

Despite challenges, India's diplomacy towards Europe indicates its break from the past & shows willingness for more productive engagement. Justify.

The EU remains India's biggest trading partner especially UK, Germany, Switzerland. But the long pending India-EU FTA proves a pause in India-EU Diplomacy, which has now broken in other ways.

Challenges & hence strengthening ties as solutions:-

- (1) Indo-Pacific, which is a major trade route is now occupied by China's silk road project & is a security threat to India. India invites France for a new alliance "IN-FRA" for maritime cooperation.
- (2) Russia-Ukraine Crisis lead to the suspension of Russia from G8 & was under economic sanctions. France & Germany is taking steps to resolve tensions between Russia & the West, so that, India-Russia relation regains power & France can limit Tokyo-Russia Partnership in "Indo-Pacific Japanese Strategy".
- (3) US-China Trade War
France, Japan & other countries come together to make reforms in 'Global trading Systems' so that trade war can be minimised & every country can survive such war.

- (4) Security challenge and Engagement :-
- A "JOINT STATEMENT" was released against China's BRI Project after India-EU Summit.
 - A new agreement allows the Indian Logistics to be accessed by French forces in Indian Ocean.
- (5) Technology challenge :- France helps India to Enter into "Multilateral Nuclear Architecture" through tie b/w NPCIL & EDF (France) & this makes India Energy Sufficient.
- (6) Economic Challenge & Engagements - In Compensation to the termination of "Preferential trade Status for India by US"; it is necessary to Sign BTIA (Broad Bilateral Trade & Investment Agreement) between India and EU.
- (7) A productive Engagement of joining into "Alliance for Multilateralism", a German initiative backed by France aims to modernise International institutions globally.

India's Strengthening ties with Europe can make our foreign policy more stronger and also can find way out in Iran issue, Terrorism, Trump's "America 1st" Policy and hence India can make its own way to meet any global scenario.