

India and France: A Natural Partnership

India and France rejuvenated their traditional relationship, and addressed global challenges like climate change and environment, and geopolitical concerns such as China's growing ambitions in the Indian Ocean region, during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India.

President Macron has emerged as the face of a resurgent Europe. New Delhi, eager to play a bigger role in the world, welcomes France's renewed interest in India as its strategic partner in Asia. In this context, the Macron-Modi joint statement and the Joint Strategic Vision for cooperation in the Indian Ocean region are significant, as a response to Beijing's increasing influence in the region. The cooperation between India and France



is crucial to maintain the safety of international sea lanes for unimpeded commerce and communications in accordance with international law, for countering maritime terrorism and piracy, for building maritime domain awareness, for capacity building and for greater coordination in regional/international fora in the

region. The strategic depth and maturity of the ties between the two countries is evident from the expansion of the defence cooperation between the two countries. Environment and climate change are another arena of cooperation, where both Macron and Modi have shown a preference for result-oriented action. The International Solar Alliance is the result of such a partnership. The success of the solar alliance could provide the blueprint for future partnerships in other spheres as well.

India and France have stepped up their decades-long relationship, moving beyond nuclear energy, defence and terror. As France emerges as the driving force of a rejuvenated Europe and India increases its global engagement, a partnership between the two makes sense.