

Rationalisation exercise of center's research institutions

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Department of Science and Technology (DST) has initiated a rationalisation exercise to **reduce the number of autonomous institutions** funded by various Ministries.



[Ref: The Hindu]

Rationalisation exercise:

- Rationalisation exercise means **merging, disengaging and even closure** of some organisations.
- Finance Ministry recommended **83 of the 231 autonomous bodies** to be **retained** and **117 merged into 29 entities**.
 - It recommended that the Centre “disengage” from **20 entities**.
 - It also proposed that **seven autonomous bodies be closed**.
- After rationalisation is completed, **only 111 autonomous bodies** would remain.
- The broader aim of the exercise is **minimum government and maximum governance**.

Rationalisation exercise of DST:

- DST is the main source of funds and sustenance for at least **30 autonomous research bodies**.
- Finance Ministry recommended that **8 be retained, 18 be merged into two**, the government disengage from **three and one**.
- **Vigyan Prasar** be wound up and its functions be carried out by the Ministry.
 - It is an **autonomous body** set up in **1989**.
 - It is tasked with **science popularization**.

Merger autonomous bodies of DST

- **Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bangalore**
 - It is founded in **1948** by **Sir C.V. Raman**.
 - It is among the **country's top institutes** for research into **theoretical and high-energy physics**.
- **S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences and the Bose Institute**
 - Both are in **Kolkata**.
- **RRI** is proposed to be merged with the **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore**.
- Two Kolkata institutes proposed to be merged with the **Indian Association for Cultivation of**

Sciences, also located at **Kolkata**.

- Two science academies: the **Indian National Science Academy**, New Delhi, and the **National Academy of Sciences (NASI)**, Allahabad, will be merged into the **Indian Association of Science (sic)**.
- The **Technology Information and Forecasting Council (TIFAC)**, New Delhi, the **Indian National Academy of Engineering** and the **Indian Science Congress Association** have been recommended to become “**corporatised**” and **Section-8 companies**.

Rationalisation exercise of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES):

- It brought its **five sister institutes** including the [India Meteorological Department](#) under a **common ‘virtual’ structure** but each institute retains its independent identity.

Rationalisation exercise of Department of Biotechnology:

- It merged **14 autonomous institutions** under it into an apex body called the **Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)**.
- **39 laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** have been part of a society headed by the **Prime Minister of India**.