



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

New moons discovered around Saturn

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Context

Astronomers have discovered **128 new moons around Saturn**, increasing its total count to **274 moons**.

Saturn

Saturn is the **second-largest** planet in the solar system.

Position - 6th planet from the Sun.

Type - **Gas giant**.

It is surrounded by a **beautiful ring system**.

Size - Saturn is **9 times wider than Earth**. Distance - Saturn is 9.5 Astronomical Units (AU) away from the Sun.

Composition - **Mostly hydrogen and helium**, similar to Jupiter.

Density - The **least dense planet in the Solar System (it could float in water)**.

Orbital Period- Takes 29.5 Earth years to complete one orbit around the Sun.

Moon system of Saturn

Total Moons - 274 (after the recent discovery of 128 new moons).

Largest Moon- **Titan** (2,159 miles across).

Other Major Moons- Enceladus is known for its subsurface ocean and icy plumes.

Characteristics of the new moons

All are **irregular moons** – meaning they have highly inclined orbits and travel backward (retrograde motion).

Some moons are as small as 2 miles across.

The discovery suggests these moons are **remnants of cosmic collisions that happened 100 million years ago**.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has officially ratified the newly identified moons.

International Astronomical Union

- Established in – 1919.
- Mission- Promote and safeguard astronomy through research, education, and international cooperation.

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- Headquarters - Paris, France.
- Governance - General Assembly (Every 3 years) defines long-term policy - Executive Committee implements decisions - IAU Officers & Secretariat handle day-to-day operations
- India is an active member in IAU.

