

Emmanuel Macron Chief Guest For 75th Republic Day

Why In News

- After an **unsuccessful attempt** to bring in **US President Joe Biden**, France is likely to be the chief guest for India's 2024 Republic Day, as an invitation has been extended to **President Emmanuel Macron**.
- French President Emmanuel Macron confirmed his visit as Chief Guest at Republic Day celebrations next year and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the invitation. "Thank you for your invitation, my dear friend @NarendraModi. India, on your Republic Day, I'll be here to celebrate with you!".



Republic Day Chief Guest

- While **Macron's state visit** was officially announced, sources had already confirmed that an invitation has been **extended to France**.



- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** added in the announcement, “As Strategic Partners, India and France share a high degree of convergence on a range of regional and global issues. This year, we are celebrating the **25th anniversary** of the India-France Strategic Partnership.”
- India had earlier extended the invitation for the Republic Day chief guest to US President Joe Biden, as confirmed by **ambassador Eric Garcetti**. The choice of the chief guest in 2024 holds significance, as India will hold general elections later that year.



- Since India had not officially acknowledged the invitation and only publicly mentioned **hosting a Quad summit around Republic Day**, the MEA announced the postponement of the summit, but the meaning was clear.
- Earlier this year, France had hosted Modi as the **chief guest for Bastille Day**, the second time for an Indian prime minister.



- When **Macron arrives in Delhi** in January, it will be the **sixth time that France** will be the Republic Day chief guest, the most for any country.
- Additionally, it will also be the **second time** that the same country will be the chief guest after Narendra Modi took over as prime minister.

- Before Macron, former French Prime Minister **Jacques Chirac** was the Chief guest on India's Republic Day celebrations in 1976 and 1998, as were former Presidents Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Francois Hollande in the years 1980, 2008 and 2016, respectively.



How Is Republic Day Chief Guest Chosen

- The most central consideration is the **nature of the relationship** between **India and the country** concerned.
- Invitation to be the Chief Guest of the Republic Day parade is the ultimate sign of **friendship between India and the country** of the invitee.



- Political, commercial, military and economic interests of India are crucial drivers of the decision, with MEA seeking to use the occasion to strengthen ties with the country of the invitee in all these respects.
- Another factor that has historically played a role in the choice of the Chief Guest is the association with the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** which began in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

- The NAM was an **international political movement** of newly decolonised nations to stay out of the squabbles of the Cold War and support each other in their nation-building journeys.
- The first Chief Guest of the parade in 1950 was **President Sukarno of Indonesia**, one of the five founding members of the NAM.

