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Space & Astronomy:

Planetary Events & Skywatching

Saturn at Opposition: The planet Saturn reaches opposition on September 21, making it its brightest and closest to Earth for the year. This is the best time for observers with a small telescope to view the planet and its rings. During opposition, Saturn rises as the sun sets and is visible throughout the night.

Partial Solar Eclipse: A partial solar eclipse is set to occur on September 21, visible primarily in the Southern Hemisphere, including parts of Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, and various Pacific Islands. Due to time zone differences, it will be an overnight event for many in the Northern Hemisphere, including India, making it invisible to them.

Asteroid Flyby: Asteroid 2025 QV9, a 100-foot-wide near-Earth object, made a close flyby on September 10, passing about 1.25 million miles from Earth. Although it posed no threat, the event highlighted the importance of global asteroid monitoring efforts.

Planetary Transits: On September 20, observers in the Eastern time zone could witness a rare transit of Saturn's moon Titan and its shadow across the planet's disk.

Space Missions & Launches

SpaceX Starlink: SpaceX launched a batch of 24 Starlink satellites on a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California on September 19. This was the 84th mission supporting SpaceX's megaconstellation in 2025.

NASA & Space Weather: NASA, along with NOAA, is preparing to launch three new space weather missions: the Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP), the Space Weather Follow On - Lagrange 1 (SWFO-L1), and the Carruthers Geocorona Observatory. The missions are set to launch no earlier than September 23.

Other Developments

AIFF Constitution: The Supreme Court has approved the All India Football Federation (AIFF) draft constitution, with some modifications.

Forex Reserves: India's forex reserves have increased to \$702.9 billion, marking a third consecutive weekly increase.

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- c) Eastern Hemisphere, including Asia and Africa.
d) Western Hemisphere, including South America.

Answer: b) Southern Hemisphere, including Australia and New Zealand.

The partial solar eclipse is set to be visible primarily in the Southern Hemisphere, which includes parts of Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, and various Pacific Islands.

3: What was the name of the near-Earth asteroid that made a close flyby on September 10?

- a) Asteroid 2025 QV9
b) Asteroid 2025 QS8
c) Asteroid 2025 QV8
d) Asteroid 2025 QX9

Answer: a) Asteroid 2025 QV9.

The prompt specifies that the asteroid that made a close flyby on September 10 was named Asteroid 2025 QV9.

MCQS

1: When does Saturn reach its opposition, making it the best time for observers to view it?

- a) September 20
b) September 21
c) September 22
d) September 23

Answer: b) September 21.

The prompt states that the planet Saturn reaches opposition on September 21, which is the best time for observers to view it as it will be at its brightest and closest to Earth for the year.

2: In which regions will the partial solar eclipse on September 21 be primarily visible?

- a) Northern Hemisphere, including Europe and North America.
b) Southern Hemisphere, including Australia and New Zealand.

4: How many Starlink satellites were launched by SpaceX on September 19?

- a) 20
b) 22
c) 24
d) 25

Answer: c) 24.

The prompt mentions that SpaceX launched a batch of 24 Starlink satellites on a Falcon 9 rocket.

5: Which three new space weather missions are NASA and NOAA preparing to launch?

- a) Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP), Juno, and Solar Orbiter.
b) Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP), Space Weather Follow On - Lagrange 1





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(SWFO-L1), and the Carruthers Geocorona Observatory.

c) James Webb Space Telescope, Hubble, and Spitzer.

d) Parker Solar Probe, Voyager 1, and Voyager 2.

Answer: b) Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP), Space Weather Follow On - Lagrange 1 (SWFO-L1), and the Carruthers Geocorona Observatory.

NASA and NOAA are preparing to launch the three space weather missions: IMAP, SWFO-L1, and the Carruthers Geocorona Observatory, as stated in the prompt.



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