

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 19 February 2026

### India-France Upgrade To 'Special Global Strategic Partnership'

- India and France have elevated their bilateral relations to a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership', marking a significant enhancement in their longstanding alliance.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron made this announcement during a joint press conference on 17 February, underscoring a deepened commitment across multiple domains.
- The leaders launched the India-France Year of Innovation for 2026, focusing on collaboration in technology, defence, clean energy, and culture. This initiative aims to harness the combined strengths of both nations to drive global progress.
- Accompanying the announcements were 21 agreements and declarations, covering diverse areas such as helicopter manufacturing, missile production, artificial intelligence in healthcare, critical minerals, double taxation relief, and aeronautics skilling. These outcomes highlight the comprehensive nature of the alliance.
- The French President highlighted space as a vital frontier for future collaboration. This reflects the broadening scope of Indo-French ties beyond traditional defence procurement. Macron positioned India as a global leader in innovation, from Silicon Valley to the Champs-Élysées. He praised India's role in advancing technology and culture on the world stage.



## Bharat Forge, VVDN Tech inks MoU

- Bharat Forge on Wednesday said it has inked a pact with VVDN Technologies to explore a strategic collaboration across key technology-driven sectors, including automotive and defence.
- Under the agreement, the parties intend to jointly pursue opportunities in next-generation technologies across the automotive, defence, AI, and data centre domains, the company said in a statement.
- The strategic partnership is established to drive innovation and jointly develop the next generation of products for automotive, defence, and AI server platforms, leveraging their complementary strengths in engineering, manufacturing, and technology innovation, it added.
- In alignment with the rapidly-evolving AI world, where breakthroughs in generative intelligence, autonomous systems, and sustainable compute are reshaping industries, this collaboration positions both parties to contribute meaningfully to the global AI ecosystem and harness its transformative potential for future-ready solutions, it said.



## **Bombay HC Chides Indian Navy For 'Sleeping' Over Construction**

- The Bombay High Court on Wednesday rebuked naval authorities for not taking timely action over the construction of a high-rise building near INS Shikra, the Navy's premier air station in south Mumbai, and asked them to be more alert.
- A bench of Justices Ravindra Ghuge and Abhay Mantri was hearing a petition filed by the Commanding Officer of INS Shikra against the construction of the building which is proposed to be 23-storey high.
- "Were you sleeping all this time," the court said, asking why the construction -- which according to the Navy began in 2021 -- was allowed in the first place.
- On Monday, the court had temporarily halted the construction activity citing urgent security concerns ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the city.



## India Eyes 31 More Rafale Marines From France

- India has reportedly requested France to supply 31 additional carrier-capable Dassault Rafale Marine jets for the Indian Navy. This development accompanies India's ongoing efforts to acquire 114 Rafale fighters for the Indian Air Force under the Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) program.
- The information emerged from a report in La Tribune, published just two days after India's Defence Acquisition Council granted Acceptance of Necessity for the MRFA requirement. This procedural approval marks a key advancement, paving the way for subsequent procurement phases.
- The anticipated ₹3,23,000 crore deal for 114 Rafale jets is expected to receive official confirmation during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India from 17 to 19 February 2026. Such high-level engagements often catalyse major defence agreements between the two nations.
- India's current Rafale inventory stems from a 2016 intergovernmental pact, under which the Indian Air Force operates 36 Rafale fighters. These aircraft have proven their mettle in various operations, bolstering India's air combat capabilities.
- In April 2025, the Indian Navy finalised a contract for 26 Rafale Marine aircraft, with deliveries scheduled for completion by 2030. This procurement underscores New Delhi's commitment to modernising its naval aviation assets.
- A pivotal element in selecting the Rafale Marine was its proven compatibility with STOBAR-configured carriers. In 2022, Dassault conducted trials at India's Shore Based Test Facility in Goa, successfully demonstrating short takeoffs and arrested landings.



## 2026 G7 Summit In France

- French President Emmanuel Macron has extended a formal invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the 52nd G7 Summit, hosted by France in 2026 at Evian. This announcement came during a press statement in Mumbai on Tuesday, underscoring the deepening strategic ties between the two nations.
- Macron highlighted 2026 as a pivotal year of "acceleration" for the India-France partnership. With India set to chair the BRICS Summit and France presiding over the G7, he described it as a "moment of innovation" particularly beneficial for the youth of both countries.
- The French leader proposed an ad hoc bilateral meeting in the coming weeks. This gathering aims to forge consensus on key international issues ahead of the Evian Summit, focusing on resolving major global imbalances.
- In his remarks, Macron emphasised translating shared agendas into tangible actions. He invited Modi as a "very special guest" to the G7, signalling India's elevated role in discussions among the world's leading economies.
- Both nations plan a dedicated bilateral segment at the summit. This will feature young innovators from top Indian universities, French institutions, Europe, and G7 countries, mobilising them to tackle pressing global challenges.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. India and France recently upgraded their bilateral ties to which of the following levels?**

- A. Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- B. Strategic Defence Alliance
- C. Special Global Strategic Partnership
- D. Indo-Pacific Security Pact

**ANSWER: C**

**2. The India–France Year of Innovation is scheduled for which year?**

- A. 2025
- B. 2026
- C. 2027
- D. 2028

**ANSWER: B**

**3. Which aircraft has India sought additionally for its aircraft carriers from France?**

- A. Mirage 2000
- B. Eurofighter Typhoon
- C. Dassault Rafale Marine
- D. Sukhoi Su-35

**ANSWER: C**



**4. The 52nd G7 Summit in 2026 will be hosted by which country?**

- A. Germany
- B. United Kingdom
- C. United States
- D. France

**ANSWER: D**

**5. Bharat Forge signed an MoU with which company to collaborate in AI and defence technologies?**

- A. Tata Elxsi
- B. VVDN Technologies
- C. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- D. Larsen & Toubro

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Operational Range of Barak 8 Missile Is**

- A. 70Km
- B. 80Km
- C. 90Km
- D. 100Km

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Defence Services Staff College Is Located At**

- A. Wellington
- B. Chennai
- C. New Delhi
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Motto of DSSC Is**

- A. To War with Wisdom
- B. Valour and Courage
- C. Fight With Determination
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Commandant of Defence Services Staff College Is**

- A. Lt Gen Virendra Vats

- B. Lt Gen Vikram Singh
- C. Rear Admiral Anil Sen
- D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Cabinet Committee on Security Is Headed By**

- A. PM
- B. NSA
- C. The President
- D. COAS Indian Army

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Air Marshal Rank of IAF Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of Indian Army?**

- A. Brigadier
- B. Lt. Gen
- C. Captain
- D. Major General

**ANSWER: B**

**12. How Many States In India Have A Coastline?**

- A. Seven
- B. Eight
- C. Nine
- D. Ten

**ANSWER: C**

**13. OPEC Hq Is In**

- A. Budapest, Hungary
- B. New York, USA
- C. Luanda, Angola
- D. Vienna, Austria

**ANSWER: D**

**14. AUKUS Stands For**

- A. Azerbaijan, the United Kingdom, & the United States
- B. Australia, the United Kingdom, & the United States
- C. Australia, the United Kingdom, & Uganda
- D. Argentina, the United Kingdom, & the United States



**ANSWER: B**

**15. RIYADH Is The Capital Of**

- A. SAUDI ARABIA
- B. SENEGAL
- C. SERBIA
- D. SEYCHELLES

**ANSWER: A**

**16. "2001 Space Odyssey" Book Is Written By**

- A. C. Clarke
- B. Abhijit Chavda
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Captain Rank of Indian Navy Equivalent to Which rank of IAF?**

- A. Flying Officer
- B. Flight Lieutenant
- C. Group Captain
- D. None

**ANSWER: C**

**18. Predator B (MQ-9 Reaper) Is A**

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

**ANSWER: C**

**19. International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Hq Is At**

- A. London, United Kingdom
- B. Vienna, Austria
- C. Paris, France
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

**ANSWER: A**

**20. “If you win, you need not have to explain...If you lose, you should not be there to explain!” Said By\_\_**

- A. Winston Churchill
- B. Adolf Hitler
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Bhagat Singh

**ANSWER: A**

