



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

# DART mission

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**Why is on news?** NASA's DART spacecraft successfully crashed into asteroid Dimorphos

The **Dimorphos, a 160-metre-tall asteroid** was successfully crashed by the DART mission of NASA on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.

**Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)** is a **NASA space mission** aimed at testing a method of planetary defense against near-Earth objects (NEOs).

DART was the **first-ever mission** dedicated to investigating and demonstrating one method of asteroid deflection by changing an asteroid's motion in space through kinetic impact.

It is a vending machine-sized spacecraft launched from Earth in **November 2021**, the probe impacted the **minor-planet moon Dimorphos**. The asteroid selected for the test poses **no actual threat to Earth**.

DART is a **joint project** between **NASA and the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL)**.

The DART mission **intentionally crashed on an asteroid** to test a unique defence technology.

The crash is aimed at **giving Earth a defence tool against future asteroids** headed our way.

The 325 million dollar project was the first attempt to move a natural object in space but it will take days or perhaps weeks to assess how much the asteroid's path was altered.

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