

## Country Brief- France



### I Country Demographic Features:

In World Wars I and II, France suffered extensive losses in its empire, wealth, manpower, and rank as a dominant nation-state. Nevertheless, France today is one of the most modern countries in the world and is a leader among European nations. France has bicameral Parliament or Parliament consists of the Senate or Senat . The state is headed by President.

**Capital:** Paris

**Major Ethnic Group:** Celtic and Latin with Teutonic, Slavic, North African, Indochinese, Basque minorities

**Major language:** French

**Major religion:** Christianity

**Life expectancy:** 76 years (men), 83 years (women) (UN)

**Population:** 60, 876,136 (July 2006 estimated)

**Age Structure:**

0-14	years:	18.3%	(male	5,704,152/female	5,427,213)
15-64	years:	65.3%	(male	19,886,228/female	19,860,506)
65 years and over:		16.4%	(male	4,103,883/female	5,894,154) (2006 est.)

**Economy:**

France is in the midst of transition from a well-to-do modern economy that has featured extensive government ownership and intervention to one that relies more on market mechanisms. The government in the process of partially or fully privatized many large companies, banks, and insurers. And intend to retain controlling stakes in public interests sectors Air France, France Telecom, Renault, and Thales like India.

**Labour Force Participation:**

Agriculture 4.1%, industry 24.4%, services 71.5% (1999)

**Geographical Spread**

No information is available on this

## **II Indian Diaspora**

### **1 Brief History of Indian Diaspora:**

The Indian Diaspora consists of PIO and NRI while PIO are of french-colonial origin and are double migrated once from India to french colony as a indentured labour and then to France. They mainly come from southern part of India while new diaspora, NRI are recent origin mainly belong to 1950' migration wave and recent time professionals and academicians.

## **2 Profile of Diaspora**

Statistics based on ethnicity or religion are banned in France therefore such account is not available. It is generally believed that there are about six to seven million immigrants and their descendents living in the country, ***Indian immigrants in France are mostly from the former French colonies like Pondicherry, Karaikal etc.*** There is no general rule about their occupations but there are two kinds of Indian people in France: the first are those who came through their connection with former French colonies in India ("Comptoirs"), principally Yanam and to some extent Pondicherry and second, the smaller number of those who came for higher studies, professional or relational reasons (for example through marriage) from various part of country mainly State like Punjab. However now there is a new kind of "wandering emigrant", technology professionals who come on contract and who don't necessarily speak French.

PIO are mainly small business personnel and entrepreneurs while NRI included academicians, new knowledge economy. In recent years, number of Indian students going for higher studies to France has increased.

### **3 Geographical Spread of Indian Diaspora:**

Around the capital though not much information available

### **4 Size of Indian Diaspora:**

It is estimated that there are 60,000 people of Indian origin while over 6000 have registered with the Indian embassy in Paris. Over 200 people of Indian origin occupy the higher echelon in academia, science & tech, politics and other fields.

### **5 Diaspora Relations:**

- ***Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology***

In order to strengthen collaboration in S&T between India and France, an intergovernmental Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology (POC) for the period 2003-2005 was signed in March 2003. An Indian delegation led by Secretary DST participated in the 9th Meeting of the Indo-French Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation held at Paris during November, 2003. It was agreed that cooperation in ICT, Nanotechnology, Water, Mathematics, Neuroscience & Biotechnology should be given priority.

- ***Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR)***

The Scientific Council of IFCPAR held its 31st Meeting at Montpellier, France in May 2003. The Scientific Council of IFCPAR held its 32nd Meeting at Goa during October 2003. The Scientific Council recommended support for 9 projects. The recommended projects are in the areas of Life & Health Sciences, Pure and Applied Physics, Pure and Applied Chemistry and Material Sciences.

- **Bilateral Relations for Educational Opportunities**

## **6 Concerns and Problems of Indian Diaspora**

France has 'assimilation' model rather than 'multi-culturists' model which effects the diaspora since have to assimilate in local culture. New Racist remarks have led to turbulence among Indians mainly Sikhs.

## **7 Diaspora Publications:**

A magazine - INDES, published by MEDIA INDIA SARL, 68 Bis Boulevard Pereire, 75017 Paris

## **8 Diaspora Relations**

***France Immigration Policy:*** Since 1973, immigration policy in France has focused primarily on stemming and deterring migration. France has nonetheless continued to receive legal immigrants, with approximately 100,000 new entries

per year. The legal flows have included EU migrants who enjoy free movement rights, family members of legal residents, whose rights are protected by domestic law, and refugees and asylum-seekers French immigration Act 1998 -Current French immigration policy promotes greater access to French citizenship and this citizenship policy came into force on the 1st of September 1998. The main aim of the act was to integrate foreign nationals into the French culture. This act states that children of foreign nationals would be given French citizenship when they reach adulthood. This event is subject to the children residing in France for longer than five years and this five year period only begins after the age of eleven.

### 9 Indian Diaspora Associations:

Federation of Indian Associations in the France- A umbrella association	
Indo-French Reflexion group 10, rue Charles Gouaud 78530 BUC Tel : 01 39 56 47 89	Gujarati Hindu Samaj 3, avenue d'Estienne d'Orves 91260 Juvisy Tel. 01 69 56 06 04, 06 63 16 93 04
Mr. Vimal Khosla GOPIO 23, Chemin de l'Abreuvoir 78360 St. Nom La Breteche Tel/fax : 01 30 80 05 40 e-mail : <a href="mailto:vkhosla@libertysurf.fr">vkhosla@libertysurf.fr</a>	Mr. Naresh Shah Indian Professionals' Association 59, route de Roi 78290 Croissy S/ Seine Tel. 01 39 76 80 29 Fax : 01 39 76 49 13 e-mail : <a href="mailto:nshah@wanadoo.fr">nshah@wanadoo.fr</a>
Mr . Naresh C. Sen Sammilani 142, Bd. Massena Apt.1015 Paris 75013 Tel : 01 45 83 06 62	Mr. Lalit Bhandari Sewa Sangh 42, rue Lancry Paris 75003
Mrs. Rajarajeswari Parisot Vidyalyaya 4, rue Custines 67380 Lingolsheim	Mr. Gulam Patel Association Culturelle Islamique Sounni Indienne D'Ile de France 5, rue Henri Monnier 75009 Paris

	Tel : 01 42 81 10 90, 06 14 15 92 33
Mr. Richard Exodus 9, rue des Trois Mages 13001 Marseille Tel : 04 91 47 83 53	Mr. Veerappan Somu Soubra Centre Artistique de Tamoul en France Cité de Perouse – Bat H 3, rue de Résidence 01500 Ambrieu-en-Bugey Tel : 06 61 42 66 83
Mr. Ashock MONANY NAGIN 17, avenue d'Italie 75013 Paris	Mr. Dassaradane Federation of Franco-Indian Associations 35, rue Savier 92240 Malakoff Tel / Fax - 01 42 53 03 1 e-mail : <a href="mailto:dassaradane@fafi.org">dassaradane@fafi.org</a>
Mr. Vempati Venugopal IADH (International Association for Human Development 35-36, rue du Père Rev. Gilbert 92160 Asnières	Indian Women's Friendship Association 23, chemin de l'Abreuvoir PO Box 78860 St.Nom La Breteche France Phone: +33 01 30 80 05 40
Varmakalai International Contact Person: Mr. E.M. Zacria, 247, av Daniel Perdrige PO Box 93370, Montfermeil France Phone: +33 01 43 43 91 99	Association Française Inde et Amitié 17b, rue Jenner 75013 Paris Tél. : 01 53 61 19 23.