Napowawa enakaulua

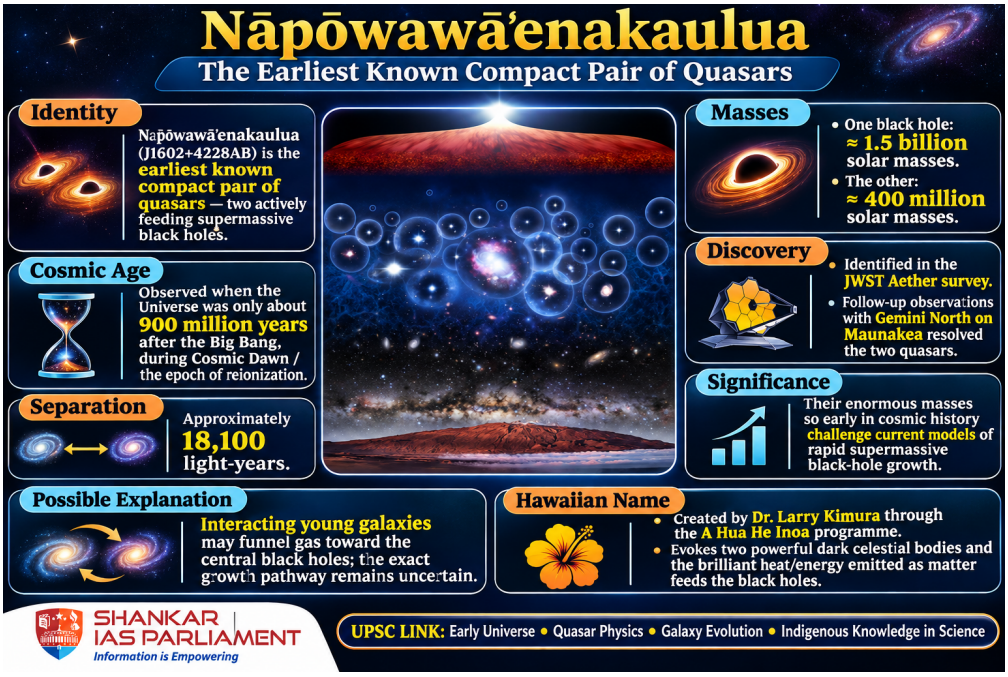
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Why in News?

Nāpōwawāʻenakaulua *(officially designated* ***J1602+4228AB****) is the oldest and most distant compact pair of quasars ever observed in the universe.*

Discovered in November 2026, the system existed just **900 million years after the Big Bang** during a period known as cosmic dawn.

- **Hawaiian Translation –** Named via the A Hua He Inoa program by the ʻImiloa Astronomy Center and the University of Hawaiʻi's Hawaiian Language College, the name poetically translates to "*two celestial bodies of fathomless powerful darkness in the brilliance of heat reincarnating energy into the Universe.*"
- **Proximity & Mass –** The quasars sit just **18,100 light-years** apart—about a fifth of the Milky Way's width—and are driven by supermassive black holes weighing **1.5 billion** and **400 million times** the mass of the Sun.
- **Observation & Impact –** Discovered by an international team led by NSF's NOIRLab using the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** and resolved via the **Gemini North telescope** on Maunakea, the findings published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters* challenge early black hole growth models.



Reference

[The Hindu| Nāpōwawāʻenakaulua]