

**Letter of Intent for an Indo-French cooperation
in the field of conservation of pre-historic ornate caves and rock shelters**

The Minister of Culture of the French Republic and the Minister of Culture of the Republic of India share common intent to diversify and reinforce the Indo-French cooperation in the field of conservation of pre-historic ornate caves:

This falls within the framework of the spirit and ambition of the cultural exchange program signed in January 2016 between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of India, for the period 2016-2018, wherein the parties agree to develop cooperation in terms of heritage conservation and research between the caves of Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh in India and the caves in the valley of Dordogne in France, including the Lascaux cave, and the Chauvet cave in Ardèche, by encouraging the initiatives that would include the following projects:

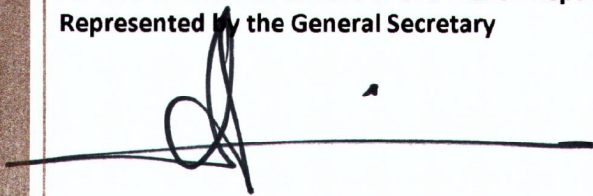
1. Exchanging experiences in the heritage field through exchange of expertise and on site visits;
2. Sharing methodologies and good practices regarding conservation techniques and research;
3. Training professionals;
4. Implementing a common field study for a joint production which would translate into the application of exchanged expertise and methods (particularly with the use of new digital technologies such as virtual reality)
5. Any other field of intervention linked to conservation, knowledge and development of the caves, as may be mutually agreed.

The different stages of this Indo-French cooperation in the field of conservation of the caves will be determined jointly by both parties and submitted for the approval of the concerned institutions, i.e. the Ministry of Culture of India and the National Centre of Prehistory of the General Management of Heritage of the Minister of Culture.

With this letter of intent, the two parties agree on their reciprocal willingness to work together in order to perfectly carry out the objective of the cooperation between India and France, and in order to mobilize the concerned services and institutions.

Prepared in Paris, on 18 June 2018, with two originals, each in French, Hindi and in English languages. All texts being equally authentic.

**For the Minister of Culture of the French Republic
Represented by the General Secretary**



**For the Minister of Culture of the
Republic of India Represented by the
Ambassador of India to France**

