

PRESS INVITATION

Prof. Antoine Petit
Chairman-CEO of the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)
visits India on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Institution

Monday, 16th December 2019

New Delhi, 12th December 2019

Interaction with the press is scheduled on

Monday, 16th December 2019
between 5.30-6.30 pm
at the French Institute in India
2, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi – 110011

You are cordially invited to schedule an interview.

Founded in 1939, the CNRS is the heart of scientific research in France and is one of the most powerful and prestigious research organisations in the world with **22 Nobel Laureates** and **12 Fields Medal winners**. As a celebration to its **80th anniversary** this year, Chairman and CEO, **Prof. Antoine Petit**, a university professor with expertise in Mathematics and Computer Science, has been on a science round-the-world trip. Witness to the growing scientific collaboration with India, Prof. Petit chose to conclude his tour here, with special visits to his counterparts and high level government meetings.

Prof. Antoine Petit's visit comes at a time when **Indo-French relations in science, innovation and higher education** are witnessing a most constructive and productive phase, in which the role of the CNRS on the French side has been crucial.

Longstanding cooperation between **India and CNRS** is attested by the exchange of several hundred students and scientists, in particular through bilateral research projects promoted by the **Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA)**. Over the years, the CNRS has signed many **scientific cooperation agreements with Indian key research players**. It has set up **International Joint Laboratories**, such as the ones set up with IISc, Bangalore and the Chennai Mathematical Institute. The research cooperation spans the **entire range of science and technologies** including social sciences and humanities. It aims more importantly at tackling global **societal challenges**, with special on **Artificial Intelligence, energy, water and health** among others.

In this context, the visit of Prof. Antoine Petit is an important step towards the development of Indo-French scientific collaborations.

Note to editors

About Antoine Petit



Prof. Antoine Petit received his PhD in **Computer Science** from Paris Diderot University (1985). He joined ENS Paris - Saclay in 1994 as full Professor and became head of the Computer science department from 1995 to 2001. In 2002, he was appointed as Deputy Director of the French ministry of research directorate, in charge of mathematics, information and communication science. In 2004, he joined the CNRS as Director of the Information & Communication Sciences and Technologies Department. In **January 2018, he became the President and CEO of CNRS**. Antoine Petit is « Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur and Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite », one of the highest national French awards.

CNRS: The CNRS employs 33,000 people dedicated to research including over 15,000 researchers. It has 1,144 research laboratories in France and abroad. It boasts 22 Nobel Laureates and 12 Fields Medal winners. The **CNRS** founding values were quest for **excellence** and **freedom of ideas and action**. Covering fields as diverse as social sciences and humanities, linguistics, political science, mathematics, computer science, engineering, energy, materials, the environment or the climate, the Centre promotes **interdisciplinarity**. Over the years, it has developed prestigious tie-ups with research centres all over the world.

Website

<http://www.cnrs.fr/en>

For more information and to set up interviews, please contact :

comm@ifindia.in / + 91 9810434363