior of water molecules under extreme confinement that is unmatched by any known gas, liquid or solid states.*

## *Scientists discover new reef system at mouth of Amazon River*

*Date:* April 22, 2016

*Source:* University of Georgia

*Summary:*

*As large rivers empty into the world's oceans in areas known as plumes, they typically create gaps in the reef distribution along the tropical shelves -- something that makes finding a reef in the Amazon River plume an unexpected discovery.*

*A new reef system has been found at the mouth of the Amazon River, the largest river by discharge of water in the world. As large rivers empty into the world's oceans in areas known as plumes, they typically create gaps in the reef distribution along the tropical shelves -- something that makes finding a reef in the Amazon plume an unexpected discovery.*

*An international team -- including scientists from the University of Georgia and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro -- documented their findings in an April 22 study published in the journal *Science Advances*.*

*Scientists on a recent expedition to investigate the Amazon River plume included a Brazilian research team looking for evidence of a reef system along the continental shelf. The Amazon plume -- an area where freshwater from the river mixes with the salty Atlantic Ocean -- affects a broad area of the tropical North Atlantic Ocean in terms of salinity, pH, light penetration and sedimentation, conditions that usually correlate to a major gap in Western Atlantic reefs.*

## *Rise in CO2 has 'greened Planet Earth'*

*By Roger Harrabin BBC environment analyst 25 April 2016*

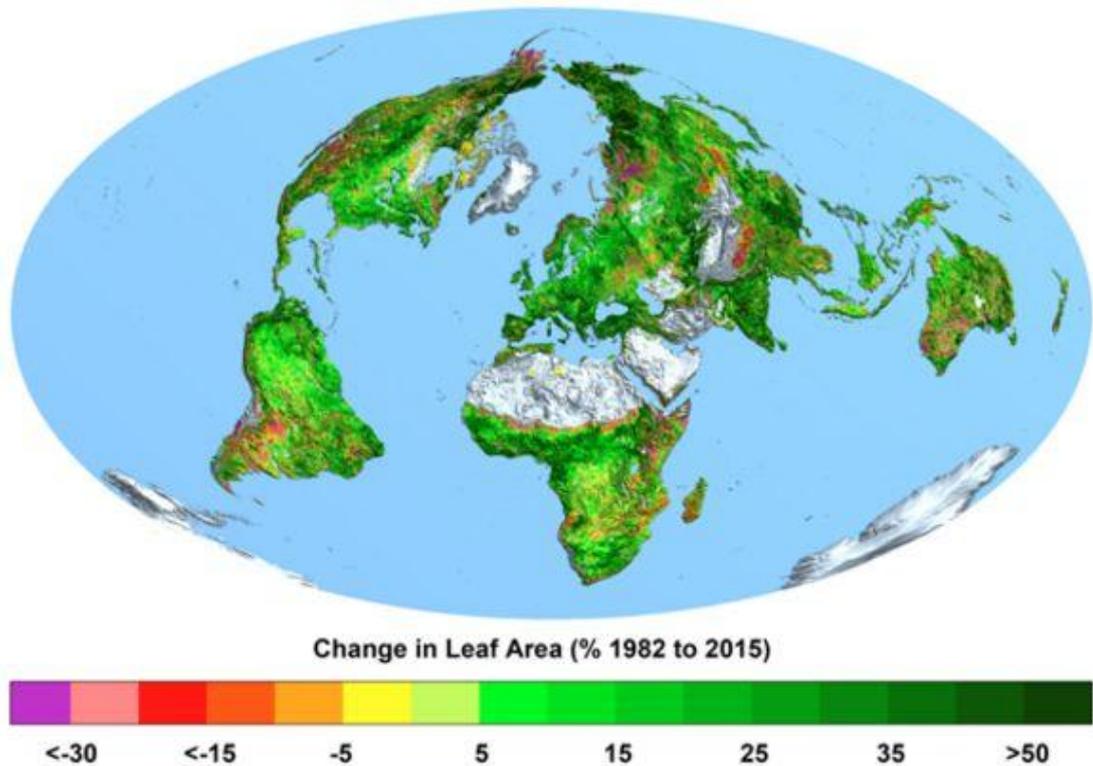


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*Carbon dioxide emissions from industrial society have driven a huge growth in trees and other plants.*

*A new study says that if the extra green leaves prompted by rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels were laid in a carpet, it would cover twice the continental USA.*

*Climate sceptics argue the findings show that the extra CO<sub>2</sub> is actually benefiting the planet.*

*But the researchers say the fertilisation effect diminishes over time.*

*They warn the positives of CO<sub>2</sub> are likely to be outweighed by the negatives.*

*The lead author, Prof Ranga Myneni from Boston University, told BBC News the extra tree growth would not compensate for global warming, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, ocean acidification, the loss of Arctic sea ice, and the prediction of more severe tropical storms.*

*The new study is **published in the journal Nature Climate Change** by a team of 32 authors from 24 institutions in eight countries.*

*It is called **Greening of the Earth and its Drivers**, and it is based on data from the Modis and AVHRR instruments which have been carried on American satellites over the past 33 years. The sensors show significant greening of something between 25% and 50% of the Earth's vegetated land, which in turn is slowing the pace of climate change as the plants are drawing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.*

*Just 4% of vegetated land has suffered from plant loss.*

## *Searching for water in drought-hit Latur*

*The scarcity of water leaves people with few - and mostly awkward - choices. So it is with Latur's residents, who are among the 330 million people in 256 districts in India affected by drought, brought on by three years of poor rainfall.*

## *US election 2016: Donald Trump sweeps five US states*

*Donald Trump has won presidential primaries in all five US states that voted on Tuesday, while Hillary Clinton triumphed in four out of five.*

*Mr Trump called himself the Republican "presumptive nominee" after victories in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.*

*The results bring him closer to the number of delegates he needs before the party's national convention in July.*

## *All Indian mobile phones 'must have panic button'*

*26 April 2016*

*India's telecommunications ministry has said all mobile phones sold in the country from 2017 must include a panic button.*

*It is part of a wider campaign to enhance the safety of women, in the light of growing concerns about levels of sexual violence in the country.*

*From 2018, phones will also have to include GPS navigation systems.*

*India does not have a centralised emergency number but officials are looking to introduce one this year.*

*Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, said: "Technology is solely meant to make human life better and what better than using it for the security of women?"*

## *India fire destroys natural history museum in Delhi*

*26 April 2016*

*A fire has destroyed a museum in the Indian capital, Delhi, ruining rare specimens of flora and fauna, India's environment minister has said.*

*The blaze started on the sixth floor of the National Museum of Natural History early on Tuesday and rapidly spread to all seven floors, reports said.*

*More than 30 fire engines tackled the blaze. Six firemen were injured.*

*It is not yet clear what caused the fire at the 38-year-old museum in the heart of the city.*

*Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said officials had yet to determine the full extent of the damage but old collections had been destroyed.*

*"This is a real loss. This loss cannot be counted in rupees. Some very old species of flora and fauna were there," Mr Javadekar was quoted by the AFP news agency as saying.*

*A fire officer told the NDTV news channel that the building's "fire safety mechanisms were not working".*

*"That is why it took us so long to douse the fire. The cooling off process is still on," he said.*

*The museum housed galleries with "herpetological specimens, preserved butterflies, and mounted specimens" of animals, according to its **website**.*