



Vayu Shakti 2024

Why in News?

All frontline aircraft, including the [Rafale fighter jets](#) and [Prachand attack choppers](#), will take part in the [Indian Air Force's \(IAF\) Exercise Vayushakti](#) scheduled to be held **on February 17 in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range.**

- It is a **triennial exercise** (once every three years) aimed at showcasing the capability of the IAF to conduct **full spectrum operations (Day and Night)** and to see the participation of aircraft and helicopters, transport aircraft and **unmanned aerial vehicles.**

Key Points

- The VayuShakti-2024 would be in the form of a **major firepower demonstration** in Jaisalmer where all the **major fighter aircraft**, including the Rafale, [Su-30MKIs](#), Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) [Tejas](#), [Mirage 2000](#) and [MiG-29s](#), would be showcasing their firepower by shooting different missiles and bombs at designated targets.
- The next exercise planned by the IAF is the [Exercise Gaganshakti](#) which would see the entire IAF get activated from Ladakh to the Indian Ocean Region and from Bhuj to Arunachal Pradesh.
 - The pan-India-level exercise **Gaganshakti, conducted once in five years.**
 - Gagan Shakti is conducted by the IAF **to showcase its air dominance over the entire extended area of the Indian Ocean Region.**

Rafale

- French **twin-engine and multirole fighter aircraft.**
- Equipped to perform air supremacy, interdiction, aerial reconnaissance, ground support, in-depth strike, anti-ship strike, and nuclear deterrence missions.

Sukhoi Su-30MKI

- Twin-engine, two-seat, multirole fighter aircraft developed by Russia's Sukhoi and built under **license by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** for the IAF.
- Designed to perform air superiority, ground attack, electronic warfare, and maritime strike missions.

Tejas

- The Tejas by HAL is a multi-role light fighter aircraft **designed by India's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).**
- The first Mk-1A Tejas delivery to IAF will occur in March 2024.

MIG 29s

- It is a twin-engine, multirole fighter jet, **developed by Soviet Russia in the 1970s.** It has been upgraded since.

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