

A long-exposure photograph of a meteor shower, likely the Perseid meteor shower, showing numerous bright streaks of light falling across a dark sky. The silhouettes of palm trees are visible in the foreground, adding a tropical feel to the scene.

Today in History

April 26, 1803

▲ **Thousands of meteor fragments fell from the skies over L'Aigle in France, an event that convinced European scientists of the existence of meteors**

1986: An explosion in a reactor at the Chernobyl power plant in Ukraine spread a radioactive cloud over Europe

2003: A water-taxi service in Rome became the first craft to navigate the River Tiber for almost a century

2008: Austrian police arrested Josef Fritzl, who had incarcerated his daughter in a cellar for 24 years

2017: China launched its first domestically built aircraft carrier, amid rising regional tensions