

December 14th, 2018 Sample Current Affairs

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1. The Geminid meteor shower will light up the on December 13

- What are meteors and meteoroids?**
- What causes a meteor shower?**
- Why is the Geminid meteor shower called so?**
- So this shower is from an asteroid. Now what exactly is an asteroid?**

GS paper 3 (Awareness in space)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

Aswathi Pacha. (2018, December , 14). All about the Geminid meteor shower that is set to light up the sky on December 13. The Hindu. Retrieved from <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/all-about-the-geminid-meteor-shower-set-to-light-up-the-sky-on-december-13/article21394647.ece?homepage=true>

What is the context about?

- Star-lovers and sky-enthusiasts can enjoy a meteor shower display on December 13 after 10 p.m., and in the early morning hours of December 14, if clouds and light pollution do not play spoilsport.**
- Reach a spot without city lights, maybe the suburbs, and you can enjoy the Geminid meteor shower.**

What are meteors and meteoroids?

- Rocks and dust particles from space that are about to collide with Earth's atmosphere are called meteoroids. Those that enter and streak through the atmosphere are called meteors.

What causes a meteor shower?

- Usually when comets, which are chunks of ice with lot of dust, come close to the sun, the ice melts and the dust and rocks are left behind along the orbit of the comet.
- If Earth, in its yearly motion around the Sun happens to pass through such a debris trail, they enter the Earth's atmosphere with considerable speed and due to friction in the atmosphere, burns up and give rise to not only a single bright streak in the sky but numerous meteors, called meteor shower.

Why is the Geminid meteor shower called so?

Geminid meteor shower is so named because the meteors appear to originate from the constellation of Gemini in the night sky. It is not a comet but an unusual asteroid called 3200 Phaethon, discovered in 1983, that is the origin of the meteors.

So this shower is from an asteroid. Now what exactly is an asteroid?

Asteroids are rocky bodies going round the Sun, originating from a region between the orbit of Mars and Jupiter. Unlike



the planets, their orbits are sometimes extremely elliptical and intersect the orbit of Mars and even Earth. The Earth-orbit-crossing asteroids are called Apollo Asteroids.