

# Key Indo-French business news

February 2026

# Airbus inaugurates Centre of Excellence in Vadodara

Airbus inaugurated a Centre of Excellence at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya in Vadodara dedicated to sustainable aerospace research. The facility will focus on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), including municipal solid waste conversion technologies, and aims to strengthen academic and industrial collaboration in India's aviation ecosystem.



# Thales to recruit 450 professionals in India

Thales announced plans to recruit 450 specialized professionals in India in 2026 across Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Noida. The recruitment will focus on engineering, digital technologies and defence systems, reinforcing India's role within Thales' global operations.



## **Servier reinforces India's role as export and manufacturing hub**

French pharmaceutical group Servier reaffirmed India's strategic role as a major manufacturing and export hub within its global operations. The company plans further investments in 2026, focusing on complex generics and specialty treatments manufactured in India and exported to emerging markets in Asia, Africa & Latin America.



# TotalEnergies sells 1.7% stake in Adani Green Energy

TotalEnergies sold a 1.7% stake in Adani Green Energy through block deals worth ₹2,778 crore, reducing its shareholding to 17.25%. The transaction reflects portfolio optimisation efforts while maintaining long-term strategic exposure to India's fast-growing renewable energy market.



# India clears major procurement programme for 114 Rafale jets

India's Defence Acquisition Council reportedly cleared a large-scale procurement programme for 114 Rafale fighter jets, valued at ₹3.25 lakh crore. Under the deal, nearly 80% of the jets are expected to be manufactured domestically, with indigenous content possibly reaching 60% under the Make in India framework.



# Safran to establish Rafale M88 engine assembly line in India

Safran announced plans to set up an assembly line in India for the M88 engine powering the Rafale fighter jet. The facility would conduct final integration and testing of engines locally, reducing full-engine imports and supporting lifecycle maintenance over the next decade.



## **BEL and Safran to form 50:50 defence joint venture**

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Safran Electronics & Defence announced plans to establish a 50:50 joint venture to manufacture and maintain HAMMER precision-guided weapon systems in India, supporting Make in India objectives and reduce reliance on fully imported weapon systems.



# Sanofi expands global capability centre in India

Sanofi announced the expansion of its Global Capability Centre in India, aiming to increase its workforce to over 4,500 employees. The centre supports regulatory operations, digital platforms and R&D coordination for global markets.



## TASL inaugurates Airbus H125 assembly line in Karnataka

Tata Advanced Systems Limited inaugurated India's first private-sector helicopter final assembly line for the Airbus H125 in Vemagal, Karnataka. The facility will assemble light helicopters for domestic civil use and potential regional exports. The FAL will also be able to produce the military version H125M.



# Tamil Nadu partners with Flying Whales for airship manufacturing

Tamil Nadu signed a strategic partnership with French company Flying Whales to support the establishment of industrial operations related to airship manufacturing in the state. The project is expected to contribute to advanced composite manufacturing capabilities and generate high-skilled employment.



# APSEZ and Port of Marseille Fos sign IMEC MoU

Adani Ports & SEZ and the Port of Marseille Fos signed a Memorandum of Understanding under the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) framework. The agreement aims to enhance maritime cooperation, trade facilitation and long-term connectivity between India and Europe.



## Valeo plans to increase sales and investment in India

Valeo announced plans to accelerate its growth by investing €200 million by 2028 in India. The company operates six production sites in India and employs over 7,500 people. Valeo has also secured a major contract close to \$1 billion to supply electric powertrain systems.



# Pernod Ricard considers listing of India business

Media reports indicated that Pernod Ricard is evaluating a potential listing of its India operations. While discussions remain preliminary, India represents one of the group's fastest-growing premium spirits markets and a significant share of global revenue growth.



## **Soufflet Malt invests €100 million in new Indian facility**

Soufflet Malt announced a €100 million investment to build a new AI-driven malthouse in Rajasthan, adding 110,000 tonnes of annual capacity from early 2028. The project will create around 400 jobs and strengthen domestic supply for India's growing brewing industry.



# Aldoria and AXISCADES deploy optical space station

Aldoria and AXISCADES announced the deployment of an optical space surveillance station in India to enhance space situational awareness capabilities. The system strengthens satellite tracking capabilities and supports growing commercial space operations.



## **Dhruva Space signs propulsion agreement with Exotrail**

Under the agreement, Exotrail will supply 14 spaceware micro electric propulsion systems to Dhruva Space by 2027. Designed for satellites ranging from 10 kg to 1,000 kg, the technology will equip upcoming satellite missions and support India's private space sector expansion.



## St John's partners with French AI company 'H'

St John's Research Institute in Bengaluru announced a partnership with the French AI company 'H' to develop agentic AI applications in healthcare administration and research. The project will begin with workflow automation and nurse scheduling optimisation (covering over 1,200 nurses).



## T-Hub and French region launch Indo-French startup corridor

Telangana's T-Hub and a French regional authority signed a partnership to develop an Indo-French startup corridor. The initiative supports innovation exchanges, cross-border ecosystem collaboration and improved market access for startups in both countries.



# India now part of Thales' global corporate research network

As part of the India-France Year of Innovation 2026, Thales confirmed that India is now part of its five global corporate research centres. The designation expands advanced research activities in defence electronics, cybersecurity and aerospace technologies conducted from India, where Thales employs over 4,000 people.

