



## Press Release

14 March 2024

### Notes of the DAAD Press Meet on 14 March 2024

Prof. Dr Joybrato Mukherjee, President, DAAD, addressed journalists from India on the last day of the DAAD conference “Innovation and Global Cooperation for Sustainability” that took place from 12 to 14 March.

With this conference, the DAAD regional office New Delhi connected DAAD alumni, principal investigators, doctoral candidates as well as post-docs from DAAD funded projects and other stakeholders. It aimed to reconnect and renew contacts with alumni, propel new ideas for academic cooperation and augment the Indo-German Higher Education network. The overarching topic of the conference was how innovation and global cooperation, with focus on Indo-German relations, in the context of Higher Education can contribute to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Today India is the most important country of origin for international students in Germany. In the winter semester of 2022/2023, the number of Indian students at German universities exceeded that of the Chinese group for the first time at around 43,000 young talents, an increase of over 100% in just four years. In 2022, Germany was the fifth most popular destination for Indian students after the USA, Canada, Australia and the UK. It is becoming apparent that Europe, Germany in particular, will continue to gain in attractiveness for Indian students and scientists.

Signing of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation in 1974 marks an important milestone. DAAD looks back on more than 60 years of exchange with India with the DAAD office in New Delhi opening as early as in 1960. From then, Indo-German academic cooperation has come a long way: According to the German Rectors Conference, there are now 450 university cooperation programmes between German and Indian universities. At the moment eleven German universities and research institutions have a permanent presence in India. The DAAD supported more than 2,300 students and researchers and facilitated 79 cooperation projects in 2022.

In recent years, Indo-German academic exchange has been significantly shaped by the DAAD programme "A New Passage to India", which promoted numerous university collaborations and internships for students. The programme comes to an end this year. It was funded by the BMBF jointly with the Indian government. During the 2019-2024 project phase, the Indian government co-financed a total of nine projects with a funding volume of 3.5 million euros.

The trend towards internationalisation is seen in both Germany and India and its importance is recognised.



DAAD partners include the Ministry of Education, the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and researchers at universities and institutions of national importance.

Aditi Gosavi  
Senior Advisor – Communication and PR  
DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service  
Regional Office New Delhi  
+91 11 6646 5515  
[gosavi@daad.de](mailto:gosavi@daad.de)