

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC
TO FACILITATE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF
ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA,
and THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,
hereinafter referred to as the « Parties»,

RECALLING the Agreement concerning cultural, scientific and technical cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic signed on 7th June 1966;

WISHING to develop relations between the Parties in the fields of education and research;

HAVING REGARD to the tradition of cooperation and exchange between the two countries' higher education institutions, embodied by the signing of numerous agreements;

HAVING REGARD to the desirability of encouraging mobility of students from both countries by facilitating possibilities for them to continue their studies in the other country;

CONVINCED that mutual recognition of qualifications and study periods between the two countries in view of continuing studies in the partner country, in addition to encouraging student mobility, would also promote excellence in higher education through cooperation, university and research exchanges;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Purpose of the Agreement

With this Agreement, the Parties agree to work towards and facilitate the mutual recognition of educational qualifications and periods of study undertaken by students within duly approved, recognized and/or accredited educational institutions within the two countries, in view of continuing their studies in the partner country.

Article 2

Scope and implementation

(1) This Agreement shall apply:

- in India, to all institutions that are members of the Association of Indian Universities(AIU) and all institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the competent authorities of the Republic of India to award degrees.

- in France, to all higher education institutions under the *Conference des Présidents d'Université* (CPU), the *Conference des Directeurs des Ecoles Françaises d'Ingénieurs* (CDEFI), and to degrees duly recognized by the French Ministry in charge of Higher Education.

(2) Both Parties shall facilitate regular exchanges between the above mentioned Indian and French bodies (AIU and CPU/CDEFI), for the implementation of this Agreement.

(3) This Agreement shall not apply to such disciplines and qualifications which also entitle their holders the right to practice a profession in the respective countries.

(4) This Agreement is based on respect for the principle of institutional autonomy which applies to both the Indian and French higher education systems.

The programmes in which students may enrol shall be determined by the competent higher education authorities of each Party.

(5) Information on the organization and structure of the higher education systems of the two countries shall be exchanged on a regular basis.

(6) The Parties undertake to mutually recognize the qualifications of the end of secondary education and of higher education institutions of the Republic of India and the qualifications of the higher education institutions of the French Republic which fall within the scope of this Agreement as comparable with the

corresponding qualifications provided that the qualifications are awarded in accordance with the laws and regulations of both countries.

(7) The Indian Party shall recognize the certificate issued for the completion of secondary school education by the French Ministry of National Education, known as the *baccalauréat*, as comparable to the Certificates issued, in respect of Senior School Certificate Examination, by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or by the other secondary, intermediate or pre-university education establishments recognized by the Republic of India.

(8) The French Party shall recognize the Certificates issued, in respect of Senior School Certificate Examination, by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or by the other secondary, intermediate or pre-university education establishments recognized by the Republic of India as comparable with the *baccalauréat* qualification awarded for the completion of secondary school education by the French Ministry of National Education.

(9) The Indian Party shall recognize the *licence* degrees awarded by French universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the French Ministry for Higher Education as comparable to the Bachelor's degrees awarded by the universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the competent authorities or bodies in the Republic of India.

(10) The French Party shall recognize the Bachelor's degrees awarded by universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the competent authorities or bodies in the Republic of India as comparable to the *licence* degrees awarded by French universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the French Ministry for Higher Education.

(11) The Indian Party shall recognize the Master's and Master's-level degrees awarded by French universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the French Ministry for Higher Education as comparable to the Master's degrees awarded by the universities and higher

education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the competent authorities or bodies in the Republic of India.

(12) The French Party shall recognize the Master's degrees awarded by universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the competent authorities or bodies in the Republic of India as comparable to the Master's and Master's-level degrees awarded by French universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the French Ministry for Higher Education.

(13) The Indian Party shall recognize the *doctorat* degree awarded by universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the French Ministry for Higher Education as comparable to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in the corresponding discipline(s) awarded by the universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the competent authorities or bodies in the Republic of India.

(14) The French Party shall recognize the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree awarded by universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the competent authorities or bodies in the Republic of India as comparable to the *doctorat* degree awarded by universities and higher education institutions duly approved, recognized or accredited by the French Ministry for Higher Education.

Article 3 Consultations

The Parties shall mutually consult each other periodically to keep each other informed of changes within their higher education systems.

Article 4 Settlement of disputes

Any dispute relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled by consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

Article 5

Entry into force

Each Party shall notify the other Party of the completion of any internal procedures required for this Agreement to take effect, which shall occur on the first day of the second month following the date of receipt of the last notification.

Article 6

Validity and continuation

This Agreement is valid for a period of five years from its date of entry into force. The validity period shall automatically be renewed.

Article 7

Termination

Either Party may terminate this Agreement by sending written notification to the other Party at least twelve months prior to the intended date of termination.

Signed at New Delhi, on 10th March, 2018, in two originals, in French, English and Hindi language, all texts being equally authentic".

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA



Prakash Javadekar, Minister
Human Resource Development

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC



Frederique Vidal, Minister of
Higher Education, Research and
Innovation