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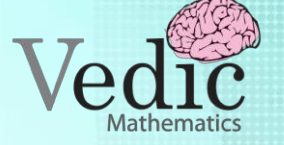
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Space & Astronomy:

NASA & International Space Station

NASA and its partners, including JAXA, Roscosmos, and SpaceX, are preparing for the return of the Crew-10 mission from the International Space Station. The crew, consisting of NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, JAXA astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov, is scheduled for a splashdown off the California coast today, concluding their five-month mission.

NASA is also focused on a long-term goal: deploying a 100-kilowatt nuclear reactor on the Moon by 2030. This ambitious project, part of the Fission Surface Power program, is seen as a way to provide a reliable energy source for lunar exploration, particularly during the two-week-long lunar nights. The initiative is also framed as part of a competitive "space race" with China and Russia.

ISRO & Indian Space Efforts

ISRO is actively engaged in inspiring the next generation of space scientists. As part of this effort, it collaborated with the UR Rao Satellite Centre and Banaras Hindu University for a program to connect youth with space technology. The event highlighted India's achievements in launching satellites for various countries and underscored the potential for growth and job opportunities in the space sector.

In a significant development for India's private space sector, ISRO announced the successful static test of the KALAM 1200 solid rocket motor by Skyroot Aerospace. This motor will serve as the first stage of the company's Vikram-1 launch vehicle, aligning with India's Space Policy 2023, which promotes private sector involvement in using ISRO's infrastructure.

The Sturgeon Moon

The full moon in August, known as the Sturgeon Moon, reached its peak illumination in the early hours of August 9. This lunar event is known for its visibility over several nights. In addition, this year's Sturgeon Moon aligns with a planetary alignment of Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn, which will be visible around moonset.

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MCQS

1. Which space mission was scheduled to conclude with a splashdown off the California coast on August 9, 2025?

- A. Artemis III
- B. Crew-10
- C. Voyager 1
- D. Chandrayaan-3

Answer: B. Crew-10

The news states that the Crew-10 mission, consisting of NASA, JAXA, and Roscosmos astronauts and cosmonauts, was scheduled for a splashdown off the California coast.

2. What is NASA's long-term goal for the Moon by 2030?

- A. To establish a permanent human colony.
- B. To deploy a 100-kilowatt nuclear reactor.

- C. To discover water ice at the lunar poles.
- D. To build a large-scale observatory on the far side of the Moon.

Answer: B. To deploy a 100-kilowatt nuclear reactor.

The news mentions that NASA is focused on deploying a 100-kilowatt nuclear reactor on the Moon by 2030 as part of its Fission Surface Power program.

3. What is the name of the solid rocket motor successfully tested by Skyroot Aerospace for its Vikram-1 launch vehicle?

- A. Agni 1000
- B. KALAM 1200
- C. Vikram 500
- D. Garuda 800

Answer: B. KALAM 1200

The news highlights the successful static test of the KALAM 1200 solid rocket motor by Skyroot Aerospace, which will be the first stage of the company's Vikram-1 launch vehicle.

4. The full moon in August is traditionally known by what name?

- A. Harvest Moon
- B. Sturgeon Moon
- C. Wolf Moon
- D. Beaver Moon

Answer: B. Sturgeon Moon

The news states that the full moon in August is known as the Sturgeon Moon.

5. What three planets were aligned with the Sturgeon Moon on August 9, 2025?

- A. Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn
- B. Venus, Mars, and Jupiter
- C. Mercury, Venus, and Mars
- D. Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn





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Answer: D. Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn

The news mentions that this year's Sturgeon Moon aligns with a planetary alignment of Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn.

6. Which ISRO facility collaborated with Banaras Hindu University for a program to connect youth with space technology?

- A. Satish Dhawan Space Centre
- B. Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre
- C. UR Rao Satellite Centre
- D. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

Answer: C. UR Rao Satellite Centre

The news states that ISRO collaborated with the UR Rao Satellite Centre and Banaras Hindu University for the program.



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