

**AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF FRANCE ON COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF OUTER SPACE
Paris, 21 June 1977**

The Government of the Republic of INDIA

AND

The Government of the Republic of FRANCE,

RECOGNISING their common interest in the exploration and utilisation of outer space for peaceful purposes,

CONVINCED of the numerous benefits, especially in the field of economic and social development, which would accrue from the coordination of their efforts in this field,

AFFIRMING their mutual desire for strengthening and increasing their existing cooperation in the field of exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes,

KEEPING in view the Agreement² for Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation signed on 7th June, 1966 and the Protocol relating to the implementation of the said Agreement,

TAKING into consideration the Agreement between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Centre Nationale D'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) signed on 21st April, 1972 for the setting up of a Joint Commission of Indian Space Research Organization and the Centre Nationale D'Etudes Spatiales of France, hereinafter called the "ISRO/CNES Joint Commission",

HAVE agreed as follows :

Article 1

Cooperation between the two countries in the field of exploration

1. Came into force on 21 June 1977.

2. IBTA Vol. 5 Doc. No. 345.

and utilization of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes shall include :

- (a) conception, fabrication and utilization of satellites, sounding rockets and balloons intended for space research and applications of space technology;
- (b) studies relating to launching installations and ground stations;
- (c) organization of training facilities and programmes;
- (d) exchange of technical and research personnel designated to participate in the studies and joint working groups set up to examine specific problems.

The existing programmes of cooperation concluded within the framework of the CNES/ISRO Agreement of 21st April, 1972 shall continue to be implemented by both the Parties.

Other areas of cooperation may be defined in future by mutual agreement.

Article 2

The Parties shall select by mutual agreement the areas and specific topics for undertaking joint research. Detailed arrangements in respect of each topic shall be made specifying the exact nature of the joint research, the details regarding participating technical and scientific personnel, the distribution of tasks among the participants and the allocation of ways and means for the joint research. These arrangements shall be concluded by the organizations envisaged in Article 6, after obtaining approval of their respective administrative authorities.

Article 3

The Parties shall keep each other informed generally of their respective programmes and the progress made in their implementation.

Article 4

The Parties shall, on reciprocal basis, facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical personnel required for the implementation of the present Agreement.

Article 5

Each of the two Parties shall have access to the scientific information obtained during the course of experiments and projects jointly undertaken by them. The dissemination and publishing of such information for third parties and the taking out and grant of patents, if any, shall be subject to the provisions settled mutually in each case.

Article 6

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of France shall, respectively, designate the agencies responsible for the implementation of the present Agreement.

Article 7

To achieve the objectives of the present Agreement, the two Parties shall utilize the forum of the ISRO/CNES Joint Commission established in April 1972. The Joint Commission comprising an equal number of representatives of each side shall meet as frequently as may be necessary and at least once a year alternately in France and India. It can also meet in an extraordinary session at the request of either of the Organizations envisaged in Article 6.

The Joint Commission shall be responsible for the study and determination of programmes of cooperation, follow up of their implementation, and for taking all measures necessary for further developing and strengthening the cooperation between India and France within the framework of this Agreement. The Joint Commission shall be assisted by joint working groups which will be responsible for examining in detail the proposals made by the organizations envisaged in Article 6, and for making necessary recommendations for the consideration of the Joint Commission.

Article 8

The two Parties agree to make every effort to facilitate and expedite the import of equipment, material, spare parts and other articles necessary for the implementation of the agreed programmes of cooperation.

Article 9

The provisions of the present Agreement may, at the request of either of the Parties, be amended by mutual agreement. The amendments agreed upon in this matter shall come into force upon the exchange of notes between the two Governments.

Article 10

The present Agreement shall come into force upon signature by the Parties and will be valid for an initial period of five years. Either Party may terminate the Agreement by giving a written notice of six months.

On the expiry of the first period of five years the Agreement shall be deemed to have been tacitly renewed if within the preceding six months neither of the Parties notifies the other of its intention not to renew the Agreement. Thereafter, the Agreement can be terminated by either Party by giving a written notice of six months.

The termination or the non-renewal of the Agreement shall not affect the validity or the implementation of the arrangements already concluded between ISRO and CNES pursuant to Articles 2 and 7 of the present Agreement and of the Articles referred to in these arrangements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed the present Agreement.

DONE at Paris on this 21st of June 1977 in two original copies each in Hindi, French and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

Sd/-

R.D. SATHE
For the Government of the
Republic of India

Sd/-

R. VAURS
For the Government of the
Republic of France

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

AMBASSADE DE L'INDE
PARIS

21 June, 1977

My dear Mr. VAURS,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter which reads as follows :

“With reference to the Agreement for Cooperation in Space Matters between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of France (hereinafter referred

to as the Agreement) signed today, I have the honour to state that, in respect of the procedure for the settlement of disputes which may arise concerning the application or interpretation of the Agreement, the two Governments have agreed as follows :

- (1) The two Governments shall make every effort to settle any dispute concerning the application or the interpretation of the Agreement, by mutual consultations.
- (2) Failing settlement of dispute by such mutual consultations, the Parties shall try to settle it by any other means of their choice which may be mutually agreed to between them.
- (3) In case the Parties fail to resolve the dispute in accordance with the procedure stated above, it shall be referred to an arbitral tribunal at the request of either Party.
- (4) The arbitral tribunal shall be composed of three members— one member to be designated by each Party and the third member who shall also be the Chairman, to be designated by both the members jointly.
- (5) If a Party does not designate a member within 60 days of the request for arbitration, the other Party may request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint such a member. The same procedure will be followed if the third member is not appointed within 60 days following the designation of the second.
- (6) The arbitral tribunal shall decide the place where it shall meet and also determine its rules of procedure including those concerning differences in the interpretation of its judgment. The decision of the arbitral tribunal shall be taken by a majority vote of its members and shall be final and binding on both the Parties.
- (7) The expenses of the arbitration shall be borne equally by both the Parties.

I request you to confirm that the above correctly sets out the understanding reached between the two Governments.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.”

Your letter correctly sets out the understanding reached between our two Governments.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest Consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Sd/-

R.D. SATHE
Ambassador of India

His Excellency Mr. ROGER-VAURS,
Minister Plenipotentiary
Director of Cultural, Scientific & Technical
Relations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government of France,
PARIS
