

Asteroid named after B'luru astrophysicist Jayant Murthy

NEW DELHI, DHNS: An asteroid has been named after veteran Indian astrophysicist Jayant Murthy in recognition of his work in observing the ultraviolet background radiation of the universe.

The asteroid, earlier known as 2005 EX296, has been designated as (215884) Jayant Murthy, by the International Astronomical Union, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, where Murthy works, said in a statement. The IAU made the decision earlier this week.

Murthy is the third IIA scientist to have a minor planet named after him; the other two are M K Vainu Bappu and

JC Bhattacharya. The asteroid (215884) Jayant Murthy was discovered at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona in 2005.

The celestial body goes around the Sun in an orbit that lies between that of Mars and Jupiter once every 3.3 years.

"I am thrilled to have an asteroid named after me... I am working on the cosmic ultraviolet background, including the extragalactic light from Alice (an onboard instrument), on New Horizons. We look at the darkest part of the sky and try to find out the sources of such radiation," he said.

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