



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विद्युक्तये

डॉ. अर्चना ठाकुर
संयुक्त सचिव

Dr. Archana Thakur
Joint Secretary



सत्यमेव जयते



विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

F. No. 28-1/2024(IC)

14 JUN 2024
June, 2024

Public Notice

India-France year of innovation

The visit of President of French Republic, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, as the Chief Guest for India's 75th Republic Day was declaration of 2026 as 'India-France Year of Innovation'. Innovation and Science & Technology partnerships have been at the foundation of India-France historic strategic partnership. This was reflected and recognized in 'Horizon 2047' road map adopted during Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to France as Guest of Honour for French National Day in July 2023.

This year '2026: Year of Innovation' would be an occasion to recognize and celebrate India-France collaboration in all aspects of our respective innovation ecosystem and encourage further exchanges and potentially new projects in related sectors. It would be marked by series of programmes and events, mobilizing stakeholders both from private and public sectors, in the network of relevant Ministries/Departments/Organizations.

The celebrations are proposed to be round the year in both countries and would include meetings, conferences and events etc. with the objective of (i) highlighting mutual innovation capacities, (ii) fostering bilateral exchanges between ecosystems in terms of innovation, (iii) creating synergies between all stakeholders including universities and research centers and (iv) promote mutual economic attractiveness between the two countries.

All the HEIs are requested to soliciting feedback on potential engagements with the French side on the topic of innovation.


(Dr. Archana Thakur)

Encl:-As above



“2026: FRANCE-INDIA YEAR OF INNOVATION”

CONCEPT NOTE

While they are both innovative and creative nations in the cultural, technological, scientific and economic fields, France and India still perceive themselves too often through the prism of outdated images which do not do justice to the reality of their know-how nor to the content of their cooperation.

India is not only a country of legends and centuries-old traditions, but it is also the 3rd startup ecosystem in the world (after the US and China), bringing together nearly 100,000 startups, 760 incubators and accelerators and 111 unicorns. It boasts of an ecosystem that is becoming more and more international and attractive to foreign companies, particularly French companies. France, for its part, is not the only country of gastronomy and luxury products. It is also the leading startup country in Europe with 29 unicorns and 25 000 startups, that have created more than 50 000 direct jobs. The French startup ecosystem has raised more than €13,5 billion in 2022. Sectors like space, IT, AI, green and blue economy are high on our respective national agendas and creativity is everywhere when French and Indians join hands to face the challenges of our time.

Innovation is already present in many of our partnerships, as shown by our “Horizon 2047” Roadmap. Many stakeholders of the French-India partnership have made innovation their *raison d'être*, like the Franco-Indian Center for Advanced Research (CEFIPRA), the Franco-Indian Campus in the field of health sciences, and both French and Indian companies operating in sectors where innovation is essential such as energy, infrastructure, smart city, aeronautics, space, urban transport, water management and waste treatment, railway, agri-food, services including IT, pharmacy/cosmetics, automotive industry, etc.

The France-India Year of Innovation (YOI) 2026 will aim to change traditional representations between France and India, and to showcase the new extent of our bilateral relationship, which is already reflected in our cooperation. The objective will be, beyond the year of innovation itself, to instill a new mantra in the bilateral relationship whose core is innovation. YOI must be a proactive initiative which encourages an approach based on partnerships, local initiatives and the sharing of common interests and objectives. It will be both a communication and content-based initiative.

This project will be based on the programming of a series of events throughout the year, starting on the French side with “*Bonjour India*” which, beyond the cultural message it has carried until now, will underscore our shared strategic vision, and which will be articulated with other initiatives. The objective should not be a one-off event but the organization throughout the year, in France and India, of meetings, conferences, and events of a cultural, scientific, and economic nature, both for the general public and select groups, with innovation in all areas as the common denominator. It will also consist of promoting in the long term a shared vision around structuring priorities, in favor of a model of responsible and inclusive innovation.

A detailed roadmap should be established and a steering committee formed in the coming weeks/months to:

- define the strategy in content and form (communication, logo, etc.),

- identify sectoral priorities that will be organized in the form of large clusters (for example: “air and space”; “health, well-being and food”; “organic, green and circular economy, including energy transition”; and “creative industries”);
- identify French and Indian partners;
- mobilize all relevant stakeholders (public and private sectors);
- Define a programme and define the output objectives which should make it possible to make the initiative sustainable.

Four final objectives could be sought:

- 1- Highlight our respective innovation companies and our creative capacities in all areas (including culture);
- 2- Encourage exchanges between the two ecosystems in terms of innovation;
- 3- Create synergies between all stakeholders - companies, universities, research centres, government agencies - likely to contribute to the creation of a “research-university cooperation-startups-market” continuum,
- 4- Promote the mutual economic attractiveness of our two countries.

On the French side, all the players of Team France in India will be involved: the Embassy, the *Alliances françaises network*, research institutes, educational establishments, companies, the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry, French Tech, etc., with support from relevant organizations/administrations in France.

The aim will be to encourage, unite and highlight all initiatives likely to illustrate the innovative capacity of France and India. The culmination of the Year of Innovation could be the establishment of a Franco-Indian innovation platform (to be discussed/confirmed) intended to sustain the momentum initiated in 2026 to identify and support innovative cooperation projects (beyond what CEFIPRA already does in the field of research).

Combining private and public sectors and focusing on the structuring priorities of our two countries, this platform could be an opportunity to:

- set up new mechanisms focused in particular on the deepening of academic and scientific cooperation,
- create innovation circles to generate industrial partnerships and the signing of cooperation agreements.

Each country would be the only one to decide on its own programme, its method of financing and its organization, but we would coordinate to make innovation our common communication theme throughout the year and to bring out joint initiatives.

It is proposed that the two leaders announce this project during the presidential visit. Details will be discussed later.