India is a founding member of UNESCO and the UNESCO New Delhi Office was established in 1948. As an inter-governmental organization, UNESCO collaborates and works very closely with Government counterparts and other stakeholders in India. It has also considerably extended its network of partners over the years.

Today, in addition to the UNESCO New Delhi Office, India also hosts the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) – which is a UNESCO Category 1 Research Institute – and two other institutions that are affiliated with UNESCO.
1. Buddhist Chanting of Ladakh (Since 2010) - Ladakh
2. Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (Since 1987) - Madhya Pradesh
3. Archaeological Site of Nalanda (Since 1988) - Bihar
4. Group of Monuments at Hampi (Since 1986) - Karnataka
5. Great Living Chola Temples (Since 1984) - Tamil Nadu
6. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Since 2008) - Maharashtra
7. Mahatma Gandhi Ensembles of Mumbai (Since 2018) - Maharashtra
8. Ramlila, The Traditional Performance of the Ramayana (Since 2008) - Uttar Pradesh
9. UNESCO Chair on Culture, Habitat and Sustainable Development (2013) - Ulm University (Germany)
10. UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (2018) - Arizona State University (United States)
11. UNESCO Chair on Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education (2017) - University of Vermont (United States)