India-France Defence Partnership: Focus on Air Power, AI, and Space Tech

French Air Force Vice Chief Lt Gen Dominique Tardif emphasized deepening bilateral defence ties, Tarang Shakti 2026, and India's self-reliance push.

A strategic defence and technology cooperation framework between India and France covering air power, artificial intelligence, space, and joint military exercises.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- French Air and Space Force Vice Chief **Lt Gen Dominique Tardif** highlighted deepening bilateral cooperation in air power, AI, space, and defence technology.
- **France** reaffirmed its support for India's self-reliance push under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative in defence production.
- Both nations are expanding military engagement through participation in **Tarang Shakti 2026**, a major multinational air exercise.
- Strategic engagement between **India** and France has spanned over **75 years**, making France a foundational strategic partner.
- The cooperation emphasizes critical sectors including **space technology**, **artificial intelligence**, and air defence capabilities.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Exercise Garuda is the bilateral air exercise conducted between the **Indian Air Force** and the French Air and Space Force.

Exercise Varuna is the bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and French Navy, initiated in **1993**.

Exercise Shakti is the joint military army exercise conducted between the **Indian Army** and the French Army.

India and France established a formal Strategic Partnership in **1998**, elevating bilateral defence and security ties.

Tarang Shakti is the largest multinational air exercise hosted by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

India procured **36 Rafale** fighter jets from France under an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed in **2016**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

India-France Bilateral Exercises: Garuda (Air), Varuna (Navy), Shakti (Army); Tarang Shakti is IAF's multinational air exercise.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Group 1, 2, 2A & 4 under Unit 1 (Defence Tech) and Unit 2 (Joint Exercises & Bilateral Relations).

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