

Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR) is a model for bilateral cooperation in Science and Technology. The Centre established in 1987 receives financial support from the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of France.

Mandate

To promote collaborative research between India and France in cutting edge Science and Technology

Genesis

The idea of setting up a joint Centre for promoting collaboration between Indian and French scientists came up first during a discussion between the then Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the then French President Mr. Valery Giscard d'Estaing. This suggestion was reiterated by the French President Mr. Valery Giscard d'Estaing in 1980.

The first formal proposal for the Centre was made during the second meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee for Co-operation in Science and Technology which took place in Paris, in January 1982. After a series of meetings between representatives of the two governments, the formal decision to set up the Centre was taken through exchange of letters between the Foreign Secretary of India and *Sécretaire Général* of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1985.

The Centre was registered as a Society under the Indian Societies Registration Act in April 1986; the Governing Body of the Centre first met in May 1987; and the Centre became functional on September 9, 1987, when the first Director of the Centre assumed charge.

Objectives

- Promotion of cooperation in advanced areas of fundamental and applied scientific research between India and France.
- Development of cooperation through identification of scientists and scientific institutions of the two countries likely to cooperate in a profitable way.
- Provision of complementary support to the research institutes for engaging doctoral and post-doctoral researchers.
- Provision of assistance in the form of grants for consumables and small equipments necessary for achieving the objectives of the project.
- Exchange visits for Indian and French scientists providing an opportunity to work in French and Indian laboratories.
- Organization of workshops/seminars and other for a for scientists of both countries to interact on topics of mutual interest.
- Promotion of applied/industrial research projects through collaboration between educational & research institutions and industry.