

# Igniting Innovation

## India's ₹1 Lakh Crore RDI Scheme to Transform Research

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### India's ₹1 Lakh Crore RDI Fund Gets the Green Light

Accelerate **Research, Development & Innovation (RDI)** in Strategic & Sunrise Sectors

- ▶ **Low / Zero Interest** financing for **Private Sector**
- ▶ **Long-term Support** to scale up innovation
- ▶ Boosts **Private Sector R&D Investment**

**India's Future Powered by Innovation**  
Strengthening science, spurring growth and enabling industry-led R&D

its potential to transform emerging and sunrise sectors. “This scheme will have a major impact on private sector participation in R&D,” he stated, underscoring its role in bridging funding gaps and driving innovation. The initiative addresses a critical challenge highlighted in the *Economic Survey 2024-25*, which noted India’s low R&D expenditure compared to global benchmarks. By providing long-term, affordable financing, the scheme aims to empower private enterprises to invest in high-risk, high-reward projects that are essential for technological and economic progress.

The RDI Scheme is designed to overcome the hesitancy of private players to fund deep-tech and sunrise sectors, which often require extended gestation periods and entail significant risks. “Certain deep-tech sectors need long-term investment, but the private sector shies away due to uncertainties. The RDI fund mitigates these risks through concessional loans and equity investments, enabling transformative projects,” said Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt of India.

**I**N a landmark move to propel India’s research and innovation landscape, the Union Cabinet, under the leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, has greenlit the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme, backed by a colossal ₹1 lakh crore corpus. This ambitious initiative is poised to revolutionise research, development, and innovation, particularly in strategic and sunrise sectors. This fosters a robust ecosystem for private sector participation and technological advancement. As India strides toward its vision of a *Viksit Bharat* by 2047, the RDI Scheme emerges as a catalyst for self-reliance, global competitiveness, and cutting-edge innovation.

### A Bold Vision for Research and Innovation

The Prime Minister has hailed the RDI Scheme as a “game-changer” for India’s research ecosystem, which emphasises

### Strategic Objectives of the RDI Scheme

The RDI Scheme is built on a clear set of objectives to strengthen India’s innovation ecosystem:

- **Scaling Up Private Sector RDI:** the scheme encourages private enterprises to ramp up research and innovation in sunrise domains such as artificial intelligence, quantum technology, and green energy, as well as sectors critical for economic security and self-reliance.
- **Advancing Technology Readiness:** it focuses on financing projects at higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), ensuring that innovations move from labs to real-world applications.
- **Acquiring Strategic Technologies:** the scheme supports the acquisition of critical technologies that hold strategic importance for India’s global standing.