



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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National Research Foundation Bill, 2023

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Why is in news? Cabinet approves Introduction of National Research Foundation Bill, 2023 in Parliament to strengthen research eco-system in the country

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister **approved the introduction** of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023 in the Parliament

The approved Bill **will pave the way to establish NRF** that **will seed, grow and promote Research and Development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation** throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.

The bill, after approval in the Parliament, **will establish NRF, an apex body** to provide high-level strategic direction of **scientific research in the country** as per **recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP)**, at a total estimated cost of Rs. 50,000 crore **during five years (2023-28)**.

The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** will be the **administrative Department of NRF** which will be **governed by a Governing Board** consisting of eminent researchers and professionals across disciplines.

Since the scope of the NRF is wide-ranging – impacting all ministries - the Prime Minister will be the ex-officio President of the Board and the Union Minister of Science & Technology & Union Minister of Education will be the ex-officio Vice-Presidents.

NRF's functioning will be governed by an Executive Council chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

NRF will forge collaborations among the industry, academia, and government departments and research institutions, and create an interface mechanism for participation and contribution of industries and State governments in addition to the scientific and line ministries.

It will focus on creating a policy framework and putting in place regulatory processes that can encourage collaboration and increased spending by the industry on R&D.

The bill will **also repeal the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** established by an act of Parliament in 2008 **and subsume it into NRF** which has an expanded mandate and covers activities over and above the activities of SERB.

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