

Islamic Era begins: Muhammad and his followers begin migration from Mecca to Medina (Hijra)

Public debate between Martin Luther and theologian Johann Eck at Pleissenburg Castle in Leipzig, during which Luther denies the divine right of the Pope



La Paz, Bolivia declares its independence from the Spanish Crown and forms the Junta Tupiza led by Pedro Domingo Murillo, the first independent government in Spanish America

Adolf Hitler orders preparations for the invasion of Britain (Operation Sealion)

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Join the nation in welcoming Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as he returns to Earth from his historic mission to Space. As India's first astronaut to have visited International Space Station, he has inspired a billion dreams through his dedication, courage and pioneering spirit. It marks another milestone towards our own Human Space Flight Mission - Gaganyaan.

@narendramodi

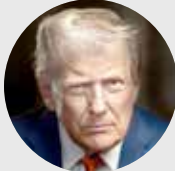
02



The Sustainable Development Goals Report is a call to action – together, we can build the sustainable future everyone everywhere deserves. But only 35% of the #GlobalGoals targets are on track. Progress is still possible, but we must act with urgency, unity & unwavering resolve.

@antonioguterres

03



The United States of America has been ripped off on TRADE (and MILITARY!), by friend and foe, alike, for DECADES. It has come at a cost of TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS, and it is just not sustainable any longer - And never was!

@POTUS

04



Splashdown of Dragon confirmed – welcome back to Earth, @AstroPeggy, Shux, @astro\_slawosz, and Tibi!

@SpaceX

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)

# Astronauts on SpaceX capsule return to Earth

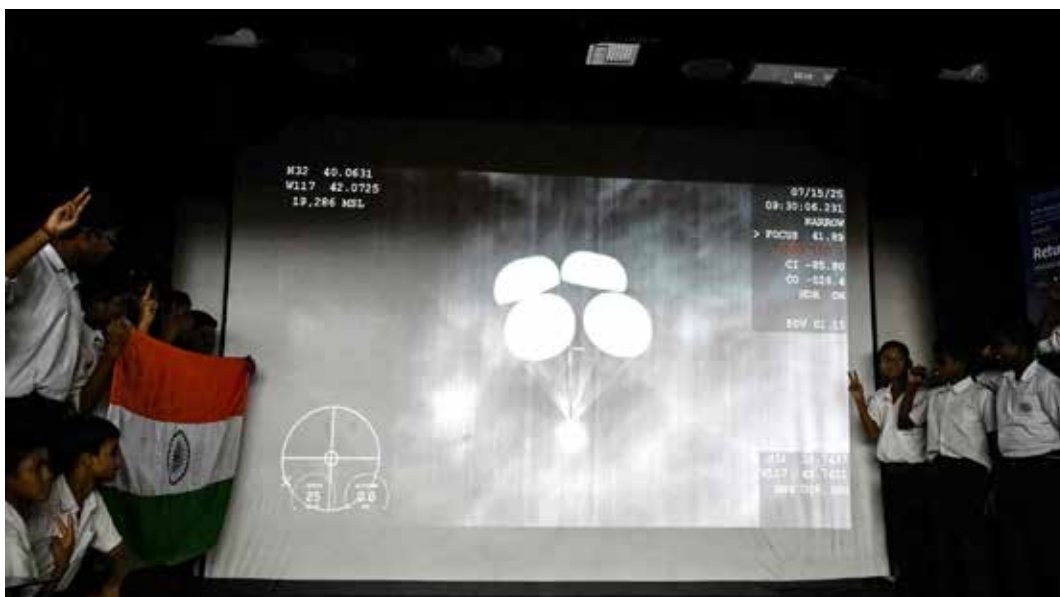
Ax-4 crew undocked from the International Space Station at 7:15 am EST on Monday

● Aboard were pilot Shubhanshu Shukla of India and mission specialists Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland and Tibor Kapu of Hungary

● Shukla held a video call with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

● SpaceX's second crew recovery in the Pacific Ocean

AFP | Washington, United States



School students watch a live stream of the SpaceX capsule returning to Earth from the International Space Station, at a science museum in Kolkata

A SpaceX capsule carrying astronauts from India, Poland, Hungary and the United States splashed down off the California coast yesterday, completing Axiom Mission 4 and capping 20 days in space.

The Ax-4 crew undocked from the International Space Station at 7:15 am EST on Monday (1115 GMT) for a 22.5-hour journey,

landing in the Pacific Ocean at around 5:31 am EST (0931 GMT) on Tuesday.

The capsule performed its de-orbit burn before descending toward Earth, deploying drogue and main parachutes ahead of splashdown.

"Thanks for the great ride. ... happy to be back," Command-

er Peggy Whitson, an Axiom employee and former NASA astronaut, said after the splashdown in the Pacific Ocean off San Diego.

Also aboard were pilot Shubhanshu Shukla of India and mission specialists Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland and Tibor Kapu of Hungary.

Axiom Space is a private company that organizes missions to the International Space Station, flying both wealthy individuals and, as in this case, astronauts sponsored by their governments.

For the non-American trio, the mission marked a return to crewed spaceflight for their respective nations after decades-long absences.

They launched from Kennedy Space Center on June 25 for what turned out to be a two-and-a-half-week mission, during which they conducted around 60 scientific experiments.

For rising space power India, the flight served as a key stepping stone toward its first independent crewed mission, scheduled for 2027 under the Gaganyaan ("sky craft") program.

Shukla held a video call with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in what was widely viewed as a significant soft power moment. He recounted sharing the sweet dish gajar ka halwa with his crewmates aboard the station.

This will be only SpaceX's second crew recovery in the Pacific Ocean.

The first occurred in April with the return of the Fram-2 mission. SpaceX has since shifted permanently to West Coast splashdowns, citing incidents where debris from Dragon's trunk survived atmospheric reentry and crashed back to Earth.

## Two men who chopped down iconic UK tree handed jail sentences

● Graham and Carruthers each received a sentence of four years and three months.

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Two men found guilty of the "mindless" and "deliberate" felling of one of the UK's most iconic trees, which sparked national outrage, were yesterday jailed for more than four years.

A jury at Newcastle Crown Court found former friends Daniel Graham, 39, and Adam Carruthers, 32, guilty in May of criminal damage for the 2023 felling of the tree at Sycamore Gap.

Sentencing the pair at the same court, Judge Christina Lambert said their actions had involved a "high degree of planning and preparation" and caused widespread "shock and bewilderment".

For those who lived in the county the tree had become "a landmark, a symbol of the beauty of its untamed landscape", she said.

Graham and Carruthers each received a sentence of four years and three months.

Both men were convicted on two counts of criminal damage



The Sycamore Gap tree along Hadrian's Wall near Hexham, northern England



Daniel Graham (L) and Adam Carruthers

to the sycamore and to the Roman wall, which was damaged when the tree fell on it.

"This iconic tree can never be replaced... it belonged to the people. It was totemic," said Andrew Poad, a manager with the National Trust conservation charity, in a victim impact statement read to the court.

He said the felling was "be-

yond comprehension" and had caused "an overwhelming sense of loss and confusion".

### 'Moronic mission'

The pair drove to the site near Hexham in Graham's Range Rover and felled the tree on the night of September 27, 2023, slicing through the trunk with a chainsaw in "a matter of minutes", prosecutor Richard Wright told an earlier hearing.

"Having completed their moronic mission, the pair got back into the Range Rover and travelled back towards Carlisle", where they lived, he added.

The pair were jointly charged with causing £622,191 (\$832,821) of criminal damage to the tree and £1,144 of damage to Hadrian's Wall, an ancient



The felled Sycamore Gap tree

Roman fortification stretching from northwest to northeast England.



It had stood for nearly 200 years next to Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage site in northern England. The tree was so striking that it featured in the 1991 Hollywood film "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves".

## Indonesia police detain 12 suspects over baby trafficking ring

AFP | Bandung, Indonesia

Indonesian authorities have detained 12 suspects after uncovering an alleged baby trafficking ring that sent more than a dozen infants to Singapore, a police official told AFP yesterday.

The case was discovered after a parent reported an alleged baby kidnapping to police, which led them to a suspect who admitted to trading 24 infants, said West Java police's director of general criminal investigation, Surawan, who goes by one name.

The perpetrators are accused of moving the babies to Pontianak city on Borneo island and then sending more than a dozen of them onwards to Singapore, said the official.

"Based on documents, 14 (babies) were sent to Singapore," he said.

"The age range is clearly under one year old, with some three months old, five months old, and six months old." Authorities managed to rescue five babies in Pontianak and one in Tangerang, a city near the Indonesian capital Jakarta.