

NASA Set To Launch SpaceX Crew-2 Mission on April 22 with 4 Astronauts onboard



The US space agency NASA has planned to launch its **SpaceX Crew-2 mission** to the International Space Station on April 22, 2021 from Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The Crew-2 mission will have **four astronauts** on board **SpaceX Crew Dragon**. They will include **Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur** of NASA, who will serve as

the mission's spacecraft commander and pilot, respectively. Apart from this, JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) astronaut **Akihiko Hoshide** and ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut **Thomas Pesquet**, will serve as mission specialists to the space station. This mission is the **second of the six certified, crew missions of NASA**, and SpaceX, as a part of the Commercial Crew Programme of NASA. The Crew-2 astronauts will remain aboard the space station for approximately six months as expedition crew members, along with three crewmates who will launch via a Russian Soyuz spacecraft.

NASA Awards \$2.9 billion contract to SpaceX to build commercial moon lander



The United States space agency **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has picked **Elon Musk's SpaceX** for its **Artemis programme**, to develop the first commercial lander and take the next **two US astronauts** to the moon. The total value of this contract is **\$2.89 billion**. Under this contract SpaceX

will develop a spacecraft 'SpaceX Starship' to land next two US astronauts, including a women astronaut at the lunar south pole region, by **2024**. NASA also aims to bring the first person of colour to the moon's surface as part of the Artemis programme. Between 1969 and 1972, the US brought 12 astronauts to the moon.

8th India-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' Begins at Bishkek

The **8th India-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar'** was inaugurated at Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of Kyrgyz Republic in **Bishkek**, on April 16, 2021. The two-week long exercise focuses on high-altitude, mountains and counter-extremism.

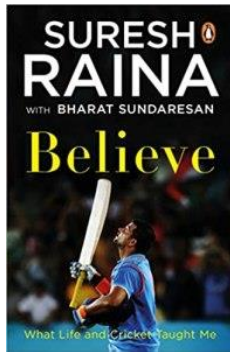
-
-

Cross & Climb, Rohtak

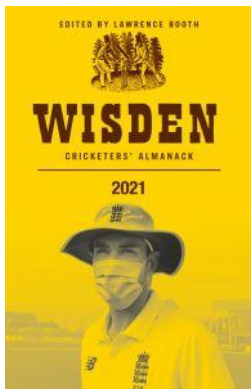


The exercise is being held between Special forces of India and Kyrgyzstan since 2011, to take forward the strategic partnership between India and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Suresh Raina's Autobiography 'Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me' to Release in May 2021



The much-awaited autobiography of **Suresh Raina**, titled '*Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me*', is set to hit the bookstands in May 2021. The memoir has been co-authored by Raina and sports author **Bharat Sundaresan**. It will be published by the prestigious publishing house, **Penguin India**. In this book, Suresh Raina talks about the story of his early days as a budding cricketer in UP, and the challenges he faced as a young cricketer as well as the hardships that he encountered on the way to becoming a record-breaking batsman.



2021 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack

The 2021 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, was published on April 15, 2021. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first One-Day International, Wisden has named **five ODI cricketers of the decade in 2021** edition. One cricketer has been named for each of the decades between 1971 and 2021. These are listed below:

Viv Richards – 1970s

Kapil Dev – 1980s

Sachin Tendulkar – 1990s

Muttiah Muralitharan – 2000s

Virat Kohli – 2010s

Leading Male Cricketer in the World – England's **Ben Stokes**

Leading Women's Cricketer in the World – Australia's **Beth Mooney**

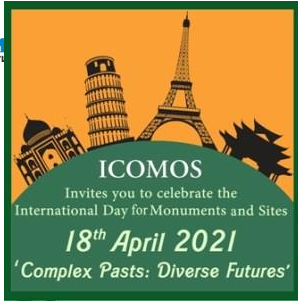
Wisden Cricketers of the Year 2021 – **Jason Holder, Mohammed Rizwan, Dom Sibley, Zak Crawley, and Darren Stevens**

Leading T20 Cricketer in the World – West Indies' **Kieron Pollard**

International Day For Monuments and Sites: 18 April

The **International Day for Monuments and Sites (World Heritage Day)** is observed on **18 April** each year to promote awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage of humanity, their vulnerability and the efforts required for their protection and conservation.

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



The International Day for Monuments and Sites was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on 18 April 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.

Theme 2021- **Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures.**