

# ***PATRIOTS***

***FOR EUROPE FOUNDATION***

## **India - a strategic partner for Europe**

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## **India - a strategic partner for Europe**

On 10 June, the Patriots for Europe Foundation had the privilege of organising a conference at the European Parliament on a strategic subject that is not often given the attention it deserves: the future of political and economic relations between the European Union and India. A number of speakers, who were experts in various fields, took part in a round-table discussion that was very informative, touching on issues of sovereignty, culture, security and respect for identities. There was a general consensus that existing links should be strengthened.

### **"Restoring dialogue and promoting diplomacy"**

*Thierry Mariani is a French Member of the European Parliament belonging to the Patriots for Europe Group. In his speech, he observed that India is not only the world's leading demographic power, but also a significant economic player and a partner that shares Europe's commitment to the nation-state, sovereignty and security.*

Looking at what Europe has achieved so far and where the world stands today, particularly since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, it seems that it is moving towards a system of global and regional blocs, in both trade and politics. Unfortunately, European leaders have succeeded in leading the European Union and our continent into a delicate situation. Three years after the outbreak of war, our relationships with both China and Russia are poor. We want to sever our political and economic ties with both countries. Unfortunately, most European leaders currently want to keep their distance from the new American administration.

I am concerned that this approach may prove ineffective. It is crucial to renew dialogue and foster the reopening of diplomatic channels, including with the United States, to safeguard and advance our commercial interests as well.

The United States, intent on reshaping the structure of international trade, is keen to initiate a frank discussion about the ruptures that have occurred over the past thirty years, since the end of the Cold War. While they seek to redefine priorities across certain sectors, we are simultaneously witnessing an extraordinary transformation: the digitisation of our economies and societies over the past ten to fifteen years.

Given the heightened relevance of this debate, it is in the European Union's clear interest to safeguard its own strategic priorities. India serves as a compelling example of a nation whose government has exhibited steadfast patriotism amidst a deeply unsettled global political and economic landscape. Through a pragmatic stance, India has managed to assert its sovereignty without succumbing to pressure from major powers. Today, it maintains peaceful and constructive relations with all key global regions and blocs. The European Union must similarly embrace a pragmatic and patriotic approach to international trade and diplomacy, placing European interests firmly at the forefront.

We can explore future opportunities for cooperation by talking openly and transparently with other major regional markets and economies.

### **“It's time to wake up, the world is in the midst of a fundamental reshaping”**

The links between Europe and India date back many years. In ancient times, India fascinated us with its wealth and philosophy. However, these ties were also affected by the injustice of colonisation. India only regained its independence in 1947. Since then, the world has changed. Today, India is the world's fifth largest economy. It is the world's most populous democracy and a nuclear, space and industrial power. It is also a key strategic partner for France in every field. Europe can no longer afford to be patronising or indifferent.

This is a wake-up call as the world is being reshaped. The United States is wavering, Europe is fading and China and Russia are asserting themselves. India is forging its own path, engaging with everyone while remaining independent. Despite being a central power, it is currently the forgotten sumptuous country. Unlike China, Russia, the United States and Africa, India is rarely mentioned in debates on migration issues. The European Union must urgently stop projecting its dogmas, as this has become a real threat to its survival and to the people of Europe. It must build alliances based on mutual interest and respect for its peoples. In this sense, India under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi is a natural partner, and cooperation must be established on all fronts in a multipolar world based on economic sovereignty, in the face of a giant in terms of demographics, industry, military might, shared defence, culture and politics. Much like the European Union, India rejects Islamism, wokism and relativism.

France and India have enjoyed a strategic partnership since 1998. Now is the time to shine a spotlight on this partnership and give it a new sense of ambition. These are two nations that share a desire to cooperate, strengthen a necessary friendship and fight terrorism together.

### **“India is set to become the world's third largest economy”**

*Ram Divedi is Chairman of the Kutniti Foundation. He shares his knowledge of the Atmanirbhar Bharat doctrine, which aims to strengthen India's industrial and economic autonomy in the face of global geopolitical dependency.*

I'm Indian, but I grew up in France and still have a beautiful French accent. I believe that India and Europe have a lot in common, including the presence of patriots. While patriots represent a significant minority in Europe, they make up a much larger proportion of the population in India, as well as in Asia, Africa and South America. The fact remains that all these countries are patriotic. All of these countries aspire to be sovereign. This is only the case in a small part of the world.

Europe is a region where sovereignists are not in the majority. It could benefit from a long-term strategic vision, a concept which is sometimes absent from its public policies. India, on the other hand, has a strategic vision for the 21st century, initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India currently has the fastest-growing economy in the world. In the second quarter of 2025, it recorded a 7.4% increase in GDP. By this summer, India is set to become the world's fourth largest economy, overtaking Japan. In 2026, it is expected to overtake Germany to become the world's third-largest economy. With the United States in first place and China in second, this will be the defining metaphor of the century.

India is widely recognised as the most populous country in the world, with 1.4 billion more inhabitants than China. However, this should not distract from the fact that India's population is set to decline. With a fertility rate of 1.9 children per woman, it is slightly below the population renewal threshold. Therefore, in the long term, India's population is set to shrink.

Its inhabitants are now entering an interesting phase that China experienced almost 20 years ago. India's baby move. Currently, the average age of the population is 26. We can see that young adults are entering the labour market. Therefore, when discussing India, a country with a population of 1.4 billion, it is important to remember that only 400 million people are currently employed. This means that there are a billion Indians who are not working, either because they are too young or too old. It is also important to note that many women did not have jobs in the past, unlike today when more and more of them are participating in the economy, politics, and all levels of society. Women now account for 60% of graduates in India. This transition suggests the start of a new, more prosperous phase in India's history.

### **« Make in India »**

The 'Make in India' initiative, launched in 2015, was one of the key milestones marking the start of this strategic phase for the country's development.

Historically, India has been unique in being a service-oriented country. Most countries focus first on agriculture, then on industry, and only then on services in their growth plans. India, however, has prioritised services such as information technology and pharmaceuticals.

In the 1990s, Europe relocated its manufacturing industry on a massive scale to several Asian countries, including China and India. This eliminated its capacity to manufacture goods 'in situ', which damaged Europe's strong brand image. We are all familiar with German cars and French or Italian luxury goods, for example. This is something that Asian brands cannot boast, although the Japanese and South Koreans have succeeded in making some of their brands more popular.

A few years later, in 2015, a strategic shift was made to reinstate industry's central role as a catalyst for job creation and India's economic sovereignty. Then, during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, India launched another ambitious project called Atmanirbhar Bharat. The project's main objective was to increase the country's self-sufficiency. Indeed, the experience of the COVID crisis, illustrated by the frantic rush to airports and the takeover of aircraft loaded with medicines, vaccines and anything else that could save lives, was a reminder of the dangers of being too dependent on other countries. This project aims to eliminate any strategic dependence India may have by 2080 and enable the country to produce everything domestically.

Let's take the automotive sector as an example. India needs to manufacture cars. However, in order to do so, it will also need to produce batteries, since an increasing number of cars are powered by electric motors. Therefore, batteries and the chemical components required to produce them, such as lithium powders, cobalt and aluminium, will also have to be produced in India. Another essential element in the manufacture of these batteries is semiconductors, the main producer of which is currently Taiwan. Through extensive research, India has identified all the dependencies it faces in each sector and needs to find solutions for. The question now is how to establish a new model that will enable India to manufacture autonomously.

Ultimately, this research concluded that more start-ups and Products Clean Incentives needed to be developed to create these elements directly within the country. Today, India is investing heavily in its future. The next steps will be to strengthen and extend its road connectivity — a major asset for economic development — along the lines of China's 'Belt and Road' initiative, also known as the New Silk Road. India also has a similar initiative, the MEAC programme, which establishes connections from India to Europe via Marseille.

I see Europe as a civilisation. India is also a civilisation that has existed for nearly 10,000 years. It is made up of a multitude of peoples who speak several languages. Therefore, when India talks to Europe, it is talking to individual countries — an aggregate of older civilisations — which makes it easier for them to understand each other.

Another important aspect of India is its desire to assert its sovereignty. Through this desire for independence, India aims to achieve freedom for both its economy and its people.

### **The Indian community: a model of mutual aid**

Outside India, the largest Indian community is found in Europe, with almost 35 million Indians living mainly in Anglo-Saxon countries, particularly the United Kingdom, where there are 1.6 million. One of the defining characteristics of this community is undoubtedly its organisation into groups where mutual aid is paramount. Contrary to the individualist image, when someone is in difficulty, the whole community is concerned and wants to protect its members.

Conversely, if someone misbehaves, the whole community can disassociate itself from that individual. External Affairs Minister Jay Shankar made headlines when he said that any Indian causing problems abroad should be sent back so that their home country could deal with the issue. He underlined the importance of his fellow citizens being well integrated and not creating problems, but simply being good citizens wherever they are in the world, reflecting a very responsible approach.

### **The India-Pakistan crisis in the context of the fight against terrorism**

There is a war between Russia and Ukraine on European soil, on its borders. Last April, Pakistan and India also experienced a large-scale conflict. To many people, this may seem like a border dispute or a religious conflict. However, this is not the case. Most Indian Muslims support India, and few people really care about the border between India and Pakistan. It is also clear that India's main supporters are countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which are Muslim countries.

The root of this conflict lies in Pakistan's economic model, which is plagued by terrorism. While its main impact is felt in India, terrorist attacks originating in Pakistan also occur worldwide. Al-Qaeda was formed in Pakistan. Boko Haram, al-Shabaab in Somalia, and the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States were all financed, trained, and organised by Pakistan. Furthermore, Pakistan has its own nuclear arsenal and has previously attempted to sell it to Libya, Iran, Iraq and North Korea. It is currently in the process of selling it to Turkey and Qatar.

In May last year, the Pakistani defence minister appeared on a British television programme. The British asked him: "Do you support, finance and train terrorists?" He replied that they did, 'for the Americans'. So when India bombed 11 military bases and 9 terrorist sites in Pakistan, it was not just for its own peace of mind, but for the peace of the whole world. Therefore, the fight against terrorism is a priority for India.

Finally, Pakistan is on the verge of financial collapse. During its war with India, it received \$1.3 billion in aid from the IMF. This is a rather surprising fact, which India is keen to monitor.

Both Europe and India face many common challenges, particularly with regard to their borders and the potential for conflict. Demonstrating sovereignty will be key.

### **Social networks: beware of propaganda**

Neither the Europeans nor the Indians have established a social media platform on a global scale. The main players in this field are Chinese or American, which could pose a threat. If you think it's impossible to regulate social networks, consider India's approach. In May 2020, a dispute arose between India and China, resulting in the immediate ban of TikTok in India. This decision had no impact on India's economy.

Therefore, we can deduce that if a country wishes to ban TikTok, it can do so without facing negative repercussions. This is a useful point to bear in mind, especially when you consider how distorted information can become in the event of a major crisis, war or invasion. This is where social networks pose a potential threat.

During the war between India and Pakistan, the latter proved to be highly agile on social media. While the accuracy of the information disseminated can be widely questioned, it is clear that no one is in a position to fully control social networks today. The important thing is to be aware of this fact.

### **Europe's most steadfast ally is India**

India does not see itself as an emerging market, but as a market on the comeback trail, a mindset shared with China. For 2,000 years, India was the world's leading economic power, accounting for nearly a third of the global economy. China came second with 25%. For comparison, the Roman Empire accounted for just 20% at its peak. Nevertheless, India has always viewed itself as a country in the midst of a renaissance.

At that time in history, India accounted for around 30% of the world's population. Today, this figure is less than 20%, which is still very small.

What we can say is that, at present, there is little interaction between India and Europe. Nevertheless, many European companies are thriving in India.

If we look at France, for example, we can see that its defence sector sells a lot to India. Companies such as Schneider Electric and Capgemini employ 30,000 engineers in France and 180,000 in India. However, neither company mentions India, despite the fact that many transactions take place there.

The same is true of the press: Le Figaro, a right-wing publication and the second-largest newspaper in France, is owned by Dassault and often takes a negative view of India. Yet India is its owner's biggest market for fighter aircraft. So what is the logic of coming to India, making money, but not supporting the country? Unfortunately, we also saw little support from Europe during the recent war between India and Pakistan. India, for its part, always supports Europe when faced with terrorism or other issues on the continent. If we look at investments in India, we can see that the Chinese are present and it seems as though they have a friendly relationship with India. The Americans are present too. Around 200 investment companies come from the United States, 100 from China, and 5 from Europe. India has a large number of start-ups, representing a third of the global total. It has more start-ups and receives more investment in this field than all of Europe put together.

This is just the beginning of our cooperation. We have a lot of catching up to do between Europe and India.

## **"Modi's India is rediscovering its civilisational soul"**

*Shazia Llimi is spokeswoman for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the world's largest political party with 120 million members. She highlights India's 'civilisational awakening' under Narendra Modi. She also stresses the need for India to regain its pride and modernity.*

We are the guardians of cultures that refuse to disappear under the onslaught of Islamic radicalism, ideological globalism or cultural nihilism. As a spokesperson for the Bharatiya Janata Party, I am speaking on behalf of a civilisational awakening that is taking place within the world's oldest continuous civilisation, India — more commonly known in Hindi as Bharat.

Modi's India is a nation rediscovering its civilisational identity. It is facing up to threats without apology and embracing a modernity based on identity, which some Westerners are only just beginning to discover. I am a Muslim woman who is politically committed to the Indian right. My testimony therefore strongly refutes the false reputation of the Indian right as being exclusionary.

As a proud Indian Muslim, I seek to reform our community and free ourselves from regressive orthodoxy, so that we can find our place in modern, progressive, culturally rooted India. I must admit that the conservative clergy, who consider themselves the guardians of the faith, have stifled the aspirations of Muslim women in the name of tradition. It is not the left or the secular elite, but the Indian right that has inspired my questioning of this orthodoxy and my determination to defend gender equality and promote inclusive development without compromising my identity.

The Indian right does not demand assimilation. Instead, it holds all religious orthodoxy and other forces that threaten India's cultural sovereignty or the concept of Indian identity, such as radical Islamists and woke progressives, to account. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has entered a period of unparalleled political change. This is not merely a change of political party; it is a change in India's approach to civilisation.

Since 2014, the BJP has been invested with a massive democratic mandate. For the third time in a row, Narendra Modi has been swept to power in the world's largest democracy. India's minorities, including Muslims, Sikhs and Parsis, are not patronised. They are integrated through transparent, targeted social assistance, including scholarships, housing, gas, loans and digital access. At the same time, the country has put an end to the practice of political blackmail, which previously allowed a vocal minority to derail the national consensus. The Indian Right is not a sectarian movement, but a civilisational one. Led by the BJP, its objective is to decolonise India based on a civilisational vision. Decolonisation means the return of the country's cultural self-esteem, stifled by judicial and educational systems designed under British rule, as well as post-independence policies.



Contrary to what many would have us believe, the underlying issue is not one of religion. It is about cultural and civilisational revival and affirmation of the Indian people. The BJP movement aims to remind us that India is an ancient civilisation, both diverse and unified, and deeply spiritual yet forward-looking. The concept of civilisation is indeed part of Indian identity, one of the oldest and best preserved in the world. For the BJP, civilisation is not just a source of nostalgia; it is also a pillar of national sovereignty.

The Hindu vision of the world is not exclusionary. It is plural, rooted in dharma, the moral order of the universe. It is resolutely civilisational, and recognises that a people cut off from its roots becomes easy prey for ideological subversion and plunder.

### **"Identity is the basis [...] of belonging and moral obligation"**

India is not just any nation-state formed in the 20th century. It is a highly resilient civilisation founded on the philosophical, ethical, and spiritual traditions of Sanātana Dharma — a doctrine that many today perceive as representing Hindu civilisation.

India, as Europe, fears and confronts the destabilising influence of transnational ideologies and actors. In the face of Pakistan's ideological hostility, which encourages separatism and cross-border radicalism, it is important to protect internal cohesion and national sovereignty.

As a civilised state, India rejects any form of interference, whether in the name of religion, human rights, or supranational moralisation, that weakens its unity or alters its democratic institutions. Today, a growing resistance to cultural erasure is evident in certain parts of Europe. In France, Italy, Hungary and even Belgium, the question of identity is being raised once again. Identity provides a sense of meaning and belonging, and establishes a moral obligation to oneself and to the collective unconscious.

The role of identity is increasingly recognised, from France to Hungary via Poland and the Netherlands. Without cultural continuity, democracies cannot flourish. We are witnessing a shared desire among European patriots to defend the things that make their nations unique, such as their history, faith, language, and shared moral and ethical traditions. Therefore, there is ample opportunity for cooperation through a new dialogue space based on shared values. This cooperation is between Indians who love India and Bharat, and Europeans who love their homelands.

This would be a collaboration between patriots who believe that democracy should serve the interests of the cultural majority, rather than being hijacked by ideological minorities. This alliance would not be religious; it would be a civilisational pact above all, aimed at resisting the deconstruction brought about by post-national utopias or the threat of transnational jihadists. Today, Indians are witnessing a renaissance of their inclusive, resolute and proud identity.

## **India, the world's third largest Muslim community**

India is fighting Islamist extremism. It is important to distinguish between Muslims and Islamists. India is home to the world's third largest Muslim community. In fact, there are more Muslims in India than in any Arab country.

A sovereign democracy must be firmly grounded in its civilisation. Cultural identity must never be sacrificed for the sake of diversity. I believe that in-depth reform, including within faith and tradition, is essential to ensure peace. Whether we are talking about Indian or European patriots, we must assert our culture without shame or apology, and without submitting to imported ideologies.

Pakistan continues to sponsor Islamist radicalism abroad and through ideological proxies in India and Europe. Globalist NGOs, often funded by the West, scuttle sovereignty in the name of human rights or climate justice. Transnational elites, whether meeting in Davos or Silicon Valley, are redefining human identity by doing away with traditions, family, faith and even biology. By restricting foreign funding, reiterating that sovereignty is non-negotiable, and closing the door on organisations linked to extremism, India has stood firm.

The BJP, which has been in power in India for 11 years and will remain in power for a further 4 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, has managed to maintain this course and these objectives thanks to its unique approach.

This challenge was met by asserting Hindu identity without resorting to religious supremacy. Temples were protected while an unprecedented number of scholarships were awarded to Muslim girls. National unity is a core concern, and linguistic, dress and regional diversity are encouraged. Under schemes such as Ujjala, which provides free gas and cooking utensils; Mudra, which facilitates loans; and PM Awas, which offers affordable housing; Muslims in India have received 30–40% of the total benefits in some areas. These schemes have been implemented with one overarching aim: to promote fairness and equality, despite the fact that Muslims represent only 14% of the Indian population. Indeed, for decades, the identity of minorities in India has been managed according to a policy of appeasement practised by other so-called secular parties.

Subsequently, when it came to education, religious reform and harmful, orthodox and regressive practices that are not permitted even in the Quran but are practised by Muslims in India, the BJP passed legislation to ensure fairness, freedom and dignity for Muslim women.

Other parties refused to modernise Muslim education for fear of a backlash from hardliners. They viewed the majority population as a problem to be managed rather than as partners in democracy.

However, India's right-wing BJP is no longer really on the right. It has won election after election and is now in the centre. According to the BJP, there is no need for

appeasement and no one should be discriminated against; everyone has equal rights. 'Sapka saath and sapka vishwas'.

India's identity is not that of a small, isolated island, but rather that of a lighthouse. It is a nation with solid foundations that is open to the sea. India has fought terrorism on its borders and in its cities. Europe faces the same threat through migration networks, online radicalisation and separatist enclaves.

In all humility, the important thing is to remain alert to the identity of those who fund these ideologies. We must not allow political correctness to take precedence over national security. It is possible to support reformist voices within Islam without hesitating to denounce those who reject civilisation and culture.

Together, let us continue to restore what is precious, defend what is sacred, and construct a sustainable future. By doing so, India will evolve as a civilised state that makes its voice heard, as Bharat, rather than becoming a clone of the West or a theocracy.

### **"A revolution is underway"**

*Rohit Bansal is the Director of Communications at Reliance Industries Limited, a privately owned Indian petrochemicals company. He presents the Indian model of digital sovereignty and inclusive growth, as demonstrated by the success of JIO's technological revolution.*

The term 'modern self-sufficiency' would fit perfectly into the lexicon of patriots. I have been travelling around Europe since 1994, and the introduction of the euro has made managing my payment methods much easier. Previously, I had to exchange money depending on the country I was visiting. This monetary union is a fantastic historical project and a successful synergy that has led to a great deal of peace and harmony throughout the world. However, Europe is still far too dependent on cash payments, unlike India, where smartphone payments have been widely adopted. Nearly 450 million digital transactions are carried out in India every day.

It is one of the secret sources of digital empowerment and financial lubrication, as well as being a key factor in growth, data contribution and the argument for sovereignty and trust. The latter has recently been the subject of doctoral research at the Indian School of Business. Trust is implicit, particularly when a country's population is as large as India's.

In earlier times, presidential visits to India often included a tiger-hunting expedition in the forests of Rajasthan. Prince Philippe, for instance, was known to have claimed the largest tiger, adding to the aura surrounding such occasions. Later, these dignitaries would typically be escorted to the Taj Mahal, completing a ceremonial journey.

Nowadays, when visiting India, executives are often taken to greengrocers to meet the vendors and pay for vegetables such as squash and cabbage using a mobile phone. This illustrates the extent to which data is ubiquitous, phones are widely available, and trust is prevalent.

As a result, each individual has also become a banking entity through which credit can flow, thanks to a universal payment interface whose use is increasing by 12–15% per month. The situation in the Western world is different, however, as it is more difficult to manage without a bank card.

Economic activity and growth, as well as the organisation of the future around data and algorithms, are among the levers with which Islamic fundamentalism and wokism can be defeated.

As an African proverb says, 'If the history of the hunt is not written by the lion, it will be written by the hunter'. History will be written from Silicon Valley. After all, how can Europe tackle the big questions and opportunities of advanced technology without close contact with this mine of data, this reservoir of talent, and this political sovereignty that India is demonstrating? A revolution is underway, and one of the figures in this movement is undoubtedly Rajini, a young girl who has become the mascot of the UPI (Unified Payment Interface) movement.

In one ad, she's sitting with just four pieces of cabbage and two or three roses, trying to sell them. She doesn't hesitate to use her mobile phone to pay someone else, who then pays her back. This data sharing creates a universal lending interface. Thanks to this, Rajini can borrow and pay without queuing at a counter or cash dispenser. Opening a bank account in India used to be a hassle. People on very low incomes had to be sponsored by those who were better off in order to obtain a banking identity.

Today, the JAM trinity plays a pivotal role in delivering financial resources directly to citizens. JAM refers to Jan-Dhan (public banking initiative), Aadhaar (national identification system), and mobile technology. This framework has sparked a sweeping movement towards financial inclusion. Previously, the leakage of public funds in India was so severe that a former Prime Minister remarked only 5% of total government expenditure, including direct subsidies, actually reached the intended recipients. Today, that figure has risen dramatically to 80%, marking a significant improvement in transparency and efficiency.

But sometimes, people don't want to work in the city because of the employment benefits they receive. They dig lakes and ponds in their village and rebuild rural roads, and then the money, with a resounding 'ping', appears in their account. The lesson to be learned is that the story of the hunt, the lion and the hunter is now being written by one lion — still small, but growing. The other lion must be in a language other than English. While Americans will only write in their own language, Europeans are fortunate to have several languages, thought processes and cultures that differ greatly from those on the other side of the Atlantic. That's how the magic will happen.

European legislators and parliamentarians must understand that India is developing on its own terms. While most of the phytosanitary standards and future digital rules currently being drawn up are perfectly legitimate, India will not be content to simply follow them. However, the issues and opportunities facing a population of 1.4 billion are different to those facing EU countries. The development strategy adopted cannot be the same as that applied in Europe 50, 80 or 200 years ago when colonial money was used. These terms and standards must take into account today's India and the opportunities created by digitalisation, transparency and trust. To achieve this, regular visits to India by parliamentarians would provide a solid foundation. Visits to the Taj Mahal are no longer on the agenda; from now on, guests will be taken to Rajini, where they will be able to purchase vegetables!

## **Q&A**

**Barbara Bontë, MEP for Flanders.**

*‘How can Indian universities and research organisations collaborate with their European counterparts to share their scientific work and knowledge?’*

**Rohit Bansal:**

This is an excellent question which raises a number of issues. Not long ago, I was in Brussels to meet the EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development). This organisation accredits 900 educational establishments, including several hundred in India. During our discussions, I asked whether we could examine the relationship between industry and academia more closely, and how this could be assessed, to determine whether these two environments were converging.

Subsequently, I travelled to the UK, to Cambridge, Oxford, the London School of Economics and Edinburgh, to make similar observations.

Our delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is trying to understand how the British managed to avoid the 'valley of death'. This term refers to the period during which researchers continue to identify problems and try to make progress with a product in order to make it viable and adaptable to the market, while companies are not prepared to wait for this process to be completed.

Therefore, I would recommend encouraging this collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry to determine how European schools could meet the needs of Indian companies, including GCCs and multinationals.

To convince you further, the Confederation of Indian Industry has awarded funding to 50 projects of this type across 50 companies and academic institutions. Therefore, we already have this pool of intellectual property.

**Nikola Bartusek, MEP from the Czech Republic.**

*"The European Union is notorious for its excessive regulation of a variety of subjects. Shouldn't we be concerned that excessive regulation, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence, will cause start-ups and companies to relocate to countries with more flexible rules?"*

**Rohit Bansal:**

I don't think parliamentarians have ever run a business. They act in good faith, but they do it so slowly and so deliberately that start-ups, and even large companies, lose all patience.

Most of the time, therefore, regulation is well-intentioned, trying to catch up with developments in the field, but by that point, companies have usually already moved on. To counter this, the pace of the parliamentary process relating to AI should be reviewed. After all, AI cannot wait for the next parliamentary meeting.

To be leaders in this field, as you deserve to be, you need to be on the cutting edge almost permanently. Europe has the necessary talent, but 20th century thought processes can no longer be applied to 21st century technology.

**Thierry Mariani:**

We recently visited the United Arab Emirates with Jordan Bardella, Virginie Joron and Fabrice Leggeri. At one point, officials cited India as an example. They said that they had started a free trade agreement with India, concluding it in just 8 weeks. Furthermore, they had been trying to negotiate with Europe for years, without success. The moral of the story? In today's rapidly changing world, a country's power lies in its ability to make decisions quickly. Some countries spend more time publishing standards for technologies, while others concentrate on designing these new technologies.

**Fabrice Leggeri, MEP for France.**

*"India is a mosaic of identities and is also the world's largest democracy. Furthermore, the institutions of the European Union often want to lecture the rest of the world, but it seems to me that India is also a nation that can legitimately teach us things. What is your view of the developments underway in Europe and our European societies, which are sometimes torn by cultural and identity-related difficulties? How does India manage to bring religious diversity and tolerance together under one roof?"*

**Shazia Llimi:**

The secret lies in our civilisational values. India, as a country, and Indians have never invaded another country. We have experienced colonisation, invasion and marauding by

people from Central Asia and Mongolia. However, we have never sought to invade another country. Therefore, our concept of expansionism and conquest is very different. We follow the principle of Sanatana Dharma, which lies at the heart of Hinduism, a religion practised mainly in India.

It's not just tolerance; it's acceptance. This concept is not set in stone as it is in Semitic religions; there is no regimentation, or the practice of bringing people into a group and imposing strict discipline or obedience.

On the other hand, there is a certain stoicism and acceptance of each person's reality and of who we are. There is also the idea of unity: everything in me is in you. The same element resides in each of us: the idea of unity, which is the very essence of Hindu dharma.

But more than that, if you consider India today and its democracy since 1947, you will see that we have 22 official languages. We also have around 121 local dialects. You can discover new ones every time you move to a different region. India has therefore managed to strike a balance between unity and diversity. The Vedas say that the whole world is like one big family. This is a belief held by all Indians, whether they worship nature, trees, or the sun god.

Since 1947, democracy has experienced some very challenging periods. India was invaded for its spices, silk and everything else it had to offer. We were one of the richest countries in the world, with one of the highest GDPs, until we were looted and robbed for decades. India has suffered greatly. However, we are in the process of rising again, thanks particularly to our belief in resilience and our refusal to succumb to pure materialism. It's a profound philosophy.

Since then, we have decided that everyone should have equal rights. Everyone could vote: one person, one vote. The constitution is also an essential part of our identity as a people, our civilisational ethos — the little thing that holds us together. It is also the rule of law, which is a topic of much discussion in Europe at the moment. The constitution protects freedom and personal interests. There is no discrimination based on religion, region, language or gender. This maintains the continuum between Asian civilisation and modern democratic India.

**Julie Rechagneux, Member of Parliament.**

*"Today, wokism has taken hold in our European and French universities and is beginning to dominate. Has this ideology also found its way into Indian universities? If so, what options do you have for combating it, given that it is clearly harmful to our civilisations?"*

**Shazia Llimi:**

Indians are so well connected that they are clearly affected by this influence and are very exposed to it. Wokism threatens society and the family, and its ideas have also infiltrated our schools and universities. However, the BJP party is doing its utmost to preserve the country's societal and cultural values. Although we insist that India is free of discrimination and that freedom of expression is absolute, we will not allow wokism to threaten our faith or our flag.

We don't impose any restrictions, but we encourage the creation of cultural links by communicating with young people in particular, to raise their awareness. India is a country of many influences, with a constant proliferation of ideas. Nothing is really restricted or criminalised — India is very liberal in this respect.

In fact, the subject we're discussing today has been addressed in Indian tradition for a long time. There is a whole mythology surrounding Shiva and Parvati, as well as Ardhanarishvara, who is simultaneously male and female. These are not new concepts for us. They're ideas we've grown up with. I think, therefore, that we are born liberals.





# ***PATRIOTS***

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25 Boulevard Romain Rolland - 75014 – Paris – France  
Numéro de SIRET : 823 400 239 00021  
Président de Patriots for Europe Foundation : Andràs Laszlo  
Directeur : Raphaël Audouard  
Publié en 2025  
[contact@pfe-foundation.eu](mailto:contact@pfe-foundation.eu)  
[www.pfe-foundation.eu](http://www.pfe-foundation.eu)

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