

India and the EU should focus on their areas of convergence for strengthening bilateral ties discuss.

Introduction :

India and EU celebrates its 60 years of diplomatic relations. A co-operation agreement in 1994 took bilateral relationship beyond trade & economic co-operation. In 2004 this relationship upgraded to a Strategic relationship.

Areas of convergence :

- ① defence
- ② trade
- ③ Start up and Innovation
- ④ Strategic collaborations
- Engagement

Trade :

India - EU partnership grows rapidly. bilateral trade surpassed \$168 bn in 2021-22. EU is India's 2nd largest trading partner and 2nd largest destination for India's exports after US. Many European companies directly and indirectly create millions of jobs in India.

Strategic collaboration :

India & EU signed several avenues of collaboration like green strategic partnership b/w India & Denmark to address climate change. Also Information Solar Alliance b/w India & France also bring close collaboration.

Defence :

① India's co-operation with EU in defence sector also increase substantially. India & EU conduct joint military & naval exercises regularly to reflect on their commitment.

to free, open, inclusive & rules based in Indo-Pacific.

② we also have bought 36 rafale fighter jets from france and now france also willing to offer Barracuda nuclear attack submarines to india thus growing sense of trust in their relationship.

③ Many European leading companies are willing to partner with indian companies for defense projects aligned under "Make-in india" programme.

Startup - Innovation Ecosystem :

✦ Joint steering committee between india - EU focus on areas such as healthcare, AI, earth sciences etc. ✦ There also an agreement in place b/w India - EU for research & devt cooperation.

Challenges : ① India's economic co-operation with europa after ukraine conflict remains one of the challenges b/w EU - india.

② EU didn't fully support india during Indo china war, galwan clash etc. rather they remain silent over the issue.

③ EU green trade policy like CBAM - carbon border Adjustment mechanism also act as a barrier b/w india & EU. ④ Non signing of free trade agreement after many talks.

Conclusion : Not upon challenges India - EU should work on their interest and bring free & open Indo pacific trade region. and bilateral trade relations.