

## Moss

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Institute for IAS Examination

# MOSS



### Moss Latest News

Recently, a team of scientists has found that moss can survive a prolonged trip to space.

### About Moss

- It is a small nonvascular **spore-bearing land plant belongs to** the taxonomic **division Bryophyta**.
- It is among the earliest land plants and has colonised some of the **harshest environments** on the planet, including **Antarctica, volcanic fields, and deserts**.
- Mosses existed as early as the **Permian Period** and more than 100 species have been identified from fossils of the **Paleogene and Neogene periods**.
- **Types of Moss:** Of the 10,000 and more types of mosses on the planet, there are three main types: **peat moss, granite moss and true moss**.
- **Distribution:** Mosses are distributed throughout the world except in salt water.
- **Habitat:** It is **the small plant** commonly found in damp, shady spots is already known for its resilience on Earth.

- Moss **reproduces through spores**, which are the equivalent to a flowering plant's seed

## Ecological Significance of Moss

- Ecologically, mosses **break down exposed substrata**, releasing nutrients for the use of more-complex plants that succeed them.
- They **also aid in soil erosion** control by providing surface cover and absorbing water.
- They are important in the **nutrient and water economy** of some vegetation types.
- Mosses can be **effective indicators of c02 emissions** that pollute the air. They can also signal if an ecosystem has been damaged or harmed by acid rain.

**Source: IE**

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