

India and France upgrade ties to Special Global Strategic Partnership

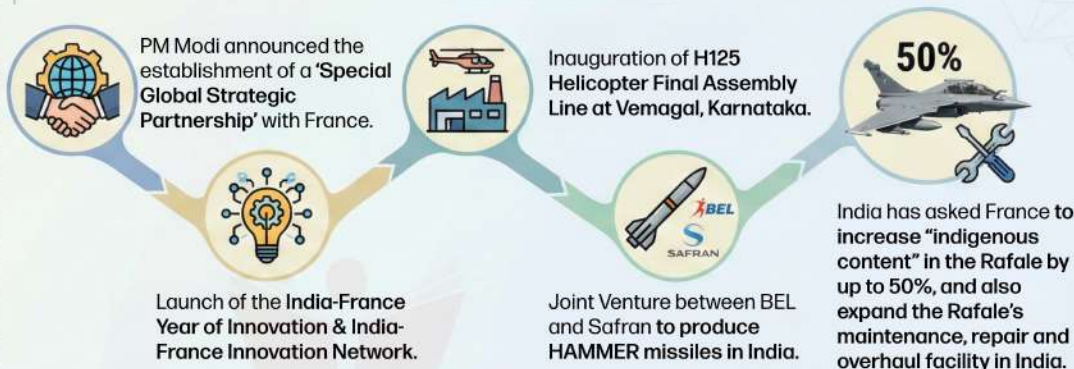
Context



The French President arrived on a three-day official visit to India to participate in the AI Impact Summit.



Major Outcomes



PM Modi announced the establishment of a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' with France.

Inauguration of H125 Helicopter Final Assembly Line at Vemagal, Karnataka.

Launch of the India-France Year of Innovation & India-France Innovation Network.

Joint Venture between BEL and Safran to produce HAMMER missiles in India.

India has asked France to increase "indigenous content" in the Rafale by up to 50%, and also expand the Rafale's maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in India.

Additional Information - India-France Relations

Strategic Partnership & Defence (Air)



India-France Strategic Partnership: It was launched on 26 January 1998 and is India's first-ever Strategic Partnership.

Rafale Fighter Jets: India procured 36 Rafales from Dassault Aviation.

Recently both nations formally concluded an **Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)** to procure 26 Rafale-M fighter jets for the Indian Navy.

Defence (Maritime & Exercises)



Scorpene Submarines (Project P-75): Collaboration with France's Naval Group, 6 submarines built in India; latest is INS Vaghsheer.



Joint Exercises: Shakti, Varuna, FRINJEX-23.

Digital & space Cooperation



The process of enabling **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** has been successful in France.



Joint space missions: TRISHNA (satellite mission), MDA systems, ground station support.

Climate & Energy



International Solar Alliance (ISA): Co-founded by India and France in 2015 to promote solar energy worldwide.