

THE FIRST AND THE LASTS

First Visitors, Invaders, Heads of State, Expeditions, Sports, Etc.,

First British Governor - General of the new Dominion of India	: Lord Mountbatten	First person to conquer Mount Everest	: Serpa Tenzing and Hillary
First and the Last Indian Governor - General of Free India	: C. Rajagopalachari	First man who climbed Mount Everest (twice)	: Nawang Gombu
Last Governor-General of India who also became the first Viceroy of India	: Lord Canning	First woman who climbed Mount Everest	: Mrs. Junko Tabei, Japan
Last Viceroy of India	: Lord Mountbatten	First Indian to swim across the English Channel	: (Men) Mihir Sen, (Women) Mrs. Arati Gupta (Prodigy) Kutraleeswaran, Chennai.
First British Governor-General in India	: Warren Hastings	First woman to sail non-stop around the world, alone	: Kay Cottee
First Commander-in-Chief of free India	: General Cariappa	First Woman to reach the North Pole	: Ann Bancroff
Tenth and the last Guru of the Sikhs	: Guru Gobind Singh	First Indian woman to scale Mount Everest	: Bachendri Pal
First Chinese pilgrim to visit India	: Fa-Hein	First person to reach the South Pole	: Amundsen
First European to visit China	: Marco Polo	First woman to walk in space	: Svetlana Savitskaya space (Russia)
First European invader on Indian soil	: Alexander the Great	First person in the world to land on the moon	: Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr of USA
First U.S.A. President to visit India	: D. Eisenhower	First woman cosmanaut of the world	: Valentina Tereskhova, the Russian
First Russian Prime Minister to visit India	: V.I. Bulganin	First country to launch a cosmic space rocket towards moon	: Russia
First British Prime Minister to visit India	: Harold Macmillan	First Chief Justice of a High Court	: Justice H.L. Kania (Men), Ms. Leila Seth (Women)
First President of the USA	: George Washington	First Judge, First Judge of a High Court	: Justice Syed Mehmood (Men), Anna Chandi
First President of the Chinese Republic	: Sun Yat-Sen (1912)	First Judge of Supreme Court	: Camelia Sorabji
First Prime Minister of Great Britain	: Robert Walpole	First Magistrate	: Mrs. Omana Kunjamma
First Women Prime Minister (twice) of a Country in the World	: Mrs. S. Bandaranaike (Sri Lanka)	First Indian to become President of International Court of Justice	: Dr. Nagendra Singh
First India's Spaceman	: Sqn. Ldr. Rakesh Sharma	First Bar-at-Law	: J.M. Tagore
First Indian to scale Mount Everest	: Phu Dorjee	First Woman Foreign Secretary	: Chokila Iyer
First President of Indian Republic	: Dr. Rajendra Prasad	First Women Grandmaster (India)	: Ms. Vijayalakshmi Subburaman
First Woman Prime Minister of India	: Mrs. Indira Gandhi	First Indian Woman to win an Olympic Medal	: Karnam Malleswari
First Indian to win Nobel Prize	: Dr. Rabindranath Tagore	First Asian to claim Chess' World Title	: Viswanathan Anand
First President of Indian National Congress	: W.C. Bonerjee	First Indian Woman Air-Commodore	: Ms. P. Bandhobathyai

First Indian girl to win the British Junior Squash title	: Joshna Chinappa (17 yrs)	First Tolkie Film	: Alam Ara (1931)
First Indian Muslim Woman Mayor	: Aneesha Mirza (Ahmedabad)	First Test Tube Baby (Documented)	: Indira
First Test Tube Baby	: Louise Joy Brown	First Woman Minister of Indian Union	: Rajkumar Amrit Kaur
First Place where atom bomb was dropped	: Hiroshima	First Woman Chief Minister of State	: Sucheta Kriplani
First man to reach North Pole	: Robert Peary	First Woman Governor	: Sarojini Naidu
First man to climb Mount Everest	: Sherpa Sungau (Nepal)	First Woman President of Indian National Congress	: Dr. Annie Besant
First man to walk in space	: Alexi Leonov (USSR)	First Woman Speaker of a State Assembly	: Shanno Devi
First Governor General of Pakistan	: Mohammed Ali Jinnah	First Prime Minister of India	: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
First oldest man to scale Mount Everest	: Mario Curris	First Muslim President of Indian Union	: Dr. Zakir Hussain
First Commander-in-Chief of Free India	: General Roy Bucher	First Speaker of Lok Sabha	: G.V. Mavlankar
First Emperor of Moghul Dynasty	: Babar	First Woman Judge in Supreme Court	: Fathima Beevi
First Field Marshal of India	: S.H.F.J. Manekshaw	First Woman Chief Justice of a High Court	: Leela Seth
First Indian ICS Officer	: Satyendra Nath Tagore	First Indian Woman to go in space	: Kalpana Chawla
First Indian Member of Viceroy's Executive Council	: Sir S.P. Sinha	First Indian Woman Merchant Navy Officer	: Sonali Banerjee
First man to climb Mount Everest without Oxygen	: Phu Dorjee	First Dalit Speaker of the Lok Sabha	: G.M.C. Balayoki

COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT

POSTAL SERVICE IN INDIA

First Postal Service was started in	-	1837
First All-India Postal Stamp was issued	-	1854
First Postal Department was opened	-	1854
First Money Order was started in	-	1880
First Air-Mail Service was first operated at Allahabad & Nainital	-	1911
Total No. of Postal Zones	-	8
PINCODE was started in the year	-	1972

PINCODE ZONES AND THEIR JURISDICTION

Pincode Zone	Jurisdiction
Zone No.1	Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir
Zone No.2	Uttar Pradesh
Zone No.3	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli
Zone No.4	Maharashtra, Goa & Madhya Pradesh
Zone No.5	Andra Pradesh and Karnataka
Zone No.6	Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Lakshadweep
Zone No.7	West Bengal, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Andaman & Nicobar Islands
Zone No.8	Bihar

TELECOMMUNICATION

First Telephone line was started between Kolkata and Diamond Harbour	-	1851
First Telephone service was started at Kolkata	-	1881
First Telephone exchange was opened at Kolkata with 50 lines	-	1881
First International Telephone line was started between Mumbai and London	-	1870
First Automatic Telephone exchange in Simla was opened at	-	1913
Post and Telecommunication started	-	1984
Total Post Offices (2000)	-	1,55,000
Quick Mail Service was started in	-	1975
Speed Post was started in	-	1986
E-Post was started in	-	2002

INDIAN RAILWAYS

The Indian Railways system is the largest in Asia and third in the world after U.S., and Canada, it is the biggest employer in the world and largest public sector undertaking in India and it has the second biggest electrified system in the world after Russia. On April 16, 1853 first train in India was opened between Bombay and

Thana covering a distance of 34 km. Shatabdi Express is the latest super-fast train introduced in the Indian Railways. Deccan Queen is the first Electric train introduced in 1929. Life Line Express or Jeevan Rekha is the world's first hospital on wheels opened in Mumbai on 16th July 1991 to cater the medical needs of people in rural areas. For every financial year Railway Budget is presented by the Union Railway Minister in the Parliament.

Rail Tracks :

Type	Distance between rails
(a) Metre Gauge	1.00 metre
(b) Broad Gauge	1.69 metre
(c) Narrow Gauge	0.77 metres

Railway Zones :

There are nine zones in Indian Railways :

Zones	Opened on	Headquarters
1. Central Railway	Nov. 05, 1958	Mumbai
2. Eastern Railway	Aug. 01, 1955	Kolkata
3. Northern Railway	April 14, 1952	New Delhi
4. North-Eastern Railway	April 14, 1952	Gorakpur
5. North-East Frontier	Jan. 15, 1958	Maligaon, Guwahati
6. Southern Railway	April 14, 1951	Chennai
7. South-Central	Oct. 02, 1966	Secunderabad
8. South-Eastern	Aug. 01, 1955	Kolkata
9. Western Railway	Nov. 05, 1955	Mumbai (Church Gate)

The following seven additional zonal offices were created out of existing zones.

New Zones	Opened on	Headquarters
1. East-Coast Railway	Aug. 08, 1996	Bhubaneswar
2. North-Central Railway	Aug. 28, 1996	Allahabad
3. East-Central Railway	Sep. 08, 1996	Hajipur
4. North-Western Railway	Oct. 10, 1996	Jaipur
5. South-Western Railway	Nov. 01, 1996	Bangalore
6. West-Central Railway	Dec. 12, 1996	Jabalpur
7. South-East Central Rly.	Sep. 09, 1998	Bilaspur

Railway Manufacturing Units :

Estd in	Name	Location	Items manufactured
1950	Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	Chittaranjan	Locomotives
1955	Integral Coach Factory	Perambur	Coaches
1964	Diesel Locomotive Works	Varanasi	Locomotives
1983	Wheel & Axle Plant Diesel Component Works	Yelahanka Patiala	Wheels & axes Components of diesel engines
1988	Rail Coach Factory	Kapurthala	Coaches, wagons & spl. containers

ROADWAYS

Road Network : With a network of 2.7 million kilometres of road length, India has the Third largest road network in the world. From a road length of about 4 lakh kilometres in 1950-51. The road network has expanded nearly Seven-Fold.

National Highways : The National Highway System is the primary road grid of the Country. The construction and maintenance of National Highways is the direct responsibility of the Central Government. National Highways have a total length of 34,258 kilometres. National Highways carry nearly 40% of the total traffic.

Highways Authority : The main task of the authority is to takeover in a phased manner, the construction, maintenance and operation of the national highways. Before the constitution of the authority the maintenance of the roads was done by the State PWDs.

Twelve of the principal highways are :

1. Delhi-Amritsar
2. Delhi-Kolkanda
3. Agra-Mumbai
4. Jalandhar-Srinagar-Uri
5. Delhi-Ahmedabad-Mumbai
6. Chandigarh-Manali
7. Ambala-Shimla-Tibet
8. Jorhat-Shillong-Bangladesh
9. Manali-Leh
10. Pathankot-Mandi
11. Cochin-Madurai
12. Beawar-Sirohi-Kandla.

AIR TRANSPORT

The International Airport Authority of India (IAAI) was set up in 1972 manages the international airports. J.R.D. Tata was the first to make a solo flight from Mumbai to Karachi, (Now in Pakistan) in 1931.

Following are the important International Airports :

1. Anna International Airport, Chennai.
2. Jawaharlal Nehru Airport (Santa-Cruz), Mumbai.
3. Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi.
4. Subash Chandra Bose Airport (Dum-Dum) at Kolkata.
5. Rajasansi Airport at Amritsar, Punjab.

The National Airport Authority manages 88 domestic aerodromes and nearly 28 civil enclaves in which 23 are classified as major airport, 43 minor and 22 as intermediate airports.

Following are some of the Inland Aerodromes :

1. Kamaraj Domestic-Chennai
2. Safdarganj-New Delhi
3. Juhu-Mumbai
4. Begumpet-Hyderabad
5. Thiruvananthapuram-.Kerala

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Supreme Commander - President of India
Administrative control - Ministry of Defence

ARMY : is headed by the Chief of Army Staff and its headquarters is at New Delhi.

India's Battle Tanks: (1) Vijayanta battle tank; (2) Arjun : Indigenously built Main Battle Tank (MBT) inducted in 1993; (3) T-55 and T-72 purchased from Russia.

AIR FORCE : is headed by the Chief of Air Staff and its headquarters is at New Delhi.

Aircrafts : MIG-29 aircraft were acquired from Russia and have been named *Baaz*. MIG-23, MIG-25 and MIG-27 are the other types of MIG aircrafts. MIG-21 is being manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to serve as jet training aircraft.

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a Pilotless Target Aircraft which has been named *Lakshya*.

India also acquired the *Mirage-2000* from France, which has been named Vajra.

NAVY : is headed by the Chief of Naval Staff and its headquarters is at New Delhi.

No. of Fleets: (a) Western Fleet (b) Eastern Fleet

Aircraft Carriers:

- (a) INS Vikrant: India's first aircraft carrier
- (b) INS Viraat : India's largest aircraft carrier

IMPORTANT SUBMARINES/MISSILE BOATS/WAR SHIPS

- (a) INS Vibhuti: Country's first indigenously built missile boat.
- (b) INS Chakra : India's first nuclear powered submarine. It has now been decommissioned and returned to Russia.
- (c) INS Vipul : Second indigenously built missile boat.
- (d) INS Savitri: India's first warship.
- (e) INS Shalki : India's first indigenously built submarine.
- (f) INS Delhi : India's largest, most sophisticated, indigenously built warship.
- (g) INS Nashak : Third indigenously built missile boat joined the Navy in 1994.

INDIA'S MISSILE PROGRAMME

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has started India's Integrated Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) in 1982-1983 under the chairmanship of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. viz.

Prithvi : is a Surface-to-surface battlefield missile and has a range of 150km-250km. It was first launched on February 25, 1988 from Rocket Launching Centre, Sriharikota. It was successfully test fired from the Interim Test Range at Chandipur-on-sea, March 27, 2003.

Agni : is a Surface-to-surface ballistic missile. It has a range of 1200km-2000km. On May 22, 1989 it was first launched from Chandipur (Orissa).

Agni-1 : was successfully test fired from the launch complex at the Wheeler's island located in the Bay of Bengal of the Orissa coast.

Trishul : is a low-level and quick reaction surface-to-surface missile and has a range of 500 m to 9 km (short range). It is developed for all the three defence services namely army, navy and air force. It was first launched in 1985.

Nag : is a Anti-tank guided missile. Its range is 4 km. Its first test flight was made in 1988.

Anti-Missile System : India has embarked upon the development of an anti-missile system capable of detecting and destroying enemy's long-range missiles similar to the US made 'Patriot' which was effectively used against Iraqi scud missiles in the 1991 gulf war.

Nag Fire and Target System : Indian defence Scientists, in a technological breakthrough, have successfully tested the "fire and forget guidance system" using imaging infra-red seeker for mounting on Nag, making it the first third generation anti-tank missile in the world.

Akash : Akash was successfully test fired from Chandipur-on-Sea, in Balasore district, Orissa on September 19, 2000. It is a medium range surface-to air missile. It has a range of 25 km. It was again successfully test fired on January 21, 2003.

BrahMos : The supersonic anti-ship cruise missile BrahMos, jointly developed by India and Russia, was successfully test fired for the 2nd time in February 12, 2003. For the first time missile was the test fired from the ship (INS-Rajput) stationed in the Bay of Bengal.

The Arjun Tank : The state of the art flagship of Indian armour and can move in a battlefield at 72 kmph. It has laser range finder, computer-based firing system, 12.7 mm machine gun and thermal sighting equipment.

Pinaka : Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket system characterised by the capability to deliver saturation fire over targets not engagable by guns. It has a range of 40 km and can deliver a variety of warheads.

LCA : LCA is an eight tonne state of the art multi-role combat aircraft. It would be capable of engaging air battle in a 600 km combat zone. It would carry laser-guided bombs, IR and radar guided missiles, anti-ship missiles, cluster bomb dispensers etc.

INDIA'S ATOMIC RESEARCH

First Nuclear Implosion was carried out on May 18, 1974 at Pokhran in Rajasthan (Thar) desert. The main objective was the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, i.e. digging canals, reservoirs, oil exploration, as well as to study rock dynamics. This successful implosion made India the sixth nuclear nation in the world. In Pokhran (Rajasthan) three tests were conducted on May 11, 1998 and two on May 13, 1998. Code named "Operation Shakti". India declared itself a nuclear weapon state capable of deterring a nuclear attack on its territory.

ATOMIC POWER PLANTS

Name	Location
1. Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS)	Tarapur (Maharashtra)
2. Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS)	Rawabhata
3. Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS)	Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu)
4. Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS)	Narora (Uttar Pradesh)
5. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPP)	Kakrapar (Gujarat)
6. Koodangulam Atomic Power Station (KNPP)	Koodangulam (Tamil Nadu)
7. Kaiga Power Project (KPP)	Kaiga (Karnataka)

Atomic Energy Commission: was established in 1948, with Dr H.J. Bhabha as its first Chairman, to look after India's atomic energy programmes.

Department of Atomic Energy (DAE): was set up in August 1954 for implementation of atomic energy programmes and headed by the Prime Minister of India. It has several centres/laboratories:

1. Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research: is located at Kalpakkam (Chennai), it was established in 1971.
2. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC): was established in 1957, it is located in Trombay (Maharashtra) and is India's largest atomic research centre.
3. Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT): is located at Indore, it was established in 1984.

NUCLEAR POWER PROJECTS

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPC), set up in 1987, is responsible for the design, construction and operation of nuclear power plants in the country. It is envisaged that by 2000 AD, India's atomic power generation would be in the vicinity of 10,000 MW.

INDIA'S SPACE PROGRAMME

The Indian Space Programme began in 1962. In 1969, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was set up with headquarters in Bangalore. The Space Commission was established in 1972. In 1975, India launched its first satellite, Aryabhata, and thus entered the space age.

SPACE MISSIONS :

Aryabhata : India launched its first experimental satellite on April 19, 1975 from a Soviet cosmodrome to perform scientific x-ray experiments in space and send back data to earth.

Bhaskara-I : India's second 436 kg satellite was launched on June 7, 1979 to collect information on India's land, water, forest and ocean resources.

SLV Mission (Satellite Launch Vehicle) : India's first satellite launch vehicle SLV-3 was successfully launched on July 18, 1980 from Sriharikota.

Rohini satellite was put into orbit on April 17, 1983 using SLV-3 and this completed the planned developmental flights of the SLV-3.

1984 : Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian to travel in space.

ASLV : First developmental launch of ASLV but unsuccessful.

Apple (Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment) : India's first experimental, geostationary satellite weighing 673 kg was launched on June 19, 1981.

Bhaskara-II : India's second satellite for earth observation was launched on November 20, 1981.

IRS Mission (Indian Remote Sensing Satellite) :

IRS-1A India's first IRS was launched on March 17, 1988 for monitoring and management of natural resources.

IRS-1B India's second remote sensing satellite was launched on August 29, 1991 to replace IRS-1A which was nearing the end of its life.

1992 : ASLV (Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle) successfully launched from Sriharikota on May 20. It is designed to augment indigenous satellite launching capability and put 150 kg class satellite into near earth orbit. Insat-2A was hurled into space from Kourou on July 10.

1993 : Insat-2B second indigenously fabricated multipurpose satellite placed in space, by Ariane rocket from Kourou on July 23.

IRSIC : The world's most advanced remote sensing satellite, IRS-1C, built by Indian Scientists, was put into orbit successfully by a Russian rocket from the Baikonur cosmodrome on December 28, 1995.

ASLV is the forerunner of the more powerful Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV). The first development flight of the PSLV, called PSLV-D1, on September 20, 1993, failed. However, according to ISRO it was a partial success which established India's capabilities in liquid propulsion system.

SROSS-III (Stretched Rohini Satellite Series) : After failure of two ASLV launches, SROSS-III, a 105 kg satellite was successfully placed in a 450 km high orbit via the launching of ASLV-D3, on May 20, 1992 though the lifespan of the satellite was only 55 days. The fourth development flight was made on May 4, 1994 and SROSS-C4 was successfully placed into the near earth orbits from Sriharikota.

PSLV-D3 was successfully launched in 1996 from Sriharikota, placing the 922-kg. Indian remote sensing satellite, IRS-P3, into orbit. With this, India has entered the US-dominated global market for satellite launch vehicles.

INSAT Mission (Indian National Satellite System) : For domestic telecommunication, earth observation and nationwide radio and TV broadcasting, India launched four satellites in the INSAT-1 series, viz.

- INSAT-1A On April 10, 1982-it failed prematurely.
 INSAT-1B On August 30, 1983-it was successful.
 INSAT-1C On July 22, 1988-it became redundant in 1989.
 INSAT-1D On July 17, 1990-it was successful and completed the mission.

INSAT-2 Project :

INSAT-2A India's first indigenously built second generation satellite, it was launched on July 10, 1992. It is equipped with 50 per cent more capacity than the INSAT-I series.

INSAT-2B India's second indigenously built satellite. It was launched by the European Space Agency from Kourou, French Guiana on July 23, 1993. INSAT-2B has taken the place of INSAT-1B whose functioning ended following the completion of its ten-year life. The fourth development flight of ASLV-4 was made on May 4, 1994 and the SROSS-C4 was successfully placed into the near earth orbit from Sriharikota.

Insat-2D launched Ariane Rocket from Kourou on June 4, 1997 only four months later failed - disrupted communication had been abandoned in October 97 after efforts to solve the satellite.

IRS-1D satellite launched in 1997 incorporate advanced features such as the LISS-III camera, a Panchromatic Camera (PAN) and a wide field (wifs) enabling better spectral resolutions - enhancing the application potential of the satellite.

PSLV-D4 placed IRS-1D in orbit on October 7, 1997. The first developmental launch of the GSLV was scheduled in 1997-98, using a Russian Cryogenic Engine.

Insat-2E : Satellite was placed in space on April 3, 1999. PSLVC2 was launched on May 26 with 3 satellites on board.

Insat-3B was launched on March 22, 2000.

ISRO Launched Cryogenic Engine : On February 16, 2000, the first cryogenic engine was ignited at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.

GSLV-D1 : This was successfully launched on April 18, 2001 from Sriharikota.

PSLV-C3 : This was launched from Sriharikota on October 22, 2001. Three satellites were put into the orbit of the earth namely (a) TES (India); (b) BIRD (Germany); (c) PROBA (Belgium).

INSAT-3C : ISRO built Satellite was launched by ARIANE-4 from Kourou, French Guyana on January 24, 2002.

KALPANA-1 : To honour the memory of Kalpana Chawla, Prime Minister Mr. Vajpayee renamed METSAT, India's first meteorological research satellite launched by ISRO on September 22, 2002.

GSAT-2 : The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched India's second Geo-Stationary Satellite (GSAT-2) on May 8, 2003, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre - SHAR (SDSC - SHAR) at Sriharikota, 100 kms from Chennai.

FIRST MOON WALKERS

Astronaut/Spacecraft	Total Eva.* Hr. Min	Mission Dates
1. Neil A. Armstrong, Apollo-11	2:32	Jul. 16-24, 1969
2. Edwin E. ("Buzz") Aldrin; Apollo-11	2:15	Jul. 16-24, 1969
3. Charles Conrad, Jr., Apollo-12	7:45	Nov. 14-24, 1969
4. Allan L. Bean, Apollo-12	7:45	Nov. 14-24, 1969
5. Alan B. Shepard, Apollo-14	9:23	Jan. 31 - Feb. 9, 1971
6. Edgar D. Mitchell, Apollo-14	9:23	Jan. 31 - Feb. 9, 1971
7. David R. Scott, Apollo-15	19:08	July 26 - Aug. 7, 1971
8. James B. Irwin, Apollo-15	18:35	July 26 - Aug. 7, 1971
9. John W. Young, Apollo-16	20:14	Apr. 16-27, 1972
10. Charles M. Duke, Apollo-16	20:14	Apr. 16-27, 1972

* Extra Vehicular activity

Kalpana Chawla

The girl from Karnal in Haryana is the First Indian or Indian American woman to go on a space launch (November 19, 1997) as Mission Specialist of 6 member crew on the fourth US microgravity payload flight on board Columbia on Mission "STS-87" to study the outer atmosphere of Sun.

She took up on her second voyage on January 16, 2003, the US space shuttle, Columbia blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral (USA) on a 16 day scientific research mission led by commander Rick Husband. All the seven members were killed when the space shuttle exploded mid-air minutes before landing on 1.2.2003.

Their main intention was to develop medicines to treat several diseases including cancer.