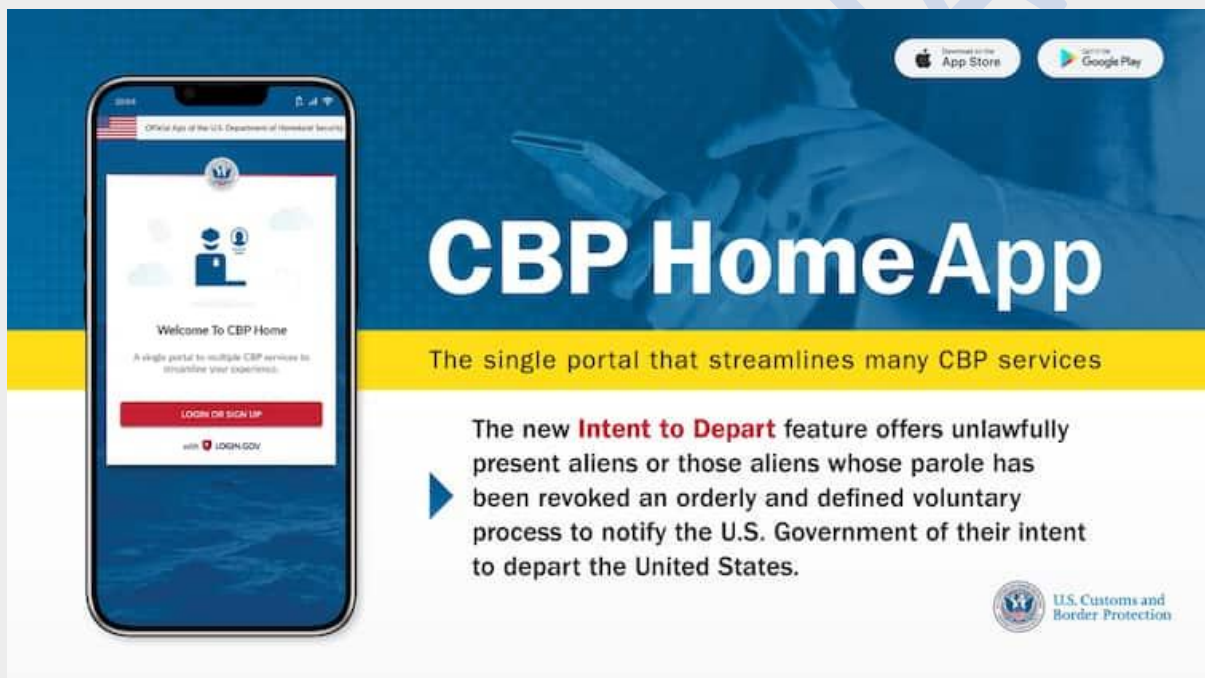## 1. Why the US wants undocumented immigrants to 'self-deport'

Why now?

An Indian doctoral student "self-deported" from the US recently. Her F-1 student visa revoked for allegedly "advocating for violence and terrorism" and supporting Hamas. Fearing action by the authorities, she voluntarily left the country using the self-deportation feature in the newly-launched Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Home App.

A part of President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigration, self-deportation is pegged by US authorities as the safest option for undocumented immigrants, one that allows them to exit the country voluntarily without facing legal action.

CBP Home App

The single portal that streamlines many CBP services

The new **Intent to Depart** feature offers unlawfully present aliens or those aliens whose parole has been revoked an orderly and defined voluntary process to notify the U.S. Government of their intent to depart the United States.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

What is the self-deport feature?

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) re-launched the CBP Home App — it was originally launched as the CBP One App in 2020, whose functionality was expanded in 2023, but taken offline by the Trump administration soon after he was sworn in — with a new self-deportation reporting feature.

This allows those living illegally in the US to officially submit "their intent to depart", and then leave the country voluntarily, without facing legal action. Authorities will track the departure, with users also required to upload information to verify their exit.

Why was the feature introduced?

With ads beaming across media platforms, warning undocumented individuals living in the US to voluntarily leave to avoid stricter action, the feature is meant to give people an easy out.

This would also save millions of dollars of US taxpayers' money, which would otherwise go into holding individuals in detention and then deporting them.

Since Trump entered the White House, several military planes have been sent all over the world — including three to India — to deport those staying in the US without necessary documentation. Sending shackled deportees on military planes and chartered flights was a statement of Trump's intent.

What are the concerns with this feature?
In 2023, the Joe Biden administration had launched a similar self-reporting feature on the CBP One App, although that was primarily meant for those seeking asylum to register themselves. The CBP One app allowed non-citizens without appropriate documents to upload relevant information on the app, thus streamlining their application for entry into the US.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Relations
Source: Indian Express

2. Chandrayaan-5 has received Centre's approval, will carry 250-kg rover

Why in News?

The Centre recently accorded approval for the ambitious Chandrayaan-5 mission to study the moon. Unlike the Chandrayaan-3 mission which carried the 25-kilogram rover 'Prayagyaan', the Chandrayaan-5 mission would carry a 250-kg rover to study the moon's surface.

Chandrayaan-1
The Chandrayaan mission consists of studying the lunar surface. Chandrayaan-1, successfully launched in 2008, took chemical, mineralogical and photo-geologic mapping of the Moon.

Chandrayaan-2
The Chandrayaan-2 mission (2019) was 98% successful, but just two per cent of the Mission could not be achieved in the final stages.This mission failed to make soft landing on the surface of the moon. However, the moon orbiter Chandrayaan-2 is functioning perfectly. Still, the onboard high-resolution camera on Chandrayaan-2 is sending hundreds of images.

Chandrayaan-3
Chandrayaan-3 Mission is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.

ISRO successfully launched the Chandrayaan-3 mission with the Lander Vikram successfully 'soft-landing' on the South pole of the Moon on August 23,2023.

Chandrayaan-4
The Chandrayaan-4 Mission, expected to be launched in 2027, aims to bring samples collected from the moon.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Science & Technology
Source: The Hindu

3. Alien Enemies Act

Why Now?
US President Donald Trump signed an executive order recently, ordering the removal of hundreds of Venezuelans from the United States for their alleged links to a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation named Tren de Aragua. In doing so, Trump invoked the centuries-old Alien Enemies Act.

What Does the Alien Enemies Act Say?
The Alien Enemies Act of 1798 Act empowers the US President to order "all such aliens as he shall judge dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States, or shall have reasonable grounds to suspect are concerned in any treasonable or secret machinations against the government" to be deported.

Media reports say Trump has cited it because, unlike a more conventional path, it would allow him to bypass immigration courts – where those accused of violating immigration law can argue their case. Relief is also granted in certain cases (such as asylum).

Why is the Invocation Contentious?
Because of the context in which it is now being used. The Act has been previously invoked thrice, all during wartime – the War of 1812 between the US and the UK, World War I, and World War II. The law was previously used for detentions, expulsions and restrictions that targeted German, Austro-Hungarian, Japanese, and Italian immigrants based solely on their ancestry.

Apart from direct conflict, it can also be invoked against an attempted or threatened "invasion or predatory incursion" by any foreign nation or government. When questioned about the timing of his invocation by the press, Trump said, "This is a time of war," describing the influx of criminal migrants as "an invasion."