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Tenth planet to be named 'Kalki'

Bangalore, Aug. 9 (PTI): Indian astronomers scanning the skies to discover the mysterious tenth planet that space scientists believe exists in the Solar System, plan to call it "Kalki".

In the Hindu mythology 'Kalki' is supposed to be the next of Lord Vishnu's incarnations which suggest the steps of evolution of life on the earth, according to Dr. R. Rajamohan, of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) here.

The planet is believed to be responsible for the mass extinction of biological species on the earth that occurred millions of years ago. The planet's orbital precession (shifting of the plane of the orbit while revolving around the sun) is supposed to have disturbed a comet cloud leading to a shower of fiery debris some of which struck the earth.