

Indo-Italian S&T collaboration to get a fillip

The Indo-Italian Science & Technology Joint Committee meeting scheduled to be held in Rome on October 19 is aimed at giving a fillip to the scientific ties between the two countries besides attempting to open new avenues for collaboration.

Besides the Joint Committee meet a delegation led by Secretary, Department of Science and Technology Ashutosh Sharma will take part in the inauguration of beamlines at Elettra Synchrotron facility, Trieste and hold discussion with University of Venice for future collaboration.

Science and Technology minister Dr Harsh Vardhan says: "India's privileged to have constructed beamlines on three state-of-the-art Synchrotron Radiation Sources (SRSs) in Germany, Japan and Italy to enable Indian scientists carry out collaborative frontline research. The one at Trieste, Italy, shall be an important facility, specially for structural research in biology. The renewed Indo-Italian collaboration will also boost our Scientific innovation and incubation ecosystem as envisioned by our PM"

The Committee will take decision on the launch of the joint call for R&D proposals for mobility of researchers and significant bilateral projects in the mutually agreed thematic areas. It will initiate a new industrial R&D programme with industry-academia partnership aimed to develop new technology/process prototypes with potential for commercialization. Among other deliberations, the committee will launch the Indo-Italian Innovation Forum which will help in fostering R&D based techno entrepreneurship by linking Technology Business Incubators, Science Parks, Startups etc..

Following the meeting, a joint call for proposals is likely to be launched in the first week of November 2016.

Indo-Italian S&T cooperation, at a glance

The first Inter-governmental Agreement in Science & Technology with Italy was signed in 1978. A fresh Agreement on S&T cooperation between India and Italy was signed on November 28, 2003. The agreement envisages sharing of experiences in national research, development and innovation policies and programmes, exchanging scientists and researchers, industrial research, joint research and development projects and joint workshops.