

## 25 years of India-France Strategic Partnership

### Why in news?

The joint statement 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Strategic Partnership between France and India: towards a Century of Indo-French Relations, sets the course for the France-India bilateral relationship in all areas till 2047.

### What is the history of the Indo-France bilateral relations?

- [India and France](#) are long-standing strategic partners in the Indo-Pacific.
- The two countries established their diplomatic relations in 1947 and upgraded it to the strategic level in 1998.
- **Trade** - France has emerged as a key trading partner with annual trade of \$12.42 billion and the 11th largest foreign investor in India.
- **Defence** - France has been a key supplier of defence hardware, especially combat jets, to India since the 1950s.
- Scorpene class submarines and Rafael fighter jets are classic examples of France's defence supplies to India.
- The two countries regularly hold joint exercises in all three forces - Varuna (navy); Garuda (air force); Shakti (army).
- **International efforts** - As part of their joint efforts on climate change, India and France launched 'International Solar Alliance' in 2015.
- **Nuclear energy** - France has offered to build 6 nuclear power reactors in Jaitapur in Maharashtra which would be the world's most powerful nuclear power plant.
- **Technology** - The Indo-French Road map on Cyber security and Digital Technology was adopted in 2019.
- **Blue Economy** - A roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance was adopted by France and India in 2022.
- **Green hydrogen** - Indo-French roadmap for decarbonised hydrogen was adopted in 2022.

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the bilateral relations between India and France as '**strong, trusted and consistent**'.*

### What are the highlights of the 'Horizon 2047'?

- **The year 2047** will mark 100 years of India's Independence, 100 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and 50 years of the Indo-French strategic partnership.
- **3 pillar** - The roadmap for bilateral relations has three pillars focusing on 'security, planet and people' guiding the bilateral ties for the next 25 years.

- It establishes a strong mechanism to strengthen cooperation in the areas of defence, space, civil nuclear, digital technology, counter-terrorism and the blue economy.

### **What are the security partnerships between the two countries?**

- **Civil nuclear energy** - The two countries established a partnership on Small Modular Reactors (SMR) and Advanced Modular Reactors (AMR)
- **Defence** - Both countries are also working towards adopting a Roadmap on Defence Industrial Cooperation.
- For this India is setting up a Technical Office of the DRDO at its Embassy in Paris.
- **Space** - Scientific and commercial partnership is being enhanced between France's CNES and India's ISRO.
- NSIL (India) and Arianespace (France) also plan to collaborate in commercial launch services.
- India and France will strengthen their synergies in terms of sovereign access to space, finalize the joint Earth observation satellite, *TRISHNA and the Space Climate Observatory (SCO)*.
- **Counter-terrorism** - Strengthening of cooperation between France's GIGN and India's National Security Guard.
- **Civil aviation** - Signing of technical and safety agreements in the field of civil aviation, for the expansion of routes between France and India
- **Critical technology** - Strengthening of cooperation on cutting-edge digital technologies such as AI, supercomputing and quantum computing.
- **Indo-Pacific** - Adoption of a roadmap for joint actions in the Indo-Pacific, covering all aspects of our comprehensive strategy for the region.

*Initiatives such as Indo-Pacific Parks Partnership, International Solar Alliance and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) to protect marine and terrestrial biodiversity are carried out to fight climate change.*

### **What are the partnerships for the planet?**

- **Plastic pollution** - Commitment to eliminate single-use plastic pollution through a new international instrument to end the problem.
- **Blue economy** - A partnership between French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) and India's National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) on ocean research.
- **Health** - Both the countries agreed to intensify their cooperation in the field of health and medicine and signed a Letter of Intent for Cooperation for the same.

*French Development Agency is financing the second phase of India's flagship sustainable cities programme "CITIIS 2.0".*

## What are the Partnerships for the people?

- **Consular network** - A new Indian Consulate to be opened in Marseille and a Bureau de France in Hyderabad.
- **Education** - Signing of 2 MoUs between the Institut Polytechnique de Paris (IPP), and IIT Delhi and IIT Madras.
- Issuance of a 5-year short-stay Schengen visa for Indian students with a Master's degree from a French university.
- **Culture** - Announcement of France's selection as India's partner for the establishment of a major new National Museum in New Delhi.
- **Research** - France and India will increase funding of the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA) for new projects.

## References

1. [IE - India and France outline road ahead till 2047](#)
2. [MEA - Horizon 2047](#)

