# India-France Cooperation in Science and Technology

India and France have a rich history of cooperation in the fields of science and technology. The cooperation ranges from health, energy, digital and AI to oceans and applied mathematics. Over the years, it has seen significant progress marked by several linkages forged between both the sides, namely between MoES (Ministry of Earth Sciences), MeITY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology), DST (Department of Science and Technology), DBT (Department of Biotechnology), and CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) on the Indian side, and ANR (National Research Agency), CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research), INSERM (National Institute of Health and Medical Research), INRIA (National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology), and Institut Pasteur on the French side, strengthening science and technology cooperation between the India and France. The Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA), registered in 1986, is the oldest bilateral institution based in Delhi and anchoring science and technology cooperation between the two countries for the last four decades. Since its inception till date, it has delivered over 800 academia-academia Projects, over 64 academia-industry projects, over 230 seminars/workshops, over 4000 publications, over 40,000 human resources' training, over 60 patents, and has over 800 institutional links.

2. A remarkable growth has been witnessed in the recent years broadening the scope of bilateral science and technology cooperation by forging partnerships in new and emerging areas. The year 2026 is being celebrated as the Year of Innovation by both countries, and its inaugural event was launched jointly by President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17 February 2026 in Mumbai. The year has been witnessing a series of events in both countries, spanning diverse sectors such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital art, defence technology, and sustainability, fostering collaboration between startups, academic institutions, research bodies, and industry leaders. During Prime Minister Modi's visit to France in June 2026, the first edition of *Bharat Innovates* showcasing India's top 120 deep-tech startups was held in Nice. During the visit, both countries also signed an agreement for establishment of an ICCR India Chair on AI, Innovation and Culture at Universite Paris-Saclay, as well as signed a Letter of Intent between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Health Data Hub of France for exchanging best practices and the conduct of capacity-building in the area of use governance and management of health data. Earlier, during the visit of President Macron to India in February 2026, both countries had signed a Letter of Intent to establish a Centre on Advanced Materials between DST and CNRS, a Memorandum of Understanding for scientific collaboration between DST and CNRS, and a Joint Declaration of Intent on establishing an Indo-French Centre for Digital Sciences and Technology. In February 2025, both countries signed a Letter of Intent between Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and Institut

National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique (INRIA) to establish the Indo-French Center for the Digital Sciences, and a Letter of Intent between Paris Santé Campus and the C-CAMP (Centre for Molecular Platforms), and the creation of the Indo-French Life Sciences Sister Innovation Hub. India and France had also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding between DST and ANR France on 18 January 2024 in New Delhi under which decarbonated hydrogen and applied mathematics towards digital AI were the two areas selected for research proposals.

3. Institutionally, India France science and technology cooperation is guided by joint India-France Science and Technology Committee (JCM). The JCM was established on 25 January 2016 in New Delhi after a joint commitment by the two principals in their meeting in 2015. The first Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) was held on 25 June 2018 at New Delhi to identify, synergize and define priorities for Indo-French cooperation in science, technology and innovation. It was co-chaired on the Indian side by Secretary, DST, and from the French side by the Director General, Ministry of Higher Education and Research. The committee identified priority areas for future collaboration in energy, manufacturing, cyber physical systems, and host microbe-interactions in health and agriculture. The second Joint Science and Technology Committee meeting was held on 18 January 2024. Broadly, the topics discussed for the 2nd Joint Committee Meeting included: (a) Energy: green hydrogen, energy conservation and storage (b) Climate Change and Sustainable Cities: carbon capture and utilization and storage technologies, sequestration (c) Digital Technologies: AI for sustainability, autonomous navigation (d) Quantum Technology: quantum computing, sensing and metrology, materials and devices (e) Health: cancer research and innovations, novel therapeutics, novel diagnostics for early detection of emerging diseases, AI application in healthcare, host-pathogen interactions of emerging infectious diseases etc. (f) Oceans and (g) Applied mathematics.

4. The Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA), established in 1987 and registered in 1986, acts as one of the key institutions driving research activities between the two sides. Marking the 40th anniversary in 2026 CEFIPRA is celebrating Cefipra@40 program. Located in New Delhi, the Centre is being supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and the Ministry for Europe & Foreign Affairs, Government of France. CEFIPRA supports high quality research groups through collaborative research projects in advanced areas of basic and applied science to nurture scientific competency. The 39th Governing Body meeting of CEFIPRA was held in January 2026 in Paris. It was co-chaired by Shri Abhay Karandikar, Secretary (DST), from the Indian side, and by Ms. Sabine Sciortino, Director General of Global Affairs and Cultural and Economic Diplomacy from French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. CEFIPRA has scientific collaborative research programmes focusing on (a) academia-to-academia collaborations between Indian and French academic collaborators in various domains; (b)

Industry-academia research and development programme emphasizing developing the linkage between industry and academia from France and India; and (c) Dedicated mobility support programmes for young researchers in both India and France such as the Raman–Charpak Fellowship programme, and Indo-French Programme for Women in Science (PROWIS) dedicated to the young women scientists. Since its launch, over 250 fellows have been supported under Raman-Charpak Fellowship. A total of 16 women scientists have been supported under PROWIS since its launch in 2022. In 2024, CEFIPRA launched following new programs: (a) The High-Impact Research Network Programme: launching of call under High Impact Scientific Research Network Programme in the area prioritized by the CEFIPRA Governing Board meeting (b) Women In Science Research Programme (PROWIS): Indo-French Programme for Women in Science (PROWIS) is dedicated to young women scientists of both India and France, and provides a platform for carrying out advanced studies and research in the frontier areas of science and technology (c) Indo-French Liver and Metabolic Disease Network (InFLiMeN): The initiative was successfully launched on 5 July 2024 by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in New Delhi. It is supported by India's DST and the French MOFA. The collaborative node aspires to serve like a virtual university and promote development of new products and technologies to benefit people suffering from liver and metabolic diseases.

5. Both countries are intensifying their cooperation in the field of health and medicine. In order to push forward the collaboration in AI in Health, the Indo-French Institute for AI in Global Health was inaugurated in AIIMS, Delhi in February 2026 during President Macron's visit to India. This new center, jointly led by Sorbonne University, AIIMS, and the Paris Brain Institute, aims to structure Indo-French scientific cooperation in the field of AI applied to global health. During the visit, the French Health Data Hub and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched a strategic collaboration to pilot India's Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) framework for secure and ethical health-data sharing between the two countries. Supported by Paris Santé Campus and the iSPIRT Foundation, the initiative's first proposed use case is a cardiology project involving Narayana Health and France's e-Must registry. The project will compare myocardial infarction characteristics, use AI to analyse care pathways and risk factors, and identify epidemiological differences to strengthen prevention strategies in both countries. In addition, to further cooperation on infectious diseases and vector borne diseases, an LoI was signed in February 2026 between Department of Biotechnology and French Institute ANRS MIE for joint research projects in these areas. Earlier, in January 2024, a Declaration of Intent (DoI) was signed by both countries in January 2024 to cooperate in the field of health and medicine. The DoI provides the basis for cooperation in new areas including digital health, AI for healthcare, medical waste treatment technology, biotechnology, one health approach for fight against antimicrobial resistance, exchange and training of skilled health professionals. On institutional engagement, the first meeting of Joint Working Group in

the field of healthcare was held on 28-29 January 2025 in Paris, when both sides held detailed discussions on anti-microbial resistance, digital health and human resources for health. Apart from this, the Franco-Indian Campus (FIC) for Life Sciences and Health is a project initiated by the French Government in 2022 that aims to bring together 20 of the most prestigious French and Indian higher education and research institutions and more than 80 research laboratories to address jointly the global challenges related to life sciences and health and build long lasting cooperation between the two countries through student training.

6. Separately, to demonstrate their joint commitment to taking forward India France collaboration in areas of next generation high-end technology, President Macron and Prime Minister Modi jointly visited the ITER site in Cadarache in south of France during Prime Minister Modi's visit to France in February 2025. This was the first visit by any Head of State or Head of Government to ITER, one of the most ambitious fusion energy projects in the world today. During the visit, the leaders appreciated the progress of ITER, including the assembly of the world's largest Tokamak, as well as the dedication of the ITER engineers and scientists working on the project. India is among the seven ITER members contributing to the project over the last two decades. Around 200 Indian scientists and associates, as well as notable industry players such as L&T, Inox India, TCS, TCE, HCL Technologies, among others, are engaged in the ITER project.

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