



# drishti

## Important Facts For Prelims (22nd March 2019)

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### Super Worm Equinox Moon

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- The **last supermoon of the year has coincided with the Spring Equinox**. The phenomenon is generally known as 'Super Worm Equinox Moon'.
- **The full moon of the March is the third supermoon of the year**, following a super blood wolf moon on January 21<sup>st</sup> and a super snow moon on February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **The full moon is also known as the worm moon** in some parts of the world. It is called so because, in cold climates, the ground begins to warm up at this point and earthworms appear.
- When the moon is at its closest point to the earth, it is called 'perigee' and when a full moon coincides with a perigee, it is called Supermoon.
- The **Equinox is the moment** when the **length of day and night become equal** and the **sun's rays fall directly on the earth's equator**. The phenomenon happens **twice a year- once as autumn equinox in September and the other in March as spring equinox or vernal equinox**.

### LightSail2

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- The **LightSail 2** is a project to demonstrate controlled solar sailing using a miniature CubeSat satellite.
- It will be launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, US in April 2019.
- LightSail 2 is the **second of three satellites** built to demonstrate the **feasibility of powering a spacecraft using solar radiation**.
- This mission is designed to see if LightSail can move into higher orbits around the Earth using **only photons from the sun to push it along**.

### Solar Sailing

Solar sails (also called light sails or photon sails) are a proposed method of spacecraft propulsion using radiation pressure exerted by sunlight on large mirrors.



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## Fall Armyworms

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- **'Fall armyworms'** are **native to the Americas** but they have been moving eastwards since 2016, sweeping across Africa, where they caused \$1-3 billion in damage, before arriving in Asia.
- The flying insects **arrived in India** in July and have since spread to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and China's Yunnan province.
- Farming in several Asian countries is under threat from a type of crop-damaging

insects that have munched their way from the Americas and across Africa

- They **feed mostly on maize, for which China is the world's second-largest producer**, and can feed on several species of crops, including rice and sugarcane.
- FAO meeting in Bangkok with officials from affected countries and experts for discussing ways to limit armyworm infestations amid a **“growing sense of alarm”**.
- FAO is working with local authorities and training farmers to manage the pests by crushing egg masses and using biopesticides.
- Chemical pesticides are an option but should be carefully considered due to environmental and health damages.

### **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

- The Food and Agriculture Organization is an **agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- FAO is also a source of knowledge and information and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.
- **Formation: 16 October 1945, in Quebec City, Canada**
- **Headquarters: Rome, Italy**
- Every year, **World Food Day (Theme for 2018- Zero Hunger) is celebrated on October 16** to commemorate the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations in the year 1945.
- The **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-2) also aims to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” by 2030.**