



Garuda VII

Why in News?

Indian Air Force (IAF) and French Air and Space Force (FASF) are participating in 'Garuda VII' at Air Force Station Jodhpur.

- It is being hosted by India for the fourth time so far.

What is Garuda VII?

▪ About:

- Garuda VII is the **seventh edition of the bilateral air exercise between India and France** that is taking place after a gap of two years.
 - The first, third and fifth editions were conducted in India in 2003, 2006 and 2014 at Air Force Stations Gwalior, Kalaikunda and Jodhpur, respectively.
- In this exercise, FASF will participate with four **Rafale fighter aircraft, one A-330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft and a contingent of 220 personnel.**
- The IAF is participating with **Su-30 MKI**, Rafale, **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** and Jaguar fighter aircraft, as well as the **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)** and **Mi-17** helicopters.

- The IAF contingent will also include Combat Enabling Assets like Flight Refueling Aircraft, **Airborne Warning & Control System (AWACS)** and **Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C).**

▪ Significance:

- This joint exercise will provide a platform for both the countries to enhance **operational capability and interoperability**, while also sharing best practices.
- Participation of the IAF and FASF in this exercise will promote **professional interaction, exchange of experiences and enhancement of operational knowledge, besides strengthening bilateral relations** between the two countries.

What are the Other Defence Exercises?

- **Varuna - Naval exercise**
- **Desert Knight-21 - Air exercise**
- **Shakti - Army exercise**

Source: PIB