

GOVERNMENT

POLICY REPORT



***Policies
Covered In
The Edition***



1. Sustainability



2. Climate Change



3. Energy Efficiency



4. Cyber Security



5. Innovation

SUSTAINABILITY

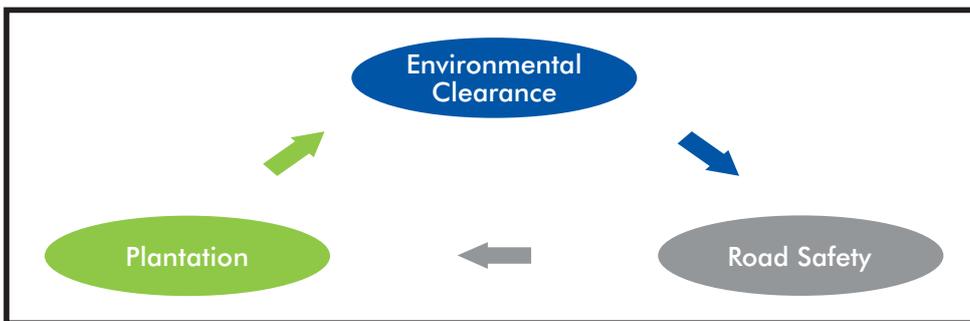


NHAI launched its first 'Sustainability Report' to Showcase its Environment and Energy Conservation Efforts



Recently, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched its first sustainability report with the title '**Sustainability Report for FY 2021-22**'. The report has **outlined the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy followed by NHAI** to ensure sustainable development across the country in their projects

ESG Strategy Adapted by NHAI



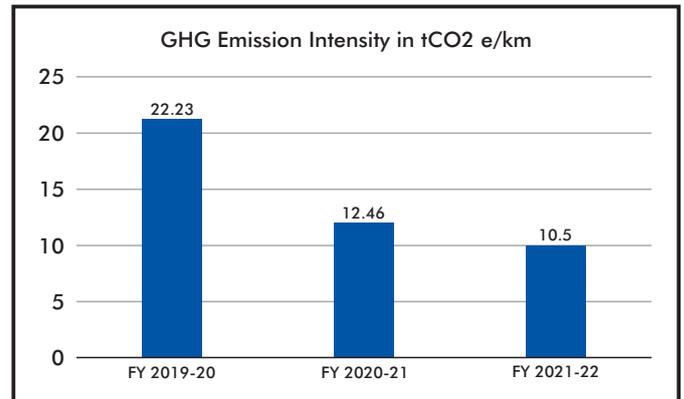
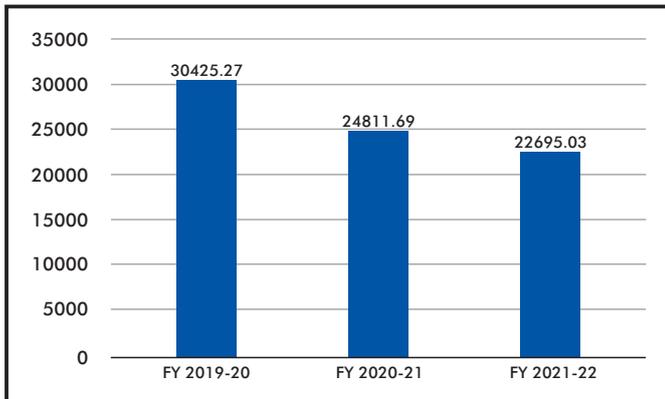
This has outlined details regarding NHAI's governance structure, and its various environmental and energy conservation efforts including the various stakeholders actively participating in India's green infrastructure development



Between 2019 to 2022, a declining trend in energy consumption in NHAI's operation, and road transport has been observed. This has also **included a significant 10 % reduction in energy intensity between 2020-22** in its operations. The **Electronic Toll Collection through FAS Tag has helped in reducing the carbon footprints on National highways with 97% penetration at highway users.**

Source: https://nhai.gov.in/nhai/sites/default/files/mix_file/NHAI_Report_2023_2205_with_cutmarks.pdf

Emissions Trend over Last 3 FYs on Fuel Consumption



Source: https://nhai.gov.in/nhai/sites/default/files/mix_file/NHAI_Report_2023_2205_with_cutmarks.pdf

Environmental Management Framework of NHAI



Since 2016, a significant rise in the number of planted saplings has brought a direct impact on reducing GHG emissions has been recorded. Besides this, **the creation of more than 100 Wildlife Crossings across 20 Indian states was also taken as a sustainable measure to limit man-animal conflict** around National Highways in the last three years

Source: https://nhai.gov.in/nhai/sites/default/files/mix_file/NHAI_Report_2023_2205_with_cutmarks.pdf

Yearwise Green Plantation Achieved by NHAI

Year or Plantation	No. of Saplings Planted in Lakh
2016-17	38.00
2017-18	38.26
2018-19	31.36
2019-20	36.20
2020-21	58.87
2021-22	72.05
Total	274.74

These efforts are contributing to maintaining India's additional Carbon Sink and strengthening India's commitment to its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Sustainable Development Goals over the years.

Source: https://nhai.gov.in/nhai/sites/default/files/mix_file/NHAI_Report_2023_2205_with_cutmarks.pdf

Climate Change

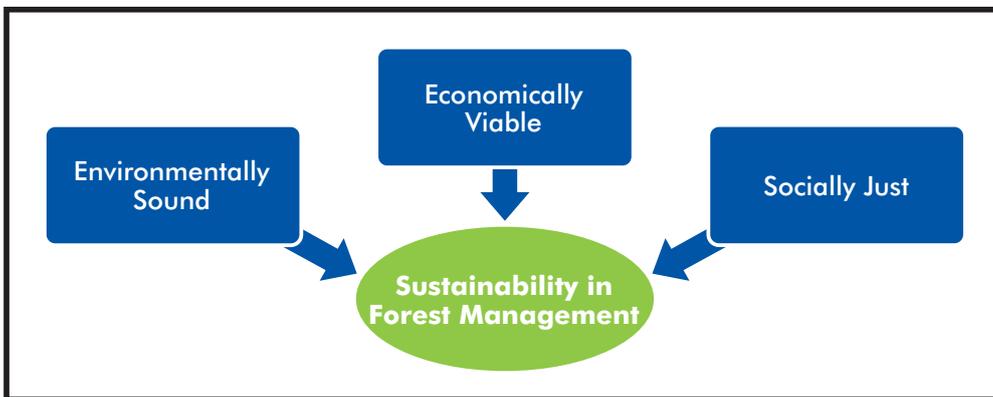


'National Working Plan Code 2023' by MOEFCC for Scientific Management of Indian Forests



Recently, on 'World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought' i.e. 17th June 2023, the MoEFCC has come up with the "National Working Plan (NWP) Code 2023" to find and evolve new approaches in the scientific management of Indian forests that must be sustainable enough.

Dimensions of Sustainable Forest Management



India's traditional knowledge has **given basis to the creation of the subsequent NWP Code since 2004**. This has brought uniformity in the management of different types of forests and managed multiple other aspects like environment stability, soil erosion, etc.

Drivers of NWP 2023

Maintaining Environment Sustainability

Conservation of Natural Heritage

Keeping a Check on Soil Erosion

Deforestation of Catchment Areas

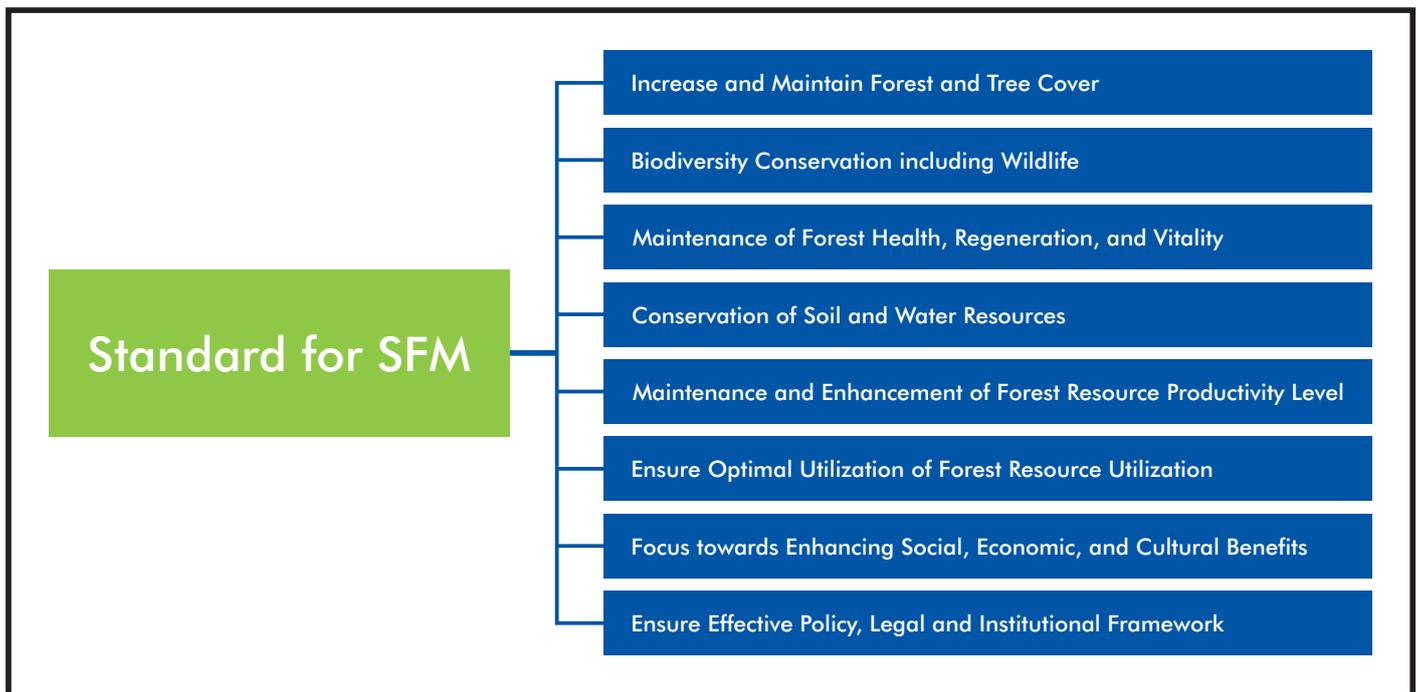
Inspection of Dunes Extension

Increase in Forest and Tree Cover through People Participation

Increase in Forest Productivity

It has identified eight standards for the scientific management of India's forests through sustainability principles that can bring holistic change.

Eight Standards for Scientific Forest Management (SFM) under NWP Code 2023



The rules are based on long-term experience in the scientific management of these forests with the aim of ecological conservation and biodiversity enhancement. This code has also realized the need of engaging state forest departments for data collection in **a centrally managed database to further take evidence-based research.**



National Requirements for SFM

- Maintenance , Enhancement, and Conservation of Biodiversity
- Protection to Ecologically Important Forest Areas
- Prohibition of Forest Conversions
- Recognition of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples
- Promotion of Gender Equality and Equal Treatment to Workers as Per ILO Convention
- Promotion of Health and Well-being of Forest Communities
- Ensuring Human Rights in Forest Operations
- Respecting Multiple Functions of Forests to Society
- Respect for Property, Land Tenure, Customary, and other Traditional Rights of Forest Communities
- Prohibition of Genetically Modified Trees and Most Hazardeous Chemicals
- Adaption of Climate Positive Practices in Forest Operations

The National Forest Policy, 2018 also provides the required support to work on these scientific management principles under the NWP code. With supporting regulatory and legislative provisions, the government has formulated this working plan to sustainably manage Indian forests with the active participation of stakeholders and adequate funding support to address the climate change scenario and increase India's forest cover with the help of local communities.



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Energy Efficiency



UTPRERAK: Establishment of Centre of Excellence by Ministry of Power to Boost Adoption of Energy-efficient Technologies



A Center of Excellence (CoE) 'UTPRERAK' (Unnat Takniki Pradarshan Kendra) has been **established by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power** to delicately work on the adoption of clean and energy-efficient technologies to play as a catalyst in India's clean energy transition.



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1935484>

The objectives undertaken by the centre are comprehensive about India's quest to clean energy efficiency.

Objective of UTPRERAK

01

Foster Adoption of Applications and Facilitate Technology Demonstration of Energy-efficient Industrial Equipment by Development, Outreach, and Educational Activities

02

Create/Build Institutional Capacity to Enhance Business Opportunities in Manufacturing and Use of Energy Efficient Technologies

03

Establish Key Market Connections by Providing Practitioners Such as Energy Managers and Energy Auditors, an opportunity to Explore and Learn about State-of-the-art Energy Efficient Technologies

04

Coordinate Outreach and Support Efforts, Offering Exhibits, Demonstrations Materials and Technical Inputs in the Adoption of Emerging Technologies

05

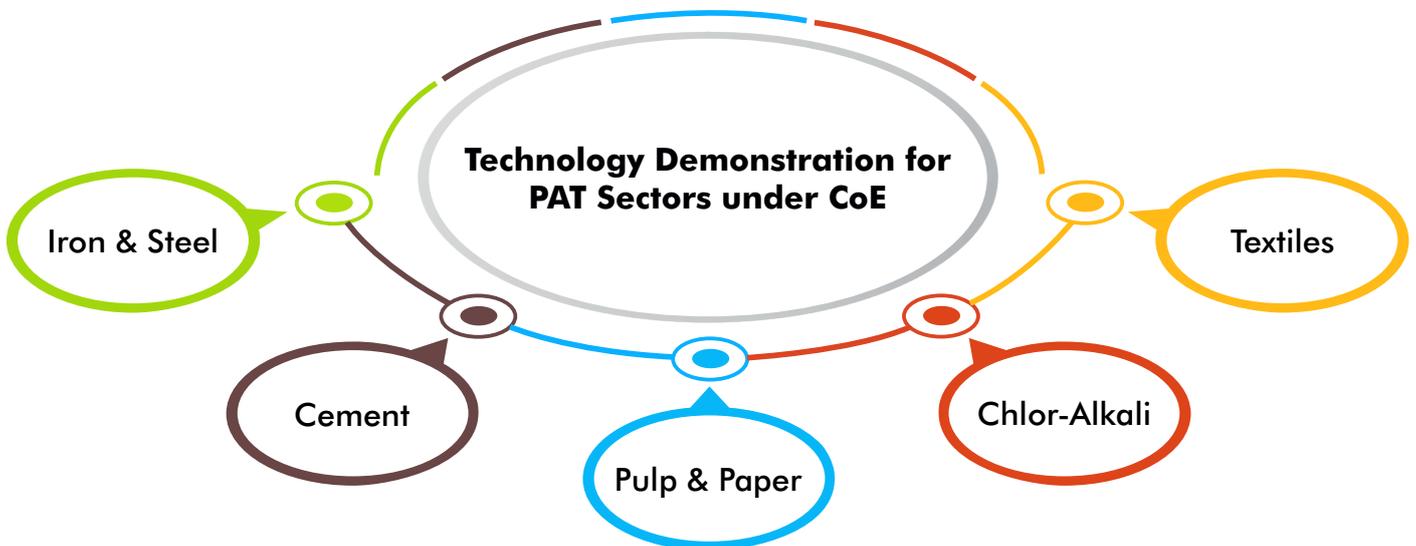
Provide a Forum for Capacity Building and Continuing Education on Energy-efficient Technologies being Practiced in India and Abroad

The centre will work as a knowledge exchange platform for energy professionals and other stakeholders to drive the future of clean energy in India. **It is expected to train more than 10,000 professionals in the sector in the next five years** while providing a one-stop solution for its clean energy-related problems.

Functions of CoE



This will also help in realizing India's emission-related targets and accelerate economic growth through central government schemes in nurturing innovative and applied energy-efficient solutions.



Thus, **UTPRERAK** is vital to give a boost to the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)** of the government to derive the use of **clean energy technologies** in the areas such as alternative fuels, waste heat recovery, etc. It will find the steady and sustainable path of India's economic growth in the global as well as domestic markets with the active association of industry as well as academics.



Cyber Security



'Guidelines on Information Security Practices' by CERT-In to Ensure Safe and Trusted Internet for Government Entities



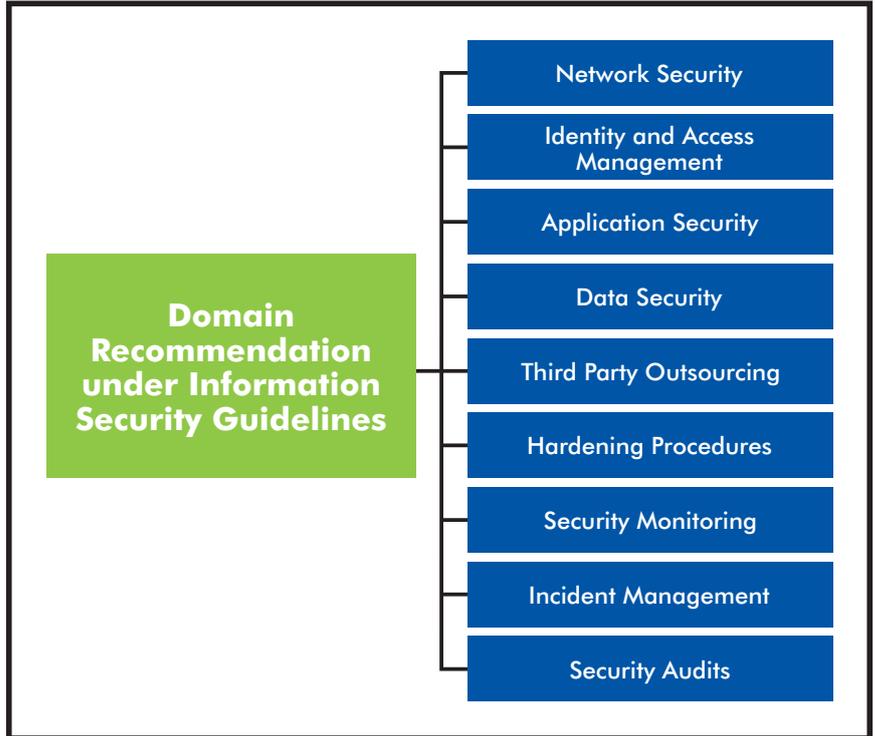
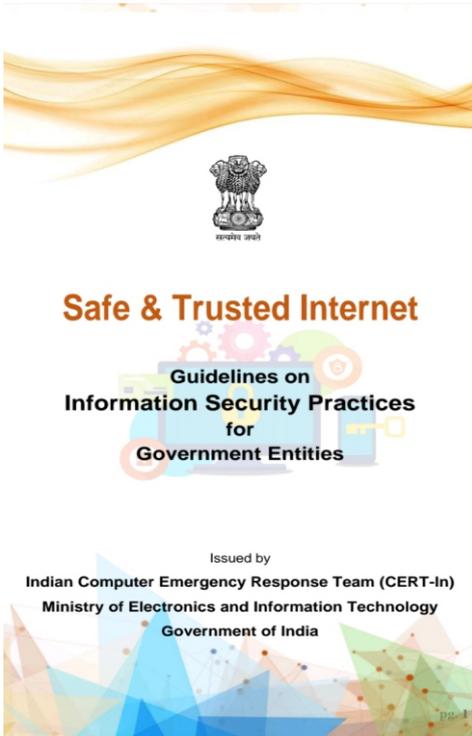
The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has recently released the guidelines on Information Security Practices **to secure the cyberspace used by all the government ministries, Departments, and Secretariats including their attached and subordinate offices as per the Information Technology Act, 2000.**

Details of Guidelines

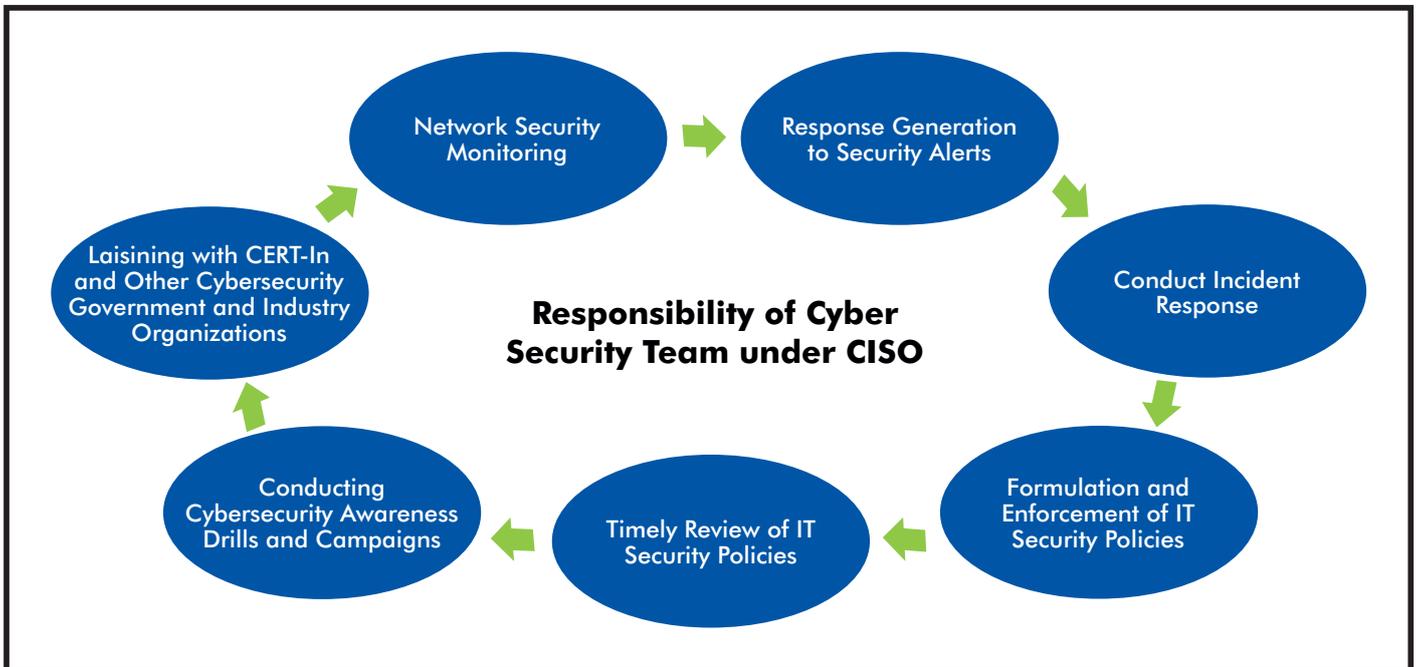
- Nomination of a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for IT Security
- Formulation of Cyber Security Policy and Assign Roles and Responsibilities for CISO
- Assign Dedicated Cyber security Team to CISO
- Periodically Conduct Internal and External Audit of the Complete ICT Infrastructure and Deploy Audit Outcomes
- Formulate Security Policies and Procedures to Achieve Cyber Resilience
- Maintenance of Authorized Inventory in Terms of Hardware, Software along with Automated Scanning Mechanisms to Detect Unauthorized Device and Software Presence
- Maintain Situational Awareness based on CERT-In Website on Latest Cyber Security Threats
- Follow Cyber Hygiene Measures Suggested by CERT-In along with Prevention of Cyber Threats

The guidelines came in the wake of India's expanding digital landscape with the rapidly increasing number of smart phone users. Currently, Government schemes, business activities, education, and finance, all are available at their fingertips over a wider horizon of cyberspace. This brought the need of making cyberspace used by government entities safe, secure, and trustworthy.



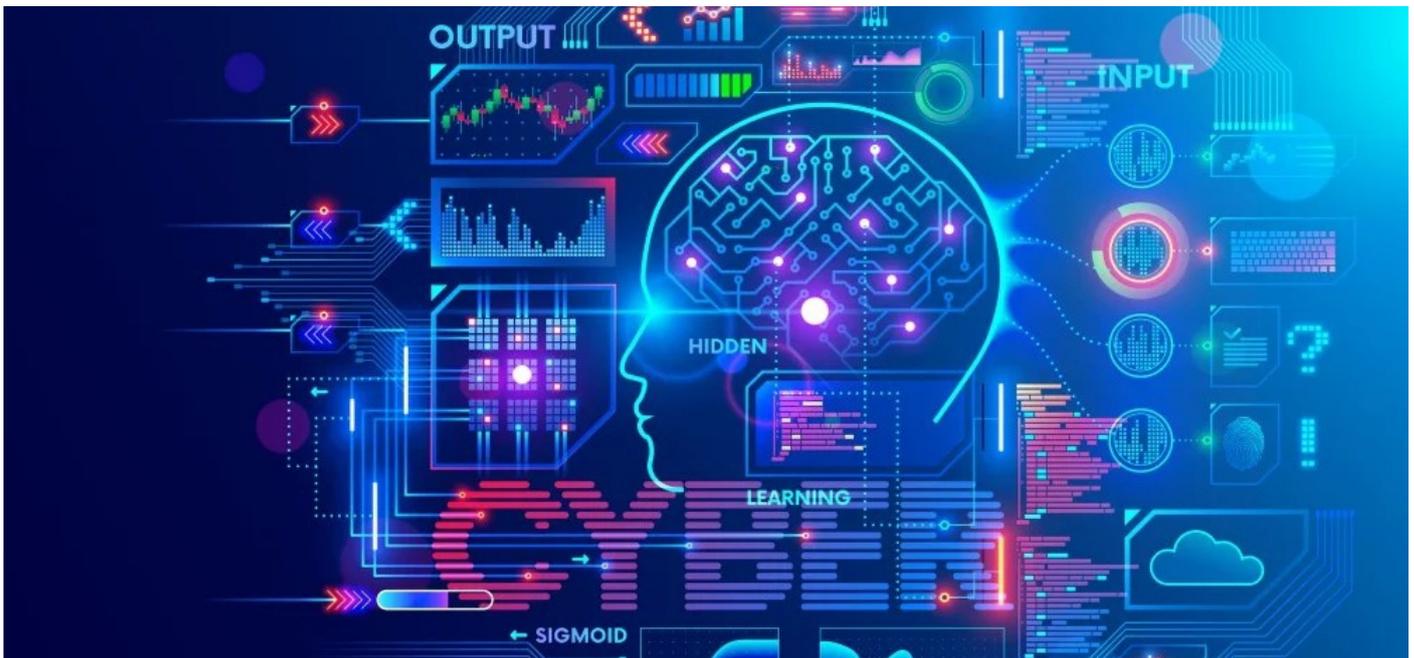


To follow the best practices with cyber security and cyber hygiene and its timely monitoring, the appointment of Chief Information Security Officers (CISO) with dedicated responsibilities has been mandated.



India is leaping towards becoming a \$1 Trillion digital economy, and thus the growing cyberspace needs a larger comprehensive cyber security framework. To achieve this, the CERT-In has issued general guidelines for reviewing and reporting security incidents by all service providers, intermediaries, corporate bodies, as well as Government Organizations for further effective investigation, analysis, and response.

Through this, the government is taking proactive steps to address the cyber risks, threats, and crimes in Indian cyberspace. This will strengthen India's digital growth and leverage the potential of Technology 4.0 in its favour. Thus, these guidelines will work as a fundamental document to develop an improved and secured cyber ecosystem in India where government entities, corporates, and citizens will be part of an active yet safe cyberspace



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Innovation



National Research Foundation Bill, 2023 to Foster Culture of Research and Innovation in India



To promote innovation through Research and Development across Indian Universities, Educational Institutions, Research Institutions, as well as Research laboratories, the Union Cabinet has recently given its nod to **the Introduction of National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023 to the Parliament of India**. Through this bill, an apex administrative body NRF will be established which will be responsible to **give strategic direction to India's scientific research and development**.

Features of NRF Bill, 2023

Establishment of NRF as an Apex Body as per the Recommendation of the National Education Policy, 2020

NRF will Provide High-level Strategic Directions on Scientific Research in India

DST will be the Administrative Department for NRF

NRF is Governed by a Governing Board Consisting of Eminent Researchers and Professionals across Disciplines

Prime Minister of India will be the Ex-officio President of the Board along with Union Minister of Science & Technology and Union Minister of Education as Two Ex-officio Vice Presidents

Executive Council of the NRF will be Chaired by Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to Government of India

Total Estimated Outlay is Rs 50,000 Crore in Five Years Between 2023-28

SERB will be Subsumed into NRF to Expand the Mandate



It will establish collaborations among government departments, research institutions, academia, and industry to increase participation

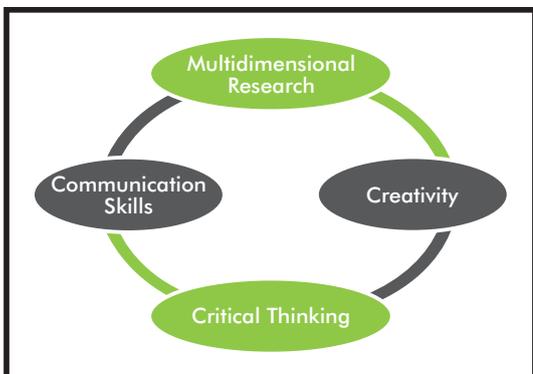


With expanded areas of significance, the SERB will be subsumed under NRF to promote active participation of industry and academia to find multidimensional impacts.

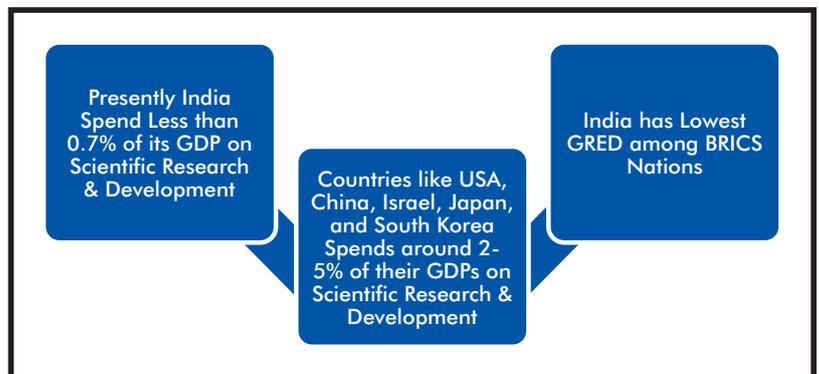
The policy framework established under NRF will encourage scientific research under a streamlined regulatory process to attract higher investment from industry to bring India to par with global spending on scientific research and development to foster innovation across sectors.



Areas of Significance



Quick Facts About Global Scientific Research Scenario



India through the provision of this bill dreams of making scientific progress while addressing the concurrent challenges to foster research and innovation. This will present a democratic framework to pour in funding in the area to make way for a self-sustainable future for India.

Resources

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Electric Vehicle	Infrastructure: Highway/Tunnels	Animal Husbandry	Healthcare	Climate Change
Traffic Management		Horticulture & Forestry		

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