



Launch of Tanager-1

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Recently, the [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#) launched the **Tanager-1 satellite** to detect major emitters of **carbon dioxide and methane**.

- Tanager-1 will use **imaging spectrometer technology** to measure [wavelengths](#) of light that are reflected by Earth's surface.
 - Methane and Carbon dioxide absorb different **wavelengths of light**, leaving spectral "**fingerprints**" that the imaging spectrometer can identify.
- It will be able to measure **point-source emissions**, down to the level of individual facilities and equipment, on a global scale.
- Earlier, NASA had launched [MethaneSAT](#) which tracks and measures methane emissions.
- **Methane**: Methane is a strong [greenhouse gas](#) and the **second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide**. It is responsible for **30%** of global heating.
 - According to the United Nations Environment Programme, over a period of **20 years**, it is **80 times more potent** at warming than **carbon dioxide**.
 - It also contributes to the formation of [ground-level ozone](#), a colourless and highly irritating gas that forms just above the Earth's surface.

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