

LUPEX mission

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In news— Moon mission involving India and Japan, Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX), has been gathering steam in the last few days.

About the mission-

- It is **envisaged to explore the permanently shadowed regions or the dark side of the moon.**
- It aims to send a lander and rover to the Moon's south pole.
- The main **objective** of the mission is to **confirm the presence of water in the polar regions of the moon.**
- The mission is expected to be launched in the next couple of years.
- The **launch vehicle for the mission will be a Japanese rocket**, the **lander system will be developed by ISRO while the Rover by JAXA**, and its landing point will be the south pole of the moon.
- Various scientific instruments developed by the two space agencies will also be part of the mission.