

What is IRIS² Programme?

December 21, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



About IRIS² Programme:

- It is the **European Union's third flagship programme**, designed to offer connectivity services to governmental users as well as private companies and individuals.
- According to the European Space Agency (ESA), IRIS² will use both **Medium Earth Orbit and Low Earth Orbit satellites**.
- It will provide **secure connectivity and high-speed broadband** in zones where network connectivity is low or unavailable.
- Its interlinked satellites which comprise of **264 and 18 satellites in low and medium Earth orbits** respectively will enable it to offer secure high-speed internet connectivity without needing thousands of satellites.

- It is developed in **partnership with SpaceRISE**, an alliance of leading European satellite operators and space companies
 - **Applications:**
 - It will “**support a large variety of governmental applications**”, with a focus on border and maritime surveillance, crisis management, connection and security of key infrastructure and security and defence of important.
 - The system can also be used for **maritime, railway, aviation, automotive**, smart energy grid management, banking, overseas industrial activities, remote healthcare and enhancing rural connectivity.
 - It will also offer **mobile and fixed broadband satellite access**, cloud-based services and can also be used in the transportation sector to navigate areas with no or low connectivity.
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Q1:Low Earth Orbit (LEO)?

LEO has an altitude between 160 km to 1000 km above the Earth’s surface. Satellites in this orbit take approximately 88 – 127 minutes to circle Earth.

News: What is IRIS², the European Union’s answer to Elon Musk’s Starlink?

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/iris%c2%b2-programme/>

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