

Celestial Body -Chiron

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CELESTIAL BODY -CHIRON



Celestial Body -Chiron Latest News

Recently, astronomers for the first time observed a ring system formation around icy celestial body Chiron.

About Celestial Body -Chiron

- Chiron is part of a class of **objects called centaurs** (which populate the outer solar system between Jupiter and Neptune), displaying characteristics of **both asteroids and comets**.
- It was discovered in 1977 by astronomer **Charles Kowal**.

Features of Celestial Body -Chiron

- It has a diameter of about **200 kilometers** (125 miles) and takes **about 50 years to complete one orbit around the sun**.
- **Ring system:** Its observations clearly showed that it is surrounded **by well-defined 4 rings**. The three inner rings are embedded within dust swirling around in a disk-like shape.

- These rings are likely composed **mainly of water ice mixed** with small amounts of rocky material, like those of Saturn.
- **Composition:** It mainly consists of rock, water ice and complex organic compounds.
- Chiron exhibits occasional **comet-like activity** – ejecting gas and dust into space.
- A method called **stellar occultation** was used by a team including Brazilian, French and Spanish researchers to observe the rings.

Source: DD News

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/celestial-body-chiron/>

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