Artemis Accords

Prelims – *Current events of national and international importance.*

Mains (GS III) – *Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.*

Why in news?

Bangladesh recently became the 54th nation to sign the Artemis Accords.

- **Aim** – To provide a *non-binding framework of principles* to guide peaceful and cooperative civil space exploration, supporting NASA's Artemis Program.

NASA's Artemis Program *aims to return humans to the Moon and Mars.*

- **Established** – In 2020 by the United States, led by NASA and the U.S. Department of State and 7 other initial signatory nations.
- **Scope** – Applies to civil space activities on the Moon, Mars, asteroids, comets, their orbits, Lagrangian points and transit paths.
- **Signatories** – There are *54 countries* including Bangladesh.
- **India** – *Signed the Accords in 2023* to boost the cooperation between the two nations and explore the domain beyond the boundaries of Earth.

Core Principles of the Accord

- **Peaceful Exploration** – All activities exclusively for peaceful purposes.
- **Transparency** – Commitment to sharing space policies, plans, and scientific findings by the nations.
- **Implementation** – Through memoranda, government agreements and agency arrangements.
- **Compatibility** – Aligns with the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and other international space law.
- **Safety Zones** – Provides for establishment of safety zones to prevent harmful interference.
- **Space Resources** – Affirms the right to extract and utilize space resources sustainably.
- **Registration** – Requires registration of space objects for identification.
- **Interoperability** – Promotes compatible systems and standards.
- **Space Debris** – Commits signatories to debris mitigation planning.
- **Emergency Assistance** – Provides framework for supporting astronauts in distress.

Significance

- Represents largest international coalition for space exploration governance.
- Creates practical framework for sustainable lunar presence.
- Facilitates international cooperation while respecting sovereignty.
- Positions signatories for future space economy participation.

Reference

NASA | Artemis Accords