

डॉ. विनीत जोशी, भा.प्र.से.

सचिव

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सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
Government of India
शिक्षा मंत्रालय

Ministry of Education
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग

Department of Higher Education

127 'सी' विंग, शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001
127 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001

DO No.: 13-52/2018-ICC

Dated: 7th July, 2025

Dear Ma'am/Sir,

As you may know that the "Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)" is one of the flagship programmes of the Ministry of Education. The Scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Education Institutions by supporting joint research proposals and facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best foreign institutions from 28 selected nations (USA, UK, Germany, Australia, Austria, Denmark, France, Canada, Italy, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Russia, Israel, Switzerland, Sweden, Netherlands, South Africa, South Korea, Norway, Portugal, New Zealand, Taiwan, Belgium, Spain, Brazil, and Finland) to jointly create knowledge that can address and offer solutions to problems of national and/or international relevance. Since 2018, 799 proposals have been approved under SPARC in four phases.

2. As agreed by G20 nations in the "New Delhi Leader's Declaration" during India's G20 presidency in 2023, the focused research themes under SPARC were reprioritized to align them with our **national strategic interests, and global priorities**. The scheme now focuses on **12 areas** identified by Empowered Committee for Industry & International Collaborations (ECIIC), namely:

- Advanced Materials; Rare-earth & Critical Minerals;
- Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change;
- Agri & Food Technologies;
- Semiconductors;
- Advanced Computing (Supercomputing, AI, Quantum Computing);
- Healthcare & MedTech;
- Space and Defence;
- Next-Gen Communications;
- Disaster Management & Resilient Infrastructure;
- Blue Economy;
- Smart Cities & Mobility and
- Manufacturing & Industry 4.0.

3. Eligibility Criteria for participating Higher Education Institutions under SPARC is as under:

- **Indian Institutes that satisfy any of the below criteria: -**
- Top 100 HEIs as per NIRF ranking in 'Overall' or all 'Subject-wise' categories. (The link for NIRF ranking: <https://www.nirfindia.org/Home>)

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- All Central Universities and Institutes of National Importance. (The link for CUs: <https://www.education.gov.in/central-universities>) (The link for INI: <https://www.education.gov.in/institutions-national-importance>)

- **International Institutes**

- Top 800 HEIs based on the latest QS World Ranking from 28 selected nations. (Link QS World ranking: <https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings>) and (Link for all partner countries in SPARC: https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/partner_countries.php)
- Foreign Institutes may also be outside QS 800 rankings, if recommended by the Institute Coordinator (IC) & approved by ECIIC (Empowered Committee for Industry & International Collaborations) subject to proposals relevance based on strategic priorities.
- **International Laboratories/Research Organizations**
- Under 'Nature Index' world ranking (top 100) or with eminent personalities/experts like Noble Laureates.

4. A proposal for a joint research or training project pertaining to identified themes under SPARC has to be submitted by an Indian HEI for a two-year period. Each *partner group will contain at least two international faculty members, two Indian Faculty members and at least two students/researchers pursuing Undergraduate/Postgraduate/PhD or post-doc level from each side*. The budget of a SPARC project can be up to a maximum of Rs 12 Cr. Any proposals above Rs.5 crores must have participation of at least 3 Institutes (at least 3) of different types (IITs/NITs/Private Institutions etc.)

5. The detailed guidelines and the project proposal submission format will be available in the SPARC website(sparc.iitkgp.ac.in). The Principal Investigator (PI) will have to login through the SPARC Portal and submit the duly endorsed proposal there.

6. In view of the above, you are requested to widely disseminate this information to all faculty members of your institute for greater participation under the SPARC Scheme.

With regards,

Encl: As above

Yours sincerely,


(Dr. Vineet Joshi)

VCs of State Universities/Deemed University (Public/Private)

Copy to: Shri Manish Joshi, UGC Secretary (with a request for wider circulation)

Copy for n.a. to: Prof. Rabibrata Mukherjee, Joint National Coordinator (SPARC),
[rabibrata@che.iitkgp.ac.in, 03222-281895]