



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

8th September 2025



A complex turn in India's FDI story



CONTEXT: A write up has appeared discussing the situation where foreign firms are withdrawing funds after short-term profit gains and Indian firms are investing abroad

Recent Trends in FDI

- FY 2024-25: **\$81B**, up **13.7% YoY**.
- 2011-21: Rose **\$46.6B** → **\$84.8B**, showing strong investor appeal.
- Peak in **2021-22**, then fell to **\$71B (2023-24)**, slight recovery after.
- Post-COVID (4 yrs): Gross inflows grew only **0.3% annually**, while **disinvestments/repatriations +18.9% annually**.
- Gross inflows: **\$308.5B**, but withdrawals/repatriations: **\$153.9B**.
- Net retained capital (after outward FDI): just **\$0.4B**.
- Outward FDI by Indian firms grew from \$13 billion in FY 2011-12 to \$29.2 billion in FY 2024-25.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS: CAPITAL VERSUS CURRENT

	Capital Inflows (Net)	Trade Balance (1)	Invisibles Balance (2)	Current Account (1-2)
2007-08	107.9	-91.47	75.73	-15.74
2008-09	7.84	-119.52	91.60	-27.91
2009-10	51.62	-118.20	80.02	-38.18
2010-11	61.10	-127.32	79.27	-48.05
2011-12	65.32	-189.76	111.60	-78.16
2012-13	91.99	-195.66	107.49	-88.16
2013-14	47.80	-147.61	115.31	-32.30
2014-15	88.27	-144.94	118.08	-26.86
2015-16	40.06	-130.08	107.93	-22.15
2016-17	35.97	-112.44	98.03	-14.42
2017-18	92.29	-160.04	111.32	-48.72
2018-19	53.92	-180.28	123.03	-57.26
2019-20	84.15	-157.51	132.85	-24.66
2020-21	63.37	-102.15	126.07	23.91
2021-22	86.27	-189.46	150.69	-38.77
2022-23	57.92	-265.29	198.24	-67.06
2023-24	89.81	-244.91	218.80	-26.11
2024-25	18.34	-287.21	263.85	-23.37
Apr-Jun 24	13.11	-63.80	55.13	-8.68
Apr-Jun 25	7.70	-68.46	66.09	-2.37

Figures in billion dollars, Source: Reserve Bank of India.



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FDI vs FPI

Feature	Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)	Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)
Investment Type	Direct ownership of a business or assets	Purchase of financial assets
Control	Investor seeks significant control over the company or asset	Investor has little or no control over the company or asset
Time Horizon	Typically long-term (years to decades)	Typically shorter-term (months to years)
Risk	Generally considered higher risk due to involvement in the local economy	Generally considered lower risk as investments are spread across companies and countries
Impact on Host Country	Can create jobs, transfer technology, and boost economic growth	Can provide capital for companies and contribute to market liquidity



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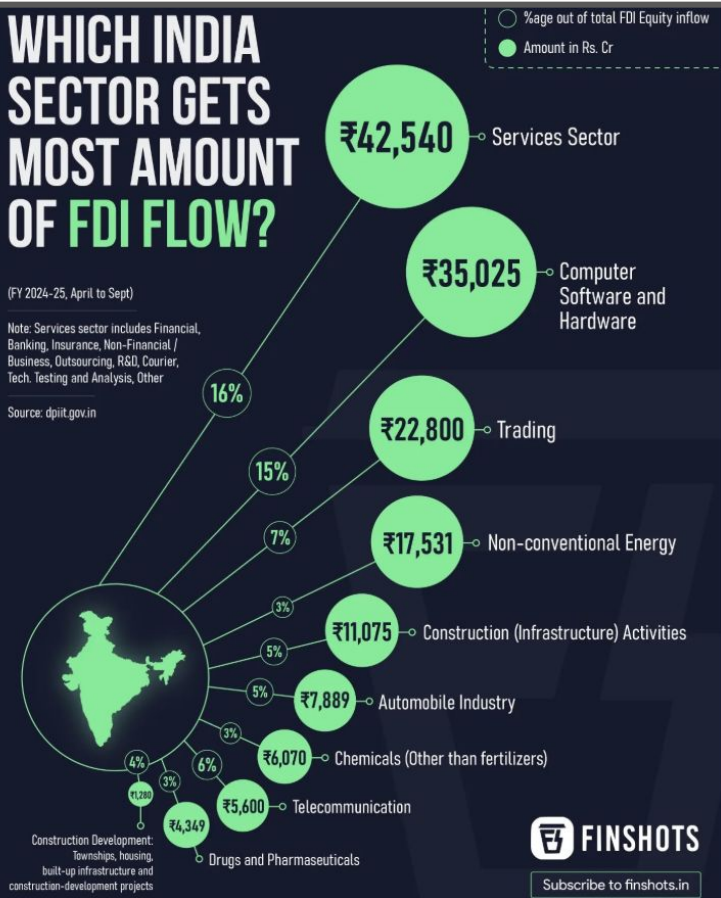
Recent Trends in FDI

WHICH INDIA SECTOR GETS MOST AMOUNT OF FDI FLOW?

(FY 2024-25, April to Sept)

Note: Services sector includes Financial, Banking, Insurance, Non-Financial / Business, Outsourcing, R&D, Courier, Tech, Testing and Analysis, Other

Source: dpiit.gov.in



FINSHOTS

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Top Countries Investing in India FDI in 2023-24



Source: DPIIT

Prelims PYQ 2020

Q. With reference to Foreign Direct Investment in India, which one of the following is considered its major characteristic?

- (a) It is the investment through capital instruments essentially in a listed company.
- (b) It is a largely non-debt creating capital flow.
- (c) It is the investment which involves debt-servicing.
- (d) It is the investment made by foreign institutional investors in Government securities.



A complex turn in India's FDI story

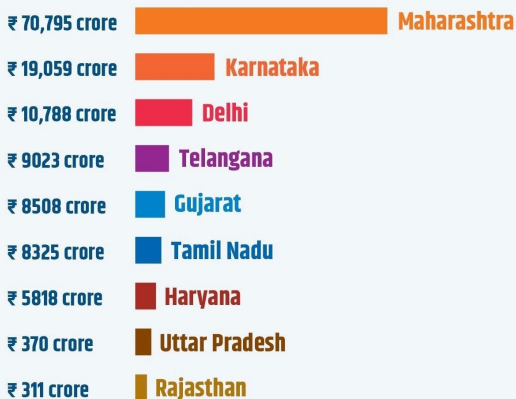


CONTEXT: A write up has appeared discussing the situation where foreign firms are withdrawing funds after short-term profit gains and Indian firms are investing abroad

Reasons for this trend : Structural Barriers

- **Regulatory Inefficiencies** : Complex approvals & compliance under multiple regulators (SEBI, RBI, FEMA).
- **Policy Unpredictability** : Frequent tax/policy shifts discourage long-term planning.
 - *Example: E-commerce rules uncertainty (2022–24)*
- **Legal Opacity & Slow Dispute Resolution** : contract enforcement (163rd in WB EoDB, 2020). *Example: Cairn Energy Arbitration (2020–21)*
- **Infrastructure Gaps** : Logistics costs ~14% of GDP (vs 8–10% in China).
- **Rising Outward FDI** : (Outward FDI: \$29.2B in FY 2024–25). *Example: Reliance Industries' investment in US shale gas & renewable ventures (2023–24)*
- **Governance Inconsistencies** : State-level variations in execution weaken investor trust.
 - *Ex: Foxconn's withdrawal from \$19.5B chip JV with Vedanta (2023) citing regulatory & execution bottlenecks.*

Maharashtra leads in FDI with a Staggering 52.46% of India's total investment!



(Reference : DPIIT/April to June 2024)



A complex turn in India's FDI story







CONTEXT: A write up has appeared discussing the situation where foreign firms are withdrawing funds after short-term profit gains and Indian firms are investing abroad

Government Initiatives

MINT GRAPHITI

INVESTMENT AVENUES

The changes in FDI policy are aimed at making India a more attractive destination for foreign investments, boosting employment and economic growth.

MEASURE	IMPACT
<p>Single brand retail sourcing norms eased</p>	<p>MORE foreign retail brands may set up physical stores in India and establish an online presence.</p> 
<p>100% FDI allowed in contract manufacturing</p>	<p>ELECTRONIC, pharma firms are likely to set up manufacturing facilities in India.</p> 
<p>100% FDI in coal mining through automatic route</p>	<p>MONOPOLY of Coal India likely to end. Move will help create an efficient energy market.</p> 
<p>26% FDI limit extended to digital media</p>	<p>THIS brings digital news services on a par with print and allows them to be valued separately.</p> 

Factors Attracting Investor Interest in India

- 1 Make in India**

The government has launched Make in India program to drive self-reliance and aid manufacturing in India and strengthen the logistics supply chain.
- 2 PM GatiShakti**

With an INR 200 billion outlay, the initiative is driven by the seven engines - Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways, and Logistics Infrastructure.
- 3 PLI Scheme**

 - Incentives of INR 1.97 trillion have been announced for 14 sectors.
 - Heavy incentives for foreign companies manufacturing in India.
- 4 Export Promotion**

 - Special Economic Zones Act to be replaced with a new legislation to facilitate states to become partners in 'Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs'.
 - New Foreign Trade Policy to be announced in FY 2023
- 5 Liberal FDI Norms**

 - Several sectors open to 100% FDI under automatic route.
 - 13 FTAs and six preferential trade agreements are signed with several countries



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What Should be done?

- **Policy Stability & Transparency:** Clear, predictable frameworks.
- **Regulatory Simplification:** Streamlined procedures to reduce compliance burden.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Logistics, energy, digital ecosystems.
- **Human Capital Investment:** Skills & education aligned with industry needs.
- **Strengthen Institutional Trust:** To attract patient, strategic capital.
- **Focus on Quality of FDI, not just Quantity:** Prioritise capital that builds domestic capacity & resilience.

#ViksitBharatBudget2025

Manufacturing Mission - Furthering 'Make in India'

- **National Manufacturing Mission** will be set up
- It will cover small, medium and large industries for furthering 'Make in India' by providing policy support, execution roadmaps, governance and monitoring framework for central ministries and states
- The focus areas of the Mission will include **ease and cost of doing business**; future ready workforce for in-demand jobs; **vibrant and dynamic MSME sector**; availability of technology and quality products
- The Mission will also support **Clean Tech Manufacturing**. It will aim to improve value addition & build our ecosystem for solar PV cells, EV batteries, motors and controllers, electrolyzers, wind turbines, very high voltage transmission equipment and grid scale batteries



Mains Practise Question

Despite India's potential as a major investment destination, structural barriers continue to constrain foreign direct investment inflows. Discuss the key factors responsible for decline in FDI inflows and suggest measures to attract stable, long-term capital.

(10 Marks, 150 words)



CONTEXT: To address climate challenges, cities need to build institutional capacity, promote collaboration, and get the support of both the government and the citizens.

Background

- Cities- generate **70%+ new jobs** in next 5 years.
- Urban population to near **1 billion in 25 years**; megacities > many countries.
- Most infrastructure yet to be built → **window for resilient, future-ready design.**
- By 2070: Need **144 million new homes** + robust transport & municipal services.

THE URBAN CHALLENGE

FACED WITH A POPULATION EXPLOSION, INDIAN CITIES ARE ON A POORLY PLANNED EXPANSION SPREE

URBANISATION

INDIA

291 mn 429 mn 461 mn



WORLD



Urban population % living in urban areas

416 MILLION People expected to live in Indian cities by 2050 (current US population 332 million)

4,041 Statutory towns in India

3,892 Census towns in India

LEAST URBANISED STATES

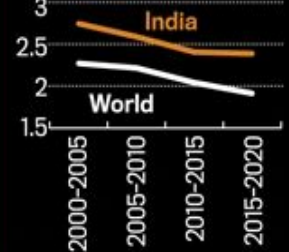
Himachal Pradesh 10%
Bihar 11%
Assam 14%

MOST URBANISED STATES

Delhi 97%
Goa 62%
Mizoram 52%



ANNUAL URBAN POPULATION GROWTH (in %)



17 of 20 fastest-growing cities globally between 2019 and 2035 will be in India

70% of jobs will be generated in cities by 2030; they will contribute to 70% of GDP

29.4% of India's urban population lives in slums

98% of urban households have access to electricity; 91.4% get potable water



CONTEXT: To address climate challenges, cities need to build institutional capacity, promote collaboration, and get the support of both the government and the citizens.

Climate Challenges Facing Cities

• Flooding

- By 2030, $\frac{2}{3}$ urban dwellers face pluvial flood risks.
- Losses: **\$5B (2030) → \$30B (2070)**.

• Extreme Heat

- **UHI effect:** +3–5°C at night vs rural.
- Threatens health & productivity.

• Housing Vulnerability:

- **>50% of 2070 housing stock yet to be built.**
- Risks: floods, heat, cyclones, landslides, quakes.

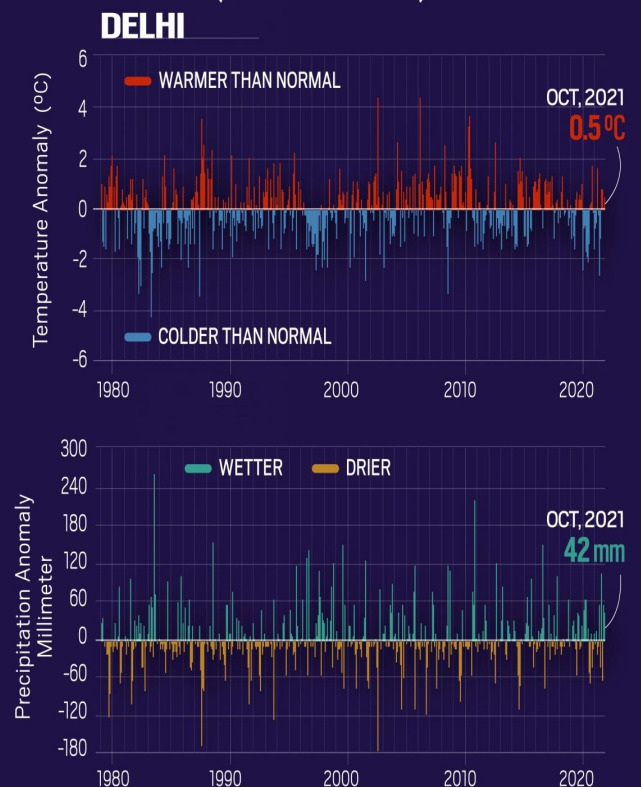
• Transport Disruption:

- **25%+ roads flood-prone;** if 10–20% flood → 50% transport fails.

• Municipal Services:

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION CHANGES IN DELHI

MONTHLY CHANGES COMPARED TO BASELINE
(MEAN OF 1980-2010)



Source: ERA5, meteoblue



CONTEXT: To address climate challenges, cities need to build institutional capacity, promote collaboration, and get the support of both the government and the citizens.

Other Challenges

- Rapid urbanisation and population burst:

Issues at the planning stage:

- Lack of proper Master Plan:
- Short sightedness
- Lack of Coordination between multiple agencies
- Lack of Sufficient Architects/Engineers
- Lack of Public Participation

METRO CRISIS

India's urban population is set to grow massively over the next three decades—a major problem, since existing supplies of water are already insufficient to meet demand

40%

of India's population is projected to live in urban areas by 2030, up from 34 per cent in 2011

31%

of urban households lack access to piped water or public tap water

67.3%

of urban Indian households are not connected to a piped sewage discharge system

48%

of the urban water supply in India comes from groundwater, according to the Centre for Science and Environment

Sources: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; National Family Health Survey, 2015-16; Census 2011; Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation; Centre for Science and Environment

THE WARNING SIGNALS

30

INDIAN CITIES WOULD FACE A GRAVE WATER RISK BY 2050, REVEALS A REPORT BY WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF) RELEASED IN 2020

50

MILLION PEOPLE IN 15 CITIES LACK ACCESS TO SAFE, AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER, STATES A UNICEF INDIA REPORT IN 2021

EVERY SIXTH URBAN INDIAN LIVES IN SLUMS, AND FOUR OUT OF 10 SLUM-DWELLERS DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER



News

Again! Bridge
Collapses In Bihar



CONTEXT: To address climate challenges, cities need to build institutional capacity, promote collaboration, and get the support of both the government and the citizens.

Issues at the implementation stage:

- **Overburdened/Negligent ULBs:**
- **Poor Quality/Substandard Material**
- **Lack of periodic Maintenance**
- **Lack of mandatory/timely safety audit**
- **Lack Of strict punitive measures**
- **Public Apathy**

The Indian Express

Only 40% drains under the MCD were desilted until night before downpour

Friday's downpour and the resultant waterlogging across Delhi shone spotlight over one civic issue in particular: Desilting of drains.

SAT EVENINGS, CITY SUFFERS 95% CONGESTION

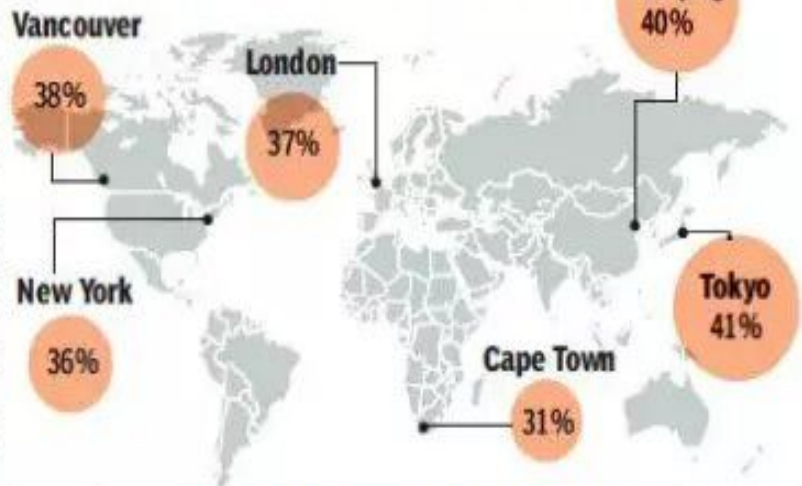
WORLD'S TOP 10 CONGESTED CITIES



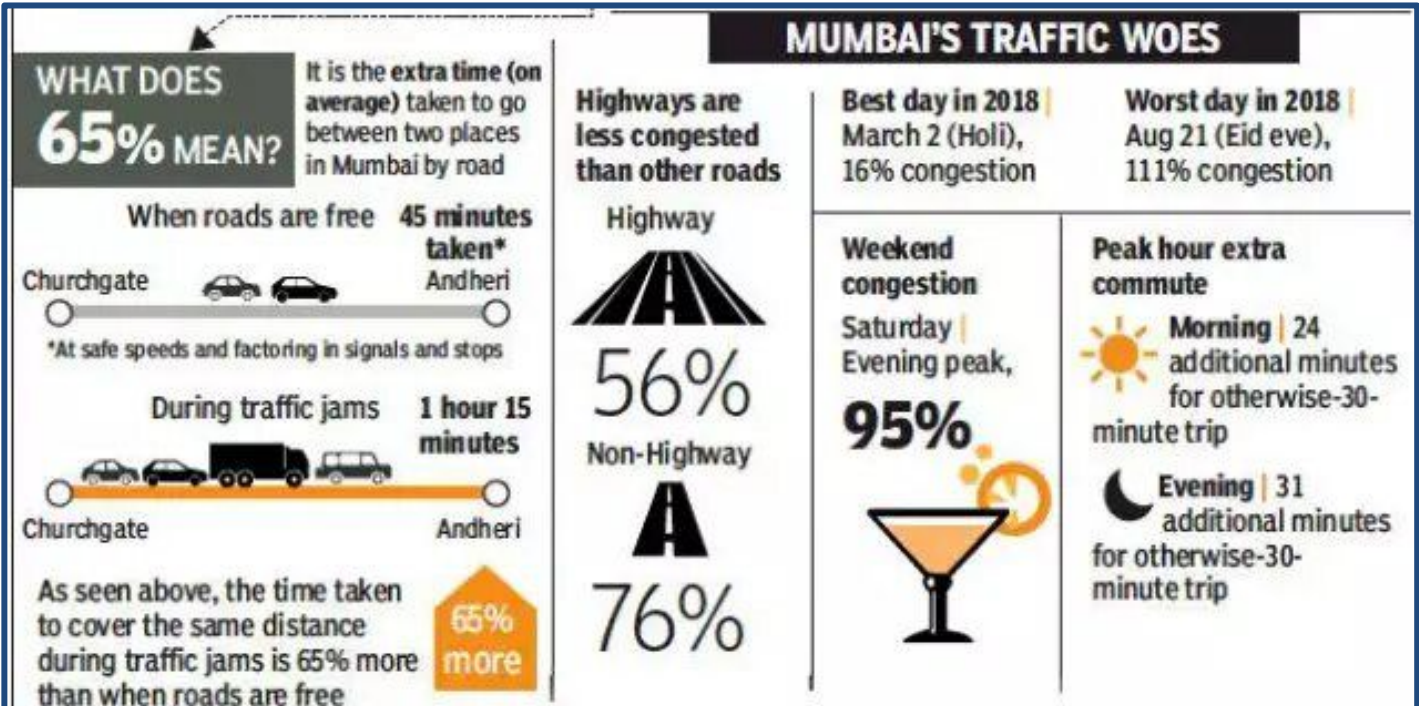
Overall daily congestion level in terms of extra travel time

Criterion | Cities considered each have a population of over 8 lakh

OTHER CITIES IN COMPARISON



CONTEXT: To address climate challenges, cities need to build institutional capacity, promote collaboration, and get the support of both the government and the citizens.



Building a City of Future



CONTEXT: To address climate challenges, cities need to build institutional capacity, promote collaboration, and get the support of both the government and the citizens.

Government Initiatives

Scheme Name	Key Objectives
Smart Cities Mission	Developing cities with a focus on technology, sustainability, and citizen engagement
Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)	Providing basic urban infrastructure like water supply, sewerage, and public transport
Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)	Achieving open defecation free cities and improving solid waste management
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)	Providing affordable housing to all urban households by 2022
Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)	Preserving and revitalizing the rich cultural heritage of Indian cities
Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)	Empowering urban poor through skill development and livelihood opportunities

The Path Ahead

- **No-build zones**, drainage upgrade, nature-based solutions, flood warnings.
Ex: Brazil (integrated mgmt), Kolkata (forecasting), Chennai (stormwater).
- **Tree cover, canopies**, cool roofs, shift labour hours.
Ex: Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan.
- **Compact design**, resilient planning & construction.
- **Flood risk maps**, alt routes, drainage, road upkeep.



Building a City of Future



CONTEXT: To address climate challenges, cities need to build institutional capacity, promote collaboration, and get the support of both the government and the citizens.

- Proper planning and execution
- Regular mandatory oversight mechanism
- Strict Accountability mechanisms
- Strict Quality norms in PPP projects
- At Individual Level

Mains Practise Question

Question : Urbanisation in India is outpacing the growth of urban systems, creating risks of flooding, heat stress, housing shortages, and service disruption. Discuss the key challenges plaguing Indian cities. (10 Marks, 150 words)



Difficulty of disarming Hezbollah



SYLLABUS : G.S. 2: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests

Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page No :** 14



BASHIR ALI ABBAS

THE UNITED Nations Security Council on August 31 voted to begin an "orderly and safe drawdown and withdrawal" of the 10,000-strong UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in 2027.

This decision comes after concerted pressure from Israel and the United States, who have long criticised UNIFIL for not only failing to disarm Hezbollah and also providing its positions with cover — a charge that the peacekeeping force firmly rejects.

On September 2, US Envoy to Lebanon Thomas Barrack floated a proposal for creating an "economic zone" in southern Lebanon in order to facilitate the Lebanese state's efforts to disarm Hezbollah. But that will be

easier said than done.

Since last year, when Israel invaded Lebanon and killed Hezbollah's top leadership, including longtime chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah has been left severely weakened. At the same time, continuing Israeli aggression has helped it re-consolidate some domestic support, and the group still boasts a large cadre and a significant stockpile of armaments.

On August 20, Beirut announced its intention to disarm Hezbollah. The group, now under Naim Qassem, issued a firm rejection the very same day.

Hezbollah in Lebanon

Hezbollah ("Party of God") was formed as an armed resistance force in Lebanon in response to Israel's invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon from 1982 to 2000. Since 1992, Hezbollah has also been a formidable political actor with representation in the Lebanese Parliament.

Given Lebanon's ethnic mix and history of civil war, the country has a tripartite governing system — a Maronite Christian President, Sunni Muslim Prime Minister, and a Shia

Muslim Speaker. Over the years, Hezbollah has wielded influence on all three positions, and enjoyed popularity across ethnic and religious lines, beyond its core constituency in the Shia-dominated South.

The group has been cultivated by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and has inextricable ideological, political and military ties to Tehran, which has supplied its vast armory of missiles, rockets, and drones.

However, Hezbollah frequently emphasises upon its national character, presenting itself as a supplement to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) who have a poor military record against the Israelis. In 1989, when the Taif Agreement disarmed most of Lebanon's armed groups to end a 15-year-long civil war, Hezbollah justified its continued armament through the need to resist the Israeli occupation.

In 2000, when Israel withdrew from Lebanon, and then again in 2006, when Israeli forces and Hezbollah fought each other to a stalemate, the group successfully presented itself as the only Arab force to have affected strategic defeats on Israel, allowing

EXPLA
GLO

Hezbollah to further consolidate its domestic position.

Recent weaknesses

Over the last two decades, Hezbollah successfully leveraged its external *raison d'être* — the Israeli threat — to amass disproportionate internal influence in Lebanon's politics and economy. When economic stagnation, record levels of unemployment, and rampant corruption and mismanagement

triggered unprecedented protests across Lebanon in 2019, Hezbollah was caught in the crossfire.

The group's proximity to and support for the government in Beirut has meant that the crisis in Lebanon has significantly dented the group's popularity, across ethnic lines. When the conflict in Gaza heated up in October 2023, Hezbollah was ill-prepared to mount a sustained ground campaign against Israel and restrained itself to carrying out calibrated rocket strikes.

And when Israeli forces invaded Lebanon last October, Hezbollah faced far more significant losses than during the protracted

1989-2000 campaign and the short 2006 war. Nasrallah and the group's senior leadership was wiped out, Israel's pager bombings terrorised the rank and file, and airstrikes continue to take a toll.

Since last October, Israel has maintained its occupation of at least five points in South Lebanon and struck targets across the country almost daily. Hezbollah's response has been muted; and it has been forced to remain to the north of Lebanon's Litani river.

Challenge of disarmament

That said, Hezbollah survives. And Israel's decision to keep pounding Lebanon with missile strikes — the death toll now stands at over 4,000 since last October — has helped the group re-consolidate some support.

For the government in Beirut, shoring up state capacity is a key imperative. It has been trying to leverage international support to not just rein in Israel but also bolster the government's reform agenda. Both Arab countries, keen on undoing Hezbollah's lopsided influence in Lebanon, and Western capitals, keen to neutralise the group's ability to threaten Israel, back Beirut's attempts.

But any international plan is contingent on the Lebanese state's actual capacity to disarm Hezbollah, and ultimately, the group's cooperation. Israel's continuing aggression against Lebanon all but ensures that this does not happen. Hezbollah tactfully leverages Israeli actions to drive home suspicions regarding Israel's assurances of a phased withdrawal, and reaffirm its own role as a supplement to the LAF.

As Qassem put it in his address on August 20, if not for the resistance (Hezbollah), Israel would have reached Beirut just as it did Damascus "and would have occupied vast areas as it did in Syria". He said Hezbollah's role was now even more crucial "to prevent the occupation (Israel) from securing any stability".

Hezbollah's unwillingness to disarm and Israel's continuing aggression harm the Lebanese government's ability to affect change. In such a situation, any American proposition to end the conflict would be untenable.

Bashir Ali Abbas is a Senior Research Associate at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research, New Delhi

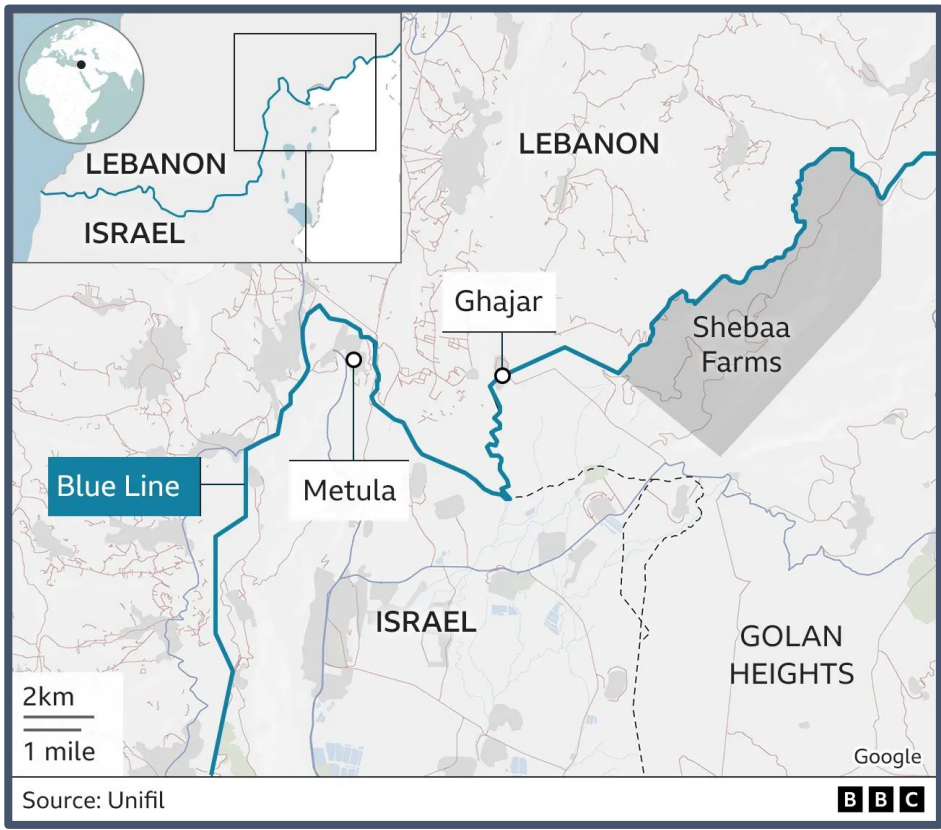
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Difficulty of disarming Hezbollah



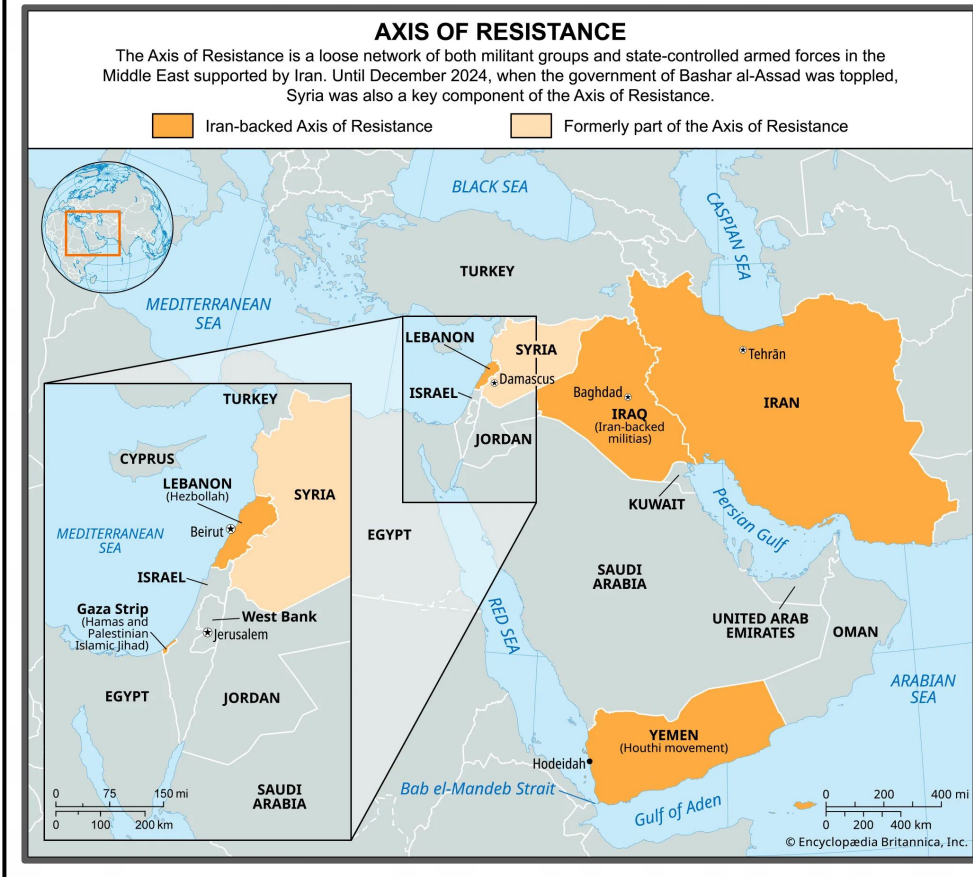
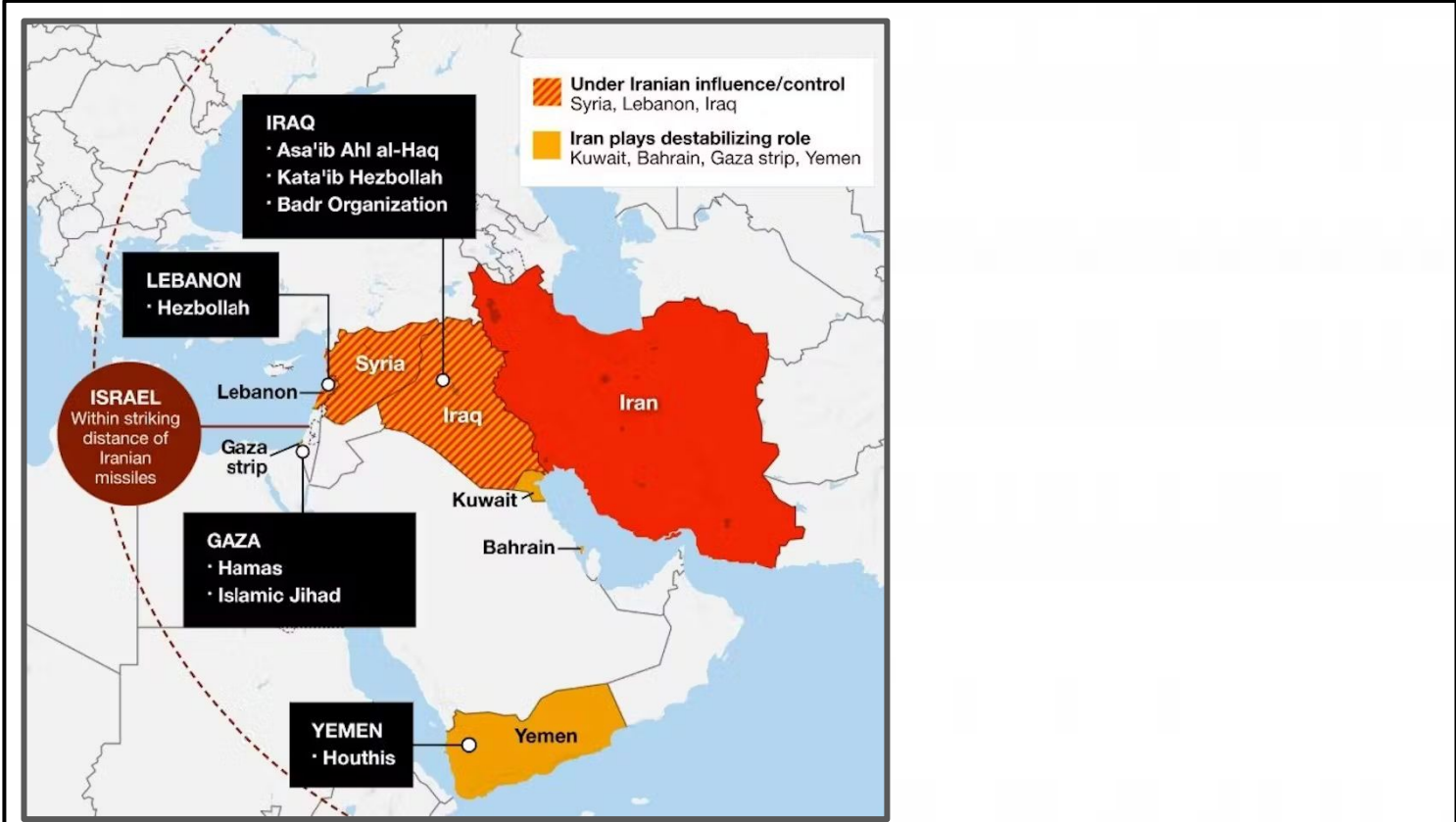
SYLLABUS : G.S. 2: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests
Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page No :** 14



Difficulty of disarming Hezbollah



SYLLABUS : G.S. 2: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests
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Amoebic Meningoencephalitis



SYLLABUS: GS 2: Health

Newspaper: The Hindu Page No: 05

A 32-year-old man from Pananthady panchayat in Kasaragod district of Kerala has reportedly contracted amoebic meningoencephalitis. He is currently undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode. The Health Department suspects that he contracted the infection while bathing in a pond or river.

On Saturday, a 45-year-old man from Wayanad died of amoebic encephalitis. This was the fourth death from the disease in the State in a month. Earlier, an eight-year-old from

tive, are being treated at the Kozhikode hospital. Among them, two are in a critical condition. The group comprises two children and nine adults.

Amoebic meningoencephalitis is a rare but fatal disease caused by the amoeba *Naegleria fowleri*, commonly found in stagnant waterbodies such as ponds and rivers.

The amoeba enters the body through the nose and travels to the brain, causing severe complications.

Initial symptoms include headache, fever, vomiting, and neck stiffness. In advanced stages, patients may experience seizures, fainting, and memory loss.

Thamarassery, a three-month-old baby and a woman from Malappuram died of the infection. Investigations confirmed that the infant contracted the

disease through contaminated well water at home, heightening fears over waterborne transmission.

At present, 11 patients, including a Kasaragod na-

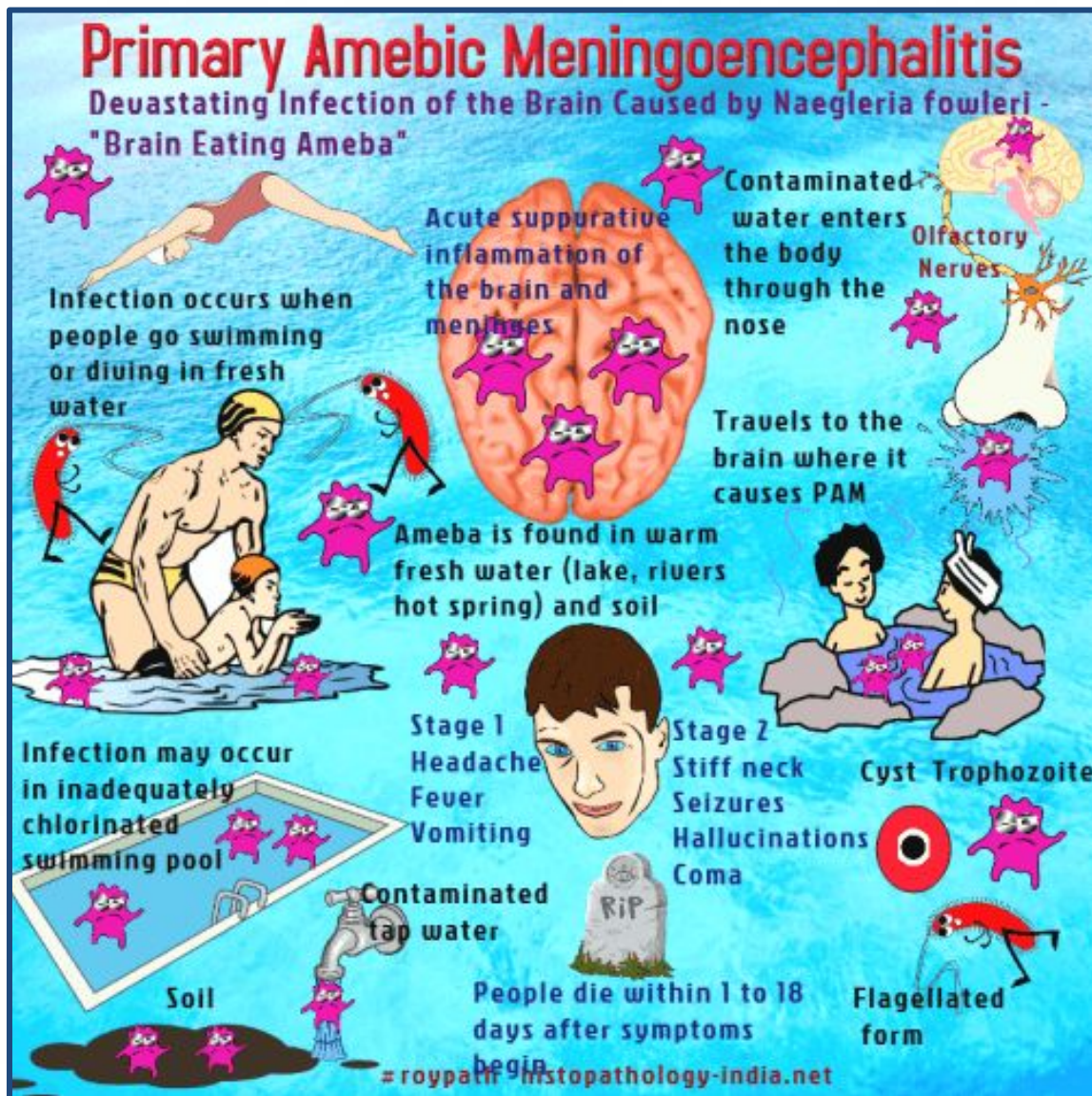


SYLLABUS: GS 2: Health

Newspaper: The Hindu Page No: 05

Naegleria fowleri Infection (PAM):

- Rare, fatal brain infection → *Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis* (PAM).
- Cause: Free-living amoeba **Naegleria fowleri** in warm freshwater (lakes, rivers, hot springs).
- Transmission: Contaminated water enters **through nose**, amoeba travels to brain.



Undersea Internet Cables Cut in Red Sea



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Places in News

Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page No : 12**

UNDERSEA CABLE cuts in the Red Sea disrupted internet access in parts of Asia and the Middle East, experts said Sunday, though it wasn't immediately clear what caused the incident.

There has been concern about the cables being targeted in a Red Sea campaign by Yemen's Houthi rebels, which the rebels describe as an effort to pressure Israel to end its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. But the Houthis have denied attacking the lines in the past.

Undersea cables are one of the backbones of the internet, along with satellite connections and land-based cables. Typically, internet service providers have multiple access points and reroute traffic if one fails, though it can slow down access for users.

Microsoft announced via a status website that the Mideast “may experience increased latency due to undersea fibre cuts in the Red Sea.”

NetBlocks, which monitors internet access, said “a series of subsea cable outages in the Red Sea has degraded internet connectivity in multiple countries,” which it said included India and Pakistan.

It blamed “failures affecting the SMW4 and IMEWE cable systems near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.”

The South East Asia–Middle East–Western Europe 4 cable is run by Tata Communications, part of the Indian conglomerate. The India–Middle East–Western Europe cable is run by another consortium overseen by Alcatel Submarine Networks.

Neither firm responded to requests for comment.



Undersea Internet Cables Cut in Red Sea



SYLLABUS : Prelims : Places in News

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TRICK

ED-ESY(ERITREA,
DJIBOUTI, EGYPT,
SUDAN, YEMEN)



SYLLABUS : G.S.2 : Statutory Bodies
Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : 11

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has rejected an application by the Congress for sending out text messages to its Maharashtra cadre with the link to a documentary on how the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly election was “stolen”, the party said on Sunday.

A QUICK REMINDER

What is net neutrality?

All traffic on the internet should be treated equally.

NO BLOCKING

Your internet access provider (IAP) cannot block you from accessing legal content of your choice.

NO THROTTLING

Your IAP cannot intentionally throttle legal internet traffic to slower speeds than other traffic.

NO PAID PRIORITIZATION

Your IAP cannot sell 'fast lane' service to content providers who can pay more than others.



SYLLABUS : G.S.2 : Statutory Bodies

Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No :** 11

Independent statutory regulator of telecom sector, set up in 1997 (earlier regulated by Central Govt).

Mission: Foster telecom growth & enable India's role in global information society.

Objective: Ensure fair, transparent, competitive market & level playing field.

Functions: Issues orders on tariffs, interconnection, quality of service, DTH, mobile number portability, etc.

TRAI Composition & Tenure

- **Members:** Chairperson + 2 Whole-time + 2 Part-time (appointed by Govt).
- **Tenure:** 3 years or till 65 years of age (whichever earlier).
- **Chairperson:** Heads TRAI, has general superintendence, presides over meetings.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Appointed by Govt; acts in place of Chairperson during absence.



SYLLABUS : G.S. 3 : Defence

Newspaper : The Hindu **Page No :** 14

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

WITH PAKISTAN managing to breach Indian airspace with swarms of drones, including camouflaged surveillance and attack UAVs, during the hostilities that followed Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army is preparing to plug gaps in its air surveillance network along the northern and western borders with advanced radars, *The Indian Express* has learned.

The new radar systems that the Army plans to procure are designed to detect, track and engage aerial objects with a low radar

cross-section (RCS), which makes them harder to spot. According to sources, these systems will be integrated into the Army's Akashteer air defence network, giving battlefield commanders sharper eyes in the sky and faster responses against hostile drones and other aerial threats.

In two separate Request for Information (RFI) – the formal process for gathering inputs from potential suppliers – the Army has sought to procure up to 45 Low Level Light Weight Radars (Enhanced) (LLLR-E) and up to 48 Air Defence Fire Control Radar-Drone Detectors (ADFCR-DD). In a separate Request for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Proposal (RFP), the Army has also called for 10 Low Level Light Weight Radars (Improved) (LLLR-I) a surveillance system designed to scan airspace, detect and track targets (including those with very low RCS), and prioritise them based on threat.

The LLLR-I will be a three-dimensional (3D) Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar with a Commander's Display Unit, Target Designation System, and integral power supply. It must work across terrains – from mountains and high-altitude areas to deserts and coasts – and be able to detect all aerial targets within a 50-km range while tracking more than 100 targets at once.

The LLLR-E has similar features but adds an Electro-Optical Tracking System (EOTS) and a passive radio-frequency detection system, enabling it to pick up signals from low-RCS drones, including swarms, and transmit target data to weapon systems up to 10 km away. The EOTS will allow tracking both day and night, independently or cued by radar.

The ADFCR-DD, meanwhile, will combine a search radar, track radar, fire control systems, and Identification Friend-or-Foe (IFF) capability, all mounted on a single vehicle. It will control the fire of at least two L/70 or successor air defence guns and feed target data to Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORADS), which are designed to intercept threats at close range.



SYLLABUS : G.S. 3 : Defence

Newspaper : The Hindu Page No : 14

AKASHTEER AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM

Akashteer is an advanced Air Defence Control and Reporting System (ADCRS) developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (et) for the Indian Army.

Akashteer Air Defence System

- **Command and Control:** Manages air defence operations but does not fire missiles
- **Automation:** Provides automated detection, tracking, and response
- **Sensor Integration:** Fuses radar and sensor data from Army and Air Force units
- **Decentralised Operations:** Allows field units to take action independently
- **Redundancy and Upgrades:** Includes backup communication and upgrade capabilities
- **Mobile and Static Use:** Deployable on vehicles or in fixed locations



Ministry of Information
and Broadcasting
Government of India

AKASHTEER

The Unseen Force Behind India's New War Capability



Provides a **common, real-time air picture** to all involved parties, enabling **coordinated air defence operations**



Enables:

- ▶ **Monitoring of low-level airspace** in battle areas
- ▶ **Efficient control of Ground Based Air Defence Weapon Systems**



3/5

Source: Press Information Bureau



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

1. It generally represents a short-term investment.
2. It involves direct ownership of a business or assets.
3. It is a largely non-debt-creating capital flow.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Net Neutrality:

1. It requires Internet Service Providers to treat all data on the internet equally, without differential charging.
2. In India, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India enforces net neutrality rules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Q3. Which of the following countries shares a land border with Lebanon?

1. Syria
2. Jordan
3. Israel
4. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM):

1. It is a rare and often fatal brain infection.
2. It is caused by the free-living amoeba Naegleria fowleri, commonly found in warm freshwater sources.
3. The infection spreads when contaminated water enters the body through the nose.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d

Q5. Consider the following statements about Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI):

1. It is a non-statutory body.
2. Its members are appointed by the Central Government.
3. Members serve for three years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 2 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b





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