

20 years of partnership between India and France presents an important opportunity to introspect on their relations. Discuss.

Signed in 1998, the time tested strategic partnership between India and France has continued to gain momentum over shared values and aspiration of peace, stability and their desire for strategic autonomy.

India France Relation

* Defence Relations :- France emerged as a key defence partner for India

- > Technology transfer agreement of 2005 under which French Scorpene conventional submarines, being built in India.

Notes.
 > Joint Exercises - Varuna (navy)
 Gaucha (air force)
 Shakti (army)
 nuclear deal :- France, Russia

* Nuclear deal :- France was among first countries with which India signed civil nuclear deal.

* Trade :- France has emerged as a key trading partner of India with annual trade \$12.42 billion (2021-22)

* United Nations :- France supports India's bid for permanent membership of UNSC.

* Climate Change :- Both countries show commitment towards mitigating climate change impact.

* Renewable Energy :- In 2015, India and France, launched International Solar Alliance.

* Maritime ties :- Joint Strategic Vision of India - France Cooperation in the India Ocean Region" presents a blueprint for strengthening of maritime ties.

Challenges

> Russia - Ukraine Conflict :- France and India have shown divergences over the Ukraine crisis.

> China Factor :- Increasing China's aggression may affect both countries.
Way Forward

India and France should focus on cooperation among other sectors such as digitalization, cyber, green energy, blue economy.

Conclusion India's partnership with France is built on common values and goals. But there is much ground ahead for further collaboration.