



# Peregrine Mission One

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## Why in News?

The United States embarked on the **Peregrine Mission One**, its first attempt to land on the Moon in over 50 years. However, the landing attempt was seemingly doomed after the spacecraft developed a **“critical” fuel leak just hours after launch.**

- The mission is spearheaded by private space enterprises, **Astrobotic Technology and United Launch Alliance**, this collaborative mission, signals a shift towards leveraging private sector capabilities for space exploration.

## What are the Key Highlights of Peregrine Mission One?

- The **Peregrine Lander** is expected to be one of the first American spacecraft to land on the Moon **since the [Apollo program](#).**
  - The Peregrine Lunar Lander, also known as Peregrine Mission One, is a lunar lander built by Astrobotic Technology.
- It is part of the [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)'s Commercial Lunar Payload Services \(CLPS\) programme](#), which aims to stimulate a broader lunar economy.
  - NASA is partnering with diverse American companies under the CLPS initiative to **transport science and technology payloads to the lunar surface.**
  - The CLPS contracts aim to facilitate lunar exploration, experimentation, and technology demonstrations in preparation for upcoming human missions.
- It is expected to touch down on a **mid-latitude region of the Moon called Sinus Viscositatis, or Bay of Stickiness.**
- This mission will also help prepare for [Artemis](#), the NASA-led programme to **return astronauts to the Moon** later this decade, in preparation for missions to Mars.
  - Artemis is NASA's ambitious initiative named after the **moon goddess in Greek mythology.** With a **mission to land humans on the Moon by 2024**, including the first woman and person of colour on the lunar surface.
  - The program envisions an **Artemis Base Camp on the lunar surface** and a strategic Gateway in lunar orbit.

## Note

- Until now, a **soft landing on the Moon** has only been accomplished by a handful of national space agencies: the **Soviet Union was first, in 1966**, followed by the **United States**, which is still the **only country to put people on the Moon.** China has successfully landed three times over the past decade, while India with [Chandrayaan-3](#) is the most recent to achieve the feat on its second attempt, in 2023.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. What is the purpose of the US Space Agency's Themis Mission, which was recently in the news? (2008)**

- (a) To study the possibility of life on Mars
- (b) To study the satellites of Saturn
- (c) To study the colourful display of high latitude skies
- (d) To build a space laboratory to study the stellar explosions

**Ans: (c)**

**Q. Consider the following statements: (2016)**

**The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO**

1. is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission
2. made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA
3. made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (c)**