

Dr. Jitendra Singh holds bilateral meeting with French Minister India-France ties set for expansion in space, AI and emerging technologies

India-France Science and Space Ties Gain Fresh Momentum; Ministers Review Progress and Future Roadmap

2026 Indo-French Year of Innovation to Drive Next Phase of Bilateral Collaboration: Dr. Jitendra Singh

India, France Explore New Frontiers in AI, Applied Mathematics and Advanced Materials Cooperation: Dr. Jitendra Singh

French Minister Philippe Baptiste Proposes Enhanced Collaboration in Human Spaceflight with India

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Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today held a bilateral meeting via video conference with Prof. Philippe Baptiste, France's Minister for Higher Education, Research and Space, reviewing the expanding canvas of India-France cooperation in science, technology and space.

The interaction reflected the depth of the long-standing India-France strategic partnership, with both sides expressing satisfaction over the sustained momentum in collaboration, particularly in high-technology domains.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that India-France engagement in science and space has evolved into a strong pillar of bilateral relations, contributing to both technological advancement and closer people-to-people connect. He noted that the declaration of 2026 as the Indo-French Year of Innovation offers a significant opportunity to scale up collaboration in emerging areas.

Referring to recent developments, the Minister spoke about the strengthening of institutional partnerships between the Department of Science and Technology and leading French organisations, including new initiatives in advanced materials and digital sciences, as well as the joint call on Applied Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence launched this year.

On space cooperation, Dr. Jitendra Singh referred to the long history of collaboration between ISRO and CNES, including joint satellite missions such as Megha-Tropiques and SARAL, and ongoing work on TRISHNA. He also mentioned cooperation on NavIC ground station development in France and acknowledged France's support in India's Gaganyaan mission.

The Minister further shared that India's space sector has seen rapid expansion following recent reforms, with a growing ecosystem of nearly 400 space startups and strong projections for the space economy in the coming years, creating new opportunities for deeper industry-level partnerships between the two countries.

Prof. Philippe Baptiste, Minister for Higher Education, Research and Space, France, described India as a key and trusted partner in space and research cooperation. Recalling his earlier engagement with ISRO, he highlighted the strong legacy of collaboration and expressed interest in further strengthening cooperation across Earth observation, launch systems and space exploration.

Prof. Philippe Baptiste proposed enhanced collaboration in ocean-related data sharing through the "Space for Ocean Alliance" and suggested closer engagement between CNES and Indian institutions. He also conveyed readiness to expand cooperation in human spaceflight, including training, microgravity experiments and long-term collaborative opportunities.

Referring to global engagement, Prof. Baptiste invited India to participate actively in the International Space Summit to be held in Paris in September 2026, suggesting alignment with India's Bengaluru space event to create a coordinated global platform for space discussions.

Responding to the proposals, Dr. Jitendra Singh welcomed the initiatives and indicated India's openness to further collaboration in ocean research and human spaceflight. He also highlighted India's Deep Ocean Mission and its extensive coastline as key strengths in advancing ocean-related partnerships.

Both sides also acknowledged the important role played by the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) in sustaining long-term scientific collaboration and fostering research partnerships across institutions.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to further deepen India-France cooperation in science, technology and space, leveraging innovation, research capabilities and growing industry participation for mutual and global benefit.





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