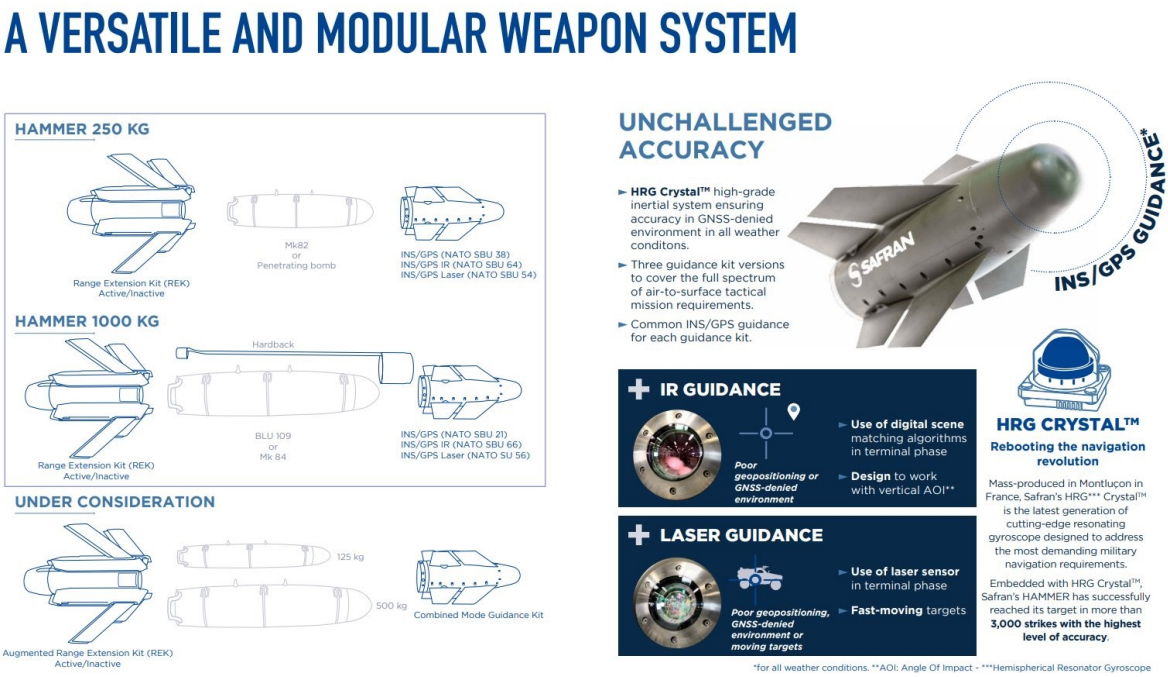
HAMMER Weapon System

Why in News?

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and France's Safran Electronics & Defense have formed to produce the HAMMER Weapon System.

- **HAMMER** – Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range.
- It is a ***smart precision guided air-to-ground weapon*** in India.
- **Capabilities –** It is an all-weather smart air-to-surface weapon with an extended stand-off capacity.
- It provides accurate targeting of ground assets.
- **Coverage** – It is a *combat-proven weapon system* known for its high accuracy and modular design making it adaptable for multiple platforms including the Rafale and LCA Tejas.
- All the tactical requirements of air forces due to different guidance kits.



- **Focus** – Joint venture on localizing the production of the HAMMER weapon system, supporting India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative to reduce imports.
- The partnership will involve technology transfer from Safran to BEL, allowing BEL to manage final assembly, testing, and quality assurance, creating opportunities for Indian industries, especially SMEs.
- Establishment of centre of excellence to enhance India's defense capabilities in optronics and navigation equipment for military applications.
- **Long-term agreement** – HAL's agreement with Safran for the LEAP engine includes producing forged turbine components to boost India's aviation manufacturing and self-

sufficiency.

- **Employment Opportunity** – It will facilitate to create 400 jobs and aim to produce 30,000 equipment units annually by 2026.
- **Past collaborations** – HAL and Safran include the Shakti helicopter engine and current developments for the Indian Multi-Role Helicopter.
- It underscores the importance of localizing defense production and enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities in advanced technologies.

References

1. The Hindu| HAMMER Weapon
2. Safran| AASM HAMMER

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