

# What is Planet Nine?

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## About:

- Planet Nine is a **hypothetical planet** in the **outer region of our solar system**.
- The concept was proposed to explain certain anomalies observed in the orbits of distant **trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs)**, particularly those with highly elliptical and clustered orbits.

## Characteristics:

- **Mass:** Estimated to be about **5 to 10 times that of Earth**.
- **Orbit:** Believed to have a highly elliptical orbit with a semi-major axis of about 400 to 800 AU (**astronomical units**).
  - One AU is the average distance between Earth and the Sun, roughly **93 million miles or 150 million kilometres**.
- **Orbital Period:** Could range from 10,000 to 20,000 years.
- **Distance:** At its closest, it might be around 200 AU from the Sun, and at its farthest, about 1,200 AU.

The hunt for the solar system's potential ninth planet may soon be coming to a close. With the opening of the groundbreaking **Vera C. Rubin Observatory** in **2025**, we may either finally find Planet Nine within the next few

years — or rule out the idea for good.

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### **Q1: What is a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)?**

GSLV is a space launch vehicle designed, developed and operated by the ISRO to launch satellites and other space objects into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits (GTO).

**Source:** Planet Nine: Is the search for this elusive world nearly over?

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Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/planet-nine/>

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