



Space & Astronomy:

Planetary Alignments and Skywatching Events

August 18th and 19th are prime dates for a planetary parade in the pre-dawn sky. Six planets and the Moon are visible, though some require a telescope.

Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, and the Moon will form a nearly straight line just above the horizon.

Saturn and Neptune are also visible in the southern sky, completing the alignment.

The waning crescent Moon is a significant feature, as its low illumination provides better viewing conditions for the Perseid meteor shower, which is still active.

A rare celestial event, a shadow transit of Titan across Saturn, is also observable on August 19th.

Missions and Discoveries

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite has successfully deployed its massive 12-meter radar antenna in orbit. This is a crucial step for the joint mission, which will begin science operations by late fall to map Earth's surface for disaster prediction and climate monitoring.

The James Webb Space Telescope has made new discoveries, including a potential exoplanet just four light-years from Earth and a bizarre "Cosmic Grapes" galaxy in the early universe.

The SpaceX Crew-10 astronauts have returned to Earth after nearly five months aboard the International Space Station.

NASA and Google are testing an AI medical assistant for future astronaut missions to the Moon and Mars.

Spaceflight and Exploration

SpaceX has launched its 100th Falcon 9 rocket of the year, sending 24 Starlink satellites into orbit.

The U.S. Space Force has tested a new deep-space radar that can track multiple satellites simultaneously.

Blue Origin has proposed a new "Mars Telecommunications Orbiter" to support future missions to the Red Planet.

The Hindustan Zinc board has approved an investment of ₹3,823 crore for a new reprocessing plant.

The traditional percussion instrument, the 'parai,' is experiencing a revival in Chennai.

The Haryana Human Rights Commission has taken suo moto cognizance of a case where a public health department employee was allegedly denied his salary because he was mistakenly declared "dead" in his Aadhaar records.

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MCQS

1. What is the celestial event that is observable on August 19, 2025, involving one of Saturn's moons?

- a) A planetary parade
- b) The Perseid meteor shower
- c) A shadow transit of Titan across Saturn
- d) A new exoplanet discovery

Answer: c) A shadow transit of Titan across Saturn

The text states, "A rare celestial event, a shadow transit of Titan across Saturn, is also observable on August 19th."

2. What is the primary purpose of the joint NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite mission?

- a) To discover new exoplanets.
- b) To test an AI medical assistant for astronauts.
- c) To map Earth's surface for disaster prediction and climate monitoring.
- d) To track multiple satellites simultaneously.

Answer: c) To map Earth's surface for disaster prediction and climate monitoring.
The provided information details that the NISAR mission "will begin science operations by late fall to map Earth's surface for disaster prediction and climate monitoring."

3. Which space company has launched its 100th Falcon 9 rocket of the year?

- a) NASA
- b) Blue Origin
- c) ISRO
- d) SpaceX

Answer: d) SpaceX
The text under "Spaceflight and Exploration" states, "SpaceX has launched its 100th Falcon 9 rocket of the year."

4. What new discovery has the James Webb Space Telescope made, as mentioned in the news?

- a) A new deep-space radar.
- b) A potential exoplanet and a "Cosmic Grapes" galaxy.
- c) The shadow transit of Titan.
- d) The NISAR satellite's antenna deployment.

Answer: b) A potential exoplanet and a "Cosmic Grapes" galaxy.





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The news highlights that the James Webb Space Telescope has made "new discoveries, including a potential exoplanet... and a bizarre 'Cosmic Grapes' galaxy in the early universe."

5. What is the purpose of the AI medical assistant being tested by NASA and Google?

- a) To assist in space tourism missions.
- b) To help astronauts on future missions to the Moon and Mars.
- c) To control the James Webb Space Telescope.
- d) To manage Earth-based climate data.

Answer: b) To help astronauts on future missions to the Moon and Mars.

The provided text notes that "NASA and Google are testing an AI medical assistant for future astronaut missions to the Moon and Mars."

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