



Asteroid named after Pandit Jasraj

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The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** has **named an asteroid**, discovered in 2006, **after Indian classical singer Pandit Jasraj**.

- Pandit Jasraj is the **first Indian musician** to receive this honour.
- The asteroid, or more formally known as a minor planet - **2006 VP32**, is located in the **asteroid belt**, between **Mars and Jupiter**.
 - The asteroid belt is a region of the solar system falling roughly between the planets Mars and Jupiter where the greatest concentration of asteroids can be found.
 - It also serves as a sort of dividing line between the inner rocky planets and outer gas giants.
- It was discovered on 11th November 2006 by the **Catalina Sky Survey**.
 - The Catalina Sky Survey (CSS) is a NASA funded project **to discover and track near-Earth objects (NEOs)**. It is based in Arizona in the United States.
 - Near-Earth objects (NEOs) are asteroids or comets with sizes ranging from metres to tens of kilometres that orbit the Sun and whose orbits come close to that of Earth's.
- As minor planet discoveries are confirmed, they are given a permanent number by IAU's Minor Planet Centre.
 - **'Panditjasraj'** minor planet can be seen on their official website with the number 300128, his date of birth in reverse order (28/01/30).
- Pandit Jasraj is an **exponent of Indian classical vocal music**. He is the recipient of numerous awards, honours, and titles, including the prestigious **Padma Vibhushan and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**.

International Astronomical Union

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) was **founded in 1919**, headquartered in **Paris, France**.
- Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education and development, through

international cooperation.

- It is the **global authority for naming planetary features** in the solar system.

Source: TH