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1. ISRO Successfully Launches Indigenous NVS-03 Navigation Satellite

(i) Successful Launch of NVS-03 and Its Placement in Orbit

- The GSLV-F18 rocket carrying the indigenously developed, advanced NVS-03 navigation satellite was successfully launched at midnight on Friday (October 30).
- Following the satellite's successful placement in its designated Earth orbit, ISRO scientists declared the mission a success.
- This will enable precise navigation services for the defence sector, civilian applications, and telecommunications in the coming years.

(ii) India's Regional Navigation Satellite System

- Like the United States, India has developed a Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) through ISRO to support land, sea, and air transportation, as well as defence applications.
- For this purpose, seven satellites — IRNSS-1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, and 1G — were developed at a cost of ₹1,420 crore and successfully launched between 2013 and 2016.
- The system is currently used for surveillance operations and route-mapping services across the country.
- As the next stage of development, improved satellites were planned and launched. NVS-01 was launched in 2023, followed by NVS-02 in 2025.

(iii) Launch Preparations for NVS-03

- ISRO scientists designed the advanced NVS-03 satellite to replace the earlier satellites and decided to launch it aboard the GSLV-F18 rocket.
- The 24-hour countdown for the launch began on Thursday night.
- Subsequently, the GSLV-F18 rocket lifted off at 11:51 p.m. on Friday from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

(iv) Successful Placement in Earth Orbit

- Approximately 18 minutes and 40 seconds after liftoff, the satellite was placed in its designated Earth orbit.
- The orbit had a minimum altitude of 170 km and a maximum altitude of 37,023 km, according to the report.

(v) Technical Features of NVS-03

- The NVS-03 satellite weighs 2,250 kg and has a mission lifespan of 10 years.
- It carries several advanced technological instruments, including:
    - L1, L5, and S-band transponders.
    - An indigenously developed rubidium atomic clock.
    - Other advanced navigation and communication equipment.

(vi) Applications of NVS-03

- NVS-03 will provide precise navigation and mapping services across the Indian landmass and up to 1,500 km beyond the country's borders.
- It will support the monitoring of land, maritime, and air transportation.
- It will provide accurate information during natural disasters and other emergencies.
- Its advanced signal frequencies will enable mapping services on smartphones and other digital devices used by the public.
- The satellite can also support railway operations and defence-related activities of the armed forces.

2. Pope Leo has cast his vote by mail in the United States midterm elections, becoming the first Pope in history to vote in a US election. Pope Leo, who was born in Chicago, United States, cast his postal ballot in Chicago for the midterm elections scheduled for Tuesday, November 3.

3. The G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting commenced in Atlanta, Georgia, United States.

4. India's Manisha Bhanwala won the championship title at the World Wrestling Championships held in Kazakhstan.

- She created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal in the history of the competition.

i. In the women's 59 kg final, Manisha defeated Abigail Nette of the United States by a score of 8–6. With this victory, she became the second Indian wrestler to win a gold medal at the World Wrestling Championships. Earlier, Sushil Kumar had won gold in the men's 66 kg category in 2010.

5. The Union Government has issued a notification concerning the establishment of a National Social Security Board for unorganised workers, online delivery workers, and other similar categories of workers.

(i) Composition of the Board

- The National Social Security Board is being established to address the social security needs of unorganised workers, online delivery workers, and others.
- The Union Minister for Labour and Employment will head the Board.
- Representatives of the Central and State Governments, major organisations, workers, civil society organisations, and labour organisations will serve as members.

(ii) Objectives and Functions

- The Board will formulate welfare schemes for millions of unorganised workers, online delivery workers, and other similar categories across the country.
- Its objective is to reduce social inequalities and strengthen social security for these workers.

(iii) Meetings and Recommendations

- The Board will meet three times a year.
- During these meetings, it will deliberate on welfare schemes for workers and submit its recommendations to the Central Government.

6. Data released by the Central Government indicate that India's fiscal deficit during the first half of the current financial year reached 42.1% of the full-year budget estimate.

7. India has announced its intention to contest for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2028–2029 term.

(i) Composition of the UN Security Council

- The United Nations Security Council consists of 15 members:

- Five permanent members: the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China.
- Ten non-permanent members: elected for fixed terms.

(ii) Election for the 2028–2029 Term

- The ten non-permanent members are elected through a rotational election process.
- For the 2028–2029 term, one country from the Asia-Pacific regional group is to be elected to the available seat.
- India and Tajikistan are the two countries competing for this seat.