

## France – Karnataka relationship

### Snapshot | Karnataka – France relationship

Karnataka and France have also been longstanding partners. Bengaluru has become a foremost destination for French companies from the IT and consultancy sector. Bengaluru hosts one of the main offices of Capgemini and is home to Gemalto (digital security company), Technicolor (digital animation) and

3DS (visual identity). Atos (IT services provider) which employs about 20 per cent of its global workforce in India, also operates an office in Bengaluru. Several major banking and financial services providers are similarly present, some of which are Crédit Agricole, Société Générale, BNP Paribas and Axa Bharti. Due to Bengaluru’s vibrant startup ecosystem, companies such as Société Générale and Airbus have chosen to establish their accelerators here.

Focus Sub-sectors	1. Aerospace 2. Startups 3. Biotech 4. IoT, AI 5. FinTech
Focus cities	1. Paris 2. Angers

### Relationship so far

1. Department of Electronics, IT Bt and S&T and Business France India signed an MoU in 2017 to mutually promote startup growth in both countries. This has been a platform for cross-learning opportunities for start-ups, and for scaling their operations and businesses across both the countries. Key initiatives include joint events and workshops through La French Tech, delegation visits from both sides, joint sessions at Bengaluru Tech Summit, and Data City project by French accelerator, NUMA, and GoK – where the Bengaluru startup community has been engaged to work on solutions for civic problems.
  - a. French Tech Tour is a program spread across Delhi, Bombay and Bangalore. The programme offers French tech startups the opportunity to interact with the India Tech ecosystem. Startup delegations from France have visited Bengaluru every year as part of the program.
  - b. Data City program provides a framework of collaboration between public authorities, corporations, startups and citizens to build innovative and concrete solutions to address persistent urban challenges, using data and technology. NUMA partnered with Government of Karnataka for the Data City project. A Karnataka based startup called Smarterra has been selected to work on revenue enhancement pilot for BWSSB
2. **August 2018: Delegation** led by Shri K.J. George, the then Hon'ble Minister for IT BT **visited France**
  - a. The delegation interacted with start-up accelerators NUMA Paris, Station F, and Le Village by Credit Agricole.

- b. Gobelins School of Design and La Defense Business District were visited to identify how similar models of learning and infrastructure development respectively may be applied in Karnataka to facilitate a thriving innovation ecosystem.
3. **June 2019:** The La French Tech Community was launched in Bengaluru. The project aims to build a strong relationship between start-ups in France and in India.
4. **April 2021:** MoU was signed between KITS and Indo-French Chamber of Commerce to enhance mutual industry facilitation
  - a. An interaction was conducted with French companies in Karnataka like Airbus, Amadeus, AtoS, BNP Paribas, Capgemini, Dassault Systems, Société Générale and SopraSteria to identify their concerns in operating in Karnataka and to also identify their plans of expansion
  - b. As a result of the association, France and IFCCI will be participating in a large way in BTS his year
  - c. As part of the MoU, a delegation of French Companies headed by Business France attended BTS 2021 as a part of the French Tech Tour India 2021

### Participation during Bengaluru Technology Summit

- **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2017:** 10 French startups attended Bengaluru Tech Summit 2017 as part of the French Tech Tour initiative.
- **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2018:** The French delegation for Bengaluru Tech Summit 2018 was led by H.E. Mr. Alexander Zeigler, Ambassador of France to India. Dr Edmund Rock, Research Director, INRA, delivered a keynote speech on “Future of technology in agriculture”
- **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2019: The delegation for BTS 2019** was once again led by the French Ambassador - France also conducted a GIA session topic: “**Industry 4.0: A French Perspective for Make in India**”. Speakers from NUMA Bengaluru, Dassault Systemes and Societe Generale



Figure 1: France GIA Session - Remarks by His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India



Figure 2: France GIA Session - Remarks by Mr. Thierry Berthelot, The Consul General of France in Bengaluru - BTS 2021



Figure 3: France GIA Session - Remarks by Ms. Anne Miller Head of International Affairs – Mission La French Tech - BTS 2021



Figure 4: France GIA Session - Panel discussion – BTS 2021