

F.No.13-52/2018-ICC  
Government of India  
Department of Higher Education  
International Cooperation Cell

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Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2025

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Minutes of the Apex Committee Meeting of SPARC.**

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of the Record of Discussion of the Apex Committee Meeting of SPARC held on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 at 5:00 P.M in Hybrid mode under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Higher Education (HE) for information and necessary action.

2. This issues with the approval of Secretary, HE.



(Rajeev Kumar Sinha)  
Under Secretary (ICC)  
Email: rajeevk.sinha@nic.in

To:

- i. Shri Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary ([psfs@mea.gov.in](mailto:psfs@mea.gov.in))
- ii. Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST ([dstsec@nic.in](mailto:dstsec@nic.in))
- iii. Dr Rajesh S Gokhale, Secretary, DBT ([secy@dbt.nic.in](mailto:secy@dbt.nic.in))
- iv. Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture ([secy-culture@nic.in](mailto:secy-culture@nic.in))
- v. Chairman UGC ([cm.ugc@nic.in](mailto:cm.ugc@nic.in))
- vi. Prof T G Sitharam, Chairman AICTE ([chairman@aicte-india.org](mailto:chairman@aicte-india.org))
- vii. Ms. Saumya Gupta, Joint Secretary (TE), MoE
- viii. Shri Sanjog Kapoor, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, MoE ([jsfa-moe@gov.in](mailto:jsfa-moe@gov.in))
- ix. Prof. Amit Patra, Director, IIT Kharagpur ([director@iitkgp.ac.in](mailto:director@iitkgp.ac.in))
- x. Prof. Rabibrata Mukherjee, Joint National Coordinator (SPARC), IIT Kharagpur ([rabibrata@che.iitkgp.ac.in](mailto:rabibrata@che.iitkgp.ac.in))
- xi. Prof. Indranil Manna, Professor, IIT Kharagpur (on lien as VC, BIT, Mesra) ([vc@bitmesra.ac.in](mailto:vc@bitmesra.ac.in))
- xii. Prof. Virander S. Chauhan ([viranderschauhan@gmail.com](mailto:viranderschauhan@gmail.com))
- xiii. Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning & Development, SASTRA University ([vaidhya@sastra.edu](mailto:vaidhya@sastra.edu))

Copy to:

- i. PPS to Secretary (Higher Education), MoE
- ii. PPS to JS (ICC), MoE

## Minutes of the Apex Committee Meeting of SPARC

The Apex Committee meeting for the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) was held on 17.04.2025 at 5:00 P.M. in Hybrid mode under the chairmanship of Secretary (HE). The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

2. During the meeting, the following decisions were taken:

i) **SPARC Phase IV(SPARC-GIANT):**

- o **12 projects** (totalling Rs.4.31 Crores) have been approved and will be jointly funded under **SPARC -GIANT (German Indian Academic Network for Tomorrow) Program**. [List attached] \*

*[ It may be noted that the total Budget Outlay for SPARC as per SFC for FY 2021-26 is Rs 425.2 Crores. Under Phase I, projects approved were provided a no-cost extension till September 2023; thus, no additional funds were required; Under Phase II(including Ph -II B) & Phase III, projects worth Rs 260.59 (i.e. Rs. 148.16 + Rs. 112.43) Crores were sanctioned out of which Rs 102.75 Crores have been utilised i.e Rs 68.75 Crores (FY2022-23) + Rs 9 Crores (FY2023-24) + Rs.25 Crores (FY2024-25). Funds currently available for sanctioning as per SFC = Rs (425.2 – 260.59) Crores = Rs 164.61 Crores.]*

ii) **Third Party evaluation of SPARC**

'Third Party Evaluation' of SPARC by DRDO for the ongoing projects approved till now under the SFC approved period i.e. FY 2021-26 needs to be expedited.

iii) **Extension of the SPARC Scheme**

Based on the Third Party Evaluation report, proposal to be moved for extension of the SPARC Scheme for another 5-10 years.

3. **Suggestions:** Following suggestions by Apex Committee Members are noted:

- i. Some of the foreign faculty coming to India under SPARC should also lecture at nearby colleges apart from IITs (Premier Institutes) for wider knowledge dissemination.
- ii. Private Institutions should be allowed in Capacity building projects like Semiconductor to maximize outcome of the project.
- iii. Success Stories should be highlighted through Monograms and Books for better outreach.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair and participants.

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**Annexure-I****List of Participants**

| <b>S.No.</b> | <b>Participants</b>                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.           | Shri Vineet Joshi, Secretary (HE), Ministry of Education, Chairman                                                                                  |
| 2.           | Shri Sanjog Kapoor, JS & FA, Ministry of Education, Member                                                                                          |
| 3.           | Dr. Umesh Sharma, Head (S&TCB), Nominee of Secretary DST, Member                                                                                    |
| 4.           | Ms. Sucheta Kishore, Director (EW), Nominee of Secretary MEA, Member                                                                                |
| 5.           | Dr. Shahaj Uddin Ahmed, Scientist 'F', Nominee of Secretary DBT, Member                                                                             |
| 6.           | Dr. Shalia Shah, Deputy Secretary (ICC), Ministry of Education                                                                                      |
| 7.           | Shri N.S Bisht, DS (IFD), Ministry of Education                                                                                                     |
| 8.           | Prof. T G Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE, Member                                                                                                         |
| 9.           | Prof. Amit Patra, Director, National Coordinating (NC) Institution, Member                                                                          |
| 10.          | Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean - Planning and Development, SASTRA University, Thanjavur, Nominated Member(Reputed Academician from Private Sector) |
| 11.          | Prof. Indranil Manna, Vice-chancellor of the Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Nominated Member (Reputed Academician from Public Sector)        |
| 12.          | Prof. Rabibrata Mukherjee, Joint National Coordinator (SPARC), IIT Kharagpur (Special Invitee)                                                      |
| 13.          | Shri Rajeev Kumar Sinha, Under Secretary (ICC), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.                                              |
| 14.          | Shri Atul Juyal, Liaison Officer (SPARC), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.                                                    |

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**SPARC-GIANT Call: Result List**

| S.No. | Project ID | Project Title                                                                                                                                                                   | Theme                              | Indian PI             | Indian Institute | German PI                  | German Institute | Total Budget |
|-------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1     | PG250006   | Food Sustain - Network for Sustainable crop production under climate change: designing and testing regional climate adaption measures through enhanced ecohydrological modeling | Energy, Sustainability and Climate | K. S. Kasiviswanathan | IIT Roorkee      | Prof. Dr. Nicola Fohrer    | U Kiel           | 2611548.00   |
| 2     | PG250011   | Effects of strong correlations in low dimensions: From random fields to topological insulators                                                                                  | Semiconductor and New Materials    | Varsha Banerjee       | IIT Delhi        | Prof. Dr. Martin Weigel    | TU Chemnitz      | 4456164.00   |
| 3     | PG250012   | Global Citizenship and Environmental Stewardship: Driving Water Sustainability and Resilience Through Efficient Conservation and Utilization                                    | Energy, Sustainability and Climate | Lakshminarayana Rao   | IISc Bengaluru   | Prof. Dr. Christina Bogner | U Köln           | 4828116.00   |



|   |          |                                                                                                                                                                |                                       |                  |                    |                                      |                          |            |
|---|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 4 | PG250021 | MAIHRT: Mathematical AI in Healthcare: Research and Teaching Perspective                                                                                       | Healthcare and MedTech                | Subha D. P.      | NIT Calicut        | Prof. Dr. Thomas Götz                | U Koblenz                | 2569032.00 |
| 5 | PG250043 | Technologies for sustainable Additive Manufacturing and Post-processing - TEAM UP                                                                              | Advanced Manufacturing & Industry 4.0 | Afzaal Ahmed     | IIT Palakkad       | Prof. Dr.-Ing. Henning Zeidler       | TU Bergakademie Freiberg | 3005400.00 |
| 6 | PG250053 | Deciphering Mycobacterial Respiratory Niches to Target Organelle Dynamics during Infection: A Translational Approach to Develop Novel Therapeutic Intervention | Healthcare and MedTech                | Avinash Sonawane | IIT Indore         | Prof. Dr. Srikanth Karnati           | Uniklinik Würzburg       | 3536400.00 |
| 7 | PG250057 | Integration of managed aquifer recharge and water-food nexus in higher education                                                                               | Energy, Sustainability and Climate    | Hemant Kumar     | IIT Roorkee        | Prof. Dr. Thomas Grischek            | HTW Dresden              | 2468316.00 |
| 8 | PG250059 | State of the art in ecological and economical road construction and maintenance - Partnership for a lasting and sustainable transfer of knowledge              | Energy, Sustainability and Climate    | Ankit Gupta      | IIT (BHU) Varanasi | Prof. Dr.-Ing. Pahirangan Sivapatham | U Wuppertal              | 3767166.00 |



|    |          |                                                                                                                    |                                          |                 |                  |                                      |                         |             |
|----|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|    |          | (PadanaWitra) In short:<br>Innovative and<br>sustainable road<br>construction                                      |                                          |                 |                  |                                      |                         |             |
| 9  | PG250063 | Functional<br>Nanosystems - Towards<br>a Multidisciplinary<br>Indo-German Academic<br>Collaboration and<br>Network | Energy,<br>Sustainability and<br>Climate | Joy Mitra       | IISER TVM        | Prof. Dr.<br>Lukas<br>Worschech      | U Würzburg              | 5793600.00  |
| 10 | PG250075 | Berlin-Delhi Network<br>for Research on<br>Sphingolipids in Health<br>and Disease                                  | Healthcare and<br>MedTech                | Shailja Singh   | JNU              | Prof. Dr. rer.<br>Christoph<br>Arenz | HU Berlin               | 3165180.00  |
| 11 | PG250076 | Enabling Green<br>Technology<br>Collaboration between<br>Germany and India                                         | Energy,<br>Sustainability and<br>Climate | Amit Karna      | IIM<br>Ahmedabad | Prof. Dr. Dirk<br>Holtbrügge         | U Erlangen-<br>Nürnberg | 3676038.00  |
| 12 | PG250095 | AHEAD: Augmented<br>Intelligence in<br>Healthcare for<br>Enhanced Access and<br>Delivery                           | Healthcare and<br>MedTech                | Subhamoy Mandal | IIT Kharagpur    | Prof. Dr.<br>Nassir Navab            | TU München              | 3256374.00  |
|    |          |                                                                                                                    |                                          |                 |                  |                                      |                         | 43133334.00 |

*Handwritten signature/initials in blue ink.*