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## Indo-French Joint Exercise Desert Knight-21

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### Why in News

**Indian Air Force (IAF) and French Air and Space Force** will conduct a **bilateral Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21** at Air Force Station **Jodhpur** from 20 to 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021.



### Key Points

- The exercise is unique as it includes fielding of **Rafale aircraft by both sides** and is indicative of the **growing interaction between the two premier Air Forces**.
- Presently, the French detachment for Ex Desert Knight-21 is deployed in Asia as part of their '**SKYROS Deployment**'.
  - Rafale fighter jets of India and France are carrying out **wargames codenamed Exercise SKYROS**.
  - Beginning September 2020, the IAF has inducted and operationalised eight Rafale fighter jets of the 36 jets contracted from France in a 7.87-billion euro deal in 2016.

- **Defence Exercises between India and France:**

- Varuna – Naval exercise
- Garuda – Air exercise
- Shakti – Army exercise

**Note:**

- **Gagan Shakti** is conducted by the **Indian Air Force** to showcase its air dominance over the **entire extended area of the Indian Ocean Region.**

It includes all terrain operations – **desert, high altitude, maritime scenarios and special operations** – in real time with specific focus on key areas like aerial combat, air to surface combat, paratrooper assault and medical evacuation.

- **Garuda Shakti** is the **joint military exercise** between **India and Indonesia.**
- **Mitra Shakti** is the joint military exercise between **India and Sri Lanka.**

**Source:PIB**