



Celebrating 25 Years of Indo-French Strategic Partnership

Established in 1998, France and India are celebrating 25 years of their strategic partnership. This was marked by the Indian Prime Minister's visit to France from July 13-14, 2023. He was invited as a chief guest to the French National Day (Bastille Day) in Paris. It was an opportunity to take forward 25 years of highly trusted and fruitful partnership.

Among other developments, they released India-France Indo-Pacific Roadmap. This edition of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) reflects on this visit with compilation of articles highlighting the talks and developments covered in print and electronic media.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>PM's France visit: Re-setting of strategic manoeuvres <i>Bhaswati Mukherjee</i> The Economic Times July 18, 2023</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi's just-concluded historic visit to France provided a welcome opportunity to reset 25 years of a highly successful strategic partnership. When and how did the partnership begin? In May 1998, India conducted Pokhran II, a series of five nuclear bomb test explosions at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range. The West, excluding France, was quick to condemn India and impose sanctions.</p>
<p>Modi's France visit made a resilient relationship stronger still Livemint July 17, 2023</p>	<p>The India-France relationship is underpinned by a strong geopolitical logic – countering the overwhelming dominance of the U.S. India-France ties (Paywall) have a special weave to them, if nothing else because both countries have the habit of being gadflies on the international scene. Like the Indians, the French have historically paid scant attention to their own limitations or weaknesses when promoting themselves on the world stage.</p>
<p>Prime Minister's meeting with the President of the Republic of France Ministry of External Affairs Press Release July 14, 2023</p>	<p>Prime Minister of India and President of France held extensive discussions on wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation including defence and security, civil nuclear, science and technology, energy, trade and investment, space, climate action and people to people ties. Discussions also covered India's G20 Presidency, Indo-Pacific, and regional and global issues of mutual interest. Ambitious outcome documents, including "Horizon 2047: Charting the future of India-France Strategic Partnership", were adopted.</p>
<p>'India's UPI payment system to be launched in France', says PM Modi after talks with Macron The Week July 14, 2023</p>	<p>In his remarks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the two countries have agreed to launch India's Unified Payment Interface in France. He also announced that India would open a new Consulate in the port town of Marseilles. Rafale fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) also joined the flypast on the occasion along with French jets. "In the fight against terrorism, India and France have been together. We believe that strong action needs to be taken against cross-border terrorism," he said.</p>

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<p>Indian students pursuing master’s degree in France will be given post-study visa of 5 years Defence News July 14, 2023</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Indian students who are pursuing a master’s degree in France will now be given a five-year long-term post-study visa. Earlier, Indian students were given two-year work visa. He made the announcement during his address to the Indian community at LA Seine Musicale in Paris. He also received a gala welcome from the people gathered there.</p>
<p>PM Modi asks Indian, French business leaders to work for advancing friendship between two sides The Hindu July 14, 2023</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted the business leaders of India and France to work towards accelerating the journey of friendship between the two countries. He said this while addressing the India-France CEO forum along with French President Emmanuel Macron.</p>
<p>Why India-France ties are strong, what’s the significance of PM Modi’s visit <i>Nirupama Subramanian</i> The Indian Express July 14, 2023</p>	<p>France is India's oldest strategic partner (Paywall), and the relationship has almost no friction points. Both nations value their strategic autonomy, independent foreign policies, and seek a multipolar world. The defence relationship is robust, and is set to get stronger.</p>
<p>PM Modi on his France visit: I see India as a strong shoulder for ‘Global South’ India TV July 13, 2023</p>	<p>In this rare interview with French publication Les Echos, Indian Prime Minister insisted on India's role as a bridge between the Global South and the western world. The rights of the Global South have been long denied. As a result, there is a feeling of anguish among these countries, he added.</p>
<p>Project Kaveri and India’s indigenous jet engine ambitions may remain in the cupboard The Economic Times July 13, 2023</p>	<p>As Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in Paris on July 13 for a two-day visit to be the guest of honour at the Bastille Day Parade (Paywall), which commemorates the storming of Bastille prison in 1789. The storming of the Bastille state prison remains a symbol of the fall of the monarchy's tyranny and signals a major victory for the proponents of the French Revolution.</p>
<p>PM Modi’s landmark visit: Celebrating 25th Anniversary of India-France partnership ThePrint July 02, 2023</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the Guest of Honour for the National Day Celebrations of France this year. Bastille Day, observed on July 14 every year, is France’s National Day. The day is marked by a Special Military Parade at the Champs Elysees in Paris.</p>

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