India–France hold first Economic Security & Critical Tech Dialogue

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News

The first India–France 'Economic Security and Critical Technologies Dialogue' was held in Paris on 10 November 2026. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Martin Briens, Secretary General of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, co-chaired it. The same day they co-chaired the 3rd India–France Strategic Space Dialogue; the previous (2nd) space dialogue was held in New Delhi in March 2024. The Indian Embassy said the aim was to deepen cooperation in space, critical technologies, economic security and resilient supply chains. The two sides also reviewed the entire bilateral relationship and regional and global issues (PTI). Leaders had agreed in Nice in June 2026 to set up a dialogue on economic security (MEA brief). Ties were elevated to a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' during President Macron's visit to India in February 2026.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	1st Economic Security & Critical Technologies Dialogue
Date, place	10 November 2026, Paris
Co-chairs	Vikram Misri (Foreign Secretary); Martin Briens (Secretary General, France)
Held alongside	3rd Strategic Space Dialogue
Strategic Partnership	26 January 1998 – India's first with a Western nation

Point	Details
Horizon 2047	July 2023 (Bastille Day) – centenary roadmap
Special Global Strategic Partnership	Feb 2026 – Macron's Mumbai visit; India–France Year of Innovation 2026
Trade (2025-26)	€13.6 billion; India's 3rd-largest EU trade partner

Background

- The India–France Strategic Partnership of 26 January 1998 was India's first such partnership with a Western nation. Defence, civil nuclear and space are its pillars. France kept engaging India even after the 1998 Pokhran tests.
- The 'Horizon 2047' roadmap was adopted on 13–14 July 2023, when PM Modi was guest of honour at France's National Day (Bastille Day, 14 July) – 2047 marks the centenary of India's independence and of diplomatic ties. Defence links include 36 Rafales (delivered by 2022), six Scorpène submarines (P-75; last in January 2025) and 26 Rafale-M jets for the Navy (deal signed 28 April 2025).
- 'Economic security' means diversifying supply chains for strategic technologies such as critical minerals, semiconductors and artificial intelligence so that no single country dominates them. Macron attended the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi in February 2026.
- In space, ISRO and CNES are building TRISHNA (Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment), whose thermal infrared instrument will map land surface temperature and water use at high resolution. The two countries launched the International Solar Alliance at COP21 in Paris in 2015.

Tamil Nadu link: Puducherry, Karaikal (both surrounded by Tamil Nadu), Mahe and Yanam are former French settlements, transferred to India de facto on 1 November 1954 and de jure on 16 August 1962. The diary (1736–1761) of Ananda Ranga Pillai – born in Perambur, Chennai, in 1709 and chief dubash to Governor Dupleix – is a key record of the Carnatic Wars era. Many people of Indian origin in France trace their roots to Puducherry and Tamil Nadu.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The first India–France 'Economic Security and Critical Technologies Dialogue' was held in Paris on 10 November 2026. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Martin Briens, Secretary General of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, co-chaired it. The same day they co-chaired the 3rd India–France Strategic Space Dialogue; the previous (2nd) space dialogue was held in New Delhi in March 2024.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: 1st Economic Security & Critical Technologies Dialogue; Date, place: 10 November 2026, Paris; Co-chairs: Vikram Misri (Foreign Secretary); Martin Briens (Secretary General, France); Held alongside: 3rd Strategic Space Dialogue.

What is the background to this news?

The India–France Strategic Partnership of 26 January 1998 was India's first such partnership with a Western nation. Defence, civil nuclear and space are its pillars.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. In 1998, India's first strategic partnership with a Western nation was signed with which country?

A) USA

B) France

C) United Kingdom

D) Germany

Answer: B – Explanation: France – 26 Jan 1998; ties held even after Pokhran-II. Pillars: defence, civil nuclear, space.

2. The India–France 'Horizon 2047' roadmap was adopted when the Indian PM was guest of honour at which French event?

A) Fête de la Musique

B) Bastille Day

C) Paris Air Show

D) Armistice Day

Answer: B – Explanation: Bastille Day (France's National Day, 14 July) in 2023. In 2047 both India's independence and bilateral ties turn 100.

3. Which of these former French settlements is NOT part of the Union Territory of Puducherry today?

A) Karaikal

B) Yanam

C) Mahe

D) Chandernagore

Answer: D – Explanation: Chandernagore came to India in 1950 and merged with West Bengal. The others were transferred de facto in 1954 and de jure in 1962.

4. Ananda Ranga Pillai, born in Perambur (Chennai) and famed for his Pondicherry diaries, was dubash to which French Governor?

A) Bussy

B) Lally

C) Dupleix

D) La Bourdonnais

Answer: C – Explanation: Joseph François Dupleix. The diary spans 1736–1761; he is called 'the Samuel Pepys of French India'.

5. The ISRO–CNES satellite TRISHNA is mainly designed to measure what?

A) Ocean salinity

B) Ozone layer

C) Land surface temp.

D) Earth's gravity field

Answer: C – Explanation: Its CNES thermal infrared instrument maps land temperature and evapotranspiration in high resolution, aiding water and farm management.

Sources: ThePrint/PTI (10 Nov 2026) – theprint.in; Punjab Kesari (10 Nov 2026) – english.punjabkesari.com; Asianet Newsable (9 and 11 Nov 2026, Indian Embassy post) – newsable.asianetnews.com; MEA India–France bilateral brief (July 2026) – mea.gov.in; The Tribune – tribuneindia.com; CNES – cnes.fr/en/projects/trishna. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.