



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Vigyan Dhara Scheme

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Why in news?

The Union Cabinet recently approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes merged into a unified central sector scheme called "**Vigyan Dhara**" under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

About Vigyan Dhara Scheme:

- It is a new central sector scheme **unifying three umbrella schemes** of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
- The scheme has **three broad components**:

Science and Technology (S&T) **Institutional and Human Capacity Building**,

- **Research and Development** and
- **Innovation, Technology Development and Deployment**.
- These three schemes have been **merged into the unified scheme** 'Vigyan Dhara'.
- This initiative, **managed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, is designed to enhance India's S&T capabilities through a streamlined approach
- The **proposed outlay** for the implementation of the unified scheme 'Vigyan Dhara' is **Rs.10,579.84 crore during the 15th Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- The merger of the schemes into a single scheme would enhance efficiency in fund utilization and establish synchronization among the sub-schemes/programs.
- The **primary objective** of the 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme is to **promote S&T capacity building** as well as **research, innovation, and technology development** towards strengthening the Science, Technology and Innovation ecosystem in the country.
- **Components:**
- The scheme endeavours to
- **promote research in areas such as basic research** with
- **access to the international mega facilities**,
- **translational research** in sustainable energy, water, etc. and
- **collaborative research** through international bilateral and **multilateral cooperation**.
- It will also contribute to **building a critical human resource pool** to strengthen the science and technology landscape and **expand the R&D base** of the country towards **improving the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) researcher count**.
- **Focused interventions** will be taken **upto enhance the participation of women** in the field of S&T with the ultimate goal of **bringing gender parity** in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)
- **All the programs** proposed under the 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme **would be aligned with the 5-year goals of DST** towards realising the **vision of Viksit Bharat 2047**
- The R&D component of the scheme will be **aligned in line with the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**.

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