

French company Thales to put \$1.2 billion in India over 5 years

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NEW DELHI: French aerospace and defence major [Thales Group](#) is betting big on India – especially the emerging drone space here – and has decided to invest a billion euros (about \$1.2 billion) in the country over the next five years. Its drone offerings – that range from manufacturing to traffic management and countering rogue drones – will account for a significant part of this planned mega investment.

India currently has 6 lakh drones, a number that the French major expects will rise at least six times in 5-8 years. “Our solutions allow civil and military aviation authorities to detect – even without data transmission – and verify a drone’s registration number, identify its pilot, and confirm its flight authorisation, all in a few seconds.

“...We are looking at areas that we see up and coming like counter unmanned aircraft vehicle (UAV) space, airport modernisation besides the areas that we are strong in which is defence and others

— **ASHISH SARAF**, THALES INDIA
VP & COUNTRY DIRECTOR



By the same time, to cope with unexpected or non-registered drones, detection and classification are the first steps before engaging a graduated response,” Ashish [Saraf](#), [Thales](#) India VP & country director, told TOI.