First Contract for NSIL

Recently, New Space India Limited (NSIL), the newly created second commercial arm of the **Indian Space Research Organisation,** has bagged its first contract.

A private US space services provider: **Spaceflight,** has booked ISRO's **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle** (SSLV), **which is yet to be tested, for launching a spacecraft.**

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle

- The SSLV is the **smallest vehicle** weighing only 110-tonne.
- It would take only **72 hours to integrate,** unlike the 70 days taken for launch vehicles like **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) or Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle(GSLV).**
- **Cost-effective:** Its cost would be around Rs. 30 crores.
- It will be an **on-demand vehicle.**
- SSLV is perfectly suited for launching **multiple microsatellites** at a time and supports multiple orbital drop-offs.
  - The SSLV can carry satellites weighing up to **500 kg** to Low Earth Orbit while the PSLV can launch satellites weighing in the range of 1,000 kg.
    - A **low Earth orbit** (LEO) is an **orbit** around **Earth** with an **altitude** above the Earth's surface of 2,000 kilometres (1,200 mi), and an **orbital** period between about 84 and 127 minutes.
- ISRO's SSLV was originally scheduled to have its first development flight on July 2019 but got delayed to end of 2019.

New Space India Limited

- The establishment of NSIL was announced in **Budget 2019.**
- One of the mandates of NSIL is to **mass-produce and manufacture the SSLV and the more powerful PSLV** in partnership with the private sector in India through technology transfers.

- Its aim is to use research and development carried out by ISRO over the years for **commercial purposes through Indian industry partners.**
- It differs from ISRO's existing commercial arm Antrix Corporation:
    - Antrix will handle ISRO's commercial deals for satellites and launch vehicles with **foreign customers.**
    - NSIL will deal with capacity building of **local industry** for space manufacturing.

Source:IE