

A stylized map of France is centered in the upper half of the image. The map is composed of a network of orange and yellow lines connecting numerous small dots, creating a mesh-like appearance. The background is a dark brown color with scattered orange and yellow dots and lines, suggesting a global or digital network. The overall aesthetic is modern and technological.

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FRANCE briefing:

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French National Developments/ Islamophobia

Macron's Immigration Law partially struck down by the Supreme Court

- Amidst tense parliamentary debates, the Immigration Law was finally adopted.

The final version included amendments requested by the rightwing and far-right parties of *Les Republicains* and the National Rally. The adoption of the law was secured by their votes. National Rally leader Marine Le Pen labelled the Law as an "ideological victory", which has initiated a political crisis amongst Macron's own party, as some Ministers resigned.

- Macron appealed to the French Supreme Court, hoping to amend part of the Law and restore his party's reputation by trying to demonstrate its distance from far-right's narratives.
- The Court struck down most of the reforms introduced by the right and the far-right, but also announced it does not want to become an "appeal court" of the Parliament. It may mean the Court will not amend a law as decisively in the future, refusing to bear the political pressure coming with these decisions.

The revised text remains xenophobic, as it introduces a series of dispositions curtailing the rights of foreign nationals.

Macron visits India to strengthen security ties

- The French President visited India at the end of the month and issued a series of declarations strengthening the ties between the two nations.

India has been identified as a strategic partner by France, and a historic "strategic partnership" was formalised in 1998. India's virulent Islamophobia, especially under the

last decade of the BJP's rule, hasn't prevented France from deepening its ties.

- During the visit, Macron restated France's willingness to support India's application for a permanent seat at the UN's Security Council.

Macron and Modi firmly condemned the 7th of October Al Aqsa Flood operation and declared their solidarity with Israel. They also identified the struggle against "cross-border terrorism" and "global terrorism" as a key pillar of their partnership.

The modalities of this partnership are being researched as we speak, as France is gathering knowledge on the Indian Muslim community and could use it to design the Islamophobic section of its soon to be launched "Indo-Pacific" strategy.

New Prime Minister lays down the foundations of the next Islamophobic law while establishing priorities

- Gabriel Attal - former Minister of the Education who banned abayas from public schools - has been confirmed as Prime Minister.

In his first address to Parliament, he introduced the general principles shaping his approach to governance.

- Remarkably, he recalled how the principle of equality between man and woman - as understood by the French Constitution - is the symbolic struggle of this mandate.

This very principle was weaponised in the near past to target Muslims: it justified the ban on hijab in public schools, the ban on niqab from public square, the closure of mosques, removal of imams from their posts or expulsion from national territory.

- This principle might be the constitutional foundation of the next Islamophobic law. Hijab in Universities could become the next target of the government.