

Call for Proposals

Indo-French Emerging Project Partnerships Programme

Eligibility: At least 1 Indian and 1 French Academic PIs and 1 young scientist from each country. Industry Participation also welcomed (industries, startups ...)

Funding Support: International Travel (Scientist/ Students only) with project total funding support not exceeding Rs. 45 Lakhs approx. (Euros 50.000) for both sides for entire duration including institutional Overheads

Duration: 1 year (*Minimum*)/ 2 years / 3 years (*Maximum*)

Areas: Decarbonized Hydrogen, Applied Mathematics & AI, Marine Sciences and Health Sciences.

Deadline: 28th February, 2026

Intro

The primary aim of the Indo-French Emerging Project Partnerships Programme is to support scientists to initiate new cooperation for strengthening the overall Indo-French S&T Network. The funding under the programme is dedicated to international visits of scientists including students from both sides under the joint project mode.

The programme is funded by Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Govt. of France through CEFIPRA as platform for promotion of S&T between India & France.

Objectives

- To promote quality scientific and technological exchanges between research organizations and research institutions of higher education from both countries.
- To expand and strengthen the Indo-French S&T Network with new collaborations of scientists including students leading to more impactful joint projects.

Areas

All STEM areas are eligible. However, priority/preference will be given to following:

- Decarbonized Hydrogen
- Applied Mathematics & Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Health Sciences
- Marine Sciences

Transdisciplinary projects including humanities and social sciences applied to STEM may also apply.

Eligibility

PIs (Principle Investigators) and Co-PIs from both countries must be from the academic sector, with following requirements:

- **On Indian side:** PIs should hold a permanent/tenure position (till the project completion) as scientists/ faculty members in universities/ deemed universities, academic institutes and national research and development laboratories/institutes.
- **On French side:** PIs have should hold a permanent/tenure position as scientists/ faculty members in universities/ deemed universities, academic institutes and national research and development laboratories/institutes.

Other scientists including young scientists and PhD students (from both India and France) can also be included as **participants**:

- Junior Scientists (PhD defense \leq 10 years at the date of call closure) from the same or other Laboratories/Universities/Institutes (India/ France)
- Senior Scientists (PhD defense $>$ 10 years at the date of call closure) from the same or other Laboratories/Universities/Institutes (India/ France)
- Scientists from Industries (India/France) with active research activities
- Post-Doctoral Scientists
- PhD Students

The projects should involve at least 2 scientists from each side, including for each side the PI and one young scientist or post-doctoral scientist or PhD student. There is no restriction on maximum participants within a project.

The list of expected participants must be provided during submission.

Project Funding and Duration:

The support will be given for international travel only (including airfare -India to France & vice-versa-, daily allowance,) for researchers/PIs, Post-Doctoral Fellows, Ph.D Students, as per CEFIPRA norms (**Annexure I**). Duration of each stay has to be defined in the proposal, in accordance with the scientific objectives of the project.

Overhead to Institutes will be maximum 5 % of the total budget for each side.

Total funding per project will be not exceeding Rs. 45 Lakhs (Euros 50.000) for both sides for entire duration of project (including institute overheads)

No other costs such as fellowship, recurring, equipment, etc. will be considered under the project.

Evaluation of Project Proposal:

All the proposals will have initial scrutiny at CEFIPRA, followed by evaluation by Scientific Expert Committee comprising of members from India & France. The criteria for selection includes:

- The scientific merit of the proposal
 - The quality of the scientific project
 - The innovative nature of the collaboration
 - The anticipated scientific or industrial benefits
 - The ability of the French and Indian teams to complete the project
 - The quality of the French and Indian infrastructures
 - Projects on truly innovative subjects
- The complementarity of the teams
 - The need for the French/Indian team to work with the proposed foreign partner
 - The complementarity of the two teams
 - The mutual transfer of competencies
 - The mobility of doctoral candidates and/or young scientists
 - Projects submitted for multiple partnerships
- The novelty and middle term potential of cooperation
 - The involvement in the project of junior and senior scientists
 - Young scientists are strongly encouraged to apply as project leaders
 - No previous project funded by CEFIPRA between the 2 teams (exception may occur and should be justified)
 - Adequate protection and fair distribution of all intellectual property resulting from the completion of joint projects

Submission:

Proposals are to be submitted online at <https://www.cefipraonline.in/CEFIPRA/>

All the PI/Co-PIs must register in the portal and complete their profile before submission of proposal. Following documents are required to be submitted in online portal in prescribed formats (English only):

- a. Research Proposal
- b. Joint Submission Agreement
- c. Certificate from HoD of Indian Academic PI/Co-PIs
- d. Certificate from HoD of French Academic PI/Co-PIs
- e. CV of Indian PI/Co-PIs
- f. CV of French PI/Co-PIs

Proposals received after due date will not be considered for evaluation.

Calendar and steps after scientific acceptance

- 15th December, 2025: Publication of call
- **28th Feb., 2026: Deadline for submission of joint proposals**
- March-June, 2026: Evaluations of Joint Selection Committee
- June/July, 2026: Notification of grants and publication of results

The rights of Intellectual Property (IP) arising from the programme shall be, in principle, the joint property of the project participants and their employing institutions. In respect of each result, which is to be protected, the project participants shall decide the modalities of protecting the rights. For each selected joint proposal, the project participants shall prepare a joint Intellectual Property Management Plan. A template for this IP Plan will be provided to partner institutions of this programme. Fund will be released only after receiving of the mutually accepted IP management Plan.

Government Clearance and Start of Project

The recommended projects will require Sensitivity & Security Clearances by Indian and French Governments respectively. Fund will be released only after receiving the clearance and then joint stating date of project will be confirmed among collaborators.

Progress Review of Projects

The progress of the project will be reviewed on annual basis by the Scientific Expert Committee comprising of members from India & France. The following documents are to be submitted by PIs:

- Joint Annual Progress Report
- Joint Final Completion Report (After project completion)
- Annual Statement of Expenditures (SE.UC)
- Consolidated Statement of Expenditure of project (After project completion)

For further information please contact:

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Annexure-I

Rates Applicable for International Travel under CEFIPRA Projects

(FRANCE TO INDIA)

SCIENTISTS/COLLABORATORS:

*Air fare	Euro 1.200 (maximum)
Per diem Allowances (Food Expenses)	Rs. 2700 per day
* Accommodation charges	Rs. 7000 per day**
* Miscellaneous charges like Insurance, Taxi charges etc in India and in France in total	Euro 175 (Maximum)

* Maximum or actual basis, whichever is less.

** If rate is above Rs. 7000, to intimate Director, CEFIPRA. in advance

FOR PhD STUDENTS:

*Air fare	Euro 1.200 (maximum)
Per diem Allowances (Food Expenses)	Rs. 800 per day
*Accommodation charges	Rs. 1500 per day (maximum)
*Miscellaneous charges like Insurance, Taxi charges etc in India and in France	Euro 175(Maximum)

*Maximum or actual basis, whichever is less.

FOR POST-DOCS:

*Air fare	Euro 1.200 (maximum)
Per diem Allowances (Food Expenses)	Rs. 1000 per day
*Accommodation charges	Rs. 1500 per day (maximum)
*Miscellaneous charges like Insurance, Taxi charges etc in India and in France	Euro 175(Maximum)

*Maximum or actual basis, whichever is less.

(INDIA TO FRANCE)

1) SCIENTISTS/COLLABORATORS:

Per diem Allowances	Euro 60 per day
*Accommodation charges	Euro 128 per day (Maximum)
*Local Transport in France	Euro 15 per day (Maximum)
*Airfare	Rs. 90,000/-(Maximum)
*Other Expenses (Travel Insurance, Taxi charges etc.) total	Rs. 15,000/- (Maximum)

***Maximum or actual basis, whichever is less.**

2) FOR PhD STUDENTS:

Per diem Allowances, Accommodation charges & Local Transport in France	Euro 1500 per month (All inclusive)
*Airfare	Rs. 90,000/-(Maximum)
* Other Expenses (Travel Insurance, taxi charges etc.)	Rs. 15,000/- (Maximum)

***Maximum or actual basis, whichever is less.**

3) FOR POST-DOCS:

Per diem Allowances, Accommodation charges & Local Transport in France	Euro 2000 per month (All inclusive)
*Airfare	Rs. 90,000/-(Maximum)
* Other Expenses (Travel Insurance, taxi charges etc.)	Rs. 15,000/- (Maximum)

***Maximum or actual basis, whichever is less**