

# INDO-FRENCH ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

NEWSLETTER

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N°4

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

You will find at the beginning of this edition **a special review of the High Level Academic and Scientific Meetings (french acronym: RUSH)**, as well as the presidential visit conducted by Mr. Emmanuel Macron that took place in Mumbai and New Delhi from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February.

2026 being the Indo-French Year Of Innovation, we dedicated the first Focus of the year to Indo-French innovations that took place since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. 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 email address: [newsletter@institutfrancaisindia.in](mailto:newsletter@institutfrancaisindia.in)

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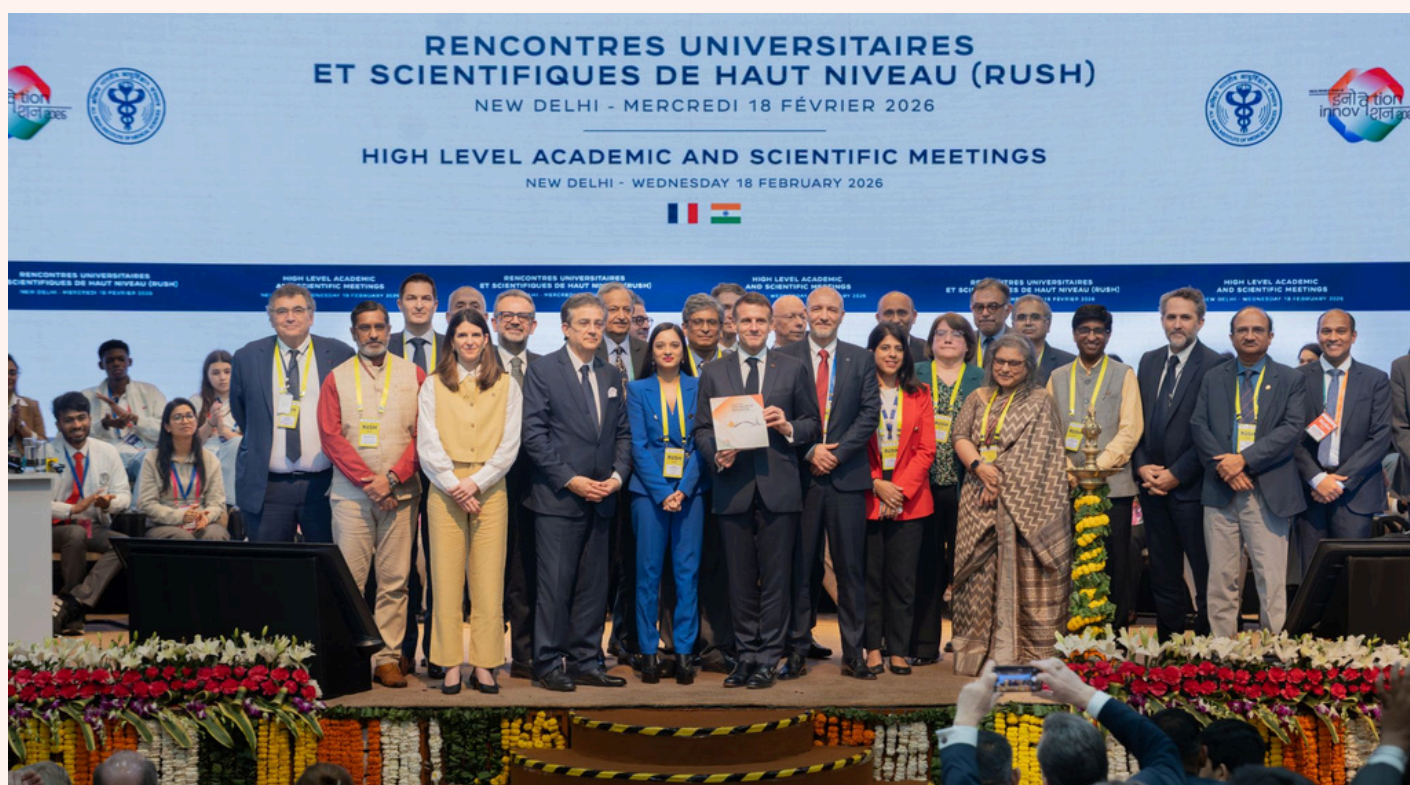
## **SAVE THE DATES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

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# RUSH : AN IMPORTANT STEP IN INDO-FRENCH SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC COOPERATION

On 18 and 19 February, the **High Level Academic and Scientific Meetings (french acronym: RUSH)** were held at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi to discuss the future of Franco-Indian cooperation. The event brought together more than 200 French participants from around 100 institutions and nearly 400 Indian participants representing around 200 institutions, making it **one of the largest academic gatherings ever organized between France and India.**

The event was launched by Prof. M. Srinivas, Director of AIIMS, and chaired by Prof. Thierry Coulhon (Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Institut Polytechnique de Paris) and Prof. K. VijayRaghavan (Chair, Ashoka University Science Advisory Council). Several distinguished guests were present, including Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, who officially inaugurated the RUSH event alongside Ms. Clara Chappaz (French Ambassador for AI). The presence of Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda (Minister of Health and Family Welfare, President of AIIMS) was also highlighted.



*The President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, the Ambassador of France in India, Mr. Thierry Mathou, the Ambassador for Digital Affairs and Artificial Intelligence, Ms. Clara Chappaz, with representatives of French and Indian higher education institutions.  
Credits: French Embassy in India, 18th February 2026*

The programme included **23 high-level lectures** given by eminent French and Indian academics. In addition, various parallel sessions were organised: **an Indo-French forum on AI** in the field of brain health, **three parallel workshops** on AI and an Indo-French university **B2B session** bringing together 30 Indian and 30 French higher education institutions. **A roundtable on child protection and artificial intelligence** was organised with the participation of Ms. Anne Le Hénanff, Minister Delegate for AI and Digital Technology.

The highlight of the event was the visit of Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic. He participated in a **fruitful discussion on AI** accompanied by two young talents, Dr. Priyanka Rajkakati (alumna from Ecole Polytechnique and ISAE-Supaero) and Dr. Manan Suri (alumnus from Grenoble INP and CEA). It was also an opportunity to present the main Indo-French academic and scientific initiatives like the CEFIPRA (Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research) which celebrates its 40th anniversary, and the official announcement of the creation of a Hub in India by ESSEC and CentraleSupélec.

RUSH also marked the **inauguration of the Indo-French Centre for AI in Health**, established through a partnership between AIIMS, Sorbonne Université and Paris Brain Institute. This center is aimed at advancing AI-driven research, medical education and clinical innovation to address complex healthcare challenges.

The visit of Emmanuel Macron underscored the strategic importance of this initiative. By its scale and ambition, RUSH represents a significant step forward in strengthening long-term scientific and academic cooperation between France and India.

# THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IN THE PRESS

February 2026 was an important moment in Franco-Indian scientific cooperation, with a bilateral visit structured around three key events for research in India and France: **the inauguration of the Year of Innovation in Mumbai, the High-Level University and Scientific Meetings (RUSH), and the AI Summit in Delhi**. Therefore, the articles presented below do not cover the advances and discoveries made by our researchers as usual, but rather the steps taken by India and France to bring their research ecosystems closer together, structure their cooperation and align their visions. This visit led to the signing of numerous agreements and strategic discussions for the future of cooperation, thanks to the largest meeting between French and Indian scientific and academic institutions ever organised.

Below is a sample of articles published in the press on this subject. Enjoy your reading!

🖱️ **CLICK ON EACH TITLE TO BE REDIRECTED TO THE CORRESPONDING ARTICLES.**

## → **High-Level Scientific and Academic Meetings (french acronym: RUSH)**

### **E. Macron announces streamlined visa process and courses to be taught in English for Indian students**

*Macron announces streamlined visa process, courses to be taught in English for Indian students. ANI, February 18th 2026.*

### **India and France inaugurate a Franco-Indian centre for research on AI and health at AIIMS**

*Official release of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India, February 19th 2026.*

*Credits: French Embassy in India, 18th February 2026.*



### **India and France share the same objectives on AI innovation: not to be 'totally dependent' on American and Chinese models, says Macron.**

*India, France share "same objective on AI innovation, not "totally dependent" on US, Chinese models: Macron. The Tribune, February 25th 2026.*

### **INRIA-DST: Creation of a Franco-Indian Binational Centre for Digital Science and Technology.**

*Creation of a Franco-Indian Binational Centre for Digital Science and Technology. INRIA News, February 20th 2026.*

## **UPCité signs cooperation agreement with IISER Pune and IIT Bombay**

*Communiqué officiel de l'Université Paris-Cité.*

*Credits: Université Paris-Cité, February 18th 2026.*



## **Ashoka University and École Normale Supérieure - PSL announce strategic partnership at high-level academic and scientific meetings on the future of Franco-Indian cooperation in New Delhi**

*Official press release from ENS-PSL, February 18th 2026.*

## **CentraleSupélec and Orange Business India join forces to train AI engineers**

*AI Impact Summit in India: CentraleSupélec and Orange Business India join forces to train AI engineers, ITSocial, February 20th 2026.*

## **RUSH 2026: How can artificial intelligence be made safe for children?**

*Shakshi Srivastava, RUSH 2026: How can artificial intelligence be made safe for children?, TheWeek, February 19th 2026.*

## **→ Year of Innovation**

### **A historic week for France, marked by the India AI Impact Summit & Expo 2026**

*PR Newswire, Business France, February 26th 2026.*

## **Prime Minister Modi and Emmanuel Macron launch the Year of Innovation in Mumbai**

*The New Mill, February 19th 2026.*

*Credits: French Embassy in India, February 17th 2026.*



## **Why is India emerging as a key partner for cooperation?**

*Gilles Alcaraz, CNRS Bulletin, February 18th 2026.*



# FOCUS ON... A QUARTER-CENTURY OF INDO-FRENCH SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS

As we close the year 2025 and enter 2026, a quarter-century of Indo-French cooperation lies behind us. This new year, India and France have placed their partnership under the banner of innovation for the Indo-French Year of Innovation, inviting us to look back on the past twenty-five years and reflect on what has already been achieved.

The longstanding Indo-French relationship has been marked by centuries of scientific exchanges, from the first interactions in the 16th century to the post-independence era in India. The turn of the twenty-first century ushered in a period of rapid technological acceleration, particularly in computer science, which spurred major innovations across multiple fields benefiting from enhanced data-processing capabilities—such as astronomy, space sciences, artificial intelligence, health, and environmental sciences. At the same time, France and India continued to collaborate in foundational scientific disciplines, including pure mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology. Building on a century-old legacy of cooperation in science and technology, the two countries strengthened institutional ties through joint laboratories, high-level conferences, and exchange programmes. Throughout this journey, **CEFIPRA (Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research)**, which will celebrate its 40 year anniversary, has supported these efforts, remaining a cornerstone of Indo-French scientific cooperation.



*Dr. Mohit Bhandari (in the center with the glasses) performed the first transcontinental robotic surgery between France and India.*

*Credit photo: [Website of Dr. Bhandari](#).*

Several innovations and discoveries stemming from Indo-French collaboration have marked the first quarter of the 21st century. In surgery, a major milestone was reached in 2025 with the first transcontinental robotic surgical operation conducted between France and India at the Research Institute Against Digestive System Cancers (IRCAD – Institut de Recherche contre les Cancers de l'Appareil Digestif). Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated joint reflections on the One Health concept – an innovative approach to healthcare that recognises the close links between human, animal, and ecosystem health.

In the field of health, research aimed at combating infectious diseases has led to remarkable advances, particularly in the fight against malaria. Scientists from INSERM, CNRS, and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology at Jawaharlal Nehru University have jointly

identified key enzymes essential for the survival and reproduction of the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite. In the same spirit, France and India launched in 2022 the **Franco-Indian Campus for Life Sciences and Health**, a strategic project to structure academic and scientific cooperation. It aims to train talent in key areas such as biology, biotechnology and health, with calls for mobility for 2025–2026.



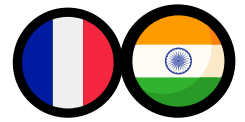
Photograph of the Industry-Academy Workshop of the Franco-Indian Campus (CFI) for Life Sciences and Health, held in Pune in December 2024. Credit photo: [Website of The French Institute of India](#).

Advances in medical sciences have also been supported by the rapid expansion of computer science and the rise of artificial intelligence. The French National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology (INRIA) has been at the heart of Franco-Indian cooperation in digital sciences through a joint programme with India's Department of Science and Technology (DST), launched in 2013 in coordination with CEFIPRA. Several Indian scientists trained at INRIA are now playing a key role in driving innovation in both countries. Kartek Alahari, an alumnus of IIT Hyderabad, is currently Deputy Research Director in charge of AI at INRIA, contributing to the development of a shared Indo-French vision for the inclusive and ethical advancement of artificial intelligence.

The first quarter of the twenty-first century has also been marked by sustained cooperation in astronomy and space sciences. Notable advances in astronomy have resulted from the collaboration between Françoise Combes (now Head of the prestigious French Academy of Sciences) and Kanak Saha (professor of astrophysics at Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics in Pune) on the early stages of galaxy formation. At the crossroads of astronomy and space sciences, the joint work of Aswin Sekhar and Jérémie Vaubaillon at the Paris Observatory on the remote detection of meteorites, aimed at protecting satellites, also stands out. More broadly, this period has been one of consolidation for Indo-French partnerships in space sciences, with space health emerging as a key pillar of collaboration.

As India and France look ahead, their scientific partnership continues to be guided by a shared ambition: to place knowledge, innovation, and cooperation at the service of society. Health, astronomy, space sciences, digital technologies, and artificial intelligence will remain central areas of collaboration in addressing major global challenges—from public health and climate change to technological sovereignty and sustainable development. At the same time, growing cooperation in environmental and marine sciences, renewable energy, and social sciences reflects a common commitment to building solutions that are both scientifically robust and socially relevant. Rooted in trust and driven by excellence, Indo-French scientific cooperation is well positioned to shape the innovations of tomorrow.

# FRANCO-INDIAN COLLABORATION: WHAT'S NEW?



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

## ACADEMIC



### Maharaja Sayajirao University (MSU) host French delegation to strengthen academic ties

MSU hosted a delegation from the French embassy in India and Campus France as part of efforts to deepen Indo-French academic and scientific collaboration.

*MSU host French delegation to strengthen academic ties, The Times of India, 10th January 2026.*



Vadodara



France

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



### French President Emmanuel Macron confirms India visit for AI Impact Summit in New Delhi

French President Emmanuel Macron said that he would pay a visit to India next month, with New Delhi set to host the AI Impact Summit. The India-AI Impact Summit 2026 was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the France AI Action Summit and is scheduled for February 19-20 in New Delhi. It will be the first-ever global AI summit hosted in the Global South.

*Source: French President Emmanuel Macron confirms India visit for AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, Akashnavi news, 9th January 2026.*



Delhi



France

## BIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



### Biodiversity cooperation between India, France and Southern Africa

From Assam, India, to the savannas of Southern Africa, national park managers worldwide are collaborating to better protect biodiversity. The Parks & Biodiversity Partnership program, supported by AFD and coordinated by France's ONF International, focuses on sharing experience between India, Southern African countries and France to help safeguard living ecosystems.

*Source: Biodiversity cooperation between India, France and Southern Africa, Agence française de développement, 26th November 2025.*



Assam



France

# HEALTH



## Servier India Partners with MedGenome & Strand Life Sciences, Expanding AML & CCA Testing

Servier India, the Indian arm of France's Servier Group, has unveiled a strategic collaboration with MedGenome and Strand Life Sciences to roll out a patient-focused biomarker testing program nationwide. The initiative seeks to enhance access to diagnostics for patients with IDH-mutated Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), a highly aggressive blood cancer, and Cholangiocarcinoma (CCA), a rare cancer of the bile ducts.

*Source: Servier India Partners with MedGenome & Strand Life Sciences, Expanding AML & CCA Testing, eHealth Network, 11th November 2025.*



Pan India



France

# MATHEMATICS



## Failure, obsession and beauty: Khare on his mathematical journey

Renowned mathematician Chandrashekar Kare presented his personal journey that led him to mathematical discoveries, the inner life of a mathematics researcher, and what this brings to contemporary debates on Artificial Intelligence. A defining moment in his career was his meeting with Jean-Pierre Winterberger, a French mathematician from the University of Strasbourg, with whom he proved Serres' modularity conjecture.

*Source: Kimaya Boralkar, Failure, obsession and beauty: Khare on his mathematical journey. Hindustan Times, 16th January 2026.*



Pune



Strasbourg

# TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING



## Oil India ropes in France's TotalEnergies for deepsea oil, gas hunt

Oil India Ltd, the country's second-largest state-owned explorer, has partnered with French energy major TotalEnergies to tap into its technical expertise for the exploration of oil and natural gas resources in deepwater and ultra-deepwater zones.

*Source: Oil India ropes in France's TotalEnergies for deepsea oil, gas hunt, Business Standard, 19th November 2025.*



Pan India



France

## DID YOU KNOW ?



# History of Indian System of Thoughts

*Inauguration of Isabelle Ratié's Chair at the Collège de France*

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COLLÈGE  
DE FRANCE  
— 1530 —

*Enseigner la recherche en train de se faire*

*The inaugural lecture of the Chair in 'History of Indian Thought Systems' took place on 29th January at the Collège de France.*

*This course is part of the long tradition of Indian studies at the Collège de France, the first French institute to offer a Chair in Sanskrit in 1814. Isabelle Ratié will present her work on the history of Indian philosophy through the study of texts, and will endeavour to demonstrate the discourses, controversies and complex relationships that have marked the major currents of Indian philosophical thought over time.*

*This Chair will contribute to a better understanding of India and its philosophy in France.*

*The Collège de France lectures are available free of charge online. For more information on this Chair, click [here](#).*

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



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

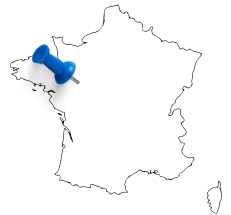
## ACADEMIC



### Eiffel Scholarships: Attracting Promising Talent

Since October, the University of Angers has welcomed a promising young Indian researcher thanks to the *France Excellence Eiffel* scholarship programme. For the next three years, Shreya Dey will carry out her doctoral research within UA's Mint (Micro and Nanomedical Translation) research unit, focusing on improving treatment effectiveness for lung cancer.

*Source: Eiffel Scholarships: Attracting Promising Talent, Université d'Angers, 3rd December 2025.*



Angers

### Sciences Po sharpens India focus amid France's 30k-student push

The French grande école, with its Paris base and six regional campuses, is leveraging its social science strengths and India partnerships to recruit Indian students in line with France's 2030 target.

*Source: Sciences Po sharpens India focus amid France's 30k-student push, The Pie, 10th December 2025.*



France

### France Broadens Classes Internationales to Seven Nations Opens Applications for 2026

France expands its Classes Internationales programme to seven countries across the Indo-Pacific and Africa, including India. The initiative offers a one-year immersive pathway with French language, cultural training and academic preparation for undergraduate studies. This expansion underscores France's focus on strengthening global education partnerships, student mobility and people-to-people ties.

*Source: France Broadens Classes Internationales to Seven Nations Opens Applications for 2026, siliconindia, 16th January 2026.*



France

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



### Europe's New AI Powerhouse Lands in Paris

The World Economic Forum (WEF) and VivaTech have officially joined forces to launch the European Centre for AI Excellence (ECAIE) in Paris, marking a major milestone for Europe's AI ecosystem. This initiative, announced last year alongside the Action AI summit, is now becoming reality. Key leaders of the project met with French President Emmanuel Macron in Davos last week for an official green light of the center.

*Source: Europe's New AI Powerhouse Lands in Paris, Vivattech website, 18th January 2026.*



Paris



## Beneath the volcanoes of the Massif Central, unexpected seismic vibrations

An exceptional large-scale scientific program dedicated to the exploration of the french volcanoes in the region of Auvergne, near the city of Clermont-Ferrand, published its first results in Geophysical Research Letters. The study reveals an intense seismic activity underneath the volcanoes.

*Source: Sous les volcans du Massif central, des vibrations sismiques insoupçonnées, Le Monde, 28th December 2025.*



**Auvergne**

## The super powers of the plant microbiota

Albeit little-known, plant microbiota or holobionts are essential for plant health and sustainable agriculture. The work of Philippe Vandenkoornhuys in discovering their role has earned this CNRS ecologist international recognition.

*Source: The super powers of the plant microbiota, CNRS news, 28th January 2026.*



**France**

# MARINE SCIENCES



## Scooping out oceanic CO<sub>2</sub> to make room for more

In the face of the climate emergency, techniques for removing CO<sub>2</sub> dissolved in seawater have raised some hopes and much concern. How to proceed? What rules should be established? Who should be in charge? The CNRS biogeochemist Olivier Sulpis, who is tasked with assessing these methods, provides an insight.

*Source: Scooping out oceanic CO<sub>2</sub> to make room for more, CNRS news, 8th January 2026.*



**France**

# PHYSICS



## Solace of quantum

A recognised physicist for her work on quantum boxes, Pascale Senellart conducts her research at the joint research laboratory between the Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, and the start-up that she co-founded. Her sights are set on photon-based quantum technologies.

*Source: Solace of quantum, CNRS news, 7th February 2025.*



**Paris**

## A monstrous magnetic field revealed: what France is really preparing

In the south of France, a revolutionary magnet powerful enough to lift an aircraft carrier has just been installed. But this engineering marvel isn't about brute power – it's about transforming how we generate energy. This colossal electromagnetic machine could change the future of humanity.

*Source: A monstrous magnetic field revealed: what France is really preparing, Futura, 11th January 2026.*



## Deciphering the heavyweights of the tetraquark world

The giant particle accelerator of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), known for having discovered the Higgs boson in 2012, has also identified 79 other previously unknown particles, which have attracted far less attention. For the first time, in the December 3 issue of the journal Nature, one of the LHC teams, CMS, reveals the internal properties of three of these hadrons (the term used for assemblies of quarks): tetraquarks, which are made up of four quarks.

*Source: Deciphering the heavyweights of the tetraquark world, CERN, 3rd December 2025.*



## Gravitational wave detections spark great expectations

On 14 September, 2015, the international LIGO/Virgo collaboration detected the very first gravitational wave signal, a tiny distortion of spacetime predicted by Einstein, in this case produced by the merger of two black holes. The CNRS astrophysicist Marie-Anne Bizouard explains how this discovery has opened up a new window on the Universe.

*Source: Gravitational wave detections spark great expectations, CNRS news, 29th January 2026.*



## SPACE & ASTRONOMY



### With Ariane 6, Arianespace successfully launches EU's Galileo L14

Launched successfully on Wednesday, December 17, Ariane 6 carried two satellites of the European Galileo program into orbit. This marked the European heavy-lift rocket's fourth commercial flight, symbolizing Europe's regained autonomous access to space.

*Source: With Ariane 6, Arianespace successfully launches EU's Galileo L14, Arianespace's website, 17th December 2025.*



# SAVE THE DATES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

 *Click on each program to be redirected to the dedicated websites!*

## **AGENCE NATIONALE DE RECHERCHE**

 TOPIC: APPEL À PROPOSITIONS FRANCO-INDIEN EN MATHÉMATIQUES APPLIQUÉES ET INTELLIGENCE ARTIFICIELLE

 **Deadline: May 2026**




## **CAMPUS FRANCE SCHOLARSHIP**

 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE FRANCE EXCELLENCE CHARPAK – MASTERS SCHOLARSHIP

 **Deadline: 30th March 2026**



## **ONE HEALTH SUMMIT**

 France is organising the One Health Summit in Lyon, on 7<sup>th</sup> April on World Health Day. This summit will be preceded by an international scientific conference. More information [here](#).

 **Deadline: 7th April 2026**