

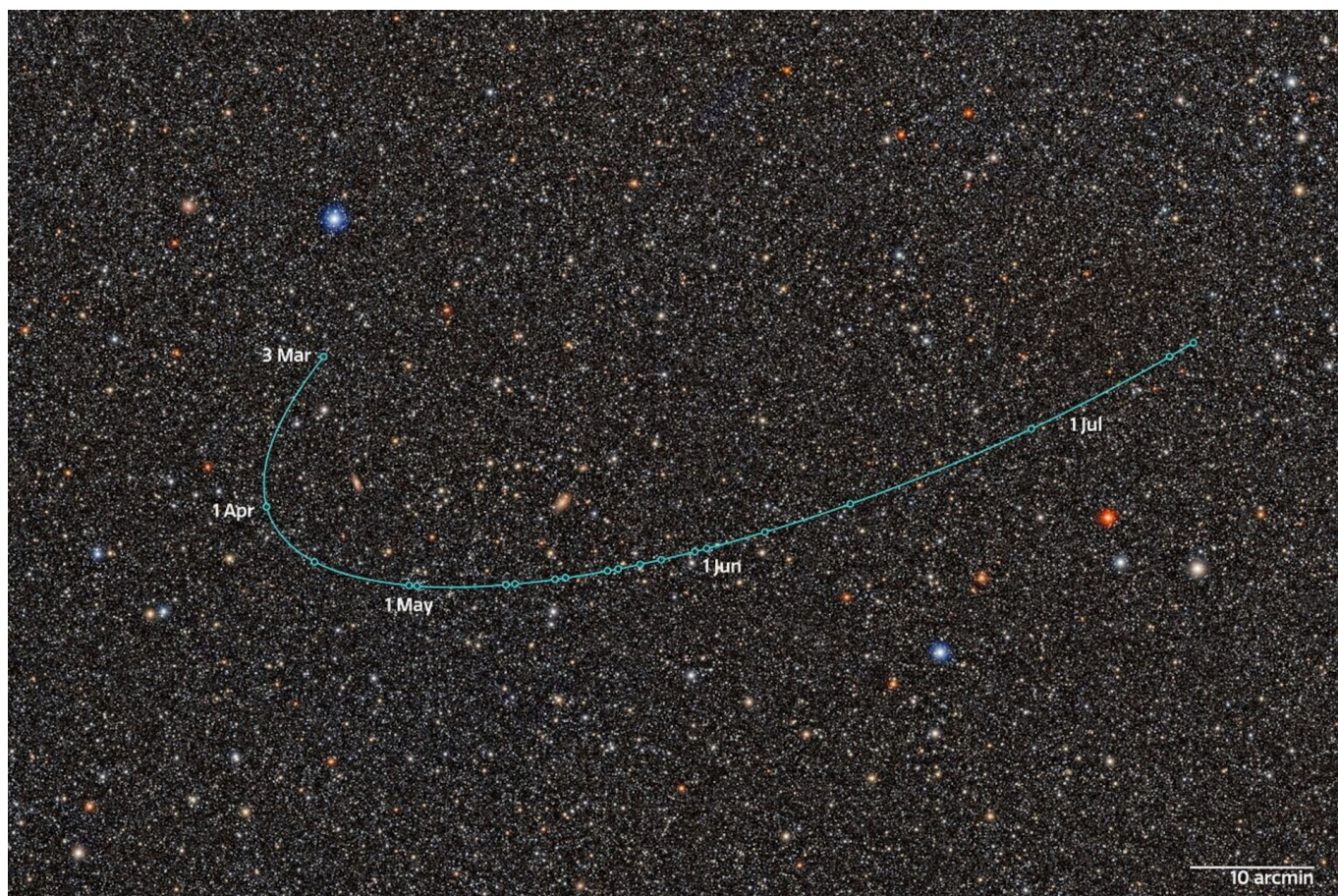
2026 ED138 - Possible New Dwarf Planet Beyond Pluto

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Why in News?

Recently the scientists identified a new dwarf planet candidate, 2026 ED138, using the Chile-based Vera C. Rubin Observatory.

Key Facts



- **Location** - Orbits beyond Pluto, approximately 46 times farther from the Sun than Earth.
- **Size** - Estimated diameter ranges between 600 and 1,500 km.
- **Discovery** - First identified by astrophysicist Matt Holman of the Center for Astrophysics, Harvard & Smithsonian.
- **Confirmation** - Further observations are required to establish its physical size and dwarf planet status.
- **ALMA Telescope** - The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array can help

determine its size by detecting radiation emitted by the object.

- If confirmed, it could become one of the largest recognised dwarf planets.

About Dwarf Planets

- According to the International Astronomical Union (IAU), a dwarf planet must –
 - Orbit the Sun.
 - Possess sufficient gravity to attain a nearly spherical shape.
 - Not have cleared its orbital neighbourhood.
 - Not be a satellite of another celestial body.
- **Five officially recognised dwarf planets** –
 - **Pluto, Eris, Haumea** and **Makemake** – located beyond Neptune.
 - **Ceres** – located in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

***Pluto** was reclassified from the ninth planet to a dwarf planet by the IAU in 2006.*

Reference

[Rubinobservatory| First Dwarf Planet Candidate in Our Solar System](#)

