Indo-EU Ties: A Shared Future

What is the issue?

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- 2018 has started with a growth uptick in the Euro-zone and the lowest unemployment rates for the decade.
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- This is a positive for India as EU has been a major business and trading partner to India for long.
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What is the significance of 2018?

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- The Franco-German motor has been instrumental in accelerating the EU forward since the times of the Elysée Treaty of 1963 (friendship treaty).
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- Currently, there is considerable optimism as both with Ms. Merkel in Germany and Mr. Macron in France, have strong pro-EU views.
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- They've have expressed renewed ambitions for Europe to adapt it to today's challenges in a rapidly-evolving world like "climate change and terrorism".
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- Much has been done over the last few years to consolidate the Euro-zone, protect our borders, fight against terrorism and build European defences.
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How has Indo-EU bonhomie been?

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- While there are multiple global challenges shared across the world, India and Europe share a lot more basic principles and values in common.
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- **Shared Ideals -** Both believe in multilateralism, cooperation and a rules-based international order rather than the unilateral use of force and coercion.
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- Both believe democracy, human rights and the rule of law to be the best means to secure freedom and prosperity for our peoples.
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- This lays the ground for a natural partnership and thereby the Indo-EU relationship is as old as the EU itself.
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- **Current Partnerships -** Today, the EU is India's largest trading partner and investor, and will remain so even after Brexit.
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- European companies are actively involved in India in creating jobs, sharing technical know-how, and promoting research and innovation here.
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- Reciprocally, highly-qualified Indian workers have been contributing to the European economy for decades.
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- Notably, Indian investment flows towards Europe is also strong and EU remains open to Indian talent and enterprise even during disruptive times.
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- Together, we are formulating innovative solutions for the 21st century in the fields of smart cities, renewable energy and clean transportation.
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- **Strategic Significance -** While there is lesser visibility for this, there is a very important growing EU-India security partnership.
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- For France and Germany, India has been a trusted security partner for many years, which is steadily building into a greater partnership with EU as a whole.
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- Regular exchanges of views are already taking place between Indian and European officials on a large number of foreign policy and security issues.
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- This further build into a concrete cooperation in areas such as counter-terrorism, and cyber-security.
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Source: The Indian Express

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