



## SnowEx

---

 [drishtiias.com/printpdf/snowex](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/snowex)

## Why in News

---

Recently, **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has launched a **seasonal campaign** to understand how much water is contained in each winter's snowfall and how much will be available when it melts in the spring.

This campaign is **part of a five-year programme called SnowEx** which was initiated in **2016-17**.

## Key Points

---

- The geographical focus of SnowEx is North America but NASA's **overall target** is optimal strategies for **mapping global snow water equivalent (SWE)** with remote sensing and models leading to **"Earth System Explorer" mission**.
- NASA currently has no global satellite mission to track and study SWE.
- Snow is a vital source of water for **drinking, agriculture** and **electrical power** in the western United States and other locations around the world. To know how much water will be available the following spring, water resource managers and hydrologists **need to know where snow has fallen, how much there is and how do characteristics change as it melts**.

**Remote sensing:** It is the science of obtaining information about objects or areas from a distance, typically from aircraft or satellites.

**Source: IE**