



'Matosinhos Manifesto' to accelerate the use of Space in Europe

Why in News

The **European Space Agency (ESA) council** has approved a manifesto to accelerate the use of space in Europe.

- Basically, the council has adopted a **resolution that lays down a vision for the continent** in terms of maintaining and expanding its activities in space.
- Other than this, the council recognised two “inspirators” to reinforce European leadership in science, technology development and inspiration: **an icy moon sample return mission and human space exploration.**

Key Points

- **About the Resolution:** The resolution defines **three “accelerators”** to further advance Europe’s space ambitions.
 - **Space for a Green Future:**
 - Space projects that **enable it to understand the current state** of the planet and help it get to **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions** by 2050. [Earth observation satellites](#) and their data are a key part of this.
 - **Rapid and Resilient Crisis Response:**
 - Space applications that **allow nations to manage more effectively** any crises that crop up.
 - **Examples: Severe flooding and wildfires** were seen in parts of Europe earlier this year (2021). Also, the latest report of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) has flagged frequent weather events, such as heatwaves, extreme rainfalls and rising sea levels. Some of these factors may influence the way wildfires play out.
 - **Protection of Space Assets:**
 - **Russia's use of a missile** to destroy a satellite in orbit recently has highlighted the **need for new systems to safeguard** European astronauts and satellites from interference.
- **Significance:**
 - It will **tackle the urgent and unprecedented** societal, economic and security challenges faced by Europe and its citizens.
 - The **large-scale nature and fast pace of the climate crisis** and other challenges means that no European nation will be able to effectively address them alone.

- **Space has enormous untapped potential** to help tackle these challenges, and an acceleration in developing European space capability is now urgently needed.

European Space Agency (ESA)

- The ESA is **an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975 with the aim of developing Europe's space capabilities.**
- The organisation has **22 member states** — Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. **Slovenia, Latvia and Lithuania are Associate Members.**
- **Related Projects:**
 - [Sentinel satellites](#)
 - [EnVision Mission to Venus](#)

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