



**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR AND OCEAN
RESEARCH**

Ministry of Earth Sciences

Government of India

Headland Sada, Goa 403 804

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<http://www.ncpor.res.in>

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**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE ARCTIC REGION
(November 2023 - March 2024)**

Application Deadline: 15 September 2023

Background

The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) [erstwhile NCAOR], an autonomous R & D Institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, is the designated nodal agency for the planning, coordination and implementation of India's scientific research endeavours in the polar regions. On behalf of the MoES, NCPOR invites research proposals from Indian nationals working in Indian research institutes or academic organisations having a sustained interest in pursuing frontline research during the winter period in the Arctic region. This call includes fully-funded field access (comprising travel, boarding/lodging and DA as per the Government of India norms) to the high Arctic international research base *Himadri* located at Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard (for more details, please visit www.ncpor.res.in).

Scientific themes

Scientific research proposals are invited but are not limited to the scientific themes outlined below:

Theme 1: Atmospheric Science

Sub-themes:

- Trace gases
- Clouds, precipitation and hydrological cycle

- Boundary Layer Meteorology
- Interaction of snow, atmosphere and aerosols
- Atmospheric composition and pollution monitoring
- Middle and upper atmospheric studies
- Atmospheric electric field measurement
- Lightning studies

Theme 2: Marine Science: Dynamics and functioning of Arctic fjords

Sub-themes:

- Hydrographic observations
- Biogeochemical studies
- Ocean-atmosphere-sea ice and snow interactions
- Land-sea-atmosphere interactions
- Diversity of marine organisms

Theme 3: Environmental Chemistry:

Sub-themes:

- Contaminant fate and distribution
- Local and long-range pollutants
- Transport, up-take, accumulation, and transfer processes of organic pollutants
- Emerging contaminants.
- Marine microplastics and litter
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Theme 4: Space sciences and astronomy and astrophysics:

Sub-themes:

- Space sciences
- Astronomy and Astrophysics

Novel long-term scientific programs adding to our knowledge base of the Arctic realm and enhancing India's scientific credentials in polar research are encouraged.

Applicants should go through annexures (I to V) to know more about the study area and available resources.

Applicants may visit resource websites listed in Annexure IV for more information on research in Svalbard. Please ensure that the planned research does not conflict with the ongoing studies and environmental laws and regulations in vogue at Ny-Ålesund.

NCPOR encourages the submission of multi-institutional, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research proposals (network projects) addressing some key scientific questions pertaining to understanding the Arctic environment and climate change.

Fieldwork period

This call is for the period November 2023 to March 2024, which comprises the Autumn, Winter and Spring in the Arctic. More details about the study area and its climate are available in Annexure I.

Eligibility Criteria

The Principal Investigator (PI), as well as the co-investigator(s), if any, should be from an Indian research or academic organisation. The proposal should be endorsed by the affiliated institute or university.

Project Proposal

Scientific research proposals in the prescribed application format duly endorsed by the head of the organisation should be emailed to arctic@ncpor.res.in on or before **15 September 2023**. In the case of a network project proposal, it is required that each participating institution should endorse the application form before submission. Hardcopies need to be sent to the Director, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Headland Sada, Goa 403 804. The envelope should be clearly mentioned, “Proposal for scientific research in the Arctic (November 2023 - March 2024)”.

Ongoing proposals or PIs who had earlier accessed the field and wish to continue need to reapply and must fill in the project assessment form along with the application.

Proposals received after the last date may not be considered. However, the same may be considered for the next call with the PI’s consent.

Screening and Selection Procedure:

1. Submission of proposals along with endorsement before **15 September 2023**.
2. **Peer Review:** Received proposals will be sent to a group of experts for peer review and recommendation.
3. Recommended proposals would be called for presentation and team selection meeting before a group of experts in the **2nd week of October 2023**.

Important dates and deadline

Deadline for application submission	15 September 2023
Peer review of proposals	16 to 30 September 2023
Presentation and team selection meeting	2 nd week of October 2023

Data Policy

All data (including metadata) need to be submitted to NCPOR after the expedition as per NCPOR data policy.

Metadata, along with the expedition report, must be submitted by the PI immediately after the expedition. Final data after analysis should be submitted to NCPOR within 2 years from the collection, which shall be made public subsequently.

Applicants may go through the data portal - National Polar Data Center at <https://npdc.ncaor.gov.in/npdc/homepage.action> and may also make use of the data collected earlier.

Application information

Please visit our website (<http://www.ncpor.res.in>) for further details of the application and information annexures.