SIACHEN: THE FIGHT FOR HIGH GROUND

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

IMPRISONED WHILE INNOCENT

GONG BACKTO

What is it about the red planet that

has fascinated us for centuries?

Even as we learn more, its

mysteries endure

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Over the years rovers such as NASA's Curiosity, which landed on the planet in 2012, have driven the search for microbial Martians.

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Since sky-watchers in the third millennium B.C. described it as a "wandering star," Mars has fascinated people on Earth. It so intrigues us that by this month, 11 spacecraft and rovers are expected to be on or near the red planet. BY NADIA DRAKE PHOTOGRAPHS BY CRAIG CUTLER AND SPENCER LOWELL

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