



Joint Call for Proposals 2025/26

Between

Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique (Inria)

Under Indo-French Programme in Information and Communication Science & Technology (ICST)
Targeted Programme of CEFIPRA

(Deadline for Submitting Proposals: 16th October, 2025)

Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique (Inria) launch a joint call for proposals to foster collaboration between scientific Communities of two countries in the area of Information and Communication Science & Technology.

In India, on behalf of the Department of Science & Technology, Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) invites proposals from the Indian scientists / researchers, organize expert & review committee meetings for management/ disbursement of funds to the approved projects, etc.

Areas of Collaboration (targeted topic for the call)

The Project proposal will be supported in the following scientific areas:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Cybersecurity
- Digital Health

Eligibility

Applicants from both countries must fulfil the following requirements:

On the Indian side: Applicants have should hold a permanent position as scientists/ faculty members in universities/ deemed universities, academic institutes and national research and development laboratories/institutes.

On the French side: On the French side: Applicants have to carry out their research activity in an Inria project-team. Please visit Inria website for further details.

<https://www.inria.fr/en/call-for-projects-international-partnerships-associate-teams-2026>

Application:

The joint proposal shall be written in English. Proposal submitted to only one Party will not be considered. All applicants must fulfil their national eligibility rules for research grant. A format is given for the submission of proposal. Applicants from Indian side should ensure that French collaborator must submit the proposal to Inria (who wants to collaborate with Inria Research Team)

Only Indian PI has to apply to CEFIPRA whereas French PI has to apply to Inria separately with same proposal as per procedures indicated by Inria in its call for proposals.

Proposals received after due date or received on only one side will not be considered for evaluation

Evaluation of Project Proposal:

After the closure date of Call, DST/CEFIPRA and Inria will exchange list of proposals, received on their side. Commonly received proposals will be evaluated by DST/CEFIPRA, and Inria according to their own evaluation rules, and will rank the proposals based on scientific quality and interest.

The evaluation criteria will be based on the following:

- Relevance of the proposal to the call
- Technical and Scientific quality of the proposal
- Quality of the project management & methodology
- Global Impact of the proposal
- Quality of the consortium and good synergies between the partners
- Mobilization of resources
- Added value to be expected from French-Indian research collaboration
- Balanced Scientific and Financial contribution

Based on the scientific evaluation, national ranking, and consensus reached through discussions, a joint committee will select the joint project (s) to be supported.

Project funding:

Jointly selected proposals will be funded in India by DST through CEFIPRA and in France by Inria (for Inria Research Team). The joint proposal must meet the criteria of the funding institutions for consideration. Each project will be funded for a period of three years. The indicative funding from each side will be up to Euro 10.000-15.000 (Rs. 10- 15 lakhs) per project per year. The support will be given under the following heads:

- International travel (including airfare (India to France & vice-versa), daily allowance, accommodation and domestic travel in the receiving country during a participant's stay abroad) for researchers, engineers, post-doctoral Fellows, Ph.D Students, as per CEFIPRA norms ([Click here to download](#))
- Support for JRF /SRF / RA/ PDF (as per DST's guidelines) ([Click here to download](#))
- Contingency up to Rs. 50,000 per year
- Over Head to institute as per DST norms

The cost of accident and sickness insurance during travel will not be supported under this Programme. Since, the project is supported mainly for collaboration; applicants have to indicate about the status of co-funding.

Intellectual Property:

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.

Guidelines for submission of applications:

DST advises Indian applicants to make sure that their French partner is eligible to apply for funding from Inria.

Proposal to CEFIPRA is to be submitted by only Indian PI at the online submission system of DST-Inria Targeted Programme (<https://www.cefipra.org/DST-Inria.aspx>) after pre arranging all the relevant documents.

Prescribed formats are as follows:

- i. **Scientific Proposal** ([Click here to download](#))
- ii. **No Objection Certificate from HoD** ([Click here to download](#))
- iii. **Joint Submission Agreement** ([Click here to download](#))

Indian Collaborators must name the documents as follows (in red text) before uploading in online system:

- a. Research Proposal: **Proposal**
- b. Joint Submission Agreement: **Agreement**
- c. Certificate from HoD of Indian PI and Co-PIs: **Certificate1**
- d. Certificate from HoD of French PI and Co-PIs: **Certificate2**
- e. Passport Copy of Indian PI: **Passport1**
- f. Passport Copy of French PI: **Passport2**
- g. CV of Indian PI and Co-PIs: **Indian CV1**
- h. CV of French PI and Co-PIs: **French CV2**

Hardcopy of application in prescribed proposal format and other relevant documents along with joint submission agreement signed by both the partners and certificates duly signed by Heads of the Institutions should also be submitted to the Director, Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research, 5B, Ground Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003 (India) on or before **16th October, 2025**.

Proposal in online submission system is to be submitted in advance before sending the hardcopy.

Proposals received after due date or received on only one side will not be considered for evaluation.

Important Dates:

- 16th July, 2025: publication of the call
- 16th October, 2025: deadline for submission of joint proposals
- October/ December, 2025: national evaluations
- November/ December, 2025: Joint Selection Committee
- January / February 2026 : notification of grants and publication of results

(Deadline for Submitting of proposals: 16th October, 2025)

For further information please contact:

Prof. Nitin Seth,

Director

Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research

5B, Ground Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003 (India)

Tel : (+91-11) 24682251, (+91-11) 24682252

Website: www.cefipra.org

(Attn: **Mr. Kunal Kasariya**, Scientific Officer, CEFIPRA; E-mail: kunal@cefipra.org)

Office Tel. No +91 11 24682251, +91 11 24682252

For Inria reseachers:

Mr. Thomas Amand

International Partnerships Officer- Asia, Russia and Oceania,

Inria Headquarters, Domaine de Voluceau, Rocquencourt - BP 105

78153 Le Chesnay Cedex France Phone: +33 1 39 63 57 68, e-mail thomas.amand@inria.fr

www.inria.fr