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Space & Astronomy:

Celestial Events and Stargazing

Planetary Alignment: A rare "six-planet alignment" is gracing the night sky, visible until September 7. The alignment includes Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, Jupiter, Venus, and Mercury. While Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus are visible to the naked eye, a telescope or high-powered binoculars are needed to spot Neptune and Uranus. Additionally, Venus, Jupiter, and Mercury are aligning diagonally in the pre-dawn sky on September 1.

Aurigid Meteor Shower: The Aurigid meteor shower is peaking on the night of August 31 into September 1. It is a minor shower, but can produce up to 5-10 meteors per hour.

Upcoming Lunar Eclipse: The moon is in its Waxing Gibbous phase, and on September 7, a total lunar eclipse (also known as a "Blood Moon") will occur. It will be completely visible over east Africa, Asia, and Australia.

Solar Storm: A G2-G3 (Moderate to Strong) geomagnetic storm is expected to hit Earth. This is a result of a coronal mass ejection (CME) from the Sun. This event could produce auroras visible at mid-latitudes, reaching as far south as parts of the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD): The APOD for September 1, 2025, features Callisto, one of Jupiter's largest moons. The image, reprocessed from data captured by the Voyager 2 probe in 1979, highlights Callisto's heavily cratered surface and the potential for a subsurface ocean.

Spacecraft and Missions

JUICE Mission: The European Space Agency's (ESA) Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) probe recently completed a flyby of Venus, a maneuver that keeps it on track for its arrival at the Jupiter system in July 2031.

SpaceX Launch: A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on August 31, deploying a new batch of Starlink broadband internet satellites into low Earth orbit.

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MCQS

1. What is the name of the meteor shower that peaked on the night of August 31 into September 1?

- a) Perseid
- b) Leonid
- c) Aurigid
- d) Geminid

Answer: c) Aurigid

According to the provided text, the Aurigid meteor shower was scheduled to peak on the night of August 31 into September 1.

2. Which of the following planets is NOT mentioned as being visible to the naked eye during the six-planet alignment?

- a) Jupiter
- b) Saturn
- c) Mercury

d) Uranus

Answer: d) Uranus

The text states that "Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus are visible to the naked eye," but a "telescope or high-powered binoculars are needed to spot Neptune and Uranus."

3. What is a "Blood Moon"?

- a) A new moon
- b) A waxing crescent moon
- c) A total lunar eclipse
- d) A total solar eclipse

Answer: c) A total lunar eclipse

The news mentions that on September 7, a "total lunar eclipse (also known as a 'Blood Moon') will occur."

4. What is the cause of the G2-G3 geomagnetic storm mentioned in the news?

- a) A meteor shower
- b) A supernova
- c) A coronal mass ejection (CME) from the Sun
- d) A planetary alignment

Answer: c) A coronal mass ejection (CME) from the Sun

The text explicitly states, "A G2-G3 (Moderate to Strong) geomagnetic storm is expected to hit Earth. This is a result of a coronal mass ejection (CME) from the Sun."

5. Which of Jupiter's moons was featured as the Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD) on September 1?

- a) Io
- b) Europa
- c) Ganymede
- d) Callisto

Answer: d) Callisto





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The provided information notes that the APOD for September 1, 2025, features "Callisto, one of Jupiter's largest moons."

6. The ESA's JUICE probe completed a flyby of which planet on its way to the Jupiter system?

- a) Mars
- b) Venus
- c) Mercury
- d) Earth

Answer: b) Venus

The text states that the JUICE mission "recently completed a flyby of Venus."

7. What company launched a Falcon 9 rocket to deploy Starlink satellites?

- a) NASA
- b) ESA
- c) SpaceX
- d) Roscosmos

Answer: c) SpaceX

The news report mentions a "SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket successfully launched...deploying a new batch of Starlink broadband internet satellites."



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