



Asteroid Discovery in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#) has recognized Daksh Malik, a Class 9 student from Noida, for his **provisional discovery of an [asteroid](#)**, currently labeled as '2023 OG40.'

Key Points

- **Participation in the International Asteroid Discovery Project (IADP):**
 - Along with two school friends, the student has actively participated in the **IADP** which introduced them to the **International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC)**.
 - The IASC, a **NASA-affiliated citizen science initiative**, enables global participation in asteroid discovery.
 - It allows students and astronomy enthusiasts worldwide to **analyze celestial data and contribute to scientific research**.
- **A Rare Achievement:**
 - Despite more than 6,000 participants joining the IADP annually, only a few successfully identify new asteroids.
 - Before this discovery, only five students from the country had ever achieved a named asteroid discovery.
- **Naming the Asteroid:**
 - This achievement also gives **the privilege of naming the [celestial body](#)** after its verification process, which may take around four to five years.

Asteroids

- Asteroids, also referred to as **minor planets**, are remnants from the early stages of our solar system's formation approximately **4.6 billion years ago**.
- They predominantly exhibit **irregular shapes**, though some **display nearly spherical forms**.
- Many asteroids are accompanied by **small [moons](#)**, with some even having two moons.
- Additionally, binary asteroids consist of **two similar-sized rocky bodies** orbiting each other, and there are also triple asteroid systems.