Sunil Bharti Mittal conferred France's Legion of Honour (Chevalier)

Awards · 12 October 2026 · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/12



News

French President Emmanuel Macron conferred on Sunil Bharti Mittal, founder-chairman of Bharti Enterprises, the rank of 'Chevalier' (Knight) of the Legion of Honour (Légion d'honneur), France's highest order (announced Oct 2026). It recognises his work strengthening India–France economic ties and his contribution to telecom and digital infrastructure. The insignia will be presented on 28 Oct 2026 at the Embassy of France, New Delhi.

Key facts

Award	Legion of Honour – rank of Chevalier (Knight)
Conferred by	French President Emmanuel Macron
Ceremony	28 Oct 2026, French Embassy, New Delhi; Ambassador Thierry Mathou
Mittal	Founder-chairman, Bharti Enterprises (Airtel); Ludhiana, Punjab
Other honours	Padma Bhushan (2007); honorary KBE from the UK (2024)

Background

- Legion of Honour: founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802; France's highest order (civil and military). Five grades (lowest to highest): Chevalier, Officier, Commandeur, Grand Officier, Grand-

Croix – Mittal received the first grade.

- India–France: strategic partnership since 1998; 'Horizon 2047' roadmap (2023); Rafale fighters; the International Solar Alliance (ISA, 2015 – launched by India and France, HQ Gurugram).
- Indian civilian awards (highest first): Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri.

Tamil Nadu link: Puducherry was French territory – de facto transfer on 1 Nov 1954, de jure on 16 Aug 1962. Sivaji Ganesan (1995) and Kamal Haasan (2016) received France's 'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres' – a different order from the Legion of Honour.

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