

Asteroid may strike Earth in '68

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Washington: A 325-metre asteroid that will safely fly by the Earth in 2029 and 2036, may strike the planet in the year 2068, scientists have warned. However, the chances of 99942 Apophis striking the Earth are slim with impact odds being about 2.3 in a million, the article published on Nasa's website said.

The near-Earth asteroid has been the focus of considerable attention after it was discovered in December 2004 to have a significant probability of Earth impact



ARMAGEDDON?

in April 2029. While the 2029 potential impact was ruled out through the measurement of archival telescope images, the possibility of a potential impact in the years after 2029 continues to prove

difficult to rule out.

Based on optical and radar position measurements made in 2004-2012, the asteroid will pass the Earth in 2029 at an altitude of 31,900 km, give or take 750 km. The altitude is close enough for the Earth's gravity to deflect the asteroid onto a trajectory that brings it back to an Earth impact during its next flyby. Such impact trajectories require Apophis to pass the Earth at a precise altitude, known as a keyhole, in 2029 en route to a subsequent impact. PTI

World.