



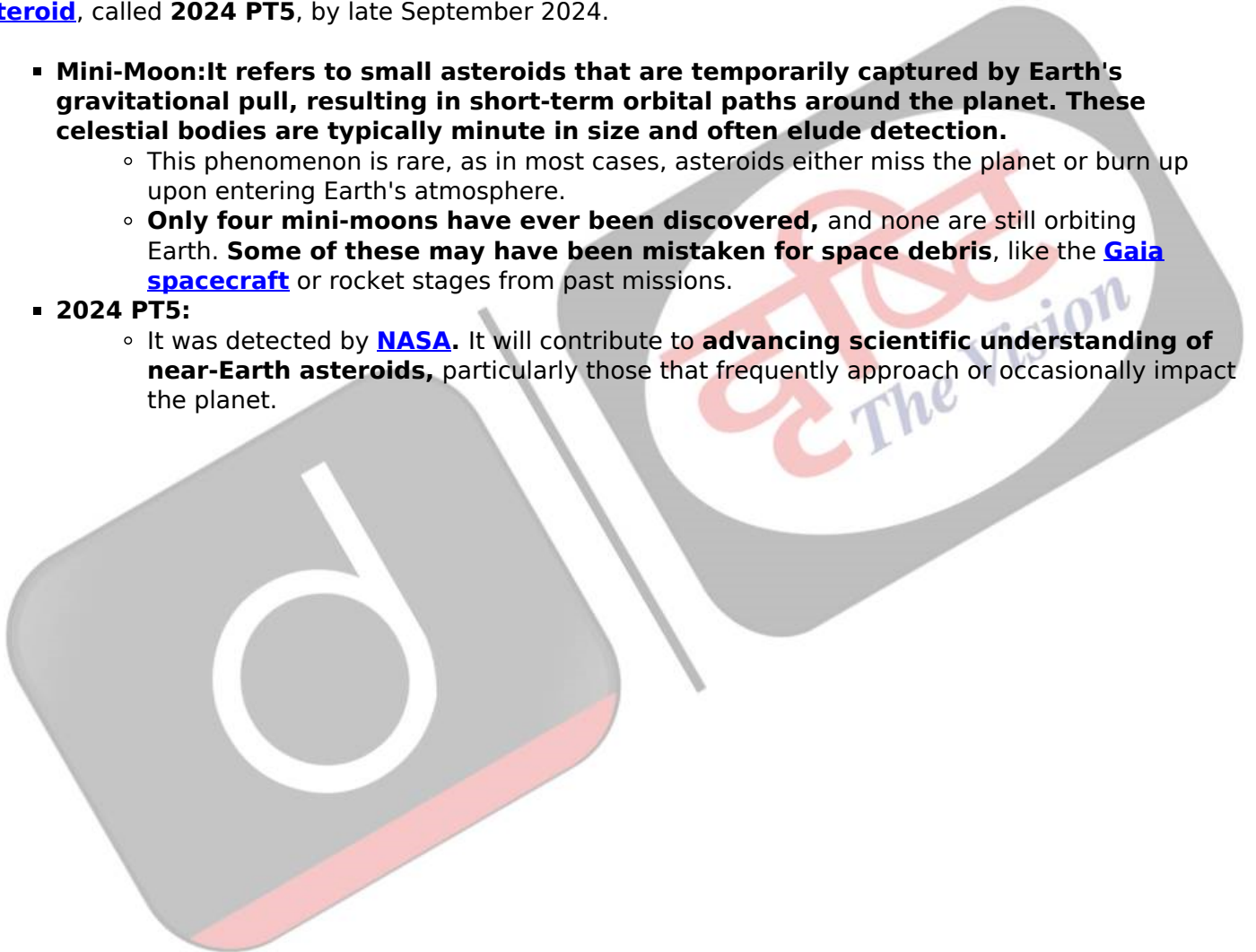
## Earth's Temporary Mini-Moon

[Source: IE](#)

A recent study indicates that [Earth's gravitational field](#) is expected to temporarily capture a [small asteroid](#), called **2024 PT5**, by late September 2024.

- **Mini-Moon:** It refers to small asteroids that are temporarily captured by Earth's gravitational pull, resulting in short-term orbital paths around the planet. These celestial bodies are typically minute in size and often elude detection.
  - This phenomenon is rare, as in most cases, asteroids either miss the planet or burn up upon entering Earth's atmosphere.
  - **Only four mini-moons have ever been discovered**, and none are still orbiting Earth. **Some of these may have been mistaken for space debris**, like the [Gaia spacecraft](#) or rocket stages from past missions.
- **2024 PT5:**
  - It was detected by [NASA](#). It will contribute to **advancing scientific understanding of near-Earth asteroids**, particularly those that frequently approach or occasionally impact the planet.

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# What is a....?

## Comet

A comet is a mass of ice, rock, and dust, and often has a tail that is made up of dust and other materials.



## Asteroid

An asteroid is made up of metallic or non-metallic rocks, and orbits the sun. They can range in size from a few centimeters wide to almost a thousand kilometers across!



## Meteoroid

Meteoroids are usually fragments of asteroids or comets, often smaller than 1 meter wide, that fly through space.



## Meteor

A meteor is a meteoroid that enters Earth's atmosphere. It burns up as it travels through the atmosphere, producing a streak of light behind it.



## Meteorite

If a meteor doesn't completely burn up in the Earth's atmosphere, the fragment found on Earth is called a meteorite.



Read More: [Space Missions in 2024](#), [International Asteroid Day](#)

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