

## India-France Strategic Partnership

### Why in news?

The celebration by India and France of 25 years of their strategic partnership presents an important opportunity for both to introspect on their relations.

### How has India-France ties been?

*Signed in 1998, the time-tested strategic partnership between India and France has continued to gain momentum over shared values and aspirations of peace, stability and their desire for strategic autonomy.*

- **Key trading partner** - France has emerged as a key trading partner of India with annual trade of \$12.42 billion in 2021-22.
- France is the 11th largest foreign investor in India with 1.7% of the total foreign direct investment inflows into India.
- **Key defence partner** - France has become the second largest defence supplier in 2017- 2021.
- The crucial defence deals include the inducting of the French [Scorpene submarines](#), being built in India under technology transfer agreement of 2005 and receiving of 36 [Rafale fighter jets](#).
- The relations is further strengthened with the robust network of military dialogues and regularly held joint exercises
  - **Varuna** (navy)
  - **Garuda** (air force)
  - **Shakti** (army)
- **Nuclear deal and tests** - France was among the first countries with which India signed a civil nuclear deal.
- France also played a critical role in limiting India's isolation in the non-proliferation order after the 1998 nuclear tests.
- **Multilateral groupings** - France supports India's bid for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council as well as its entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
- **Maritime security** - India and France are resident powers of the Indian Ocean and in the Indo-Pacific.
- The two countries launched "Joint Strategic Vision of India-France Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region".
- India and France in 2022 agreed to set up an Indo-Pacific Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund that will support sustainable innovative solutions for countries in the region.

- The two partners have formed a [trilateral grouping](#) with the United Arab Emirates to ensure maritime domain awareness and security from the east coast of Africa to the far Pacific.
- **Digital technology** - India is an important hub for French companies for day-to-day activities as well as R&D and innovation.
- The French tech services provides India with supercomputing hardware and quantum computing simulation software.
- **Environment** - India has supported France in the Paris Agreement expressing its strong commitment towards mitigating climate change impact.
- New Delhi and Paris, as part of their joint efforts on climate change, launched the [International Solar Alliance](#) in 2015.

### The Paris Agreement

- It is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP
- Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- India has committed to reduce the “emissions intensity” of its gross domestic product (GDP) to 45% below 2005 levels by 2030.

### What lies ahead?

- **Advanced technologies** - Enhancing bilateral cooperation in nuclear cooperation and enhancing space is of significance now.
- **Defence** - Next is the new commitment to go beyond the buyer-seller relationship in the field of weapons procurement.
- India comes up with clear policies for making arms in India.
- With this, the synergies between India’s large defence market and the French strengths in armament production can offer much.
- **Political cooperation** - Political cooperation between India and France is relatively new.
- Today, France has emerged as India’s most reliable partner on issues relating to terrorism and Kashmir.
- **Regional cooperation** - The relationship between India and France has gone beyond the bilateral to focus on the regional.
- **Global agenda-setting** - Besides the Solar Alliance, India and France have to turn to more ambitious ideas.

### References

1. [The Hindu | Exploring the blue in the India-France partnership](#)
2. [The Indian Express | Bright prospects for India-France ties](#)



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