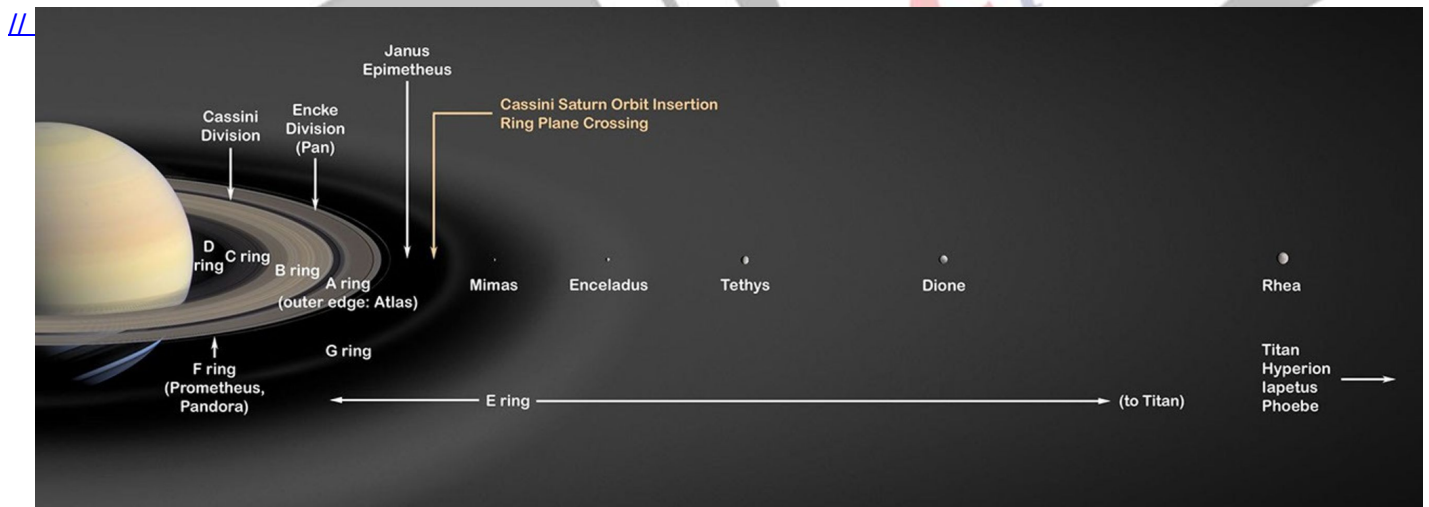




Saturn's Rings

A study challenges the belief that [Saturn's rings](#) are 100 million years old, suggesting they could be as old as the [Solar System](#) itself.

- Earlier assumptions based on **Cassini spacecraft** data suggested Saturn's rings were young due to their cleanliness, surprising scientists who expected dark dust from space debris.
 - But the study finds **dust evaporation keeps them clean**, proving they may be ancient.
- **Cassini**: Launched by **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** along with the **European Space Agency's Huygens probe** to study **Saturn** and its moons.
- **Saturn**: It is the second-largest planet after Jupiter, and is composed of hydrogen and helium. Located at **9.5 Astronomical Unit (AU)** (AU is the distance from the Sun to Earth) from the Sun.
 - Saturn has **146 moons** and is a **gas giant** of **hydrogen and helium**.
- **Saturn's Rings**: It consists of seven main rings, named in the order of their **discovery (D, C, B, A, F, G, E)**, becoming fainter as they move outward, primarily made of **icy snowballs**.
 - The **main rings** are **A, B, and C**, with the **A ring** easily visible through **Earth-based telescopes**. The **Cassini Division** separates the **B and A rings**.
 - **F Ring** located outside the A ring, **G and E Rings** are much fainter, with the **E ring** being **the largest ring**.



Read more: [Saturn's Rings Will Briefly Disappear in 2025](#)

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