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India and France deepen ties: Joint defence roadmap, space cooperation, and more

The India-France defence roadmap's primary focus is to identify opportunities and collaboration in the defence-industrial sector, particularly in high-tech fields such as robotics, AI, and cyber defence.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and France's President Emmanuel Macron at the Janta Mantar observatory in Jaipur. (Photo: AFP)

India Today News Desk 
 New Delhi, UPDATED: Jan 26, 2024 16:34 IST
Written By: Vivek Mishra

India and France made significant decisions during French President Emmanuel Macron's two-day state visit to India, with the primary focus on enhancing collaboration in the defence sector.

After the [Republic Day parade](#) was over, where Macron was the chief guest, India's Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra conducted a press briefing, shedding light on Macron's visit to India.

Kwatra highlighted that the comprehensive defence industrial roadmap that was discussed aims to foster collaboration in cutting-edge technologies, including robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), autonomous vehicles, platforms, and cyber defence.



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The industrial roadmap is designed to facilitate technology collaboration across various domains, including air, space, maritime, and land warfare.

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Key pointers from the briefing:



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as robotics, AI, and cyber defence.

India and France have successfully agreed upon a robust defence-industrial roadmap, reflecting a shared commitment to enhancing strategic cooperation.

Notably, Tata and Airbus Helicopters have entered into an industrial partnership for the production of H125 helicopters, fostering collaboration in the defence sector.

Discussions between Prime Minister Modi and President Macron surrounded potential disruptions and actual developments in the maritime domain, with a specific reference to the Red Sea.

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An MoU was sealed between New Space India Ltd and France's Arianespace, signifying cooperation in satellite launches and advancing space exploration initiatives.

The comprehensive industrial roadmap extends beyond the defence sector, with agreements spanning science and technology, healthcare, education, training.



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Celebrating the spirit of innovation, 2026 has been designated as the "India France Year of Innovation".

Other announcements include the introduction of the Young Professional Scheme, facilitating the exchange of individuals between 18-35 years of age, and the extension of visa validity to five years for Schengen visas for Indian students pursuing master's degrees in France.

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