

BRICS Space Race Heats Up: July Missions, Asteroid Encounters & Lunar Am

Space Exploration · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which BRICS nation's Tianwen-2 spacecraft is scheduled for a close encounter with the near-Earth asteroid Kamo'oalewa in July 2026?

- A) India
- B) Russia
- C) China**
- D) South Africa

2. In July 2026, a Soyuz spacecraft mission (Soyuz MS-29) is slated to launch, carrying cosmonauts to the International Space Station. Which BRICS nation's space agency, Roscosmos, is responsible for this mission?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Brazil
- D) Russia**

3. The 3rd India Space Policy Conference is scheduled for July 22-23, 2026, in New Delhi. What is a key focus of this conference concerning India's satellite communications sector?

- A) Developing inter-BRICS satellite constellations
- B) Deliberations on spectrum frameworks, licensing, and direct-to-device (D2D) technologies**
- C) Planning for joint lunar missions with China
- D) Establishing a new spaceport in South Africa

4. Which BRICS nation is set to launch its first uncrewed orbital test flight, Gaganyaan-1, as part of its human spaceflight initiative in July 2026?

- A) China
- B) India**
- C) Russia
- D) Brazil

5. During July 2026, eight South African high school pupils are expected to travel to the United States to represent their country at the International Space Settlement Design Competition at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. This follows their qualification through South Africa's first national space settlement design competition held in March 2026. Which of the following is a primary focus of such competitions in relation to space exploration?

- A) Developing new launch vehicle technology
- B) Designing potential lunar or space settlements**
- C) Conducting deep-space astronomical observations
- D) Training astronauts for long-duration spaceflights

6. In July 2026, Russia plans to launch the Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft. What is a notable scientific objective for the crew aboard this mission to the International Space Station?

- A) To deploy a new constellation of Earth observation satellites
- B) To conduct over 40 scientific experiments, including installing equipment for predicting solar flares**
- C) To test a new reusable rocket engine for future lunar missions
- D) To establish communication links with a new Martian probe

7. China's Tianwen-2 mission is set to rendezvous with the asteroid Kamo'oalewa in July 2026. What is the primary scientific goal of this encounter?

- A) To detect signs of past microbial life on the asteroid
- B) To deploy a small rover for surface exploration
- C) To map the asteroid's composition and prepare for sample collection**
- D) To use the asteroid as a gravitational slingshot for a deeper space mission

8. India's GSLV Mk II rocket is scheduled for the GISAT-1A (EOS-05) mission in July 2026. What type of data will this Earth observing satellite primarily provide?

- A) High-resolution imagery of the Indian subcontinent for continuous observation**
- B) Detailed atmospheric data for weather forecasting
- C) Gravitational field measurements of the Earth
- D) Spectroscopic analysis of exoplanets