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Space & Astronomy:

Indian Space News

National Space Day: India is celebrating its second annual National Space Day on August 23. This day commemorates the successful soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram Lander on the Moon's south pole on this date in 2023.

Theme of the Year: The theme for this year's National Space Day is "Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities." This theme highlights the continuity of India's astronomical knowledge from ancient times to its modern space exploration programs, like the human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan.

Global Astronomy & Planetary Science

New Moon Discovery: NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has discovered a new, 29th moon orbiting Uranus, named S/2025 U1. The moon is estimated to be only about 10 kilometers (6 miles) in diameter, making it the smallest moon ever found orbiting the planet and a significant discovery that was missed by the Voyager 2 probe.

The "Black Moon" Event: A rare "Black Moon" is occurring on August 23. This is not an astronomical term, but a nickname for the third new moon in a season that has four new moons. While the moon itself will be invisible, its absence of light makes for ideal conditions for stargazing and viewing other celestial objects like meteors and distant galaxies.

Perseid Meteor Shower: The Perseid meteor shower, which peaked earlier in the month, is in its tail end. Due to the new moon phase and dark skies, observers have a good opportunity to spot the last of the meteors before the shower ends.

Planet Visibility: On the night of August 23, stargazers can see Mars low in the western sky after sunset. In the pre-dawn hours, a "planet parade" of Venus, Jupiter, and Mercury is visible in the eastern sky, while Saturn is visible all night as it nears its opposition in September.

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- c) James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).
d) Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Answer: c) James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

The news states, "NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has discovered a new, 29th moon orbiting Uranus."

3. What is a "Black Moon," as described in the news?

- a) A total lunar eclipse.
b) The third new moon in a season that has four new moons.
c) A new moon that appears unusually dark.
d) A new moon that coincides with a major meteor shower.

Answer: b) The third new moon in a season that has four new moons.

The report defines a "Black Moon" as "a nickname for the third new moon in a season that has four new moons."

MCQS

1. What is the theme for India's National Space Day on August 23, 2025?

- a) "India's Journey to the Moon."
b) "Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities."
c) "Celebrating Chandrayaan-3's Success."
d) "Space Technology for a New India."

Answer: b) "Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities."

The news report explicitly states, "The theme for this year's National Space Day is 'Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities.'"

2. Which astronomical tool was used to discover the new moon orbiting Uranus?

- a) Hubble Space Telescope.
b) Voyager 2 probe.

4. What is the significance of the "Black Moon" for stargazing on August 23?

- a) The moon is unusually bright, making other objects harder to see.
b) Its absence of light creates ideal conditions for viewing other celestial objects.
c) It causes a temporary increase in atmospheric clarity.
d) It marks the beginning of the Perseid meteor shower.

Answer: b) Its absence of light creates ideal conditions for viewing other celestial objects. The news states that the Black Moon's "absence of light makes for ideal conditions for stargazing and viewing other celestial objects like meteors and distant galaxies."





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5. Which planets are visible in the eastern sky during the pre-dawn hours on August 23?

- a) Mars and Saturn.
- b) Venus, Jupiter, and Mercury.
- c) Neptune and Pluto.
- d) Venus and Saturn.

Answer: b) Venus, Jupiter, and Mercury.

The report mentions that in the pre-dawn hours, "a 'planet parade' of Venus, Jupiter, and Mercury is visible in the eastern sky."

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