INDIA-FRANCE BILATERAL RELATIONS

- **Why in the news?**
  - French President Emmanuel Macron to visit India as Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day celebrations
  - Alternate choice after US President Joe Biden became unavailable
- **India-France Bilateral Relations: 75 Years of Friendship**
  - Diplomatic ties established in 1948
  - Strategic Partnership since 1998
    - completing 25 years in January 2023
- **Key Pillars of India-France Cooperation**
  - Defence Cooperation
    - Agreement signed in 2006, renewed in 2016
  - Trilateral Exchanges
    - With Australia and UAE respectively
  - Space Cooperation
    - Joint research programs, satellite launches (e.g., GSAT-24 in 2022)
  - Civil Nuclear Cooperation
    - Agreement signed in 2008
  - Economic Cooperation
    - Bilateral investments, trade, and commercial cooperation
    - Bilateral trade: $13.4 Bn in 2022-23
    - France 11th largest investor in India ($10.5 Bn FDI)
  - Digital Cooperation
    - India-France Roadmap on Cybersecurity and Digital Technologies
  - Culture and Tourism Cooperation
    - Indo-French cultural associations, events, 'Namaste France' festival in 2016
  - Marine and Maritime Cooperation
    - India-France Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance (2022)
- **Community in France**
  - Indian community, including NRIs, around 109,000
  - Originating from French enclaves of
    - Puducherry
    - Karaikal
    - Yanam
    - Mahe
    - Chandernagore
- **Convergence on Regional and Global Issues**
  - Support for India's UN Security Council permanent membership
  - Joint condemnation of terrorism and commitment to Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)
  - Cooperation on
    - climate change
    - renewables
    - sustainable growth
  - Creation of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) at COP21 in 2015
  - Support for India's accession to
    - Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)
    - Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)
    - Australia Group (AG)
    - Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
- **Significance of French President's Visit**
  - :Celebrating 25th anniversary of India-France Strategic Partnership
  - Indian PM as Guest of Honour at Bastille Day Parade in Paris
  - President Macron's visit for the G-20 Summit in September 2023
  - Indian PM's stopover in Paris in 2022, reinforcing bilateral ties
- **Conclusion**
  - India's invitation signals the depth of the bilateral relationship
  - Strategic and diplomatic imperatives guide the choice of the guest
  - Blends business, global geopolitics, and bilateral engagement

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