

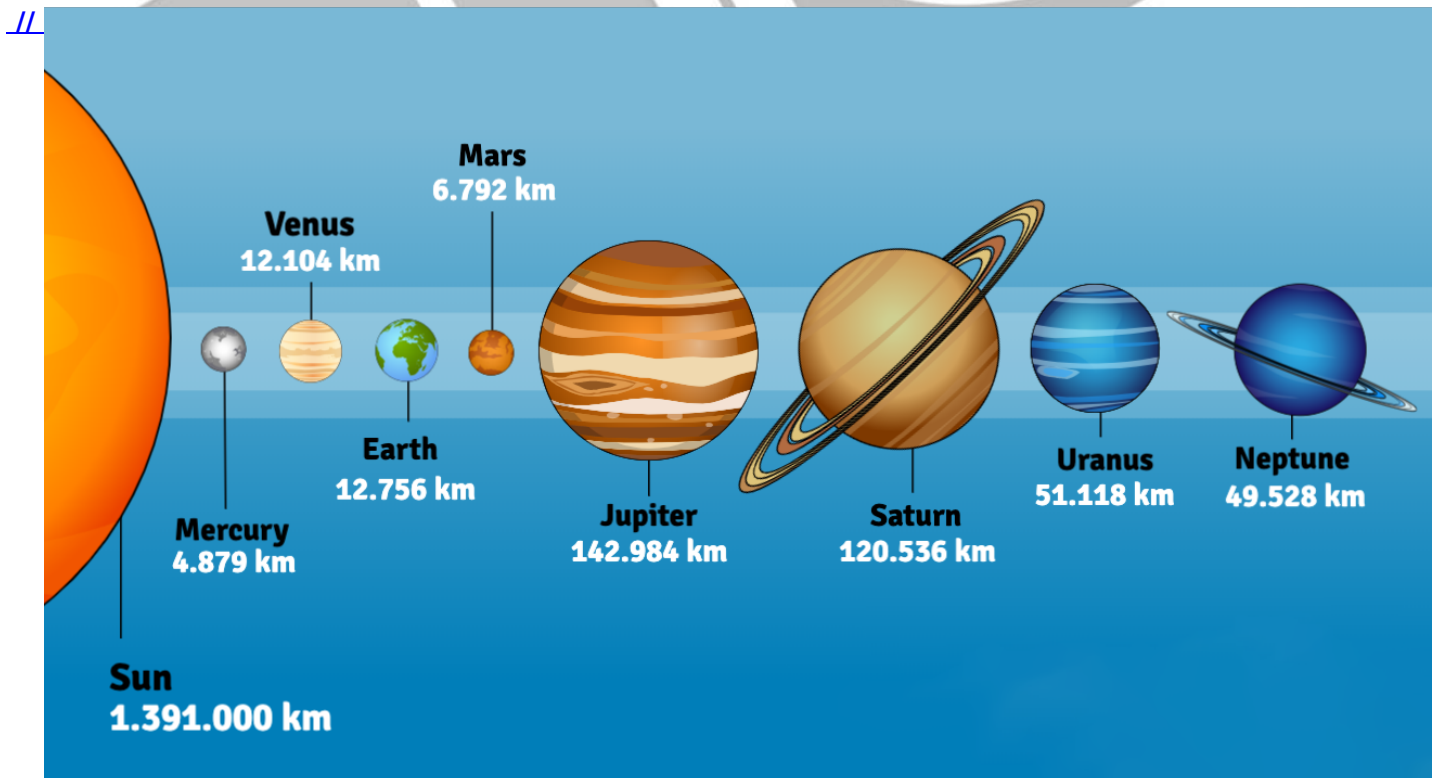


Mercury's South Pole

[Source: IT](#)

Recently, The **joint European-Japanese BepiColombo mission** successfully conducted its **fourth Mercury flyby**, advancing the spacecraft closer to orbit around the innermost planet in the solar system.

- This marks a significant milestone for BepiColombo, as it provided the **first-ever glimpse of Mercury's elusive South Pole**.
- This will help prepare the spacecraft for its **upcoming mission to orbit Mercury**, which has been **delayed to November 2026**.
- **BepiColombo Mission:**
 - It is a joint [European Space Agency \(ESA\)](#) and [Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency \(JAXA\)](#) mission to Mercury, **launched in October 2018**.
 - It is an ambitious and complex mission designed to **study Mercury's surface, composition, magnetic field, and its interaction with the solar environment**.
- **Mercury:**
 - It is the **nearest to the Sun** and also the **smallest planet** in our solar system.
 - Although Mercury is closest to the Sun, it is **not the hottest planet**. That distinction goes to Venus, due to its thick atmosphere.
 - It has **no satellite** of its own.
 - It takes **88 Earth days to complete a rotation**.



Read more: [Mission to Mercury](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/mercury-s-south-pole>

