

PRESS RELEASE

Paris-Saclay, 18 February 2026

Université Paris-Saclay strengthens strategic cooperation with India: two major partnerships signed

During the state visit of the President of the French Republic to India, Université Paris-Saclay is reinforcing its international presence by signing two partnerships with leading Indian higher education institutions and sending a university delegation to strengthen collaborations in this strategic region.

From 16 to 20 February, New Delhi is hosting the fourth Global Summit on Artificial Intelligence, bringing together more than 100 countries and nearly 35 heads of state or government, including the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron. His state visit is part of the 2026 Franco-Indian Year of Innovation and of the High-Level University and Scientific Meetings (RUSH) on the future of cooperation between the two countries, organised by the French Embassy at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi's leading hospital and research center, on 18 and 19 February.

The Université Paris-Saclay is represented by **Rachid Bennacer**, vice-president for research in sciences and engineering; **Frédéric Pascal**, vice-president for artificial intelligence and director of DatalA, Université Paris-Saclay's research and training institute in artificial intelligence; and Romain Soubeyran, director general of CentraleSupélec, one of the university's four *grandes écoles*, with a decade of scientific and educational partnerships with India. The delegation also includes **Lucas Tourny**, Executive Director of DatalA; **Didier Clouteau**, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of CentraleSupélec; and **Alena Bogdanova**, Project and International Partnerships Officer at Université Paris-Saclay's Office of International and European Relations.

The delegation's mission is to consolidate strategic partnerships with IIT Bombay, a world leader in engineering and fundamental sciences, and BITS Pilani, a leading university in innovation, technological education, engineering and entrepreneurship, and to develop targeted collaborations in science, AI, and engineering.

On 18 February, **Rachid Bennacer** will sign an agreement on bilateral student exchanges with Prof. Milind Atrey, Deputy Director – ART (Academics, Research and Translation) at IIT Bombay, in the presence of the President of the French Republic. Université Paris-Saclay and IIT Bombay, both ranked among the world's top institutions in science and technology, share a common commitment to academic excellence. This student exchange agreement marks a decisive step in strengthening their partnership. It will promote student mobility, cultural exchanges, the development of joint projects, and the reinforcement of strategic scientific collaborations, notably in the fields of chemistry and energy.

Romain Soubeyran will also sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of Université Paris-Saclay with Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor at the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (BITS Pilani), a private institution ranked among India's most prestigious universities in science and technology. This MoU builds on CentraleSupélec's ties with the Indian university, as illustrated by the launch in August 2025 of a four-year English-language bachelor's programme in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence. This partnership with Université Paris-Saclay expands the scope of collaboration beyond AI, particularly in research, to include engineering sciences, computer science, applied mathematics, pharmacy, health and environmental health sciences,

biotechnology, chemistry, and the humanities.

Roundtables will be held over the course of 18 and 19 February. Romain Soubeyran will speak alongside Deepak Gupta, Deputy CEO of Safran Electronics & Defense India, on the topic of “*A Strategy For Engineering Studies.*” Rachid Bennacer will give a joint presentation with Prof. Milind Atrey on Université Paris-Saclay’s cooperation strategy with India in education, research, and innovation

Université Paris-Saclay welcomes this strengthened spirit of cooperation with India, a strategic partner for France, both in terms of student mobility and the development of high-level scientific and technological collaborations.

ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

Université Paris-Saclay was born from the shared ambition of French universities, grandes écoles and national research organizations. As a leading university in Europe and the world, it covers the fields of science and engineering, life sciences and health, and humanities and social sciences. The university’s science policy closely intertwines research and innovation, incorporating both basic and applied science to tackle major societal challenges. Université Paris-Saclay offers a varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level degrees, including programmes with its grandes écoles, all of which are focused on achieving student success and employability. The university prepares students for an ever-changing world where the ability to think critically, remain agile and renew one’s skills are crucial. Université Paris-Saclay also offers a comprehensive range of lifelong learning courses. Located to the south of Paris, the university extends across a vast and rich local area. Its location strengthens both its international visibility and its close ties with its socio-economic partners (major companies, SMEs, start-ups, local authorities, charities). www.universite-paris-saclay.fr



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