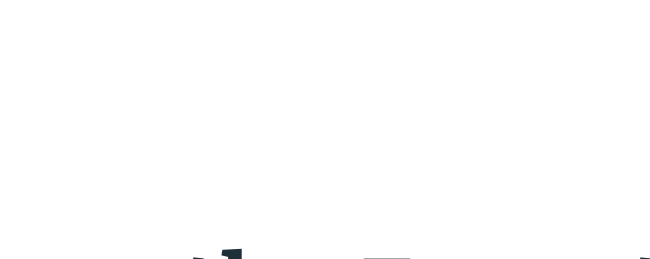


ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

March 2021 Bulletin
Image Credit: James Edgar, Regina Centre



Update from the Executive Director

The first few months of 2021 have quite frankly, flown by! Considering we've had a year of pandemic restrictions and lockdowns severely impacting our core business of outdoor observing, a lot is being accomplished as staff and volunteers find innovative ways to continue to serve RASC's community. Here's an update on recent happenings:

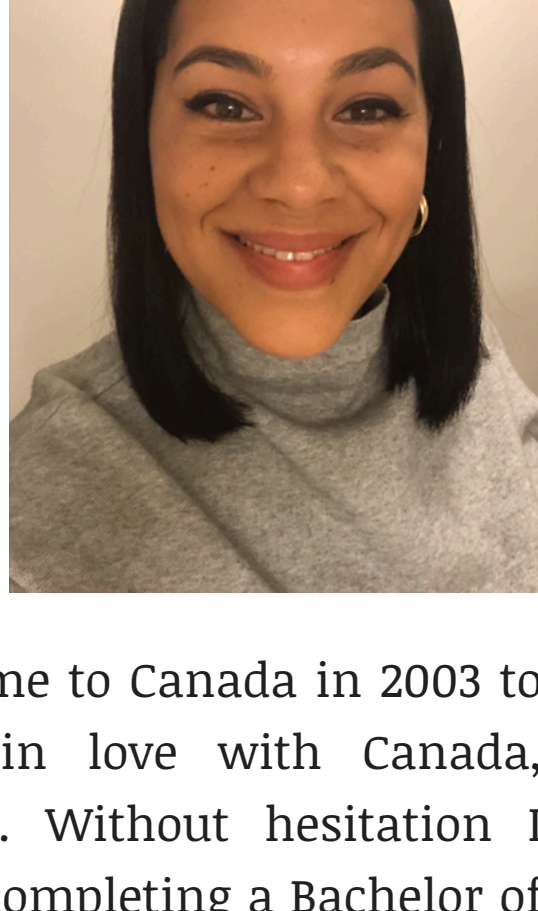
- As you'll read elsewhere in this issue, we're delighted to announce Renee Kuchler Drummond has been appointed Sales and Marketing Coordinator. Renee will bring her professional expertise to the publication and marketing portfolios to help expand circulation and increase awareness about the Society. Please welcome Renee as she connects with members across the country to learn more about our organization.
- Nick Hammar is providing support to the Light-Pollution Abatement Committee and their work with RASC's Dark Sky preserves including promotion of International Dark Sky Week April 5-12th. Nick is establishing National's first light-pollution database to serve volunteer and citizen efforts. Please contact Nick at nhammar@rasc.ca to share your LPA and DSP experiences.
- Online programming has greatly increased with a library of YouTube videos, tutorials and webinars available and new opportunities offered at [RASC Online](https://www.rasc.ca/online). In addition, members can download Robotic Telescope data and images and schools are being invited to access RT programming and educational materials.
- The publications department continues to grow with the 2021 Night Sky Almanac added to our library of stellar offerings including SkyNews, Observer's Handbook, Journal and Calendar.
- It's still a work in progress but National's annual audit appears to show a small amount of net proceeds after three years of deficits. Membership numbers are at their highest in our 153 year history with 5,207 members enrolled at the end of January.

These significant developments, growth and enhancements would not be possible without the generous financial support of individual members. If you have not yet contributed and are in a position to do so, please [Donate](#) to the Society. A charitable tax receipt will be issued and donors of \$100 and more are recognized in the annual report and on the website. If you would like to give monthly, make a gift of stocks or arrange your bequest, please contact Lisa Di Veto at ldiveto@rasc.ca. We're grateful for everyone's gift and on behalf of the board, staff and volunteers, thank you for being a member of the Society!

Clear Skies,
Philip Groff
Executive Director
phil@rasc.ca

New Staff Update

Renee Kuchler Drummond, Sales and Marketing Coordinator



Please join us in welcoming Renee to the RASC National team! Renee will be overseeing sales of RASC publications and merchandise and will be developing new advertising and promotional strategies for both SkyNews and RASC. She can be reached at renee@rasc.ca.

"Born and raised in sunny Bermuda, I came to Canada in 2003 to attend university. I immediately fell in love with Canada, Canadian culture and Canadian people. Without hesitation I decided to make Canada my home. After completing a Bachelor of Social Science, I then furthered my education and pursued another degree in Marketing, Advertising and Graphic Design. Throughout my career I have gained marketing experience in Toronto's aviation, technology, entertainment and financial industries. I am most passionate about identifying new trends within markets, creating dynamic campaigns and finding solutions to problems. I have a 3 year old son, Kameron, who is the light of my life. In our free time we enjoy baking and watching Spider Man movies. I am excited for the opportunity to help turn imaginative ideas into leading campaigns and deliver outstanding results for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada."

New RASC Fellows named!

The Awards Committee of the RASC is pleased to name three new Fellows of the RASC. This award is the highest honour of the society, and is given to members whose service to the Society has been exemplary and substantive for an extended period of time.

Roland Dechesne, Calgary Centre

Mr. Dechesne has been a member of the RASC since 1977 and has a long record of service at the national level and with the Calgary Centre. He has been involved in developing social media for both the Calgary Centre and the National RASC. At the National level, Mr. Dechesne served on National Council and as the longtime chair of the Membership and Membership & Development Committee. More recently, he became chair of the RASC Inclusivity and Diversity Committee. He has served three terms as Calgary Centre President, and won an RASC Service Award. Mr. Dechesne is also known as an active promoter of public outreach activities and for his work on Light-Pollution Abatement in southern Alberta. He was instrumental in having the Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area recognized by the RASC in 2015 as the very first Nocturnal Preserve in Canada

James Edgar, Regina Centre

As he was winding down a 40-year career with CN Rail around Western Canada, Mr. Edgar joined the RASC in 2000. A resident of Melville, Saskatchewan, Mr. Edgar didn't take long to make his presence felt at the national level when he became proofreader for the Journal of the RASC upon joining and for the Observer's Handbook in 2001. Four years later, he became Assistant Editor of the Handbook, and in 2016, he became the eighth editor of Handbook, a position he still holds today. In 2006, he became production manager of the Journal, another job he still carries out today. Mr. Edgar also served on National Council the RASC Board of Directors, two years as Recorder of National Council, National Secretary for seven years starting from 2007, and National President for two eventful years from 2014 through 2016. He already holds an RASC Service Award for his many contributions to the Society.

Michael Watson, National Member

Mr. Watson has been a highly active member of the RASC since he joined in May 1970. Before he became a National Member, Mr. Watson was a longtime active member of the Toronto Centre, and he has served the RASC at the national level in many capacities. He is currently serving as the Society's legal counsel and as Second Vice President for the second time as a member of the RASC Board of Directors. As chair of the Constitution Committee, he is continuing his work of improving the RASC's By-Laws and Policy Manual. He has also served as First Vice President and as the Society Treasurer, and he has been awarded the Society's Service Award, the Simon Newcomb Award and the President's Award. Mr. Watson is also known as an outstanding observer and astroimager. As part of his love of chasing eclipses, Mr. Watson has played a key role in organizing many Society eclipse expeditions to various parts of the world.

The Awards Committee has approved 10 Service Awards for 2021, and they will be announced soon.

Chris Gainer, Ph.D.
Chair, RASC Awards Committee

RASC Scholarship Announcement



The NextGen Post-Secondary Scholarship will be \$1000 CAD awarded to a student enrolled in full-time (minimum 9 credits) post-secondary studies in a space-related STEM field (this is inclusive to a wide range of majors, so long as your academic interests/career goals involve space). Students who apply must be citizens or permanent residents of Canada and be attending a post-secondary institution in Canada during the 2021-2022 academic year. Application requirements include your most recent transcript, the contact information for one reference, and a short essay, maximum 750 words, answering the following questions: "What inspired you to pursue a degree in a space-related STEM field? What challenges have you encountered in your academic experiences thus far, and how did you overcome them?"

The Community Leadership Fund will provide \$500 CAD to **one RASC youth member based in Canada** to put towards an astronomy-based community outreach project. Projects can be current or planned for the future, but they must be community-oriented and space-related. A typed proposal (maximum 500 words) describing how the funds will be allocated is required to be considered.

Application forms can be found at [rasc.ca/scholarships](https://www.rasc.ca/scholarships) or [@nextgenrasc](https://www.instagram.com/nextgenrasc) on Instagram, and any questions can be directed to nextgen@rasc.ca.

New Online Observing Program!

The Moon at Noon

Become a space explorer by discovering mountain ranges, craters and lava plains on Earth's closest neighbour! Join us Thursdays at noon (eastern time) from April 1st to June 17th as we guide you through RASC's Explore the Moon Observing Program. Bring your telescope or binoculars to discover all kinds of amazing lunar features right from your driveway!

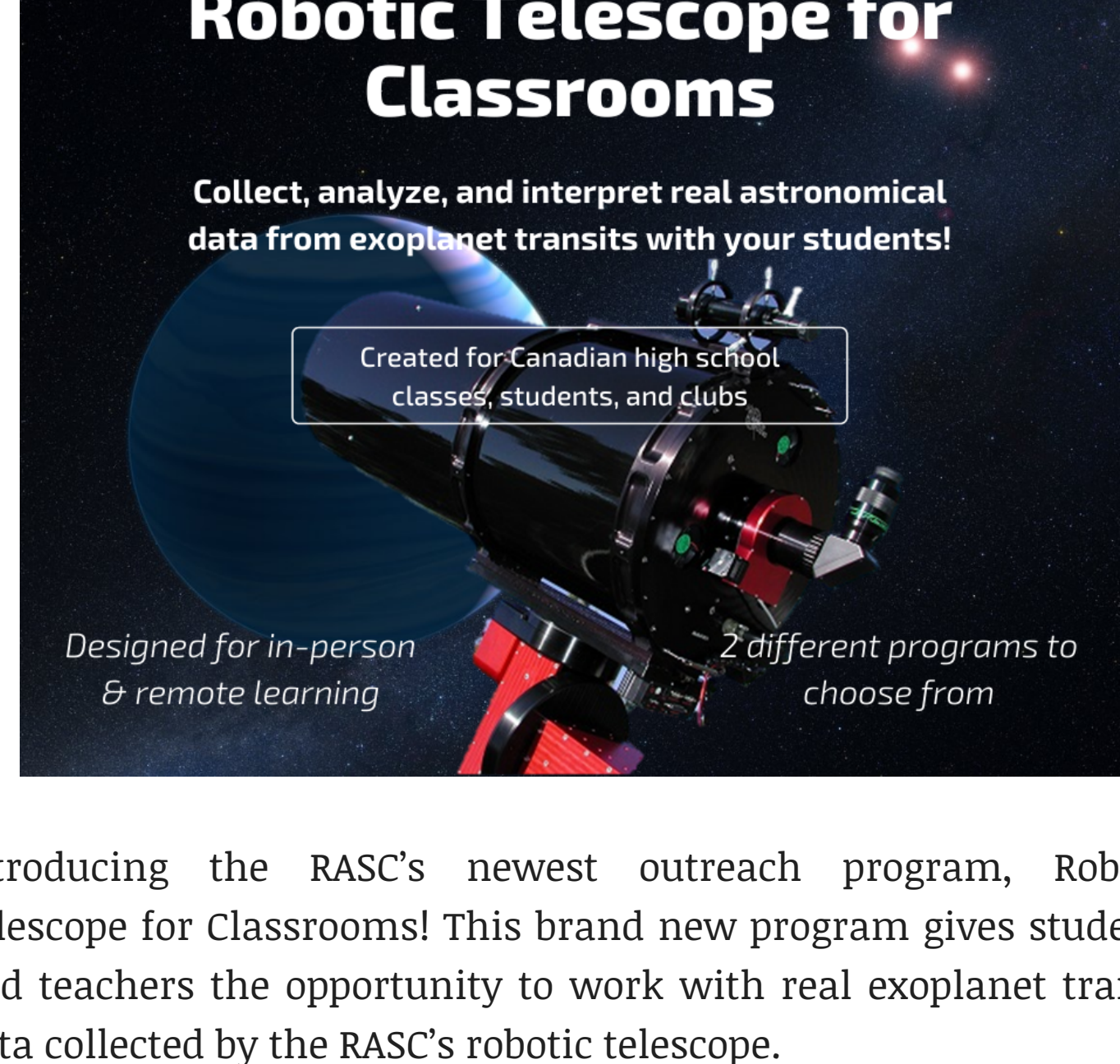
[Register for the Moon at Noon](#)

Database Launch Update

The launch of our new Database system is just around the corner! We hope to fully launch the new back-end of the website by the end of the month. We are currently testing the new system and working through some problems so that when it is launched, you have the best experience as possible.

Stay tuned in the near future for a special Bulletin inviting you to participate in database training.

RASC's Robotic Telescope for Classrooms



Introducing the RASC's newest outreach program, Robotic Telescope for Classrooms! This brand new program gives students and teachers the opportunity to work with real exoplanet transit data collected by the RASC's robotic telescope.

There are two different programs to choose from!

The BASIC PROGRAM:

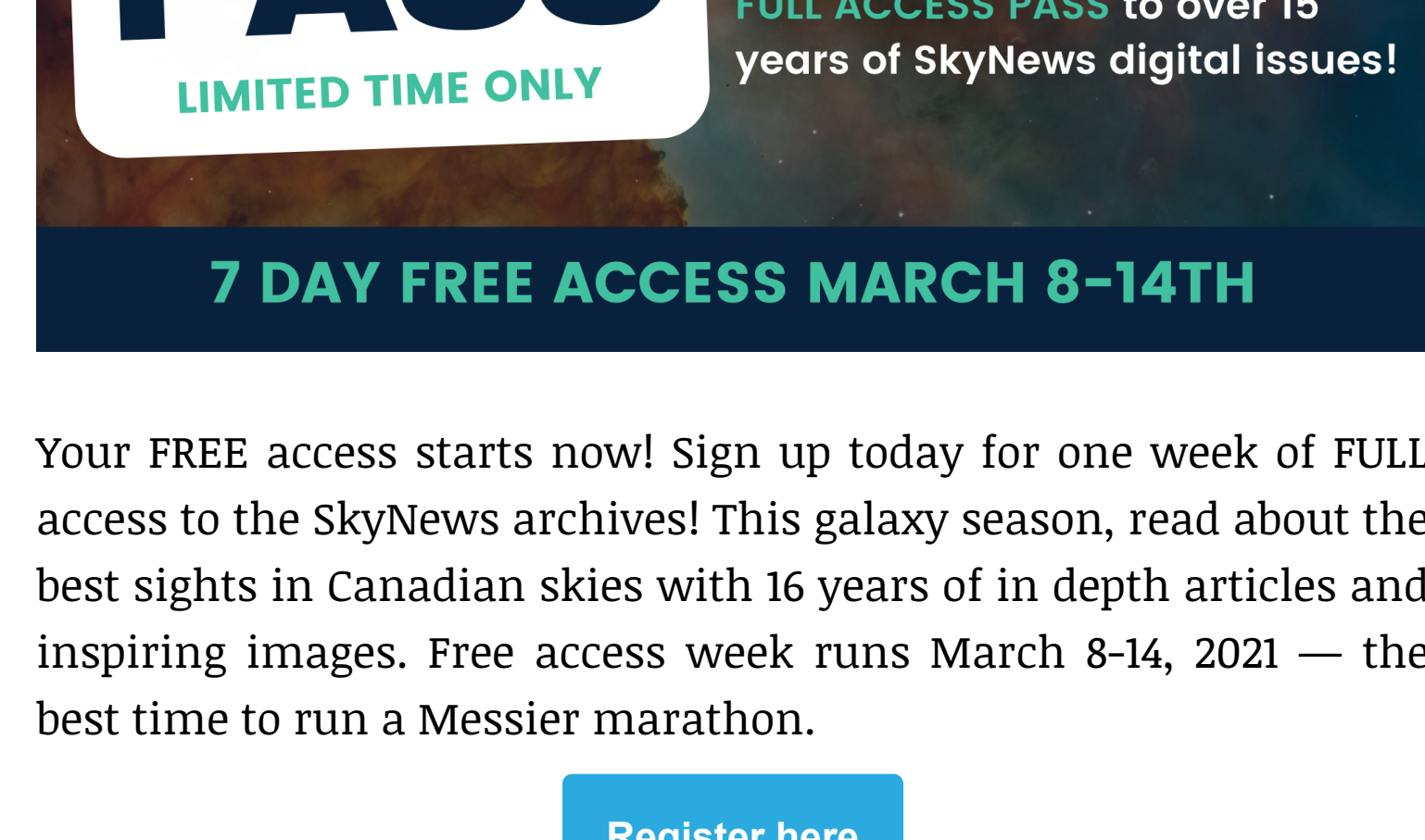
Designed for Grade 9 -12 classrooms. Everything you need to introduce and guide your students through exoplanet transit analysis. No astronomical or exoplanet analysis experience is required! BONUS: your students can participate in a "virtual field trip" to watch transit data be collected in real-time!

The ADVANCED PROGRAM:

Designed for advanced classes, year-end projects, extended essays, and science fair projects with a teacher supervisor. Students collect exoplanet data on the telescope, calibrate, and analyze it from start to finish!

If you know an educator or student, spread the word! If you are one, visit [eduscope.rasc.ca](https://www.eduscope.rasc.ca) for more info & to apply!

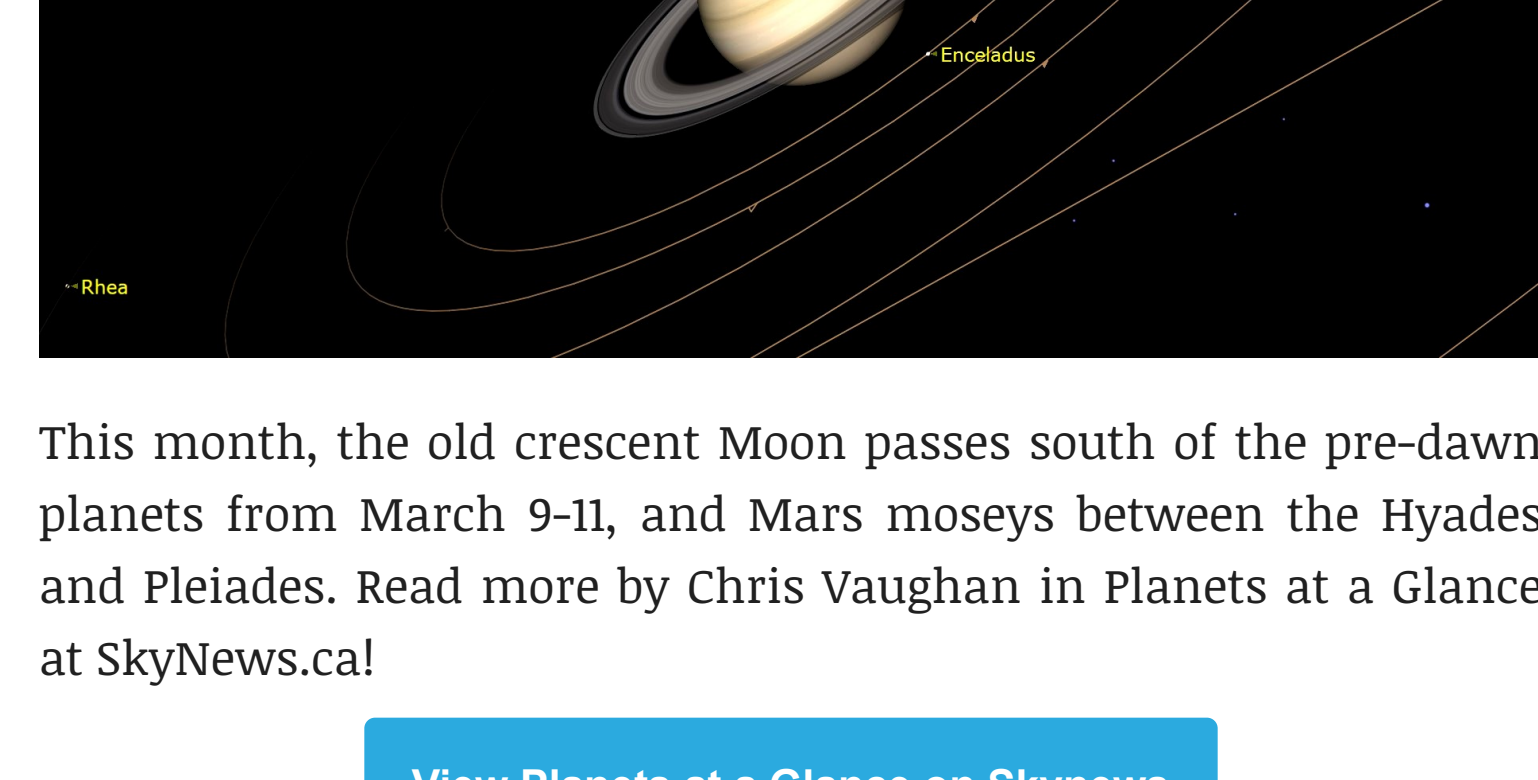
One week of SkyNews!



Your FREE access starts now! Sign up today for one week of FULL access to the SkyNews archives! This galaxy season, read about the best sights in Canadian skies with 16 years of in depth articles and inspiring images. Free access week runs March 8-14, 2021 — the best time to run a Messier marathon.

[Register here](#)

March 2021: Planets at a glance on SkyNews



This month, the old crescent Moon passes south of the Hyades and Pleiades. Read more by Chris Vaughan in Planets at a Glance at [SkyNews.ca!](https://www.skynews.ca)

[View Planets at a Glance on Skynews](#)