

## **India-France Comprehensive Economic and Commercial Brief**

### **1. Overview of the French Economy**

In 2021, France's economy ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the world with a nominal GDP of USD 2.71 trillion. According to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, INSEE, as an annual average, French GDP rebounded by 7% in 2021 (after -8% in 2020), with health restrictions affecting H1, followed by sharp growth, particularly in the middle of the year. According to the European Commission, French GDP is estimated to have grown by 2.6% in 2022 on the back of a substantial carry-over effect from 2021. The economy slowed down in the second half of 2022 in a context of significant supply bottlenecks and increasing energy and commodity prices. The first estimate for the fourth quarter of 2022 came in at 0.1%, after 0.2% in the third quarter. Private consumption was flat amid a significant decline in consumers' confidence, while rising imports weighed on growth despite a muted domestic demand. Economic activity is expected to remain subdued over the first half of 2023, with a stable first quarter. Investment, in particular, is set to fall on the back of higher production costs, tighter financial conditions and heightened uncertainty. However, the projected deceleration of inflation is expected to allow for a gradual recovery in the second half of the year, with private consumption gaining momentum and investment growth rebounding as domestic demand and international trade bounce back. For the whole of 2023, GDP is forecast to expand only moderately in annual terms, by 0.6%.

The GDP per capita was USD 41,805 (€ 36,911) in 2021.

France is an important member of the G-7, OECD and G-20. Its technological strengths make it the leader in sectors such as aviation, space, food processing, transport, railways and agricultural research.

### **2. India-France Economic & Commercial Relations**

The economic and commercial relations are an important component of India's bilateral relations with France. The economic reforms process in India, twelve Prime Ministerial visits from India to France in 1992, 1995, 1998, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2022, the visit of our President to France in 2000, the visit of the French Prime Minister to India in 2003, the visits of the French President to India in 1998, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2016 & 2018, and the growing French interest in establishing its presence in Asian markets including in India have all contributed to the broadening of economic links. The series of high-level visits in the commercial and economic field reflects the growing interest of both the governments in expanding trade between the two countries. France considers India an important market for its products and is looking to increase the number of joint ventures and encouraging investments in and from India.

### **3. Bilateral Trade in Goods (excluding Military Equipment)**

From January to December 2021, the India-France bilateral trade in goods (excluding military equipment) stood at € 12.58 billion (+39.17% as compared to the corresponding period the previous year). India's exports to France were valued at € 6.70 billion, up by 39.36% during this period. Indian imports from France also increased by 38.98% to € 5.88 billion.

India-France Trade in Goods excluding Military Equipment in the last 10 years (in Million €)

Year (Jan. to Dec.)	Indian Exports to France	French Exports to India	Total Trade	Balance of Trade for India	Y-o-Y % Changes in Total Trade
2012	4,656	3,256	7,912	+1,400	+5.98%
2013	4,440	2,713	7,153	+1,727	-9.59%
2014	5,216	2,704	7,920	+2,502	+10.70%
2015	5,218	2,703	8,548	+2,196	+7.91%
2016	4,669	3,910	8,580	+759	+0.37%
2017	5,362	5,345	10,707	+17	+24.79%
2018	5,993	5,529	11,522	+463	+7.61
2019	6,238	5,358	11,596	+880	+0.64
2020	4,809	4,235	9,045	+574	-21.99
2021	6,702	5,886	12,588	+816	+39.17

Source: French Ministry for Economy & Finance (Data rounded off to nearest million €)

#### 4. **Bilateral Trade in Services**

Based on annual data provided by the French Central Bank (Banque de France), the Indian exports of services to France from January to December 2021 registered of a slight decrease of 5.84% as compared to the same period of the previous year from € 2.51 billion to € 2.37billion, with the following five categories of services recording a growth (in descending order): 1) maintenance and repair services (+68.96%); 2) building and public works (+66.66%); 3) transport (+30.07%); 4) cultural, leisure and personal services (+5.26%) and 5) telecommunication, computer and information services (+0.27%). The two categories of services which recorded the largest decrease were: 1) financial services (-62.99%) and 2) pension and insurance services (-58.33%).

The Indian imports of services from France have however recorded a substantial growth of 73.81% last year from € 2.24 billion in 2020 to € 3.90 billion in 2021. The following seven categories of services contributed to this increase (in descending order): 1) transport (+136.02%); 2) other services to businesses (+110%); 3) commission for use of intellectual property (+58.87%); 4) travel (+55.35%); 5) maintenance and repair services (+19.11%); 6) manufacturing services supplied by physical inputs held by third parties (+18.96%) and 7) cultural, leisure and personal services (+14.28%).

#### India-France Trade in Services over the last 5 Years (in Million €)

Year (Jan.-Dec.)	Indian Exports to France	French Exports to India	Total	Y-o-Y % of Increase/Decrease
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2017	2,563	1,739	4,302	+32.85
2018	2,459	1,928	4,387	+1.97
2019	2,463	2,004	4,467	+1.82
2020	2,517	2,249	4,766	+6.69
2021	2,370	3,909	6,279	+31.74

Composition of India-France Trade in Services in 2021 (in Million €)

No.	Major Categories of Services	Indian Exports to France	Indian Imports from France
1.	Manufacturing services supplied by physical inputs held by third parties	75	69
2.	Maintenance & repair services	98	268
3.	Transport	333	1,199
4.	Travel	47	87
5.	Building & public works	5	1
6.	Pension & insurance services	5	-122
7.	Financial services	84	27
8.	Commission for use of intellectual property	53	170
9.	Telecommunication, computer & information services	731	206
10.	Other services to businesses	921	1,995
11.	Cultural, leisure & personal services	20	8
12.	Goods & services of public administration	0	0
13.	Other services (not included elsewhere)	0	0
	Total	2,370	3,909

## **5. French Investments in India**

France has emerged as a major source of FDI for India with more than 1,000 French establishments already present in India. France is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest foreign investor in India

with a cumulative investment of USD 10.49 billion from April 2000 to December 2022 which represents 1.68% of the total FDI inflows into India according to statistics provided by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The highest FDI equity inflows are in the services sector (18.05%), with cement & gypsum products (9.29%) in the second place, followed by air transport (including air freight) (7.59%), miscellaneous industries (7.24%) and petroleum & natural gas (7.10%). These five sectors represent 49.27% of the total equity inflow from France from April 2000 to December 2022.

Most big French groups have their subsidiaries in India. There are also a few joint ventures and liaison offices of French companies in India. 39 of the 40 CAC 40 (French Stock Market Index) companies are present in India. Around 50-70 SMEs are also present in India essentially in the mechanical and pharma-chemical sectors. French companies are present in a wide range of sectors: services (BNP Paribas, Capgemini, Havas, Sodexo, etc.); pharmaceutical-chemical (Arkema, L'Oréal, Sanofi, TotalEnergies, etc.); aerospace (Airbus, Dassault, Eurocopter, Safran, Thales, etc.); agro-food (Bongrain, Danone, Lactalis, Lesaffre, Pernod Ricard, etc.); electronics (Crouzet, Oberthur, Safran, STMicroelectronics, Thales, etc.); construction mechanics (Alstom, Cermex, Legris Group, Poclair, Sidel, etc.); electrical components (Hager, Legrand, Schneider Electric, etc.); automobile (Faurecia, Michelin, Plastic Omnium, Renault, Valeo, etc.).

French investments cleared in 2021 and 2022 include amongst others Edifixio (technological services), Ceva Santé Animale (pharmaceutical products & vaccines), Worldline (transaction processing services) and Systra (urban & rail transport engineering).

[According to the estimates from the French Embassy in India, French companies employ around 300,000 persons in India and have a turnover of more than USD 20 billion and have a minimum stock investment portfolio of USD 19 billion].

#### FDI Equity Inflows from France

Financial Year (April-March)	FDI Equity Inflows from France			
	INR Crores	USD Million	€ Million	Y-o-Y % Changes
2000-01	455	104	92	N.A.
2001-02	488	108	95	+3.5
2002-03	533	111	98	+3.3
2003-04	176	38	33	-65.6
2004-05	536	117	104	+206.7
2005-06	82	18	16	-84.2
2006-07	527	117	103	+533.6
2007-08	582	145	128	+23.7
2008-09	2,098	466	412	+221.4

2009-10	1,436	302	267	-35.1
2010-11	3,348	734	649	+142.6
2011-12	3,110	662	586	-9.7
2012-13	3,487	646	571	-2.4
2013-14	1,841	305	270	-52.7
2014-15	3,881	634	587	+117.42
2015-16	3,937	598	544	-7.32
2016-17	4,112	614	574	+5.51
2017-18	3,297	511	414	-27.87
2018-19	2,890	406	361	-12.80
2019-20	13,686	1,896	1,730	+379.22
2020-21	9,641	1,291	1,138	-34.21
2021-2022	2,507	336	302	-73.46
Cumulative Inflows (April 2000 to December 2022)	65,238	10,491	9,835	/

Source: DPIIT

## **6. Indian Investments in France**

### Indian businesses in France

According to the 'Business France Annual Report 2021', a public operator supporting French investors in India and Indian investors in France, there are around 210 subsidiaries of Indian businesses established in France, where they employ 6,000 people.

There were 10 investment decisions from India recorded in France in 2021, creating 212 jobs.

Indian investments recorded in France in 2021 were split between production/manufacturing activities (5 projects; 28% of jobs), decision-making centers (3 projects; 11% of jobs), as well as business services (2 projects; 61% of jobs). The IT services sector accounted for the most Indian projects and employment in 2021, with three projects and two-thirds of jobs created, followed by the agri-food (2 projects) and the textiles sector (also 2 projects).

### Top 3 host French Regions

Location-wise, Indian businesses invested primarily in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region (4 projects) and the Grand-Est Region (2 projects).

### France's position in Europe

In 2021, the leading European recipient of job-creating investment from India was the United Kingdom, attracting 41% of all Indian investment in Europe, followed by Germany (11%) and France (9%).

### Top 5 Indian businesses by employment in France

1. Tata Group (IT services & metalworking) (2,217 employees)
2. Samvardhana Motherson Group (automotive) (1,175)
3. Centum Electronics (electrical & IT equipment) (575)
4. UPL (chemicals & plastics) (570)
5. Mahindra & Mahindra (automotive) (500)

As of December 31, 2020, the FDI stock in France was € 350 million (French Central Bank).

### The following Indian companies choose France in 2021:

1. TCS: The French subsidiary of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leader in the IT industry and digital transformation, has announced a new stage of development in Poitiers (Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region) with the inauguration of a service center. TCS has accelerated its job creation plan by setting itself the aim of recruiting 50 additional employees by the end of the first quarter of 2022, surpassing 100 employees at the site.

2. Tech Mahindra: Tech Mahindra, one of the world's leading businesses in IT and digital services (USD 5.1 billion in revenues & 141,000 employees), has decided to invest and increase its presence in France by creating a new service in Vitrolles (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region), close to its long-standing industrial customers. The group plans to hire 80 to 100 people over a three-year period, with a view to meeting the growing needs for digital transformation. 'I am delighted with the sustained development of our activities in Southern France, confirmed by the creation of this new service center which will promote the creation of jobs locally. The high levels of digital talent in the region convinced us to invest in Vitrolles over the long term,' said Philippe Ly Cong Trinh, Managing Director of Tech Mahindra France.

3. Léonie: This project concerns the establishment of a production laboratory for 'Made in France' Franco-Indian pastries in the Paris Region. The aim is to make pastries from the best French ingredients, in a Franco-Indian fusion version, then to export them to the Middle East and Asia. The business has already recruited nine people in France since its creation in 2020 in Versailles (Paris Region) and it is planning to have a team made up of 12 people by the end of 2022.

## **7. Issues related to Trade Protection/Rejection of Indian Goods, Sanitary and Phytosanitary/Technical Barriers and other Non-Tariff Barriers**

Export consignments of agro and food products are bound by higher Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Minimum Residual Level (MRL) Standards, which are applicable across the EU. Failure to comply with them may attract border rejection and rapid alerts. In addition, export of goods/articles containing chemicals e.g. clothing, footwear, leather products, gems and jewelry, furniture, packing materials, pharmaceuticals etc. require

compliance with the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation which are also applicable across the EU.

## **8. Bilateral Mechanisms to promote Trade and Investments**

India-France Joint Committee for Economic & Technical Cooperation (JCETC) was set up on January 26, 1976 through an exchange of letters between the Ministers of Commerce and Foreign Trade. Meetings are held at Ministerial level alternately in Delhi and Paris. This Joint Committee is the major institutional mechanism for cooperation in the economic and technical sector. The 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Committee was held on October 24, 2017 in Paris. The entire gamut of bilateral economic and commercial relationship was reviewed at the meeting, and both sides agreed to continue and intensify cooperation. The 18<sup>th</sup> session of the India-France Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) was held virtually on November 27, 2020. A joint announcement was also signed for setting up of a FAST-TRACK system for French companies in India and Indian companies in France which was to be made operational by the end of December 2020.

Joint Working Groups (JWGs) at the senior official level have also been constituted through MoUs to deal with specific aspects of economic cooperation, including for Agriculture and Food Processing, IT & Telecommunications, Roads, Sustainable Urban Development and Energy. During the visit of French President to India (14-15 February 2013), the two countries further agreed to establish an annual bilateral Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) between the two Finance Ministries on economic and financial issues. The first such Economic and Financial Dialogue was held in Paris on October 29, 2013.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> JWG on Environment was held on 18-19 January, 2021 in New Delhi.

The 15<sup>th</sup> JWG Meeting on Sustainable Urban Development was held virtually on 2-3 March 2021. The 16<sup>th</sup> JWG on Sustainable Urban Development took place virtually on 16 January 2023.

The 9<sup>th</sup> JWG meeting on Agriculture including Food Processing was scheduled to take place virtually on March 25, 2021 but has been postponed. The 8<sup>th</sup> JWG on Agriculture including Food Processing was held on 6-7 December 2016 in Paris.

## **9. Bilateral Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

India and France have signed a number of Agreements to facilitate the expansion of commercial relations.

Among these are the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) [where India has requested a protocol, to amend Article 28 to insert new disclosure norms on which bilateral consultations are continuing], MoU on cooperation in Tourism, MoU on Intellectual Property and a Social Security Exemption Agreement (SSA).

In October 2012, India and France signed an Agreement for cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development. Another MoU on Bilateral Cooperation in Food Industries Sector was signed on October 24, 2012.

During the visit of French President to India (14-15 February 2013), the two countries concluded an MoU between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the French

National Railways (SNCF) on Technical Cooperation in the field of Railway Sector as well as a General Framework Agreement between Oséo (the French Innovation Promotion Agency) and Technology Development Board (TDB) of India to establish a collaborative framework under which Oséo and TDB may carry out activities related to the exchanging of best practices and the setting up of coordinated measures to foster technological exchanges and innovation collaborations between companies, organizations and institutions of France and India.

The following four agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to France on 10-11 April 2015: i) MoU on cooperation in the field of renewable energy between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India and the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, Government of France; ii) Railway Protocol between Indian Ministry of Railways and French National Railways (SNCF) on cooperation in semi high speed rail and station renovation; iii) MoU between National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), India and the National Commission for Vocational Qualifications (Commission Nationale de la Certification Professionnelle - CNCD) & iv) Letter of Intent on Tourism.

During French President François Hollande's visit to Indian in January 2016, MoUs were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Hollande in the field of smart and sustainable cities and helicopter production as also JV agreements and Letters of Intent in the field of renewable energy/wind energy.

India and France signed a MoU on civil aviation in April 2017 in New Delhi in the presence of Shri P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Minister of Civil Aviation, and Mr. Alain Vidalies, Minister of State for Transport, Marine Affairs and Fisheries, to strengthen India-France cooperation on transport.

Both countries signed a pact in March 2018 in New Delhi to deepen cooperation in the environment field while affirming their commitment to lead the fight against climate change. The pact was signed by the Minister of State for Environment, Shri Mahesh Sharma, and the French Minister of State, attached to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Ms. Brune Poirson.

The following four MoUs were signed during the visit of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to France in August 2019: i) MoU between the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), ii) Administrative arrangement between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and the French Ministry of National Education and Youth, for Cooperation in Skill Development and Vocational Training, iii) Cooperation agreement between the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), an autonomous scientific society of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Atos, a French multinational IT service and consulting firm & iv) Implementing arrangement between ISRO and CNES (France) for Joint Maritime Domain Awareness.

## **10. Agreement on Social Security**

An Agreement on Social Security exemption was signed during Prime Minister's visit in September 2008. The Agreement has been ratified by the two sides and has come into force on July 1, 2011. The agreement will protect the interests of expatriate workers and the companies on a reciprocal basis. It helps workers by (i) providing for exemption from social security contribution in case of short-term contracts; (ii) exportability of pension in case of



relocation to the home country or any third country; and (iii) totalization of the contribution periods.

## **11. VIE (Volontariat International en Entreprise)**

Voluntary International Apprenticeship Program: Under this scheme, started in 2008, young French interns/graduates are sent to French companies in India as trainees for a period of one year. The cost is borne by the company utilizing the trainee, with Government defraying certain costs and offering tax subsidies to companies utilizing the scheme. At present there is a cap of 250 visas per annum under the scheme.

## **12. CEO's Forum**

During French President's visit to India in January 2008, it was decided to establish an India-France Foundation which could begin as an India-France high level CEO's Round Table. An announcement was made during PM's visit to France in September 2008 to set up an India-France High level CEO's Forum. The Indian side is headed by Mr. Dhruv Sawhney, Chairman, Triveni Engineering & Industries (earlier by Mr. Narayana Murthy, Chief Mentor of Infosys). The French side is headed by Mr. Paul Hermelin, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Capgemini, and Special Representative of the French Government for Indo-French Economic Relations. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Forum was held in New Delhi on 28-29 November, 2009; 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting took place on 24-25 June 2010 at Paris; 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was held in New Delhi on December 6, 2010; 4<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Paris on 30-31 January 2012; 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forum held in New Delhi on 22-23 November 2012 which discussed issues related to India-France collaboration on various PPP projects in infrastructure, sustainable development with focus on energy efficiency and corporate social responsibility, especially in the field of promoting education. During the visit of the French President to India on 14-15 February 2013, the CEO's forum presented its recommendations on Private-Public Partnerships, Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development to the two governments. The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CEO's Forum was held in Paris on 8-9 July 2013. The meeting discussed issues related to Education and employability through skill building. The Indian CEO's called on the French President and were assured that they would be treated at par with French businesses when investing in France. The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CEO's Forum was held in Paris, France on April 9, 2015 as a precursor to the visit of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to France in April 2015. The French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development, Mr. Laurent Fabius, was present at the Forum as also Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Mr. Amitabh Kant. 30 CEO's took part in this event. The topics discussed included Energy, Water, Agro and Food Processing, Skill Development and Education, Defence and Aerospace and Life Sciences. There was a decision to constitute five Task Forces with designated Sherpas on (i) Energy (conventional and renewable) (ii) Water and Waste (iii) Life Sciences (iv) Defence & Aerospace and (v) Infrastructure Financing; the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forum was held in Chandigarh on January 24, 2016 during the visit of President Hollande to India. The French Finance Minister, Mr. Michel Sapin, and Secretary Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Mr. Amitabh Kant, attended this session. Projects were proposed in the following identified sectors: defence, green economy, smart cities, infrastructure & transportation, water, and financial sector. The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forum was held in Paris on January 13, 2017. The Forum was convened in the presence of Mr. Michel Sapin, the Minister of Economy and Finance. Members reviewed the progress since the last meeting which was held in Chandigarh on January 24, 2016 on the sidelines of the visit of President Hollande to India. The topics discussed included Smart Cities - Transport & IT, Infrastructure, Energy & Water and Defence. The 10<sup>th</sup> CEO's Forum was held on March 10, 2018 in New Delhi during

President Macron's official visit to India. The 11<sup>th</sup> Indo-French CEO's Forum (virtual platform) was scheduled to be held on 20-21 January 2021 but has been postponed.

### **13. India-France Economic Cooperation through AFD (French Agency for Development)**

Pursuant to signing of a MoU in September 2008 between Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and the French Agency for Development, the AFD extends credit for various projects in India. The priority areas for AFD economic cooperation in India are (i) energy efficiency and renewable energy within the framework of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), (ii) urban infrastructure (public transport, water, etc., through sustainable development projects and infrastructure development programmes such as JNNURM), and (iii) the preservation of biodiversity. The current projects being supported by the AFD include (i) 'Reorganizing the Water Supply System of Jodhpur City in Rajasthan', Phase II worth € 71.1 million (ii) 'Forestry and Bio-diversity Conservation Project in Assam' worth € 54 million (iii) Credit Facility Agreement (CFA) for the Bangalore Metro Rail Project, Phase-I (iv) IREDA II and (v) Cochin Metro Project.

### **14. India-France Business Associations in France**

France-India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIFI, Neuilly-sur-Seine) was created in 1984 as a non-profit organization that aims to promote bilateral commercial relations between India and France. It has as its members several Indian and French companies. The Mission has been working with CCIFI to promote bilateral relations through joint activities.

The Chamber brings out a fortnightly newsletter in French and English which provides information in brief on various topics pertaining to economy, trade and industry.

With the support of the Mission, an India-France Business Club (Business Club France Inde) was started in January 2014 in Marseille, the second largest city in France after Paris and the largest port, to assist Indian businesses, entrepreneurs and to generate interest about India among the French businesses in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region.

### **15. Activities for promoting Trade and Investment**

Promotion of economic and commercial relations between India and France is a major priority for the Mission and the E&C Wing, under the direction and guidance of the Ambassador, works to promote Indian business and industry by encouraging trade and investment, assisting Indian firms with Government and private sector contacts, providing information, supporting and advising Indian companies about the French market.

Major commercial activities of the Mission include : (i) promotion of Indian goods and services in France, (ii) promotion of Brand India and corporate image of India, (iii) promotion of India as a foreign direct investment destination, and (iv) promotion of the 'Make in India' campaign. In each of these activities Mission's action mostly involve gathering and dissemination of information, outreach, coordination and facilitation.

### **16. Recent Ministerial Visits from India to France**

15-19 October 2022 – Shri Banteidor Lyngdoh, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of Meghalaya, participated at the 58<sup>th</sup> Biennial Food Innovation Exhibition, 'SIAL', at Paris-Nord Villepinte.

7 October 2022 - A 7-Member Delegation led by Minister of Agriculture, Farmer Welfare Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Fisheries, Law & Legislative Government of Haryana, Shri Jai Parkash Dalal, visited the Rungis Fresh Food Wholesale Market in the Paris Region.

3-4 October 2022 - A 7-Member Delegation led by Dr. Murgesh R. Nirani, Minister of Large & Medium Industries, Government of Karnataka, visited Paris to discuss Karnataka's Potential as an Attractive Investment Destination and invited French Companies to participate at the 'Invest Karnataka 2022 Global Investors Meet' which was held from 2-4 November, 2022 in Bengaluru.

20-22 September 2022 – Shri Mohamed Riyas, Minister for Tourism, Government of Kerala, took part at the Annual International Event for the French Travel Market, 'IFTM Top Resa', organized by Reed Expositions at Porte de Versailles (Paris).

15 June 2022 - Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Communications and Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, inaugurated the India Pavilion at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Technology Conference, 'Viva Technology', where India was the 'Country of the Year'. The Indian Delegation comprised over 100 CEOs and Digital Experts, 66 Startups of which 15 were present at the India Pavilion at Porte de Versailles (Paris).

17-25 May 2022 - An Indian Delegation led by Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of Information & Broadcasting, and Dr. L. Murugan, Minister of State of Information & Broadcasting, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, visited Cannes for the Annual Cannes Film Festival Market where India was the 'Country of Honor'. CII organized an India Pavilion at the Festival. Mr. Abhay Kumar Sinha, Director General, Services Export Promotion Council, & Mr. Hirachand Damji Dand, Entertainment Committee Chairman, participated at the Event to promote Exports of 17 Services Sectors.

6-7 April 2022 - Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, visited Evian-les-Bains Bains for the Gavi Alliance Board Retreat Conference.

25-26 February 2022 - Shri Subodh Uniyal, Minister of Agriculture & Horticulture, Government of Uttarakhand & Chairman, National Council of State Agricultural Marketing Boards (COSAMB), met Mr. Stéphane Layani, Chairman, World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) and visited the Rungis Fruit, Vegetable Wholesale Market in the Paris Region.

22-23 February 2022 - External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, attended the EU Ministerial Forum for Indo-Pacific Cooperation on February 22, 2022 in Paris, an initiative of the French Presidency of the European Council. He also had a meeting with his French counterpart, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian. He also presided the meeting of Indian Ambassadors in the EU on February 23, 2022 in Paris.

11-12 November 2019 - External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, visited Paris and held Talks with Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, France's Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs. The two Ministers discussed Issues of Bilateral Partnership and International Importance. EAM also attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the 'Paris Peace Forum' where he participated in a High-Level Panel-Discussion on Multilateral Governance of Cyberspace. He also called on the French President on the sidelines of the Forum. EAM later addressed a Gathering of Prominent Business Representatives and Think-Tank Members and gave an Interview to French daily newspaper Le Monde.

23-24 October 2019 - Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, visited Reunion Island along with a Business Delegation to participate in a Summit Meeting on 'Regional Economic Integration in the Indo-Pacific' organized by France. He held conversations with several French Ministers and also called on French President, Mr. Emmanuel Macron.

7-10 October 2019 - Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh, visited Paris for the second bilateral Ministerial-Level Annual Defence Dialogue with his Counterpart, Ms. Florence Parly, France's Minister for the Armed Forces. During the visit, RM also called on the French President, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, and interacted with Heads of Key French Defence Industry Enterprises. RM also visited Bordeaux to attend the Handing Over Ceremony of the first Rafale Fighter Aircraft to be acquired from France under the Inter-Governmental Contract signed in September 2016. He also visited select Defence Industry Sites in France.

30 November-1 December 2018 - Visit to Le Puy and Lyon of Dr. G. Parmeshwara, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka & Minister for Bengaluru Development, for a Study Tour on Municipal Solid Waste Management.

21-23 October 2018 - Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister for Food Processing Industry, inaugurated the Biennial Food Innovation Exhibition, 'SIAL', at Paris-Nord Villepinte (Paris Region). The Meghalaya Chief Minister, Shri Sangma, visited Paris on this occasion as also a delegation from the State of Manipur. Minister Badal had a bilateral meeting with the French Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Didier Guillaume, on 21 October 2018 at Paris-Nord Villepinte on the opening day of the Fair. The Minister delivered the opening address at the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the 'France-India Agri-Business & Food Processing Industries' Conference organized by the India-France Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 22 October 2018.

11-12 October 2018 - Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Defence Minister, attended in Paris the 1<sup>st</sup> 'Ministerial Meeting of the Bilateral Annual Defence Dialogue between India & France' along with the French Minister of Armed Forces, Ms. Florence Parly.

4-6 October 2018 - Visit to France of a 7-Member Delegation led by Shri M.C. Sampath, Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu, to promote the 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Global Investors' Summit' on 23-24 January 2019 in Chennai

27 September 2018 - Shri Sa. Ra. Mahesh, Minister for Tourism & Sericulture, Government of Karnataka, visited the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual International Event for the French Travel Market 'IFTM Top Resa' in Paris.

18-20 September 2018 - Shri Chaudhry Birendra Singh, Union Minister of Steel, attended the Ministerial Meeting of GFSEC at the OECD Headquarters in Paris.

29-30 August 2018 - Visit to France of a 4-Member Delegation led by Shri K.J. George, Minister of IT and Large and Medium Size Industry, Government of Karnataka

18-19 June 2018 - Visit to Paris of Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister, to name the Indian Cultural Center

31 May-4 June 2018 - Visit to France of Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Civil Aviation, for an Informal Gathering of WTO Trade Ministers on the Sidelines of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris. The Minister called on Mr. Laurent Fabius, President of the Constitutional Council and also met Ms. Elisabeth Borne, Minister of

Transport, to discuss Cooperation on Issues of Bilateral Importance. Shri Suresh Prabhu visited the Airbus Manufacturing Facility and also saw the IndiGo Passenger Planes being built at Toulouse. He finally had discussions with Mr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director, International Energy Agency, on Issues regarding the World Energy Security.

22 May 2018 - Visit of Shri Ponnaiah Ayyapan Radhakrishnan, Minister of State for Finance and Shipping, to Monaco for Meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Finance and Industry

12 December 2017 - Visit of Shri R.K. Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, for the 'One Planet Summit' organized by the French Foreign Office in Boulogne-Billancourt (Paris Region)

7-8 November 2017 - Visit of Shri R.K. Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, for the '2017 International Energy Agency Ministerial Meeting' at the International Energy Agency in Paris

23-24 October 2017 - Visit of Shri C.R. Chaudhary, Minister of State of Commerce and Industry, for the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the India-France Joint Commission Meeting in Paris

19-23 June 2017 - Visit of Shri Priyank Kharge, Minister of Tourism & Information Technology, Government of Karnataka for the 'Paris Air Show'

19-23 June 2017 - Visit of Shri Prakash Pant, Minister of Finance, Government of Uttarakhand, to participate at the 'India Skill Week' in Paris

8 June 2017 - Visit of Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry, to take part at the Ministerial Meeting for WTO Negotiations on the sidelines of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris

6-7 June 2017 - Visit of Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister, for the Annual OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris

17-20 October 2016 - Visit of Dr. Subash Bhambre, Minister of State (Defence Production), for 'Euronaval' Defence Exhibition. During his visit, he also called on French Defence Minister, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian.

18-20 October 2016 - Visit of Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries, during the 'SIAL' Food Fair in Paris. She met French Minister of Agriculture, Food & Forest, Mr. Stéphane Le Foll.

1-5 September 2016 - Visit of Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Textiles, to Paris during the 'Who's Next & Première Classe' Textile & Garments Exhibition. She met Mr. Marc-Antoine Jamet, Secretary General, LVMH, the French luxury goods group.

1-2 June 2016 - Visit of Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Commerce and Industry, to attend the Informal Gathering of the WTO Ministers on the margins of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris

11-12 April 2016 - Visit of Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways, to discuss the possible Areas of Cooperation between India and France in the Railway Sector. The Minister also addressed the 'Emerging Forum' organized by the Banque de France in Paris. He met

Minister of State for Railways, Mr. Alain Vidalies, and also paid a courtesy call on Mr. Laurent Fabius, President of the Constitutional Council of France.

5-6 October 2015 - Visit of Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Urban Development, to Bordeaux to attend a Global Intelligent Transportation Summit. During his visit, he also met France's Minister of the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs, Ms. Ségolène Royal, in Paris.

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Source: Embassy of India, Paris (updated till March 2, 2023)