India France finalise deal for 23 Rafale M Aircraft

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Context

• India and France on Monday formally concluded an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA), valued at nearly ?64,000 crore, to procure 26 **Rafale-M fighter jets for the Indian Navy**. Deliveries are set to begin from mid-2028 and likely to be completed by 2030

• The deal includes 22 single-seater Rafale-M jets for carrier operations and 4 twin-seater trainer variants, which are non-carrier compatible.

• The jets are meant to **operate from INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant, India's two operational aircraft carriers.**

About Rafale Aircrafts

• Designed and built by **Dassault Aviation**, a French aerospace company.

• **Multi-role, single-seat fighter aircraft with advanced avionics and AESA radar.**

• Capable of deep strikes, air defense, reconnaissance, and maritime operations.

• Capable of Sps up to **Mach 1.8** and a **combat radius exceeding 1000 km.**

• Designed for air superiority, ground support, reconnaissance, and **anti-ship missions.**

• Optimized **radar and electronic warfare systems for maritime applications**.

• India signed an agreement with France in **2016** for the swift procurement of 36 Rafales to augment the Indian Air Force's depleting fighter squadrons.

• Rafale C: The single-seat **Air Force variant** has 75% fleet availability and is designed for high mission reliability.

• Rafale B: The **twin-seat variant for training** and enhanced situational awareness. It retains the combat capabilities of the C model.

• Rafale M: The **naval variant** is optimized for carrier operations with a reinforced nose and tail and specially designed landing gear. It equips the French Navy's aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle.

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