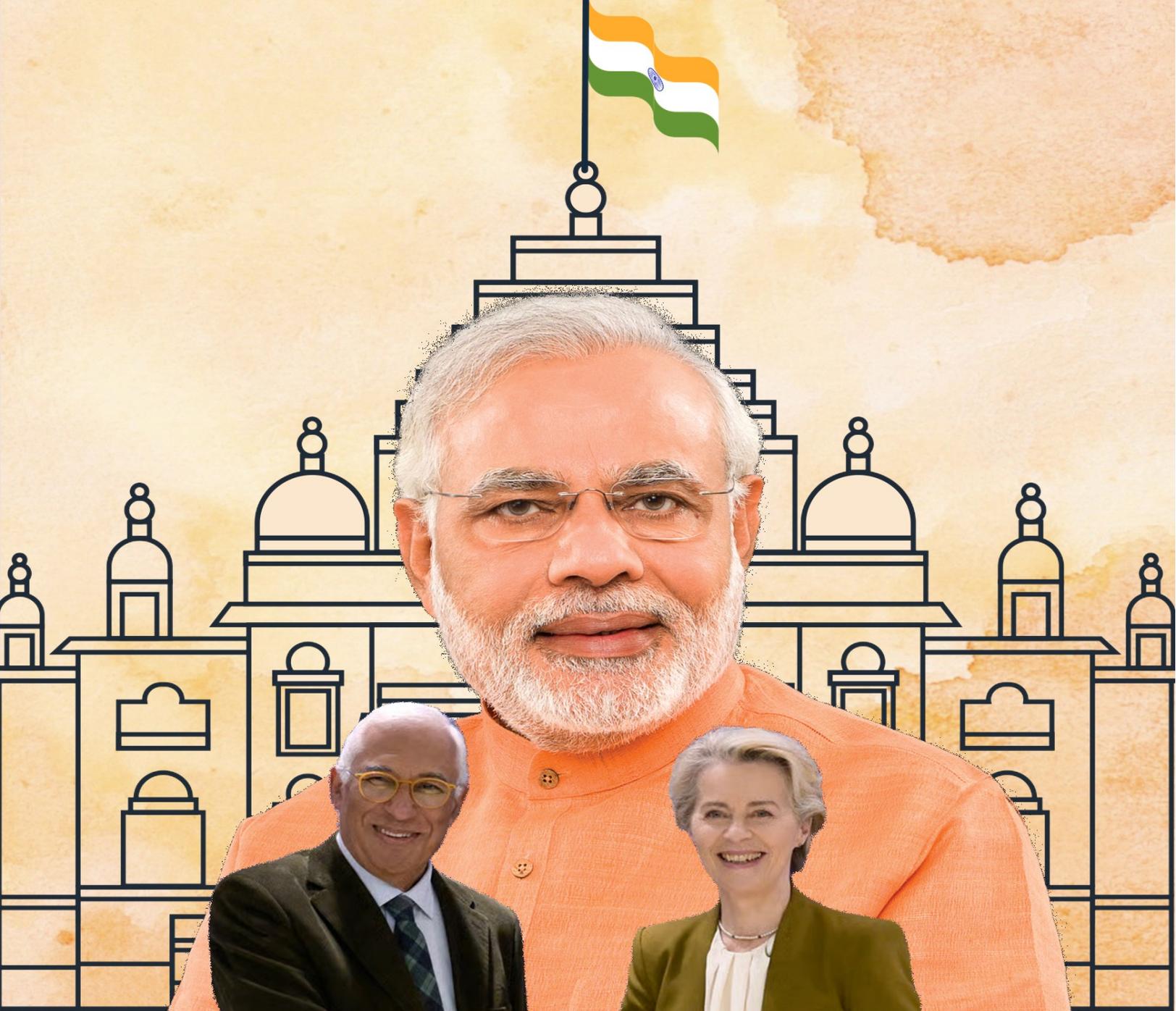




INDIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Republic Day

JANUARY 26TH 2026



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**The Strategic Partnership of the Century: India and the
European Union Navigating a Multipolar World Order**

By

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FOREWORD

The first quarter of the twenty-first century has witnessed a profound transformation in global diplomacy. The certainties of unipolarity have faded, multipolarity has asserted itself, and strategic partnerships rooted in shared values rather than transient interests have become the defining instruments of global stability. It is within this historic transition that *The Strategic Partnership of the Century: India and the European Union Navigating a Multipolar World Order* finds its relevance and authority.

Dr. R. G. Anand's work is both timely and consequential. It moves beyond the conventional framing of India–European Union relations as a transactional engagement and instead situates the partnership within a broader civilizational, political, technological, and developmental continuum. By weaving history, diplomacy, economics, digital transformation, green transitions, and defence industrial cooperation into a single strategic narrative, the book offers readers a comprehensive understanding of why India and the European Union are increasingly indispensable to one another.

Particularly noteworthy is the author's emphasis on leadership-driven diplomacy. The triangulation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Antonio Costa, and President Ursula von der Leyen is not treated merely as a convergence of personalities, but as a structural force reshaping institutional engagement, accelerating stalled negotiations, and injecting strategic clarity into a complex global environment. The symbolism of the 2026 Republic Day Parade, examined in this book, is thus rightly interpreted as both culmination and commencement.

This volume will be of value to policymakers, diplomats, scholars of international relations, economists, defence analysts, and students seeking to understand how democratic powers can collaborate in an era marked by fragmentation, technological disruption, and geopolitical uncertainty. Dr. Anand's clarity of thought and disciplined

optimism make this book not only an analytical contribution, but also a constructive roadmap.

It is my conviction that this work will stand as a reference point in the evolving literature on India–EU relations and the architecture of the emerging multipolar world order.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is the result of sustained reflection on diplomacy, development, and governance in a rapidly changing global environment. I am deeply indebted to the many institutions, thinkers, policymakers, and scholars whose ideas and work—directly or indirectly—have informed the perspectives presented in these pages.

I express my sincere gratitude to the leadership and diplomatic establishments of India and the European Union, whose transparent articulation of policy frameworks, summit declarations, and strategic visions made this analysis possible. The growing openness of official data, policy briefs, and institutional dialogue platforms has significantly enriched contemporary scholarship.

I am thankful to colleagues and peers from the fields of public policy, healthcare administration, law, and strategic studies who engaged in insightful discussions and offered constructive critiques during the conceptualization of this manuscript. Their interdisciplinary perspectives helped sharpen the analytical lens of this work.

My gratitude also extends to my family, whose patience, encouragement, and unwavering support provided the intellectual space and emotional grounding necessary to complete this project.

Finally, I acknowledge the silent yet essential contribution of researchers, analysts, engineers, civil servants, and entrepreneurs across India and Europe whose daily work gives tangible meaning to the strategic partnership discussed in this book. This volume is dedicated to the belief that informed dialogue and principled cooperation can shape a more stable and humane global order.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. R. G. Anand is a multidisciplinary professional and scholar with extensive academic training and practical experience spanning medicine, healthcare management, public administration, and law. He holds qualifications including **MBBS, MD, MHA, FHM, PDCR, LLB, and LLM**, reflecting a rare integration of clinical expertise, administrative leadership, and legal insight.

With a career rooted in public service and institutional governance, Dr. Anand has consistently engaged with issues at the intersection of health systems, policy formulation, legal frameworks, and national development. His work reflects a strong commitment to evidence-based decision-making, strategic autonomy, and inclusive growth.

Dr. Anand's interest in international relations and strategic partnerships emerges from his broader engagement with global governance, sustainable development, and the role of democratic institutions in shaping equitable futures. This book represents his effort to bridge policy analysis with strategic foresight, offering a holistic understanding of India's evolving role in the world and its partnership with the European Union.

Chapter 1 - The Civilizational Foundation and the Modern Rebirth of Diplomacy

The presence of the President of the European Council, Mr. Antonio Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, as Chief Guests for India's 77th Republic Day Parade in 2026 signifies more than a diplomatic gesture; it represents the formalization of a civilizational bridge between the world's two largest democratic experiments.¹ This historic occasion, occurring during the 150th anniversary of the national song *Vande Mataram*, serves as a powerful testament to the evolution of a relationship that has transitioned from colonial-era friction to a 21st-century strategic synergy.² The trajectory of this partnership is anchored in a shared commitment to a rules-based international order, territorial integrity, and the democratization of global technology and trade.⁴

The historical crucible that forged this bond is most visible in the reconciliation between India and Portugal, a process that reached a definitive milestone on December 31, 1974. Following the Portuguese Carnation Revolution, the two nations signed a treaty recognizing India's sovereignty over Goa, Daman, Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, effectively ending over 450 years of Portuguese presence and laying the groundwork for a partnership based on mutual respect.⁶ This reconciliation paved the way for the first-ever India-EU Summit in 2000, held in Lisbon under the Portuguese Presidency, an event that first mooted the idea of a structured, high-level institutional dialogue between New Delhi and Brussels.⁷ By 2004, this relationship was formally elevated to a Strategic Partnership, a status that has since been nurtured by successive leaderships but accelerated significantly under the personal involvement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.⁸

The evolution of this partnership is characterized by a shift from "polite courtesy to purpose-driven engagement".¹⁰ Today, the EU and India are not merely trading partners but are mutually enabling actors in a global landscape defined by "fracture and

recalibration".¹⁰ As India strives to become a \$35 trillion economy by 2047, the technological and capital depth of the European Union serves as a vital catalyst, while India's demographic dividend and digital scale offer Europe a resilient and reliable alternative in its quest for economic de-risking.¹⁰

Milestone Year	Strategic Development	Primary Significance
1974	Treaty of Recognition	Restoration of diplomatic ties; recognition of Indian sovereignty. ⁷
2000	First India-EU Summit	Launched in Lisbon; established the framework for regular dialogue. ⁷
2004	Strategic Partnership	Formal elevation of the relationship to a strategic level. ⁸
2017	Landmark Reciprocal Visits	PM Costa (Jan) and PM Modi (June) visits; 19 MoUs signed. ⁶
2021	Porto Leaders' Meeting	First-ever "EU+27" meeting with India; resumption of FTA talks. ¹³
2022	Launch of TTC	Establishment of the Trade and Technology Council. ⁴

2025	College of Commissioners Visit	First-ever historic visit of the full College to India. ⁵
2026	Republic Day Parade	Joint Chief Guest status for Costa and von der Leyen. ¹

Chapter 2 - The Modi-Costa Partnership: A Bond Rooted in Heritage and Vision

The relationship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Antonio Costa is unique in the annals of Western-Eastern diplomacy, characterized by a deep personal rapport that stems from Costa's Goan heritage.⁷ President Costa, the first Indian-origin Head of Government in the Western world, has often been referred to by Prime Minister Modi as a "long-time friend," a sentiment echoed in their frequent high-level exchanges and social media interactions.¹⁴ This personal equation was cemented during Costa's 2017 visit to India, where he attended the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and visited his ancestral home in Goa.⁶ During this visit, a translated version of the novel *Signo da Ira*, authored by Costa's father Orlando Costa and set in Goa, was released, symbolizing the cultural intimacy that underpins their political alignment.⁶

The partnership between the two leaders has yielded tangible outcomes for India's national development. In January 2017, their meeting led to eight Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in sectors critical to India's growth, including defense, marine research, renewable energy, and information technology.⁶ Prime Minister Modi's reciprocal visit to Portugal in June 2017—the first-ever standalone bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country—further expanded this cooperation into nanotechnology, biotechnology, and public administration reforms.⁶

A particularly significant development of this friendship is the "Bilateral Agreement on the Recruitment of Indian Citizens to Work in Portugal," signed in September 2021.⁶ Portugal became the first EU country to sign such a dedicated labor mobility agreement with India, establishing a legal mechanism for Indian professionals to contribute to the European economy while securing their own professional growth. This agreement serves as a model for "safe and orderly migration," addressing the EU's demographic needs while tapping into India's vast human capital.⁵

President Costa's involvement in India's commemorative events also reflects this deep bond. In 2019, he visited India specifically to attend the meeting of the Organizing Committee for the global commemorations of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary (*Bapu@150*), a committee set up by Prime Minister Modi.⁶ This level of personal commitment to India's cultural and historical milestones has facilitated a transition in India-EU ties from transactional diplomacy to a "contemporary global partnership".¹⁴

Chapter 3 - The Strategic Synergy: Modi and Ursula von der Leyen

If the Modi-Costa relationship provides the cultural and historical depth, the collaboration between Prime Minister Modi and President Ursula von der Leyen provides the technocratic and strategic momentum for the 21st century.¹ Since the establishment of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) in April 2022, the two leaders have focused on addressing the challenges at the "confluence of trade, trusted technology, and security".⁴ This platform, the second of its kind for the EU after the one with the United States, underscores the strategic weight the EU now accords to India as a "natural partner" in a multipolar world.⁴

President von der Leyen's leadership was most evident during her historic February 2025 visit to India, where she led the European Union College of Commissioners.⁵ This visit—the first of its kind outside Europe—signaled a "strong political endorsement" of the relationship and was instrumental in advancing the negotiations for the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the Investment Protection Agreement (IPA), and the Agreement on Geographical Indications.¹⁷ Under her tenure, the EU has increasingly viewed India as a "stable, less demanding partner" compared to other major powers, leading to a deeper convergence on issues such as resilient supply chains and digital governance.⁴

The personal coordination between Modi and von der Leyen has facilitated breakthroughs in green hydrogen, maritime security, and semiconductor ecosystems.⁵ Their shared vision emphasizes "human-centric digital transformation," ensuring that advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and 6G telecommunications are governed by democratic values and respect for human rights.⁴ This alignment is not just bilateral; it extends to the Indo-Pacific, where the EU has welcomed India's interest in joining the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) projects and has committed to securing trade routes through joint naval exercises.⁵

Feature of Collaboration	Description	National Development Impact
Trade and Technology Council	Ministerial-level platform for trade and tech security. ⁴	Synchronization of digital standards and trade barriers. ⁵
6G & AI Governance	Joint research and ethical framework development. ⁴	Positioning India as a global leader in "trusted tech". ⁴
Semiconductor MoU	Strengthening of supply chains and talent exchange. ⁵	Boosting India's semiconductor manufacturing mission. ⁵
Green Hydrogen Forum	Dedicated platform for clean energy investment. ⁵	Acceleration of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. ²⁰

Chapter 4 - The Economic Engine: Navigating the Comprehensive FTA

The centerpiece of the 2026 Summit and the Republic Day visit is the "substantive closure" of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).¹⁷ After a nearly decade-long hiatus, negotiations resumed in 2022 with an unprecedented resolve from both Prime Minister Modi and the EU leadership.¹⁸ As of late 2025, officials report that 20 of the 24 FTA chapters have been finalized, with intense engagement occurring on a daily basis to resolve the remaining sticking points, which include rules of origin, market access for automobiles and steel, and the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).¹⁰

The economic stakes are monumental. The EU is currently India's second-largest trading partner, with bilateral merchandise trade growing from \$90 billion in 2020-21 to \$136 billion in 2024-25.²³ Projections indicate that a successful FTA could more than double this volume, reaching \$250 billion in merchandise trade and \$100 billion in services trade by 2030-31.²³ For the Indian workforce, this translates into a surge in exports for labor-intensive sectors such as textiles, footwear, and jewelry, while for the European market, it offers duty-free access for high-end machinery and automobiles.¹⁰

Projected Trade Volume Growth (with FTA implementation)

Trade Category	2024-25 Actual	2030-31 Projected	Key Growth Driver
Merchandise Exports to EU	\$76 Billion	\$150 Billion	Pharmaceuticals, Electronics, Textiles. ²³
Merchandise Imports from EU	\$60 Billion	\$100 Billion	Machinery, Chemicals, Green Tech. ²³

Services Trade	\$60 Billion	\$120 Billion	IT, R&D, Medical Value Travel. ²⁴
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The agreement also includes a standalone pact for the mutual recognition of Geographical Indications (GIs), a critical component for protecting Indian heritage products like Basmati rice and Darjeeling tea in the European market.¹⁰ Furthermore, the Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) is being negotiated in parallel to provide a stable, rules-based environment for the 4,500 EU companies currently operating in India, which have already created 1.7 million direct and 5 million indirect jobs.¹⁹

Chapter 5 - Fueling National Development: The Green and Digital Transitions

The European Union's contribution to India's national development is most profoundly felt in the twin pillars of the green transition and digital transformation.⁵ Under the "Global Gateway" strategy, the EU is mobilizing over €300 billion in public and private investments, with India serving as a flagship partner for sustainable infrastructure.²⁷

The National Green Hydrogen Mission

India aims to become a global hub for green hydrogen production, usage, and export through its National Green Hydrogen Mission, which has an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore (approximately \$2.4 billion).²⁰ The EU is a vital partner in this ambition, supporting the development of "Green Hydrogen Hubs" in states like Gujarat and Odisha.²⁹ The European Investment Bank (EIB) has announced a dedicated €1 billion green hydrogen fund to support pilot projects and policy dialogue in India.²⁶

Specific EU-India green hydrogen synergies include:

- **Technology Collaboration:** European firms like Thyssenkrupp Nucera and Topsoe are partnering with Indian conglomerates like Reliance, Adani, and L&T to localize electrolyzer manufacturing and reduce the levelized cost of hydrogen (LCOH).³¹
- **Export Corridors:** The establishment of green ammonia export hubs at Mundra (Gujarat) and Gopalpur (Odisha) targeting European markets to help the EU decarbonize its industry without de-industrializing.¹¹
- **Maritime Integration:** Partnerships with Danish and Norwegian entities for green hydrogen port development and the production of ice-class vessels to support India's \$20 billion maritime push.¹⁰

Chapter 6 - Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Connectivity

The "India Stack" has become a globally celebrated model for digital identity and real-time payments, processing over 10 billion transactions monthly.¹¹ The EU and India are now working toward the interoperability of their respective DPIs, ensuring that cross-border digital transactions are secure and inclusive.⁴

A landmark project in this domain is the "EU-Africa-India Digital Corridor," which centers on the 11,700 km Blue Raman submarine cable system.²⁷ This project provides ultra-high-speed data connectivity from Europe through the Mediterranean and the Middle East to India, with a specific focus on connecting over 10,000 research and academic institutions in Europe with their counterparts in India and East Africa.²⁷ This initiative not only bridges the digital divide but also reinforces the security of global data transmission in an era of geopolitical uncertainty.²⁷

Transforming the Urban Landscape: Smart Cities and Sustainable Mobility

One of the most visible impacts of the EU-India partnership is the modernization of Indian cities. Since the 2017 Joint Declaration on a Partnership for Smart and Sustainable Urbanization, the EU has been a key player in India's urban transformation, focusing on "climate-smart" development and efficient public transport.³⁶

The EIB and Metro Rail Networks

India is the largest beneficiary of EIB transport support outside Europe, with financing exceeding €3.6 billion committed since 2016.³⁸ These investments have shaped the mobility landscape in major cities:

- **Nagpur and Pune:** The EIB has provided €289.5 million in new financing to extend the Nagpur metro and top up the Pune metro system.³⁸ The full commissioning in

Nagpur is projected to cut transport sector CO2 emissions by 22%, while the Pune network has already transported over 100 million passengers since 2022.³⁸

- **Lucknow and Bangalore:** Earlier EIB investments have helped reduce travel times and improve safety, particularly for women and young commuters, by providing a reliable and eco-friendly alternative to private vehicles.³⁸
- **Urban Mobility Competence Hub:** Partnering with Deutsche Bahn, the EIB established a hub in Delhi to integrate European best practices into Indian urban planning, ensuring that new infrastructure is both resilient and gender-inclusive.²⁶

Smart City Pilot Projects

Under the International Urban Cooperation (IUC) program, Indian and European cities have engaged in "city pairings" to share expertise on waste management and water recycling ³⁶:

- **Surat and Rotterdam:** Surat has worked to replicate the "water plaza" concept from Rotterdam to manage seasonal flooding and excess rainwater.³⁶
- **Kochi and Ahmedabad:** These cities are participants in the "MobiliseYourCity" program, supported by French and German grants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in urban transport.⁴³
- **Chandigarh:** The EU is supporting a 24/7 water supply project, including the rehabilitation of 242 km of the water network to improve public health and economic participation.²⁶

City	Program/Partner	Specific Impact
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Nagpur	EIB Global	22% reduction in city transport emissions; inclusive mobility. ⁴⁰
Pune	EIB Global	31.25 km of new lines; 100M passengers served. ³⁸
Kochi	MobiliseYourCity	Implementation of low-carbon urban transport policies. ⁴³
Surat	IUC / Rotterdam	Replication of the water plaza concept for flood management. ³⁶
Coimbatore	GIZ / TU Berlin	Climate-friendly green buildings and urban green spaces. ⁴⁴

Chapter 7 - Defense Industrial Cooperation: Bolstering Strategic Autonomy

The defense pillar of the India-EU partnership has shifted from a buyer-seller relationship to one of deep industrial collaboration and "strategic co-development".⁴⁵ This shift is a direct result of Prime Minister Modi's "Make in India" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives, which have found a willing partner in European aerospace and defense giants.⁴⁷

The Airbus C-295 and Tata Partnership

In a historic first for the Indian private sector, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Airbus have inaugurated a Final Assembly Line (FAL) in Vadodara, Gujarat, to manufacture the Airbus C-295 transport aircraft.⁴⁶ Under this \$2.5 billion deal, 40 of the 56 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled in India, with the first "Make in India" aircraft expected to roll out in September 2026.⁴⁸ This project will produce more than 85% of the aircraft structure in India, onboarding 37 local suppliers and creating a cutting-edge aerospace ecosystem.⁴⁸

Safran's Deepening Commitment

The French aerospace major Safran is significantly expanding its footprint in India, with investments that directly support India's military aviation capabilities:

- **Engine MRO Centers:** Safran is establishing two new Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) centers in Hyderabad—one for LEAP engines and another for M88 engines powering the Rafale fighter jets.⁴⁷ The LEAP facility alone represents a €200 million investment and will create over 1,100 jobs.⁴⁷
- **Jet Engine Co-Development:** India and France (Safran) are set to co-develop a 110-120 kilonewton engine for India's fifth-generation fighter aircraft (AMCA).⁴⁵ This

\$7 billion project involves a 100% transfer of technology, marking a significant milestone in India's journey toward self-reliance in high-thrust aero-engines.⁴⁵

- **Joint Ventures:** The "SAFHAL" joint venture between Safran and HAL is designing the "Aravalli" engine for future heavy helicopters, while a partnership with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is localizing the manufacture of "Hammer" air-to-surface weapons.⁴⁷

These defense initiatives not only modernize the Indian Armed Forces but also integrate Indian SMEs into the global aerospace supply chain, ensuring that "strategic autonomy" is backed by industrial depth.⁴⁵

Chapter 8 - India's Global Contribution: The IMEC and Triangular Cooperation

The India-EU partnership extends beyond bilateral development, positioning both entities as "mutually enabling partners" on the global stage.⁵⁰ Through the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and triangular cooperation in third countries, India and the EU are jointly contributing to a more interconnected and resilient world.³⁵

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

Announced at the September 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi, IMEC is a transformative connectivity framework linking India, the Arabian Peninsula, and Europe.³⁵ The corridor consists of two main legs: an eastern maritime route from India to Gulf ports and a northern rail corridor leading into Europe.⁵³

The projected benefits for India's national development are substantial:

- **Trade Efficiency:** A 40% reduction in shipping time relative to traditional maritime routes, potentially increasing Indian export valuation by 5% to 8% (adding \$21.85 billion annually).³⁵
- **Resilience:** Diversification of supply chains away from vulnerable chokepoints like the Suez Canal and the Red Sea.⁵⁴
- **Energy and Digital:** The integration of electricity grids and green hydrogen pipelines along the corridor, turning the region into a "web of interconnected routes" for clean energy and data.³⁵

Triangular Cooperation in Africa and Southeast Asia

India and the EU have agreed to develop "triangular cooperation" projects in third countries, using innovative market-based mechanisms to support digitalization, clean energy, and sustainable agriculture.⁵¹ This approach allows the EU to leverage India's

"contextual expertise and diplomatic capital" in politically complex regions while allowing India to scale its connectivity ambitions.⁵¹

Examples of this cooperation include:

- **The EU-Africa-India Digital Corridor:** As part of the Global Gateway, this initiative provides secure data connectivity to over 3,750 institutions in India and Africa, fostering closer collaboration in research and education.²⁷
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition:** Joint efforts to support resilient value chains and food security in African nations, utilizing Indian innovations in "frugal tech" and European standards of circularity.¹⁰
- **Healthcare and Vaccine Development:** Utilizing EIB and Indian research capabilities to benefit regions like Sub-Saharan Africa, which gained significantly from vaccine research and pandemic recovery support provided through this partnership.⁴¹

Chapter 9 - The 2026 Republic Day Parade: A Symbolic and Strategic Finale

The invitation to President Antonio Costa and President Ursula von der Leyen as Chief Guests for the 77th Republic Day Parade is a "diplomatic signal" of India's desire to elevate the relationship to a higher strategic level.¹ The parade at Kartavya Path, themed around the 150th anniversary of *Vande Mataram*, will feature a historic first: a European naval contingent marching alongside Indian forces.²

The parade logistics themselves reflect a new era of "inclusive and sustainable" values:

- **River-Themed Enclosures:** Spectator enclosures have been named after major Indian rivers (like the Ganga, Yamuna, and Brahmaputra) to eliminate "VIP culture" and celebrate the nation's natural heritage.²
- **Showcasing Modern Strength:** The flypast will feature formations of the Rafale, Su-30, and C-295 aircraft, while new military displays like "Drone Power" and the "Universal Rocket Launcher" will highlight India's technological progress.³
- **Community Integration:** Around 10,000 special guests, including innovators, scientists, and farmers, will witness the parade, symbolizing the partnership's impact on the everyday lives of citizens.³

Conclusion

The synergy between Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Antonio Costa, and President Ursula von der Leyen has transformed the India-EU relationship from a series of disjointed dialogues into a comprehensive strategic architecture that anchors the global rules-based order.⁵ From the assembly lines in Vadodara to the smart grids in Nagpur and the digital cables under the Mediterranean, the partnership is a vital engine for India's national development and a critical hedge for Europe's economic security.¹¹

As these three leaders share the stage in January 2026, their presence represents a shared commitment to a future where democracy and technology empower people across continents.¹ The successful conclusion of the FTA and the continued progress of the IMEC corridor will not only double trade by 2030 but also ensure that the "generational opportunity" for a strategic partnership is fully realized for the benefit of their citizens and the world at large.¹⁰ The message from New Delhi in 2026 is clear: the India-EU partnership is no longer just a partnership of opportunity; it is a partnership of ambition and enduring necessity.¹⁰

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Key Acronyms and Abbreviations

- **EU** – European Union
- **FTA** – Free Trade Agreement
- **IPA** – Investment Protection Agreement
- **TTC** – Trade and Technology Council
- **IMEC** – India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor
- **DPI** – Digital Public Infrastructure
- **EIB** – European Investment Bank
- **GI** – Geographical Indication
- **CBAM** – Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
- **AMCA** – Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft

Appendix B: Timeline of Major India–EU Strategic Milestones

- **1974** – India–Portugal Treaty of Recognition
- **2000** – First India–EU Summit (Lisbon)
- **2004** – Elevation to Strategic Partnership
- **2017** – Landmark reciprocal leadership visits
- **2021** – Resumption of FTA negotiations
- **2022** – Launch of India–EU Trade and Technology Council
- **2025** – Visit of the EU College of Commissioners to India

- **2026** – Joint Chief Guest participation at India's Republic Day Parade