

Statement on INO from the three Indian science academies: INSA, NASI, and IASc.

The India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) is a mega-science research project planned to be undertaken by scientists from more than 25 Indian Central and State Universities and Research Institutes. It is a purely scientific research project of fundamental significance, and one that has been supported and approved by the Government of India.

The Science Academies of India are strongly supportive of the establishment of such an experimental facility for its intrinsic scientific value. In addition to enabling Indian researchers to make a unique contribution to our understanding of several fundamental problems of physics, a major effort on this scale will also contribute significantly to the development of education and research infrastructure in Tamil Nadu. The site selected for INO is in the Bodi West Hills and has been chosen after an extensive nationwide site survey. All environmental regulations will be adhered to and no residents will have to be relocated.

The INO will help us learn more about neutrinos which are elementary particles that have no charge and almost no mass and therefore do not affect anything they pass through. They are naturally produced in the atmosphere of the Earth and are present around us at all times, causing no damage. The INO experiment is a pure science experiment that will lead to the creation of a new Inter-Institutional Educational and Research Centre for High Energy Physics at Madurai. These benefits are not just for the short term: the INO is one of a set of major experiments that can consolidate our position as a leading scientific nation.

The Science Academies hereby appeal to people of the district, state, and country to support this educational and research project wholeheartedly. A successful INO experiment will be a major technological and scientific national achievement.