Syllabus subtopic:


Prelims and Mains focus: about GISAT-1: its orbit and significance; about Gaganyaan; ISRO

News: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to launch GISAT-1, a new earth observation (EO) satellite, in the first week of March 2020.

About the satellite

- GISAT-1 — Geo Imaging Satellite — will be the first of two planned Indian EO spacecraft to be placed in a geostationary orbit of around 36,000 km. It will apparently be in a fixed spot looking over the Indian continent at all times.

- All Indian EOs have been placed so far in a 600-odd-km orbits and circle the earth pole to pole. GISAT-1 will be launched from Sriharikota satellite launch centre.

- With this satellite, which has high-resolution cameras, scientists can keep a constant watch on India’s borders, monitor any changes in the geographical condition of the country, etc.