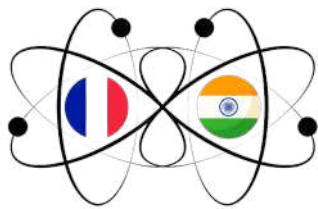


INDO FRENCH ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER
2025
N°3

We are pleased to present the third 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 the **Indo-French space collaboration**. 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 edition by contacting us at the following addresses:

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FOCUS ON... FRANCO-INDIAN SPACE COLLABORATION

India became the fourth country to land on the Moon and the first to reach its south polar region on August 23rd, 2023, with the success of the **Chandrayaan-3 space mission**, now celebrated as National Space Day. The rich Indian's current activity in terms of space should enable France to strengthen its global strategic partnership on space, which is one of France's top priorities.

Recent news in June 2025 were marked by **India's first-ever exploration of the International Space Station** by the **Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla** during the 18-day **Axiom-4 mission**, which enabled the scientist to conduct a series of microgravity experiments.



Shubhanshu Shukla aboard the International Space Station during the Axiom-4 mission. Credit photo: [Website of ISRO](#).

Furthermore, 2027/2028 should mark a turning point in India's space adventure, as the country prepares to launch two major missions: **the Gaganyaan program**, the first manned space flight that will send vyomanauts (Indian astronauts) into space for the first time in 2027, and the **Chandrayaan-4 mission** to return lunar

samples to Earth, scheduled for 2028. These two missions represent a significant challenge and will constitute a technological breakthrough for India once completed.

This summer, Dr. Jitendra Singh, an Indian physician and politician who has served as Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences since 2024, indicated that the development of ground support equipment (ground segment) and the future Human Rated LVM3 Mk III launchvehicle used for the Gaganyaan mission was 90% complete, with only the final qualification phases remaining to be completed.

In terms of bilateral space cooperation, India and France have been actively collaborating for over **60 years**, with the first space agreement signed in **1964**. This collaboration is based on a **partnership between the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. Starting in the 1970s, initial technology transfers were initiated for rockets, and **space** was defined in 1998 as one of the pillars of the **Strategic Partnership** between the two nations.

France also supports India in preparing for the **Gaganyaan program**, notably through the training of ISRO teams by CNES and training in space medicine, particularly with MEDES (Institute of Space Medicine and Physiology).

Indeed, India has significant ambitions for the coming years and plans to launch more than 1,000 satellites, with a target of 15 satellites per year, primarily for Earth observation, ocean studies, and meteorological observations.

Subsequently, the framework agreement on the exploration and use of outer space, signed in 2008, identified the priorities of a partnership focusing on studying climate change using Earth observation space-based means and developing communications satellites for commercial purposes.

This agreement enabled the deployment of the joint satellites **Megha-Tropiques** and **SARAL-AtiKa**, launched in 2011 and 2013 respectively, as well as the joint mission **Oceansat 3-Argos** launched in 2022; and the ongoing development of the next joint satellite, **Trishna (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment)**, with a planned launch in 2027.

The Trishna satellite, a collaboration between ISRO and CNES, is designed to provide high spatial and temporal resolution monitoring of Earth's surface temperature, emissivity (the capacity of a body or surface to absorb and emit radiated energy), and biophysical and radiative variables to establish the surface energy budget at regional and global scales. The objective is to address critical challenges related to food and water security, focusing on the impacts of human-induced climate change and the effective management of water resources.

During French President Emmanuel Macron's last visit in 2018, France and India agreed on a shared vision for space cooperation, encompassing several areas: space surveillance, the societal benefits of space technologies, addressing global challenges including climate change, and developing technologies for human exploration.

Since 2023, the two governments have held an **annual Strategic Space Dialogue**, which aims to implement concrete projects such as the development of reusable launch vehicles and propulsion systems, the exchange of expertise, and collaboration on space security systems. The next meeting will take place in Paris in **2026**, during the **Indo-French Year of Innovation**.



Contacts at the French diplomatic mission in India:

→ **Tamara Tezzele:** Space counsellor and CNES representative for the French Embassy in India

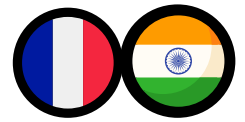
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FRANCO-INDIAN COLLABORATION: WHAT'S NEW?



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

ACADEMIC



XLRI ties up with top European universities for joint degrees and skill-based programs

The oldest Indian business school, Xavier School of Management (XLRI), recently signed a memorandum of understanding with several French institutions: Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, the University of Bordeaux, and the UNESCO Chair at the University of Nanterre. This agreement will facilitate the creation of joint degrees as well as student and scientific mobility. Short-term professional training courses will also be offered as continuing education. At the same time, XLRI has partnered with the Danish Consortium for Academic Craftsmanship (DCAC), and the International Institute of Education (IIE) Consortium of Universities.

Source : Unknown author. "XLRI ties up with top European universities for joint degrees and skill-based programs", Hindustan Times, September 11th, 2025.



Haryana/Delhi



France

"We are working to achieve 30,000 Indian students in France by 2030", says French diplomat Gregor Trumel

Counsellor for Education, Science and Culture at the Embassy of France in India, Gregor Trumel, has highlighted the steady rise in the number of Indian students choosing France for higher education, noting a "17% jump in Indian enrolments" this year and reaffirming France's strong commitment to deepening educational ties with India under the "Choose France" initiative.

Source: "We are working to achieve 30,000 Indian students in France by 2030", says French diplomat Gregor Trumel, ANI, October 7th 2025.



Pan India



France

50 Renowned Universities Participate in "Choose France Tour 2025"

Organised jointly by the French Embassy in India and Campus France, the tour served as a one-stop platform for guidance on the application process, scholarships and student life in France. The fair saw participation from renowned institutions offering programs across disciplines such as engineering, management, arts, design, and hospitality.

Source: 50 Renowned Universities Participate in "Choose France Tour 2025", Metro India, October 14th 2025.



Pan India



France

Hotel IHCL Enters into a strategic corporate partnership with ESSEC Academy

Indian Hotels Company (IHCL), India's largest hospitality company, has partnered with ESSEC Academy, Singapore to launch a tailored leadership development initiative.

Source : Unknown author. "The Travel & Tourist Times". 30 October 2025.



Delhi

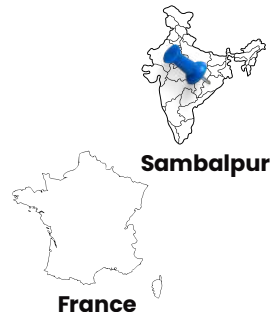


France

IIM Sambalpur Hosts Immersion Program of India's First Dual-Degree Programme

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur, hosted the Immersion Programme for India's first dual degree programmes – Executive PhD & DBA (Batch 2024–27) and MBA Fintech Management (Batch 2024–26), offered in collaboration with IAE Bordeaux University School of Management, France, while the MBA Fintech Management Programme is jointly conducted with Sorbonne Business School, France.

Source: PSU Connect. September 31st 2025.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



TCS and CEA Partner to Advance Physical AI Research and Innovation in France

Tata Consultancy Services, a global leader in IT services, consulting, and business solutions has signed a partnership with CEA, among the world's most innovative research institutions to accelerate innovation and industrialization of Physical AI solutions. Physical AI is focused on bringing together robotics, artificial intelligence, and intelligent systems to help machines perceive, interpret, and interact with the physical world, thus advancing digital transformation and modernization of industrial processes

Source: "TCS and CEA Partner to Advance Physical AI Research and Innovation in France", Tata Consultancy Services, press release. September 9th 2025.



France's Special Envoy for AI hails 2026 as breakthrough year for Indo-French collaboration

France's Special Envoy for Artificial Intelligence (AI), Anne Bouverot, on Thursday declared that 2026 will be the year of French-Indian innovation, highlighting the deepening collaboration between the two nations ahead of the AI Impact Summit 2026 to be hosted in India. This summit, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the France AI Action Summit this year, is scheduled to take place from February 19 to February 20 in Delhi and will be the first-ever global AI summit hosted in the Global South.

Source: France's Special Envoy for AI hails 2026 as breakthrough year for Indo-French collaboration, The Financial Express, November 6th 2025.



SOCIAL SCIENCES



French government awards fellowship to Mumbai University professor Dr Balakrishna Bhosale

Dr Balakrishna Bhosale, a senior professor from the Department of Sociology at the University of Mumbai, has been selected for the prestigious High-Level Scientific Guest Research Fellowship – 2025 by the French government. As part of this fellowship, Dr Bhosale will visit the University of Bordeaux, France, from November 1 to 14. During his academic visit, he will deliver two key lectures on 'Hinduism from a Dalit Perspective' and 'The Condition of Rural Labour in India'.

Source: "French government awards fellowship to Mumbai University professor Dr Balakrishna Bhosale. Mid-Day. 31 October 2025.





DRDO and DGA, France ink Technical Agreement to deepen collaboration in defence R&D

A Technical Agreement has been signed between Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Directorate General of Armaments (DGA), France to deepen collaboration in defence research and development.

*Source: Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Science & Technology. DRDO and DGA, France ink Technical Agreement to deepen collaboration in defence R&D
Posted On 20 November 2025.*



Pan India



France

HEALTH



Franco-Indian campus project ILIADE consortium program

Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER) held a Franco-Indian Campus program on academic and research collaboration in the field of healthcare, with ILIADE (Innovation through plants and artificial intelligence for India and France), a consortium of four French and four Indian institutes and universities. The program aims to develop cooperation in development of academic and research collaborations besides exchange of faculty and students for training and mutual exposure to conditions unique to the healthcare themes of each country.

Source: Franco-Indian campus project ILIADE consortium program, PIB, November 4th 2025.

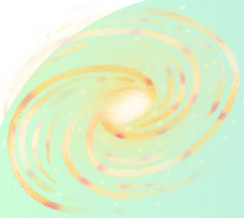


Chennai



France

DID YOU KNOW ?



THE EARLY DAYS OF FRANCO-INDIAN ASTRONOMY



Cooperation between India and France in the field of space began in 1963, when **Dr Vikram Sarabhai** (on the right in the picture), father of the Indian space programme, met **Prof Jacques Blamont** (in the middle in the picture), founding technical director of the French space agency **CNES** (Centre National d'Études Spatiales).

This meeting led the CNES to support the *Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO)* fledgling **sounding rocket** programme. It was also in that same year, on 21 November 1963, that a sodium vapour payload, donated by Blamont, was launched from Thumba (India), marking an important milestone in the early days of India's space travel.

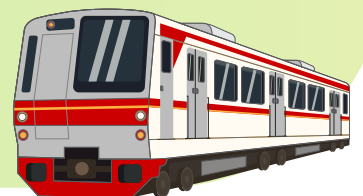


[Click here to know more](#)

INDIAN RAILWAY INSPIRED BY THE FRENCH

Indian Railways adopted the 25 kV AC **electrification system** as standard in 1957, with initial technical assistance and advice from the French National Railway Company (**SNCF**). Today, France continues to support Indian Railways by sharing its expertise on **world-class stations** and supplying the most powerful locomotives to run on Indian tracks, the **WAG-12!**

[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



RENNAT: a new laboratory bridging gaps between research and policy dedicated to the study of urban trees

The public administration of Rennes Metropolis, Brittany, opened a joint laboratory with the famous LETG laboratory of the city's main university. Standing for "Littoral – Environnement – Télédétection – Géomatique", the LETG is associated to Rennes 2 University and the CNRS. This new laboratory called RENNAT ("Rennes, Nature & Adaptation Territoriale") will study trees and biodiversity's adaptation to urban ecosystems. The novelty in this approach is that public officers and researchers will work together to design public policies and study their effect and impacts. This laboratory will promote a french innovative approach to the declustering of research and policy: the "CIFRE" thesis, specific contracts where PhD students can work simultaneously in research and administration.

Source: RENNAT : un laboratoire commun unique en son genre pour étudier les arbres en ville et réduire la vulnérabilité du territoire face au changement climatique. Actualités CNRS. Septembre 25, 2025.



Rennes

EDHEC Business School launches Quantum Institute

EDHEC Business School has unveiled the EDHEC Quantum Institute (EQI), a new centre aimed at helping decision-makers understand and shape a future increasingly dominated by quantum technologies. The institute will be led by Professor Lionel Martellini, PhD, and will drive research, education, innovation, and knowledge-sharing initiatives linking quantum science to its real-world applications in business and society.

Source: EDHEC Business School launches Quantum Institute, EDHEC, November 20th 2025



France

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Europe launches Jupiter, its supercomputer, intended to catch up in AI

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz inaugurated the continent's first "exascale" supercomputer on Friday in Jülich, west of Cologne. Developed by the French group Atos, and funded by the European Union and Germany, it is capable of performing one billion billion calculations per second.

Source: Europe launches Jupiter, its supercomputer, intended to catch up in AI, published on September 5th, Le Monde with AFP



European Union

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



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

Between mathematics and computer science: Stéphane Mallat is awarded the 2025 CNRS Gold Medal

Created in 1954, the CNRS Gold Medal rewards scientific careers that have made exceptional contributions to the dynamism and influence of French research. This year it was awarded to Stéphane Mallat, recognised all around the world for his research on mathematics applied to signal processing and artificial intelligence. His discoveries on the geometry of data have been crucial to modelling and understanding the properties of massive multidimensional data.

Source: 'Between mathematics and computer science: Stéphane Mallat is awarded the 2025 CNRS Gold Medal', CNRS, September 11th 2025.



France

Université Paris-Saclay and the company Owkin: A Unique Alliance to Propel University Medical Research to the Top of the European Rankings Through AI

The partnership includes workshops, training sessions and dissemination initiatives around the use of AI in health. In this way, the partnership will promote user training, but also enrich and continuously improve the co-pilot's models through feedback and use cases from the l'Université Paris-Saclay community. This partnership is part of Université Paris-Saclay's strategy to integrate AI at the heart of education, research, and therapeutic innovation.

Source: Université Paris-Saclay / Owkin: A Unique Alliance to Propel University Medical Research to the Top of the European Rankings Through AI, November 20th 2025.



Ile de France

BIOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



Which sciences do we need for the climate?

Scientific priorities are increasingly being reconsidered in light of the climate crisis. A mathematician has suggested abandoning research in particle physics to redirect resources toward work focused on climate solutions. At the same time, many researchers are exploring ways to reduce the carbon footprint of their professional activities, and the notion of "scientific de-growth" is gaining visibility. Yet some argue that these well-intentioned approaches may be targeting the wrong problem entirely.

Source: Sylvestre Huet. "Quelles sciences pour le climat ?", Le Monde, November 21st 2025.



Ile de France



French Study Reveals Pesticide Exposure Linked to Childhood Health Problems

A new analysis by ANSES, France's Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety, has raised fresh concerns about the health effects of pesticides that are still widely used in farming and in everyday life. The findings are based on a major scientific review carried out by Inserm, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research, which updated its conclusions in 2021.

Source: Unknown author. "French Study Reveals Pesticide Exposure Linked to Childhood Health Problems" Global Agriculture, October 3rd 2025.



France

Innate Immunity: Studying Bacteria Sheds Light on Our Knowledge of Humans

What if studying ancient life forms could illuminate our understanding of human immunity? While there has been a recent large increase in knowledge of the immunity of bacteria, collaboration between two scientific teams – one led by Enzo Poirier, Inserm researcher at Institut Curie, and the other by Aude Bernhein at Institut Pasteur – has shown that bacterial defense mechanisms have been preserved in humans and can play an important role. With the support of other EvoCure project teams, the two scientists intend to decipher these inherited immune mechanisms, with the goal of identifying new therapeutic avenues for autoimmune diseases and cancer.

Source: Innate Immunity: Studying Bacteria Sheds Light on Our Knowledge of Humans, Inserm, October 16th 2025.



Paris

The Bright Side: French scientists probe mRNA's potential to take on cancer

French researchers at a laboratory in Orléans are now focusing on the potential of mRNA (the molecules used to rapidly develop Covid-19 vaccines) to help patients more effectively combat cancerous tumors. According to the team, mRNA can be used to strengthen the immune system, make up for defective cells, target rare or genetic diseases and even address allergies.

Source: Unknown author. "The Bright Side: French scientists probe mRNA's potential to take on cancer". CNRS. 20th november 2025.



Orleans



Michel Devoret, 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics: the excellence of French fundamental research

On October 7, the Nobel Prize in physics 2025 has been awarded to French Michel H. Devoret, British John Clarke and American John M. Martinis for their pioneer and joint work on quantum mechanics. This acknowledgement honours France and paves the way to the development of the next generation of quantum techs. And that's even a double recompense for France, since John M. Martinis is also a French alumni.

Source: Michel Devoret, 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics: the excellence of French fundamental research, Campus France, October 7th 2025.



France

Learn more about the studies that gave the Nobel prize of physics 2025 to Dr. Michel Devoret

Quantum effects are typically confined to microscopic scales, allowing for a conceptual separation between classical and quantum regimes. This neat division, however, is challenged by phases of matter such as superfluids and superconductors, where a macroscopic number of particles are in a single collective quantum state. This year's Nobel prize in Physics recognizes joint work by John Clarke, Michel Devoret and John Martinis demonstrating that superconducting circuits can feature macroscopic quantum behaviour.

Source: The prize at the end of the quantum tunnel, Nature physics, November 11th 2025.



France

SPACE / ASTRONOMY



Scientists unveil Flagship 2, the largest universe simulation ever with 3.4 billion galaxies

Euclid Consortium, the international group that manages the European Space Agency's Euclid space telescope, has published the largest ever simulation of the universe. Called Flagship 2, the simulation mapped 3.4 billion galaxies and tracks the gravitational interaction of more than 4 trillion particles.

Source: Scientists unveil Flagship 2, the largest universe simulation ever with 3.4 billion galaxies, The Indian Express, 29th September 2025.



European Union

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING



Thomas Debris-Alazard is redesigning cryptography in the quantum era

Thomas Debris-Alazard, a researcher at the Inria Saclay centre with the GRACE joint project team has been awarded a European Research Council Grant to work on quantum cyber security. He will test how effective the cryptographic tools under development are in resisting possible future quantum attacks.

Source: Thomas Debris-Alazard is redesigning cryptography in the quantum era; INRIA News, September 4th 2025.



Ile de France

Public research: France tops the European rankings for the number of patents filed

Public research: France tops the European rankings for the number of patents filed. Over a period of nearly 20 years, more than 25,000 patent applications have been generated by French public research organisations, representing nearly 14% of all applications.

Source: unknown author. "Recherche publique : la France en tête du palmarès européen pour le nombre de brevets déposés". Sciences et Avenir with AFP. October 22nd 2025.



France

SAVE THE DATES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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



HORIZON EUROPE

👉 **TOPIC: CLIMATE TRANSITION, TRANSPORT, BIOFUELS AND CLIMATE SCIENCES & RESPONSES (GLACIERS)**
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-03: DEVELOPMENT OF SMART CONCEPTS OF INTEGRATED ENERGY DRIVEN BIO-REFINERIES FOR CO-PRODUCTION OF ADVANCED BIOFUELS, BIO-CHEMICALS AND BIOMATERIALS – (RIA) MISSION INNOVATION.
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WILL CO-FUND THE SUCCESSFUL INDIAN ENTITIES.

🕒 **DEADLINE:** 4TH FEBRUARY, 2026



👉 **TOPIC: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR RAMAN-CHARPAK FELLOWSHIP 2025**
RAMAN CHARPAK FELLOWSHIP (RCF)
• FINANCIAL SUPPORT:
• FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT OF 1710 EUROS PER MONTH (INDIAN NATIONALS)
• FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT RS. 40,000 PER MONTH (FRENCH NATIONALS)

🕒 **DEADLINE:** 10TH DECEMBER, 2025



SCHOLARSHIPS

THEMATIC SCHOLARSHIPS

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

ONE HEALTH



OPEN CALL FOR EXPERTS TO THE JOINT WORKING GROUP PREZODE- WOAH ON THE ONE HEALTH SCIENCE-POLICY DIALOGUE

India and **France** are both members of **Prézode**, an international initiative launched by France at the One Planet Summit in 2021 that aims to understand and combat zoonotic diseases. Recognising the need to strengthen multilateral cooperation to promote a One Health approach, the scientific community is behind this multi-stakeholder coalition, supported by the WHO, FAO and WOAH. It is based on a programme developed jointly with scientists from around the world, based on five pillars:

- Pillar 1. Understand zoonotic risks and risk activities
- Pillar 2. Co-design solutions to reduce zoonotic risks
- Pillar 3. Strengthen early warning systems to detect zoonotic risks
- Pillar 4. Prototyping a global information system for surveillance and early detection
- Pillar 5. Engage stakeholders and co-design One Health networks and policies (cross-cutting)

Prézode and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) are setting up a **working group** attached to Pillar 5, dedicated to societal participation, dialogue at the science-policy interface and intersectoral collaboration in One Health.

A call for expressions of interest is open to **scientists** and **experts** who would like to become members of this working group.



Deadline: December 19th



Link: <https://prezode-initiative.org/en/open-call-for-experts-to-the-joint-working-group-prezode-woah-on-the-one-health-science-policy-dialogue/>