

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between**  
**the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India**  
**and**  
**the Ministry of University and Research of the Italian Republic**  
**for**  
**cooperation in the field of scientific research**

The Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and The Ministry of University and Research of the Italian Republic, hereinafter individually referred to as a “Participant” and jointly as “the “Participants”,

**Convinced** that international cooperation in the field of scientific research strengthens the friendly relations between the two countries and fosters economic development for their mutual benefit;

**Desiring** to strengthen the development of the existing cooperation relations between the two countries and enhance the level of cooperation in the field of scientific research;

**Taking into account** the long-standing and positive collaboration developed over the course of the last decades between the two countries;

**Considering** the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Italian Republic on cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology, done at New Delhi on 28 November 2003;

**Recognizing** the fundamental role of scientific research in the dialogue between India and Italy;

**Considering** the shared interests and values between the two countries in the field of scientific research and the willingness to encourage cooperation between their respective academic, research, and innovation communities;

have entered into the following Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”):

## **Paragraph 1**

### **Purpose of cooperation**

This MoU aims at further strengthening cooperation in the field of scientific research between the Participants through joint actions and programmes aimed at supporting the mobility of scientists and researchers, the realization of joint research projects, as well as the joint use of scientific and technological infrastructures.

## **Paragraph 2**

### **Forms of Cooperation**

The cooperation between the Participants under this MoU may include the following activities:

- a. encouraging cooperation between research institutions and exchanging information and views on scientific and technological policy issues;
- b. promoting participation in regional and international conferences, symposiums, workshops, and events related to scientific research;
- c. encouraging the two-way mobility of scientists and researchers;
- d. exchanging scientists, researchers, and science and technology experts, while cooperating in human resource development;
- e. promoting direct collaboration amongst research institutions of the two countries, including support and capacity-building actions in areas of mutual interest;
- f. networking between researchers and science and technology experts and facilitating two-way sharing and access to research infrastructures;
- g. implementing and conducting joint projects amongst research institutions and enterprises in the fields of research, innovation, and technology transfer;
- h. promoting joint collaboration in relevant multilateral programmes;
- i. promoting entrepreneurship, innovative start-ups and spin-offs;
- j. other forms of cooperation jointly identified by the Participants, within the scope of this MoU.

## **Paragraph 3**

### **Areas of cooperation**

1. The Participants will cooperate specifically, but not exclusively, in the following areas:
  - a. Biomedical Robotics;
  - b. Clean technologies, Green hydrogen, and Renewable energies;
  - c. Research on Climate Change based on, among others, AI-driven techniques;
  - d. Sustainable Mobility;

- e. Ocean Research and Blue economy;
- f. Artificial intelligence, High performance computing and big data;
- g. Biodiversity;
- h. Innovative Technology for agriculture;
- i. Gene therapy and mRNA Technologies;
- j. Biomanufacturing
- k. Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage
- l. any other topics jointly identified by the Participants.

#### **Paragraph 4**

##### **Principles of Cooperation**

1. The cooperation activities will be carried out by the Participants in accordance with the principles of reciprocity, mutual benefit, excellence and equity.
2. The Participants will jointly identify areas for cooperation by mutual consent, based on shared national priorities.

#### **Paragraph 5**

##### **Implementation arrangements**

Cooperation activities and/or programmes carried out under this MoU may be implemented through arrangements between relevant institutions of the two countries designated by the Participants.

#### **Paragraph 6**

##### **Joint Committee**

1. The Joint Committee referred to in Article 4 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Italian Republic on cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology, done at New Delhi on 28 November 2003, will be responsible for the implementation and pursuit of the cooperation activities under this MoU.

## **Paragraph 7**

### **Financial aspects and implementation**

1. The activities set forth in this MoU will be implemented by the Participants according to their ordinary budget availability, without any additional cost for the State Budgets of the Republic of India and the Italian Republic.
2. Each Participant will bear its own costs and expenses for its participation in activities under this MoU. The capacity of each Participant to carry out activities and programmes under this MoU will be subject to the availability of its funds, personnel, and other resources.
3. Unless otherwise jointly decided by the Participants, each Participant will fund the beneficiaries of its own country.
4. Cooperation activities involving other interested entities will not entail any exchange of funds; any entity interested in cooperation activities will bear the costs related to its own participation, subject to the availability of appropriate funds.
5. Without prejudice to the provisions of Paragraph 7.1, the details concerning any future financial aspect will be jointly set out in subsequent arrangements between the Participants.

## **Paragraph 8**

### **Intellectual Property Rights and Personal Data Protection**

1. The Participants will require the entities and institutions involved in cooperation activities to ensure adequate protection of the intellectual property rights resulting from the implementation of projects and activities within the framework of this MoU.
2. The protection of intellectual property rights will be guaranteed in accordance with the Indian and Italian intellectual property legislations as well as applicable international law.
3. The acknowledgment of the contribution offered by each Participant in the joint projects will be expressly mentioned in the publications deriving from the activities under the present MoU, according to the terms decided by the mutual consent of the Participants.
4. In the application of this MoU, no information concerning a natural person or enabling his/her identification will be transmitted to any third party or processed in a manner that is incompatible with the purposes of this MoU without the prior written consent of the data controller who provided this information. Personal data exchanged between the Participants for the implementation of this MoU will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (UE) 2016/679 and the respective applicable national legislation.

## **Paragraph 9**

### **Applicable Law**

1. This MoU does not constitute an international agreement which may lead to rights and obligations under international law. No provision of this MoU is to be understood and performed as a legal obligation or commitment of the Participants.
2. This MoU will be implemented in accordance with the Indian and Italian legislations as well as applicable international law and, as for the Italian Participant, the obligations arising from Italy's membership of the European Union.

### **Paragraph 10**

### **Final Provisions**

1. This MoU takes effect on the date of signature, it will remain valid for five (5) years and will be automatically renewed for further periods of five (5) years, unless either Participant notifies the other of its intention to terminate it at least six (6) months prior to the date of renewal.
2. Each Participant may terminate this MoU at any time by notifying the other of its intention to terminate it at least six (6) months before the intended date of expiration.
3. The termination of this MoU will not affect the already ongoing cooperation activities which may continue until their completion, unless otherwise decided by mutual consent of the Participants.
4. The Participants may modify this MoU in writing by mutual consent.
5. Any difference in the interpretation and/or implementation of this MoU will be settled amicably through direct consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

Signed at New Delhi on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in two originals, each in the Hindi, Italian and the English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.



**For the Ministry of Science and Technology  
of the Republic of India**

**For the Ministry of University and Research  
of the Italian Republic**

