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**Indian bodies join hands with California varsity**

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NEW DELHI: A number of leading Indian science and technology organisations have signed a landmark research agreement with University of California to carry out ground-breaking research, it was announced on Thursday.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed here by DST Secretary V.S. Ramamurthy with the eight-member University of California delegation, in the presence of Kapil Sibal, minister for science and technology, according to an official statement.

Under the five-year agreement, India's premier science and technology organisations, including the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), TIFAC, Indo-US S&T Forum, Amrita University, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, and SETS, will join hands with the ten-campus university.

Areas of collaboration include healthcare technologies, drug design and delivery systems, emerging infectious diseases, wireless and mobile communication, telematics, IT and cybersecurity, disaster warning, mitigation and management, nanobiosciences, nanotechnology, energy, food security, biodiversity, and climate change studies.

For the purpose of effective implementation of the agreement, a bi-national joint steering committee will also be established.

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