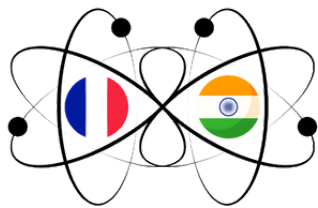


# INDO FRENCH ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER  
2025  
N°2



We are pleased to present the second edition of the Franco-Indian Academic and Scientific Newsletter, published by the Scientific Cooperation Department of the French Embassy in India.

For this issue, our quarterly Focus is dedicated to marine sciences, in celebration of the Year of the Ocean and the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), which France hosted this summer. You will also find highlights of recent Franco-Indian collaborations, along with the latest scientific developments led by France.

At the end of this edition, don't miss the Save the Date section, featuring upcoming funding and mobility opportunities.

Don't hesitate to share your feedback and impressions of this first edition by contacting us at the following addresses:

*angel.fortin@ifindia.in ; anna.lannuzel@ifindia.in ; gabrielle.chotin@ifindia.in*

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## FRANCE AND INDIA IN OCEAN RESEARCH

With the world's second largest maritime territory, spanning over 11 million square kilometers, France stands as one of the top oceanographic powers. 90% of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is located in the Indo-Pacific, including one third in the Indian Ocean, placing it at the forefront of marine science research in this ocean basin. While India gave its name to this ocean and is endowed with 7,516 km of coastline, the complementarity of their positions and respective strategies led France and India to secure a solid partnership in marine sciences. Recognizing that "their destiny is closely tied to the seas and oceans," the France-India Roadmap on the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance, adopted in 2022, structures bilateral maritime cooperation around five key pillars: governance, institutional cooperation, economic collaboration, connectivity and infrastructure, and academic cooperation.

This partnership is mobilizing the leading French institutions in marine sciences, such as Ifremer (French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea), which operate the french oceanographic fleet and stands as the only french institution operating in all oceans of the planet; the CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research), internationally renowned for its excellency in all scientific fields; or the IRD (Research Institute for Development). The french marine research landscapes also includes important universities such as Sorbonne University or the University of Brest. They are respectively ranked 3rd and 11th of the Shanghai ranking in the field of oceanography.



Jatinder Pal Singh, submarine pilot involved in the Indian research submarine development project, before diving to a depth of 5,003 meters aboard the Ifremer submarine Nautile. Photo credit: EPS, in The New Indian Express.

These joint efforts have led to the mobilization of dedicated funding for Franco-Indian cooperation in marine science and technology. For instance, the scientific committee of CEFIPRA (Franco-Indian Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research) selected the Ocean as a priority area for collaboration. In February 2025, a call for projects was launched specifically targeting marine science and technology, covering fields such as underwater engineering, robotics, materials for floating and underwater devices, geosciences, physics and biochemistry, ocean modeling and observation, as well as marine biology and pollution studies.

In recent years, there has been a growing structuring of scientific cooperation between the two countries. Notable examples include a cooperation agreement between Ifremer and the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), and the creation of the GOAT consortium (Goa-Atlantique), which brings together around a dozen French and Indian partners to foster joint research and training initiatives.



Photo of participants in the workshop “Marine Science and Technology – Collaborative Research Directions and Outcomes for India and France” organized by the Indian Institute of Technology Goa and Ecole Navale de Brest, which took place from April 17 to 19, 2024, in Goa, as part of the GOAT consortium. Photo credit: Press Information Bureau.

It is worth noting the revival of an old project, initiated over ten years ago, to build a network of marine stations in India, inspired by the French AMSOB model (Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology). Two visits are scheduled for June to tour the French stations and initiate collaborative exchanges.

Two noteworthy developments have also taken place recently:

1) As part of the Ifremer–NIOT partnership, a team of NIOT engineers is expected to be hosted this summer aboard the *Nautile*, the manned deep-sea submersible of the French Oceanographic Fleet. This visit is linked to India’s Deep Ocean Mission, under which the country aims to develop a submersible capable of diving beyond 6,000 meters depth.

2) In the academic field, and under the framework of the GOAT consortium, the creation of a joint master’s program between the Indian Institute of Technology Goa (IIT Goa) and the École Nationale d’Ingénieurs de Brest (ENIB) will enable French and Indian students to be trained in marine science and technology. The two institutions have welcomed their first cohort of students this academic year, with initial student exchanges planned for 2026.



Photo of the signing in Brest on October 16, 2024, of the Memorandum of Understanding introducing the dual degree between IIT Goa and ENIB. Center left, Prof. Katti, Director of IIT Goa, and center right, Prof. Michel, Director of ENIB. Photo credit: Campus Mondial de la Mer.

<sup>[1]</sup> Potter, R.W.K., Pearson, B.C. Assessing the global ocean science community: understanding international collaboration, concerns and the current state of ocean basin research. *npj Ocean Sustain* 2, 14 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-023-00020-y>

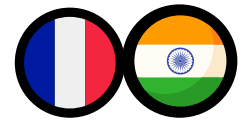
### Contacts at the French diplomatic mission in India:



- **Philippe Maurin**, Attaché for Scientific and Academic Cooperation, Marine Sciences contact point for the French Institute in India: [philippe.maurin@ifindia.in](mailto:philippe.maurin@ifindia.in)
- **Manell Zakharia**, Blue Economy International Expert [manell.zakharia@expertisefrance.fr](mailto:manell.zakharia@expertisefrance.fr)



# FRANCO-INDIAN COLLABORATION: WHAT'S NEW?



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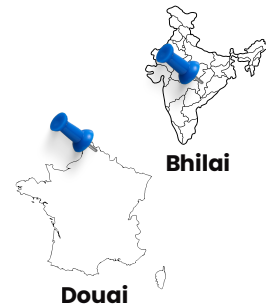
## ACADEMIC



### IIT Bhilai partners with French Institute for International degree collaboration

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Institut Mines-Telecom (IMT) Nord Europe in France to enhance academic and research cooperation between India and France. The agreement was signed by Prof. Rajiv Prakash, Director of IIT Bhilai, on behalf of the institute.

*Source: Chauhan, Rishab, IIT Bhilai partners with French Institute for International degree collaboration, India Today, 8th June 2025.*



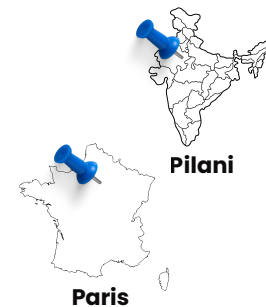
Bhilai

Douai

### BITS Pilani collaborates with French institute Ecole CentraleSupélec Paris, to foster future innovation opportunities

BITS Pilani has signed a mutual agreement with leading engineering institution Ecole CentraleSupélec, Paris, France in a significant move towards international collaboration, that will pave the way for future academic innovations and opportunities to benefit students and faculty alike.

*Source: BITS Pilani – CentraleSupélec Paris (CSP) Dual-Degree Programme FAQ, BITS Admissions, 14th June 2025.*



Pilani

Paris

### ESCP Business School expands with new schools and India partnerships

ESCP Business School in France has unveiled two new university schools and announced strategic partnerships in India as part of its ambitious 2026-2030 development plan.

*Source: Nair, Abhishek, ESCP Business School expands with new schools and India partnerships, The Pie, 3rd July 2025.*



Pan-India

Paris

### Choose France Tour 2025 to Showcase World-Class Education Opportunities for Indian Students

The Choose France Tour 2025, France's official higher education fair, is set to return to India this October, opening doors for aspiring students in Chennai, New Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai. Organised by the French Government and Campus France, the fair will bring together over 50 leading French universities and institutions, offering students and parents the chance to interact directly with academic representatives.

*Source: Choose France Tour 2025 to Showcase World-Class Education Opportunities for Indian Students, APN News, 28th August 2025.*



Pan-India

France



## AI: an innovative weapon in the Franco-Indian fight against superbugs

Co-led by Professor Angshul Majumdar (IIT-Delhi) and Research Director Émilie Chouzenoux (Inria Saclay), this project aims to develop an AI-based tool capable of recommending optimal combinations of antibiotics to combat superbugs—bacteria that have become resistant to conventional treatments. Based on the analysis of clinical, genetic, and chemical data, the system has been successfully tested on several multi-resistant strains. It could become a powerful decision-making tool for doctors, and its scope could be extended to other conditions, such as certain viral infections or chronic diseases such as hypertension.

*Source: IIT-Delhi, French researchers develop AI tool to outsmart drug-resistant superbugs, The Economic Times, 22nd May 2025.*

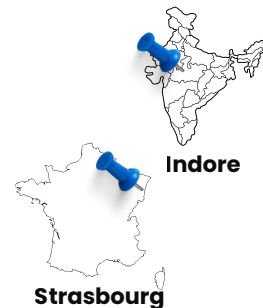


## France-To-Indore Robotic Surgery Breaks Medical Barriers; World's First Transcontinental Bariatric Surgery Performed

In a groundbreaking moment for global medicine, the world's first-ever transcontinental bariatric surgery was successfully performed—from Strasbourg, France to Indore, India, spanning over 8,500 kilometres without a second of lag.

The live robotic surgery was conducted from IRCAD, Strasbourg, during the Society of Robotic Surgery (SRS) Annual Meeting, where Dr Mohit Bhandari, a globally acclaimed bariatric surgeon, operated the indigenously developed SSI Mantra 3 robotic system to perform a gastric bypass on a morbidly obese, insulin-dependent diabetic patient at Mohak Bariatric and Robotic Surgery Centre, Indore.

*Source: France-To-Indore Robotic Surgery Breaks Medical Barriers; World's First Transcontinental Bariatric Surgery Performed, The Free Press Journal, 20th July 2025.*



## COMBAT dengue: India-EU science alliance takes aim at dengue in global health push

Dengue fever affects nearly 400 million people annually, with India among the countries most severely impacted. Now, as part of the India-EU partnership under the Horizon Europe program, the COMBAT dengue initiative will soon be launched to tackle the world's most rapidly spreading viral infection.

*Source: Mascarenhas, Anuradha, COMBAT dengue: India-EU science alliance takes aim at dengue in global health push, The Indian Express, 8th August 2025.*



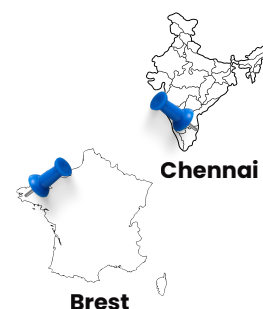
## MARINE SCIENCE



## Human mission to explore the deep sea in India: before Samudrayaan, scientists train in the Atlantic Ocean

Close on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing that India will carry out deep sea exploration mission for oil and minerals, India sent its scientists to France to get international experience of the same in the Atlantic Ocean. As part of the Indo-French partnership, Indian scientists from National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, participated in deep-ocean human scientific expeditions onboard the submersible NAUTILE developed by the French marine institute IFREMER this month.

*Source: Deep Ocean Mission: Indian aquanauts dive record 5,000 metres; milestone for undersea exploration, Times Of India, 20th August 2025.*



## PHYSICS



### ITER Project: The world's powerful device being built in France reaches an important milestone for nuclear fusion

The International Thermo-nuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Project is currently under construction in a 180-hectare site in Southern France. Over 30 countries, including India, are collaborating to build the world's largest tokamak, a magnetic fusion device to prove the feasibility of nuclear fusion as a large-scale and carbon-free source of energy.

*Source: Krishnamurthy, Rohini. "The world's powerful device being built in France reaches an important milestone for nuclear fusion". Down to Earth, 1st May 2025.*



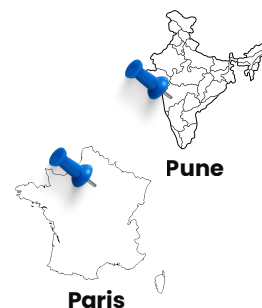
## SPACE



### A quasar from a feeding supermassive black hole observed to be remaking its neighbourhood

A team of international researchers, including Indian scientists from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, India, and French scientists from the Observatoire de Paris, Sorbonne Université, et d'Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris; observed a supermassive black hole using the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (VLT). Their article was published in the journal Nature on May 21st.

*Source: Balashev, S., Noterdaeme, P., Gupta, N. et al. Quasar radiation transforms the gas in a merging companion galaxy. Nature 641, 21st May 2025.*



### Vaanam Space-tech Accelerator Hosts French Space Delegation to Catalyze Indo-French Collaboration in Space Innovation

In a significant step toward strengthening international space-tech partnerships, Vaanam Space-Tech Accelerator, in collaboration with the Consulate General of France in Puducherry and Chennai, recently hosted a dynamic Indo-French space-tech networking evening in Chennai. The event united a visiting delegation of top French space companies with several emerging space startups from Tamil Nadu, all actively driving innovation in the space sector.

*Source: Vaanam Space-tech Accelerator Hosts French Space Delegation to Catalyze Indo-French Collaboration in Space Innovation, ThePrint, 7th June 2025.*



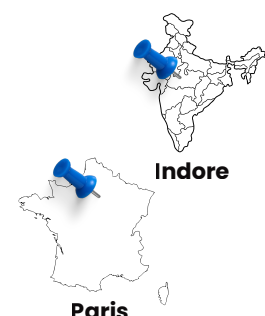
## TECHNOLOGY



### IIT Indore and IMT of France develop algorithm to prevent drone collisions

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore, India, and Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT), France, have developed a new collision-avoidance algorithm that promises safer, smoother, and more efficient flights for large Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) swarms.

*Source: IIT Indore IMT of France develop algorithm to prevent drone collisions, THE WEEK, 14th August 2025.*



# DID YOU KNOW ?

## A PIONEER IN RADIOACTIVITY

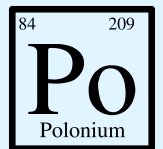


**Marie Curie** was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in Physics in France, the first woman to win the Nobel Prize and the **first person to win more than one Nobel Prize** (and to this day, the only woman to win more than once).

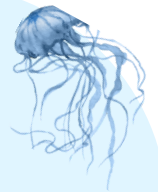
In 1903, the Nobel Prize in **physics** was awarded to Marie and her husband Pierre for their study of radiation.

Eight years later in 1911, Marie was the sole recipient of the Nobel Prize in **chemistry**, in recognition of her discovery of radium and polonium and her subsequent research into the nature of these elements.

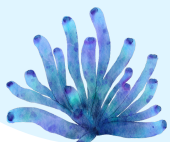
Later, her daughter Irène, and her husband Frédéric Joliot, took home their own Nobel in chemistry in 1936.



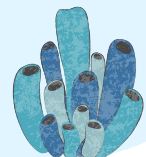
## BLUE TALKS: A FRANCO-INDIAN ORGANISATION



**France, India** and Costa-Rica co-organised the second Blue Talks on May 20th 2025, as part of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on Oceans. This event brought together **Indian and French oceanographic institutions**, such as Ifremer, the Roscoff Biological Station, INCOIS, and the Central Institute for Marine Fisheries Research.



[Click here to know more](#)



# ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC NEWS: WHAT'S GOING ON IN FRANCE ?



 [CLICK ON EACH TITLE TO BE REDIRECTED TO THE CORRESPONDING ARTICLES.](#)

## ACADEMIC



### QS World University Ranking 2026: the latest ranking confirms French positions

QS has released its latest World University Ranking 2026, and it doesn't come with many surprises. This year, 35 French universities are present in the ranking, one more than last year: four are in the Top 100 and some have made significant progress. For another time, Université Paris Sciences & Lettres is the first French institution ranked, followed by Institut Polytechnique de Paris, Université Paris-Saclay Sorbonne Université.

*Source: Campus France website, QS World University Ranking 2026: the latest ranking confirms French positions, Campus France., 6th July 2025.*



France

### Why study in France?

Willing to study in France but still hesitant? Campus France give you 10 reasons to Choose France. Campus France is the government body that operates under the French Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of higher Education and Research in charge of promoting higher education in France. They offer free of cost personalized counseling sessions and workshops throughout the year to ensure students receive the necessary information to apply for the right program in France. They have eleven offices across India—(Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Pune) and students can reach out for questions or book free counseling appointments at their nearest office.

*Source: Campus France website, Why study in France?*



France

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



### The first prospective study for French polar research

On 9 June, during the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (Unoc-3) held in Nice, the CNRS presented an overview for the prospective study on French scientific polar research, which is recognized for its excellence worldwide. The result of collaborative work involving the French scientific community (CNRS, CEA, Ifremer, MNHN, universities...) and this prospective effort identified 15 interdisciplinary scientific challenges connected to understanding Arctic societies, the impact of pollution on fauna and populations, and the loss of Antarctic ice mass and its impact on sea level.

*Source: Durand, Gaël; Dacher, Priscilla, The first prospective study for French polar research, CNRS website, 9th June 2025.*



Nice

### Carbon credits: enhanced credibility through better impact measurements

The credibility of carbon offsets is frequently challenged by the scientific community, which has shown methodological shortcomings when evaluating baseline scenarios. An international research team coordinated by INRAE and involving the Toulouse School of Economics, Université Paris Dauphine-PSL and the Institut Agro has suggested carrying out a systematic and rigorous evaluation of the impacts of these credits. The study was published in Nature Sustainability.

*Source: INRAE Media Relations, Delacote, Philippe, Carbon credits: enhanced credibility through better impact measurements, INRAE website, 2nd July 2025.*



Paris / Toulouse

## The European Union and France mobilized to support the agroecological transition in the Indian Ocean region

The European Union and France are funding a new regional programme entitled DeSIRA+ Indian Ocean, to support the agroecological transition of the Indian Ocean island states. This programme, with a budget of 7 million euros, aims to build on the achievements of the regional SANOI programme (Food and Nutrition Security in the Indian Ocean), implemented from 2020 to 2025 in partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission.



*Source: Institutional news, The European Union and France mobilized to support the agroecological transition in the Indian Ocean region, CIRAD, 17th July 2025.*

## HEALTH



### A new class of molecules against cancer cells refractory to standard treatments

A new class of molecules capable of killing the cancer cells that are refractory to standard treatments and responsible for recurrence has just been developed by scientists at Institut Curie, the CNRS, and Inserm. This crucial advance in the fight against metastatic cancer is based on identifying the cellular site for ferroptosis initiation, a natural process, catalysed by iron, that sparks the oxidative degradation of cell membranes. These promising preclinical results have been published in the journal Nature on 7 May 2025.

*Source: Rodriguez, Raphaël. Baudier, Augustin, A new class of molecules against cancer cells refractory to standard treatments Construction World, CNRS website, 7th May 2025.*



Paris

### Could AI help the brain to learn again after a stroke?

Each year in France, 140,000 people suffer from cerebrovascular accidents (CVA), with serious long-term consequences for half of the victims, and around 50,000 resulting in death. Confronted with this public health issue, the MIND team (Inria/CEA) has joined the BrainSync project, a large-scale initiative that combines neuroscience and artificial intelligence. Its ambitions: to restore motor function in patients having suffered a stroke, with the help of neurotechnologies and AI.

*Source: Could AI help the brain to learn again after a stroke?, INRIA website, 23rd June 2025.*



Paris

## INDUSTRY



### How France's propulsion test site is supporting Europe's aviation engine future

Amid the push for cleaner, quieter, and more efficient propulsion systems, France's DGA Essais Propulseurs test center has become a key node in Europe's civil and military engine development ecosystem. Part of the Direction générale de l'armement (DGA), the Essais Propulseurs center is one of nine specialized testing facilities across France. Located in Saclay, southwest of Paris, it focuses exclusively on aerobic propulsion systems – and unlike many national facilities, it serves both military and civil projects. Around two-thirds of the work currently involves military engines, with the remaining third dedicated to civil programs.

*Source: Charpentreau, Clément, How France's propulsion test site is supporting Europe's aviation engine future, Aerotime, 26th June 2025.*



Paris



## 'Choose CNRS' – the opportunities for scientists from other countries

Four schemes are available to encourage talented young researchers and internationally-renowned scientists to consider moving to France and the CNRS. Alain Schuhl, Director General for Science, tells us about them.

*Source: 'Choose CNRS' – the opportunities for scientists from other countries, CNRS website, 24th April 2025.*



France

## The CNRS

A major player in basic research worldwide, the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) is the only French organisation active in all scientific fields. Its unique position as a multi-specialist enables it to bring together all of the scientific disciplines in order to shed light on and understand the challenges of today's world, in connection with public and socio-economic stakeholders. Together, the different sciences contribute to sustainable progress that benefits society as a whole.

*Source: The CNRS, CNRS website, 15th May 2025.*



France

## Official Signing of the Institut Pasteur – ALFI Partnership to Expand Housing Opportunities for Young Scientists

The Institut Pasteur and the association ALFI (Association for Housing Families and Individuals) officially signed a strategic partnership aimed at expanding access to affordable housing for young scientists. As part of this agreement, 30 additional housing units will be made available over three years in two Parisian residences, located in the 13th and 14th districts, under highly favorable rental conditions. This initiative is fully aligned with the goals of Pasteur 2030 strategic plan, which places strong emphasis on supporting the next generation of scientists.

*Source: Official Signing of the Institut Pasteur – ALFI Partnership to Expand Housing Opportunities for Young Scientists, Institut Pasteur website, 30th July 2025.*



Paris

# TECHNOLOGY



## VivaTech 2025 fair: a new research program and a historic partnership agreement

The VivaTech fair, biggest European event in the field of new technologies, attracted all stakeholders from this sector from 11 to 14 June 2025 in Paris. The French ministry in charge of higher education and the ministry of industry, in charge of artificial intelligence, were present in the event. These ministries attended launched new 30 million euros research program on robotics, and a call for projects called "Robotics and smart machines" and the next "Pioneer of AI" mechanism, dedicated to the funding of breakthrough innovation by AI in scientific fields, including robotics. This program will be driven by the CNRS and plan to fund thesis, welcome postdoc students and create research engineer jobs, improve exchanges with industry and partners in Europe.

*Source: VivaTech 2025 fair: a new research program and a historic partnership agreement, Campus France website, 27th June 2025.*



Paris

# SAVE THE DATES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

👉 *Click on the program titles to go directly to the dedicated websites!*



## HORIZON EUROPE

👉 **TOPIC: CALL 1 – MARINE POLLUTION HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-05: EU-INDIA COOPERATION ON CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF MARINE POLLUTION ON MARINE ORGANISMS AND ECOSYSTEMS**

• CO-FUNDING: EU (€12M) + MOES INDIA (₹90 CR)

🕒 **DEADLINE: 17TH SEPTEMBER 2025**

👉 **TOPIC: WATER & HEALTH – WATER4ALL 2025 JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL**

🕒 **DEADLINE: 13TH NOVEMBER 2025**



## HORIZON EUROPE (MSCA ACTIONS)

👉 **MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS 2025**

🕒 **DEADLINE: 25TH NOVEMBER 2025**

👉 **MSCA STAFF EXCHANGES 2025**

🕒 **DEADLINE: 27TH MARCH 2025**



## CEFIPRA

👉 **TOPIC: WOMEN IN SCIENCE (PROWIS)**

• FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

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• RS. 90,000/- PER MONTH ALONG WITH MISCELLANEOUS ALLOWANCES (FRENCH NATIONALS)

🕒 **DEADLINE: 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2025**

👉 **TOPIC : INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY – DST-INRIA TARGETED PROGRAMME**

🕒 **DEADLINE: 16TH OCTOBER, 2025**

# SAVE THE DATES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

 [Click on the program titles to go directly to the dedicated websites!](#)



## SCHOLARSHIPS

### **THEMATIC SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### [ENVIRONMENT STUDIES - IRIS-E PROJECT SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

Deadline: 15th September 2025

#### [ENVIRONMENT STUDIES - MAKE OUR PLANET GREAT AGAIN SCHOLARSHIP - VISITING PROGRAMM FOR EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS](#)

DEADLINE: 5TH DECEMBER 2025

#### [DEVELOPMENT STUDIES - IRD SCHOLARSHIP](#)

Deadline: 31 December 2025

#### [BIOLOGY - IMCBio Master Scholarship - Strasbourg University](#)

Deadline: 15th March 2026

#### [BUSINESS - DISABILITY SCHOLARSHIP - Montpellier Business School - Programme Grande Ecole](#)

Deadline: 30th June 2026

#### [BUSINESS - RENNES BUSINESS SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP "BIENVENUE EN FRANCE"](#)

Deadline: 30th June 2027

### **GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### [FRANCE EXCELLENCE EIFFEL SCHOLARSHIP](#)

Deadline: 8th January, 2026

#### [F E Charpak Exchange 2026](#)

Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025