

PSIR Test 04 Model Answers

- (v) *Owing to this growing importance of India-France relationship PM Modi in his speech at UNESCO in Paris referred to 'INFRA meaning INDIA AND FRANCE' as being vital in the 21st century.*

France as the new-Russia

- *The growing state of India-France relationship has raised the question about France replacing Russia as India's trustworthy friend and partner in the western world.*
- *India and France have built a deep economic, security and diplomatic relationship over the last few decades that has spanned the cold war era and strengthened in the last decade.*
- *According to C Raja Mohan, alliance with France promises stability in Eurasia and Indo-Pacific as India recalibrates ties with Moscow slowly but surely. Throughout the cold war year, Russia (Soviet union) was India's veto-providing friend in the UNSC and provided India with economic assistance and defence equipment. Today, Russia has a closer relationship with China and is not as cognisant of India's interests especially when it comes to Pakistan, Afghanistan and terrorism. France appears to have moved into the Russian vacuum.*
- *Among the permanent members of UNSC, France has been consistent in supporting India's bid for permanent membership. They also share a similar goal on issues like climate change.*
- *While Russia's response on India's recent decision on Jammu and Kashmir was lukewarm, France, on the other hand, has been one of the steadiest partners of India in recent decades. A place that used to be reserved for the Russia in the past. In other words, after Russia's ambiguous stand, India tends to nurture its relationship with other important partners such as France.*
- *Defence co-operation between the two countries is multi-dimensional with institutional exchanges, joint production, joint military exercises and training, defence supplies such as Rafale jets etc.*