

India & EU should focus on their areas of convergence for strengthening bilateral ties (200w)

India celebrates its 75th year of Independence and it also celebrates 60 years of diplomatic relations with the European Union (EU). India-EU have bilateral ties on different sectors such as social, political & economical.

Areas of Convergence of bilateral ties.

* Bilateral trade : → Surpassed \$116 billion in 2021-2022 & EU is the India's 2nd largest trading partner after US.

* Avenues of collaboration →

eg: Green Strategic Partnership between India & Denmark aims to address climate change, biodiversity loss & pollution.

→ India-Nordic Summit focused on green technologies

* Defence Cooperation :

Joint military Naval exercise,

free, open & inclusive Indo-Pacific, delivery of Rafale jets

* Free Trade Agreement: launched officially called broad based BTIA in 2007.

* Start up & Innovation ecosystem: Science & Technology Joint Committee focuses on areas such as health, Artificial Intelligence etc.

But some divergence areas of interests creates difficulties to convergence areas.

* Russian Intervention in Ukraine: India's reluctance to explicitly condemn Russia's intervention

* Double standard on gas imports from Russia. Because EU purchases 45% of its gas imports from Russia in 2021.

* EU's strategy in tackling China's aggressive policies on Galwan valley.

Thus, India & EU has divergence view on some points to strengthen its convergence areas. India-EU free trade, Indo-Pacific Partnership helps to strengthening of tackle

Achieve fruitful Convergence policies and it will
give birth to Atmanirbharata.