

THIS MONTH IN SCIENCE: MARCH

1 March

1998, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was awarded the highest civilian award "Bharat Ratna".



2 March

1972, Pioneer 10, the first spacecraft to pass through the asteroid belt and the first to make direct observations and obtain close-up images of Jupiter, was launched by NASA.



2004, "The Mars Exploration Rover - B (Opportunity)" finds evidence that water once existed on the Red Planet.



3 March

1847, Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, was born. His other famous inventions include the photophone, graphophone sound recorder and audiometer.



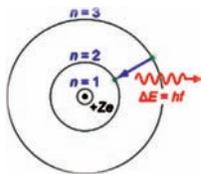
1969, Apollo 9, the third manned mission in the United States Apollo space program and the first flight of the Command Service Module (CSM) with the Lunar Module (LM), was launched.



6 March

1869, Dmitri Mendeleev published his first version of the periodic table of the elements.

1913, Neils Bohr presented "his first paper describing his new ideas on atomic structure" to his mentor, Ernest Rutherford.



1899, Aspirin, also known as acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), a medication often used to treat pain, fever, and inflammation was discovered by Felix Hoffmann.



1937, Valentina Tereshkova, Soviet cosmonaut who was the first woman to fly in space, and is the only solo woman, was born.



1953, James Watson and Francis Crick submitted to the journal *Nature* their first article on the "structure of DNA".



7 March

1876, Alexander Graham Bell patented an "Improvement in Telegraphy", which established the principle of the telephone (Patent # 174,465).



1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio telephone conversation took place, between New York City and London.

8 March

1618, Johannes Kepler formulated his "third Law of Planetary Motion".



9 March

1934, Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, Soviet cosmonaut and "the first man to travel into space", was born.



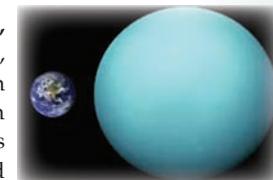
11 March

1960, Spacecraft "Pioneer V", the first in-depth attempts to study the solar system, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida



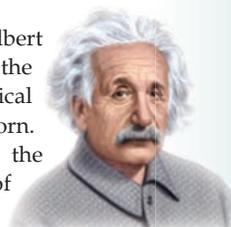
13 March

1781, "Uranus", the seventh planet from the Sun, was discovered by William Herschel. It has the third-largest planetary radius and fourth-largest planetary mass in the solar system and it was the first planet to be discovered with the aid of a telescope.



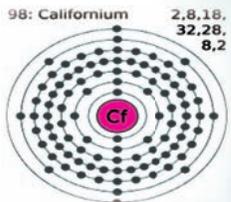
14 March

1879, Albert Einstein, the Famous theoretical physicist, was born. He developed the general theory of relativity, one of the two pillars of modern physics. Einstein's work is also known for its influence on the philosophy of science.



17 March

1950, "Californium", a radioactive metallic chemical element with symbol Cf and atomic number 98, was discovered at the University of California Radiation Laboratory in Berkeley.



1988, India's first operational Earth Observation satellite, "IRS - 1A" (Indian remote sensing satellite (IRS)), was launched into a 900 km polar orbit by NASA.



THIS MONTH IN SCIENCE

1995, the first chicken pox vaccine, *Varicella vaccine* (*Varivax*, Merck and Company) was licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (US FDA).



18 March

1987, the discovery of "high-temperature" superconductivity was announced to the American Physical Society in New York City.

20 March

1900, a patent for "System of wireless transmission of electrical energy" issued to Nikola Tesla (Patent # 645576)

1916, Albert Einstein's Theory of General Relativity was published in *Annalen der Physik* journal.

1934, the first successful test of a practical radar apparatus was made by Rudolf Kuhnold.

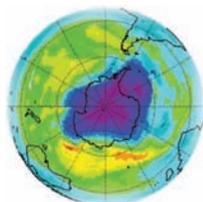
1987, First anti-HIV drug, "AZT", Azidothymidine, now renamed zidovudine, was approved by U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).



22 March

1960, the first laser was patented under the title "Masers and Maser Communications System" to Arthur Schawlow and Charles Hard Townes (Patent # 2,929,922).

1985, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was adopted and opened for signature.



23 March

1869, an electrical resistance heater was patented by Leigh Burton (Patent # 88,006).



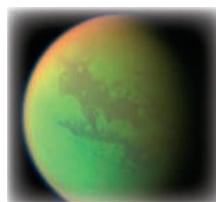
24 March

1882, the discovery that "the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis" was announced by German scientist Robert Koch declared to the Berlin Physiological Society.



25 March

1655, "Titan", Saturn's largest satellite, was discovered by Christiaan Huygens.



1914, Norman Ernest Borlaug, who has been called "the father of the Green Revolution", was born.



1989, First supercomputer in India "Cray XMP-14", was installed at the India Meteorological Department in New Delhi.



26 March

1845, a patent for an adhesive medicated plaster "Band-Aid" was issued to William H. Shegert.



1872, Thomas J. Martin was awarded a patent for the fire extinguisher (Patent # 125063).



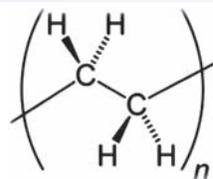
1953, Dr. Jonas Salk announced a new vaccine to immunize people against polio.



27 March

1855, a patent was issued for "Process for making kerosene" to Abraham Gesner.

1933, Polyethylene or polyethene, the most common plastic, was discovered by Reginald Gibson and Eric William Fawcett.



1998, Sildenafil citrate (marketed as Viagra; drug prescribed to treat impotence) was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

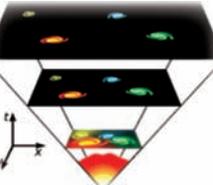


28 March

1797, a patent for "a washing machine" was issued to its inventor Nathaniel Briggs.



1949, Sir Fred Hoyle coined the term "Big Bang" (theory related to origin of the Universe) in a scripted radio broadcast on the BBC programme.



30 March

1950, the invention of the "phototransistor" was announced by its inventor Murray Hill in New Jersey. A phototransistor is a light-sensitive transistor that converts light energy into electric energy.



31 March

1966, Luna 10, the first human-made spacecraft to go into orbit around the Moon, was launched.



Compiled by Vijendra Kumar, Research Intern, National Science Library, CSIR-NISCAIR, SV Marg. Email: vkumarls@vmo.ac.in