

**UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 2 – International Relations – Bilateral, Regional and Global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.**

### **Strengthening the 25-Year Partnership: India-France Collaboration**

**Introduction:** The enduring 25-year partnership between India and France has evolved into a strategic alliance addressing contemporary challenges. Focused on Indo-Pacific security, climate change, and technological cooperation, the consensus between the nations reflects a commitment to stability in an ever-changing world.

#### **Consensus on Cooperation:**

##### **1. Strategic Partnership Foundation:**

- Both nations consider their alliance a stabilizing force in global affairs, showcasing a history of over 25 years marked by stability and cooperation.

##### **2. Indo-Pacific Focus:**

- Joint efforts encompass security, climate change, and regional architecture development, with France's significant Indian Ocean presence aligning with India's strategic objectives.

##### **3. Security Cooperation:**

- Collaboration spans traditional and non-traditional security threats, featuring joint naval patrols and resource pooling in regional military bases.

##### **4. Technology and Digital Initiatives:**

- Cooperation in digital technology aims at fostering economic growth and sustainable development, emphasizing an inclusive digital environment.

##### **5. Research and Development:**

- Collaboration extends to frontier technologies, with a focus on AI and quantum computing, exemplified by the Indo-French Centre of Excellence in quantum computing.

##### **6. Environmental Initiatives:**

- A shared roadmap for developing Green Hydrogen underscores their commitment to leading in decarbonized hydrogen production.

##### **7. Defence and Space Collaboration:**

- Evolving defense ties include diverse acquisitions and collaborative space initiatives like the Gaganyaan project and the upcoming Venus mission.

#### **Enhancing Cooperation:**

##### **1. Maritime Security Enhancement:**

- Increase the frequency and scale of joint naval exercises, leveraging French bases effectively to address regional security concerns.

##### **2. Institutional Mechanism Synergy:**

- Foster better integration between regional bodies like the Indian Ocean Rim Association, Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, and the Indian Ocean Commission, for a unified approach to maritime challenges.

##### **3. Trade and Technology Coordination:**

- Strengthen collaboration in the EU-India Trade and Technology Council, utilizing France's influence for beneficial outcomes, and align strategies in the Mineral Security Partnership with the US and G7 countries.

##### **4. Defense Manufacturing Collaboration:**

- Beyond acquiring French defense equipment, India should focus on domestic manufacturing, such as Rafale jets, leveraging the trilateral

teral partnership with France and the UAE for a deeper defense relationship.

**5. Joint Research Initiatives:**

- Expand consortiums involving academic, governmental, and corporate entities, particularly in health and climate change, leveraging the Indo-French Centre of Excellence in quantum computing.

**In conclusion**, building on the strong foundation of the India-France partnership requires a concerted effort to enhance collaboration across diverse sectors. By addressing maritime security, institutional synergy, trade and technology coordination, defense manufacturing, and joint research initiatives, the nations can fortify their strategic ties and jointly tackle the challenges of the 21st century.