



## PRESS RELEASE

**KNOWLEDGE SUMMIT 3**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Indo-French Summit on Higher Education, Research & Innovation**  
**24-26 November 2021**

New Delhi, 19 November 2021

The French Institute, Embassy of France in India is organizing the third edition of the Knowledge Summit (KS3) from 24 to 26 November 2021 as an online event co-hosted by Savitribai Phule Pune University, in partnership with France's Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA).

The Summit will be opened by H.E. Mme Frédérique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Government of France, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Honorable Minister of Education, and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, and Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

### About the Knowledge Summit

The Knowledge Summit (KS) is a bilateral forum dedicated to scientific and academic cooperation between France and India. The first edition was held in New Delhi in March 2018, during the State visit of President Emmanuel Macron in the presence of the ministers of Education of the two countries and over 300 participants. KS2 took place in Lyon, France in October 2019 and brought together more than 400 participants from academia, government and industry in the presence of H.E. Mme Frédérique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation of France.

KS3 will focus on research and scientific activities. The main objective is to promote the tools and methods for better structuring our cooperation. It is an opportunity for our respective countries to underline the success of our scientific collaboration, identify new leads of joint research, and discuss ideas on tackling global challenges.

The first day will be devoted to plenary sessions and be followed by two days of scientific workshops organized in parallel on the following five topics:

- One Health

- Marine sciences
- Artificial Intelligence
- Sustainable energy
- Green chemistry, biotechnology and natural resources

The online event is free through prior registration at [www.ifindia.in/knowledge-summit](http://www.ifindia.in/knowledge-summit).

Around 100 speakers will share and exchange ideas on scientific topics as well as transversal challenges such as open science or the dialogue between health sciences and society.

#### *Knowledge Summit objectives: strengthening India-France relationship*

India-France relations are marked by mutual trust between two strategic partners who have always stood by each other. This long-standing partnership includes people-to-people ties in the scientific domain, which France and India decided to expand.

In the context of developing “knowledge economies”, research and higher education activities are being strongly internationalized, as shown by the international co-publication rate of over 50% for most of the top scientific countries. India’s new policies in this field, particularly the “*National Education Policy NEP 2020*” and the “*Science Technology and Innovation Policy STIP 2020*” led to a very high demand for structuring international collaborations on the part of Indian institutions. Moreover, lasting, in-depth and structured collaborations are the cornerstone of research activities. The Knowledge Summit is a key instrument to achieve this objective.

Education, training and upskilling is an important area of cooperation. After the target of having 10,000 Indian students study in France, set during the State visit of President Emmanuel Macron in 2018, both sides decided to enhance the goal to hosting 20,000 students in France by 2025. The exchange of scientists, faculty and students is expected to grow in both directions. The France-India PhD Tour, conducted virtually on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2021, attracted thousands of students, scholars and professors from across India.

With a share of 7.8% of India’s international scientific co-publications, France is India’s fifth scientific partner globally. The Knowledge Summit will give visibility to emblematic projects and programmes of both countries and highlight the most significant research results achieved.

## PROGRAMME

### Day 1 – 24 November – Plenary Sessions

14:00 - 14:30 (IST)

#### **Opening ceremony**

*Prof Nitin R Karmalkar, Honorable Vice Chancellor Savitribai Phule Pune University*

*M. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Honorable Minister of Education, Govt. of India*

*H.E. Mrs. Frédérique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Govt. of France*

*Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India*

14:30 - 15:15

#### **Plenary session - Indo-French scientific cooperation in 2021**

Summary of scientific and academic cooperation between France and India: joint projects and laboratories (CEFIPRA, CNRS, CSH and IFP, IRD, INRIA, INRAE, etc.), programs (CEFIPRA, DST, DBT, ISRO, etc.), mobility and agreements, analysis of co-publications between France and India, Contribution to H2020, R&D from private sector and implementation of roadmaps proposed in the previous Knowledge Summits

*Prof. K. Vijayaraghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor, Govt. of India*

*Dr Nicolas Gherardi, Deputy Counsellor for Education, Science and Culture, Embassy of France in India*

*Dr Purnima Rupal, Director of the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA)*

15:15 - 16:15

#### **Panel discussion - Open Science**

Open science now occupies an important place in national scientific strategies. It is strongly highlighted in India's new Science Technology and Innovation Policy STIP2020, on a model similar to that of the European Union. In France, the National Plan for Open Science aims at spreading open science practices: sharing and having open access to research data, and promoting source codes produced by research. With regard to the respective strategies of the two countries, this round table will identify a first possible area of collaboration.

*Moderators: Dr Kasturi Mandal, National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Delhi*

*Dr Srinivasa Kaveri, Director, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Office in India, (CNRS), New Delhi*

*Experts: Dr Geetha Vani Rayasam, Head of Science Communication and Dissemination Directorate, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Delhi*

*Mr Sanjeev Kumar Varshney, Head of International Bilateral Cooperation Division, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, Delhi*

*Dr Akhilesh Gupta, Adviser & Head, SPLICE & Climate Change Programme, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, Delhi*

*Prof. Sylvie Rousset, Director of CNRS Scientific and Technical Information Department (DIST), Paris*

*Dr Rene Von Schomberg, Team Leader - Policy officer - Open Science Policy Coordination and Development, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission, Brussels*

*Dr Benoit Pier, DR CNRS, Fluid Mechanics and Acoustics Laboratory (LMFA), Lyon*

16:15 – 17:15

### **Panel Discussion - Health and Society**

Improving public health policies requires society at large to have an understanding of the issues at stake. The current pandemic has shown how important it is for leaders' communication to be based on solid scientific expertise to gain acceptance of measures and constraints and ultimately fight more effectively against Covid-19. How to succeed in raising awareness in society about the benefit of specific actions? How can healthcare researchers, particularly infectious disease specialists, be called upon to ensure that their work and knowledge are used for the purposes of communication and decision-making?

This session aims at discussing the theme of scientific communication "from the laboratory to society" to understand the major issues, the technologies used and the progress made to promote better acceptance of measures and increase confidence in them, for example in medical innovations.

*Moderator: Mr Siddharth Kankaria, Communications & Program Coordinator at Simons Centre, NCBS Bangalore*

*Experts: Dr Gagandeep Kang, Professor Department of Gastrointestinal Sciences, Christian Medical College, Vellore*

*Dr Srinath Reddy, President, Public health foundation of India (PHFI), New - Delhi*

*Mrs Charlotte Marchandise-Franquet, International expert in public health policy, Rennes*

*Dr Olivier Telle, urban health geographer at CNRS, CSH, Paris-New-Delhi*

17:15 - 17:45

### **Scientific conference – Strengthening the Mathematical foundations for enabling field deployable AI models: An Indo-French collaborative effort**

*By Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharyya, Dean of Computer Science and Automation Department, Indian Institute of Science (IISc). His research activities focus on the foundations of Machine Learning, optimization and their industrial applications. He regularly collaborates with several French researchers.*

Harnessing the transformational power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for betterment of society is now a well-recognized global goal. Achieving this goal will crucially depend on developing efficient algorithms which can aid in learning models from diverse and large collections of data. Indo-French collaborative efforts shed new light on several classical problems in mathematical foundations of AI. Applications of related research has led to field deployable models in Social Robotics and diagnosing X-ray images, now launched all over India as X-raySetu.

## Day 2 – 25 November

14:00-14:30

### **Scientific Conference - Tara Oceans: Eco-Systems Biology at Planetary Scale**

*By Dr Chris Bowler, research director at CNRS, Director of the Plant and Algae Genomics Laboratory at the Biology Institute of the École normale supérieure (ENS-CNRS-INSERM). He currently holds the chair “Biodiversity and Ecosystems” at Collège de France. His main research interest is to understand the response of plants to environmental signals thanks to genomics. He is one of the scientific coordinators of the Tara Ocean project aimed at exploring the biodiversity, ecology and evolution of plankton in the world's oceans.*

The ocean is the largest ecosystem on Earth and yet we know very little about it. This is particularly true for the plankton that drift within, even though they form the base of marine food webs and are key players in Earth’s biogeochemical cycles. To increase our understanding of this underexplored world, a multidisciplinary consortium, Tara Oceans, was formed around the 36m research schooner Tara, which sampled plankton at more than 210 sites and multiple depth layers in all the major oceanic regions during expeditions from 2009-2013. The talk will summarize the foundational resources from the project, which collectively represent the largest DNA sequencing effort for the oceans, and analyses that illustrate several aspects of the Tara Oceans’ eco-systems biology approach to address microbial contributions to ecological and evolutionary processes.

		<b>Scientific Workshops (parallel sessions)</b>				
14:30 - 17:30	<i>3 hr</i>	<b>One Health</b> <i>(infectious diseases)</i>	<b>Marine Sciences</b>	<b>Artificial Intelligence</b>	<b>Sustainable energy</b> <i>(Storage &amp; EV)</i>	<b>Green chemistry, biotechnology and natural resources</b>

### Day 3 – 26 November

14:00 - 17:00	<i>3 hr</i>	<b>Scientific Workshops (parallel sessions)</b>				
		<b>One Health</b>	<b>Marine Sciences</b>	<b>Artificial Intelligence</b>	<b>Sustainable energy</b>	<b>Green chemistry, biotechnology and natural resources</b>

More information about Knowledge Summit is available at [www.ifindia.in/knowledge-summit](http://www.ifindia.in/knowledge-summit).

#### **About IFI**

The French Institute in India / IFI (Institut français India) is the Education, Science and Culture department of the Embassy of France in India. It facilitates academic and scientific exchanges between higher institutes of learning and research, enables student mobility, promotes the French language and artistic and cultural partnerships. Cooperation between India and France takes place through a number of sectors: Arts & Culture, Books & Ideas, French Language & Education, Study in France programme, Academic Partnerships, Science & Technology, as well as Innovation and Multimedia.

[www.ifindia.in](http://www.ifindia.in)

#### **About Savitribai Phule Pune University**

Savitribai Phule Pune University, one of the premier universities in India, is located in Pune. It was established in 1949 under the Poona University Act. The university houses 46 academic departments. It is popularly known as the 'Oxford of the East'. It has about 307 recognized research institutes and 612 affiliated colleges offering graduate and under-graduate courses.

<http://www.unipune.ac.in>

#### **About CNRS**

The French National Centre for Scientific Research is among the world's leading research institutions. Its scientists explore the living world, matter, the Universe, and the functioning of human societies in order to meet the major challenges of today and tomorrow. Internationally recognised for the excellence of its scientific research, the CNRS is a reference in the world of research and development, as well as for the general public.

<https://www.cnrs.fr/>

## About CEFIPRA

Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA) is a model for international collaborative research in advanced areas of Science & Technology. The Centre was established in 1987 and is supported by Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of France. CEFIPRA is actively involved in supporting Indo-French Science, Technology & Innovation (ST&I) system through various activities. The Scientific Collaborative Research Programme focuses on academia-to-academia collaborations between Indian and French academic collaborators in various domains. The Industry Academia Research & Development Programme works on developing the linkage between industry and academia from France and India. Dedicated mobility support programmes of CEFIPRA provide exposure to young researchers of the working, social and cultural environment of the partnering country.

<http://www.cefipra.org/>

**For details, interactions and interviews, please contact:**

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