

India, France to boost ties in counter-terror, trade

Bolstering ties:French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.AFP/PIBHANDOUT

Gravely concerned over growing terrorism, India and France on Friday decided to strengthen counter-terror cooperation, and asked the international community to oppose countries which are financing, sheltering and providing safe havens to terrorists.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held wide-ranging talks with her French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian, during which they also decided to strengthen cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), a development which comes barely days after India held quadrilateral talks with Japan, Australia and the U.S. in Manila on the sidelines of India-ASEAN Summit.

The two Ministers held discussions on key regional and international issues as well as the proposed visit of the French President to India next year. "We expressed grave concern on growing terrorism and decided that we need to fight the evil together. We appealed to all countries to oppose those financing, sheltering and providing safe havens to terrorists," Ms. Swaraj said at a joint press event with the French Minister. She said they also discussed concrete measures to expedite operations at the Jaitapur nuclear power project.

Atomic reactors

As part of the 2008 nuclear cooperation agreement between India and France, Paris is to help build atomic power reactors for New Delhi. The French Minister said he was here to lay the groundwork for the visit of the French president which would take place early next year during the summit of the International Solar Alliance.

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