

In an uncertain world order, India and France are natural partners in building the new coalitions. Elaborate

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Relationship between India and France is built upon shared values of liberty, equality, fraternity, democracy. As a result, there has been an evergreen cooperation in all the fronts of the relationship.

Emboldening ties:-

1) Geopolitical play:-

- The volatile geopolitical situation in the wake of trade wars, BREXIT, terrorism has seen shifting alliances.
- Russia's axis towards China to fend off its sliding GDP, has moved India towards France for economic engagements and defense cooperations eg: India's strong attitude to purchase Rafale despite problems
- The stability of India in South Asia and France in European region, give vital points for bilateral ties

2) Defense engagements:-

- India is France's reliable defense partner. The superiority in knowl of nuclear submarine and aircraft carriers has allowed the development of PROJECT 75 and Rafale deals.
- Indo French Naval exercise 'VARUNA' has expanded in scope in terms of HADR and knowledge sharing about whale shipping.

3) Civil Nuclear Deal:-

- Post NSA waiver by US and signing of Civil Nuclear Deal of 2008, France was the first country to have strategic cooperation
- Current engagement in Jaitapur Nuclear plant is an example
- Further, French expertise in nuclear research helped to set up Indian Atomic energy commission since Homi Baba's times.

4) Indian Ocean Region:-

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- In the face of China's maritime expansion, France which holds 90% of EEZ in Indian and Pacific ocean, faces the risk of losing sovereignty.
- This naturally gives opportunity for France to depend on India to be a dominant security provider as both the country's strategic interest are affected.

5) Display of Friendship at International forum:-

- France for long time vouched for India's permanent seat in UNSC.
- It was pivotal in India's entry into MTCR and NSG waiver.
- At a time when US disengaged its support in heavy water supply port Pokhran II, France took its place.
- It has time again asserted the India's stand on Kashmir to be treated as a bilateral issue.

6) Climate change and technology

- For being pioneers of International Solar Alliance, display of vibrant leadership skills, UN Champions of Earth Award 2018 had been awarded to leaders.
- AI, cyber expertise of France finds market in India filled with laborers skills and room for FDI investment.

The various pillars of engagement has evolved bilateral ties. To take it to next level Paris-New Delhi - Canberra axis of Indopacific strategy and Japan-France-India for economic market in Africa are in the offing. Thus a stable partner is like a 'GOLDEN DUST' in turbulent geopolitics.