

① 25 years of partnership between ~~India~~ India and France of presents an important opportunity to introspect on their relations. Discuss. (200 words)

① Since ~~1998~~ signed in 1998, the time-tested strategic partnership has continued to gain momentum over shared values and aspirations of peace, stability and most importantly their desire for strategic autonomy.

② France has emerged as a key partnership trading partner of India with annual trade of \$12.42 billion in 2021-22. It is ~~a~~ the 11th largest foreign investor in India, with a cumulative investment of \$10.31 billion from April 2000 to June 2022.

③ France has emerged as a key defence partner for India, becoming the 2nd largest defence partner supplier in 2017-2021. And strategic partner for India with crucial defence deals, and increased military to military engagement.

④ This relation further fortified with the robust network of military dialogues and regularly held joint exercises - Varna (navy), Garuda (air force), and Shakti (army).

⑤ French ambassador - France is a willing partner for India as it builds its national industrial base for the defence industry and for critical strategic defence projects.

⑥ France was among the world countries (first) with which India signed a civil nuclear deal. Paris also played a critical role in limiting India's isolation in the non-proliferation order after the 1998 nuclear ~~test~~ tests.

⑦ France supports United Nations Security Council and entry in Nuclear Supplier Group. * International Solar Alliance in 2015 - joint efforts on climate change.

⑧ India and France ~~resident~~ powers of the Indian Ocean & the Indo-Pacific region. The two partners have formed a trilateral grouping with the United Arab Emirates to ensure awareness and security. And both each other's interests and dependencies, be it in relation to China or Russia.