NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI-110016 (INDIA)

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

2025-26

July 2026

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सत्यमेव जयते

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राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार),
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय;
राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय;
राज्य मंत्री, प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय;
राज्य मंत्री कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत एवं पेंशन मंत्रालय;
राज्य मंत्री परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग तथा
राज्य मंत्री अंतरिक्ष विभाग
भारत सरकार

सत्यमेव जयते

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Public Grievances and Pensions;
Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and
Minister of State in the Department of Space
Government of India

MESSAGE

I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for bringing out the publication on *Research and Development (R&D) Statistics At a Glance 2025-26*. The compilation of national R&D statistics is a critical exercise in strengthening evidence-based policymaking and strategic planning in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) sector.

This publication provides a comprehensive overview of the country's R&D ecosystem, presenting key indicators on R&D expenditure, human resources, sectoral participation, and other important dimensions of the national research and innovation landscape through clear and insightful graphical representations. It offers a concise snapshot of India's research ecosystem and serves as a valuable reference for policymakers, researchers, industry leaders, students, and the broader scientific community.

I once again commend the National Science and Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS), Department of Science and Technology, for its sustained efforts in developing and disseminating comprehensive science and technology statistics and R&D indicators that support evidence-based policymaking. I am confident that this publication will be widely used as a reliable resource for understanding the evolving landscape of research and development in India and for informing future policy, research, and innovation initiatives.

July, 2026

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Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Science and Technology

FOREWORD

The role and criticality of data in the formulation of evidence-based policies is paramount for building a strong and viable science, research and innovation ecosystem for the country. National Science and Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS), DST has been continuously engaged in generating comprehensive S&T statistics since 1973-74 for evidence-based policy planning, decision-making, monitoring of India's progress in science, technology & innovation and global benchmarking.

I am pleased to present the publication titled, *Research and Development (R&D) Statistics At a Glance 2025-26* which highlights the key findings of the National S&T Survey, 2024-25 through concise graphical presentations. National S&T Survey, 2024-25 involves a mammoth task of collecting data from around 8000 R&D performing entities covering national laboratories, state research institutions, higher education institutions, public & private industries, scientific & industrial research organizations, etc. spread across the country.

I appreciate dedicated efforts of NSTMIS team led by Dr. Arvind Kumar, with support from Dr. Rabindra Kr. Panigrahy, Mr. Pramod Kr. Arya, Mr. Subrata Maiti and Ms. Hemlata in successfully planning and executing the National S&T Survey and bringing out this valuable publication.

I also complement all the central ministries/departments, state governments, scientific agencies, research institutions, higher education institutions, industries, and industry associations for their active participation and valuable contribution to the national S&T survey exercise. I am confident that the insights presented in this publication will serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, funding agencies, researchers, and all stakeholders committed to strengthening India's science, technology, and innovation ecosystem.

July, 2026

(Umesh V. Waghmare)

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PREFACE

The publication *Research and Development Statistics At A Glance 2025-26* presents a comprehensive overview of key statistical insights and trends related to science, technology, and innovation (STI) ecosystem of the country in graphical presentations.

The insights presented here are primarily derived from the National S&T Survey, 2024-25 and supplemented with data from various national and international repositories. To ensure global comparability, internationally accepted concepts, definitions, and classifications established by UNESCO and the OECD are used for deriving these insights.

This publication is the result of a collaborative national effort. We extend our deep gratitude to the central ministries, state government departments, scientific agencies, research and higher education institutions, and industry associations their active participation and support in collecting data for national S&T survey. We also sincerely thank the members of the Expert Committee, whose technical guidance and thoughtful reviews significantly enhanced the quality and relevance of this volume.

We hope that *Research and Development Statistics At A Glance 2025-26* will serve as a valuable reference document for policymakers, researchers, and strategic planners working to advance India's STI landscape.

July, 2026

(Arvind Kumar)

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Contents

Abbreviations

AYUSH	Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy
BERD	Business Enterprise Research and Development
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
CSIR	Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
DAE	Department of Atomic Energy
DBT	Department of Biotechnology
DoS	Department of Space
DRDO	Defence Research & Development Organisation
DSIR	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
DST	Department of Science & Technology
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GERD	Gross Expenditure on Research and Development / Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development
HEI	Higher Education Institution
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
ISRO	Indian Space Research Organisation
MeitY	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
MNCs	Multinational Corporations
MNRE	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

MoES	Ministry of Earth Sciences
MoP	Ministry of Power
MOSPI	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
NSF	National Science Foundation
NSTMIS	National Science and Technology Management Information System
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
R&D	Research and Development
S&T	Science and Technology
SIROs	Scientific and Industrial Research Organizations
UK	United Kingdom
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USA	United States of America
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

Overview

The National Science and Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS) Division, Department of Science and Technology (DST), serves as the nodal agency for the assessment, monitoring, and benchmarking of India's science, technology, and innovation (STI) ecosystem. To support evidence-based policymaking, NSTMIS has been conducting the National Science and Technology (S&T) Survey since 1973–74 on regular basis, creating a comprehensive repository of S&T data spanning over five decades.

The National S&T Survey, 2024–25 was conducted between December 2024 to December 2025 as census of R&D-performing institutions identified through the periodically updated Directory of R&D Institutions. The Survey covered more than 8,000 R&D-performing institutions across the country, representing six major sectors: Central Sector, State Sector, Public Sector Industry, Private Sector Industry, Scientific and Industrial Research Organisations (SIROs), and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

Data were collected through standardized questionnaires developed in accordance with the OECD *Frascati Manual(2015)*, ensuring international comparability of the statistics. An online survey portal facilitated data submission while providing respondents with access to records from previous survey rounds, thereby improving reporting efficiency and data consistency.

The collected information underwent rigorous validation and was supplemented with data from authenticated secondary sources to address information gaps. These secondary sources include records from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Annual Reports, Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) reports, Public Enterprises Survey reports, the Agricultural Research Data Book, Demand for Grants, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), institutional websites, yearbooks, and other official publications.

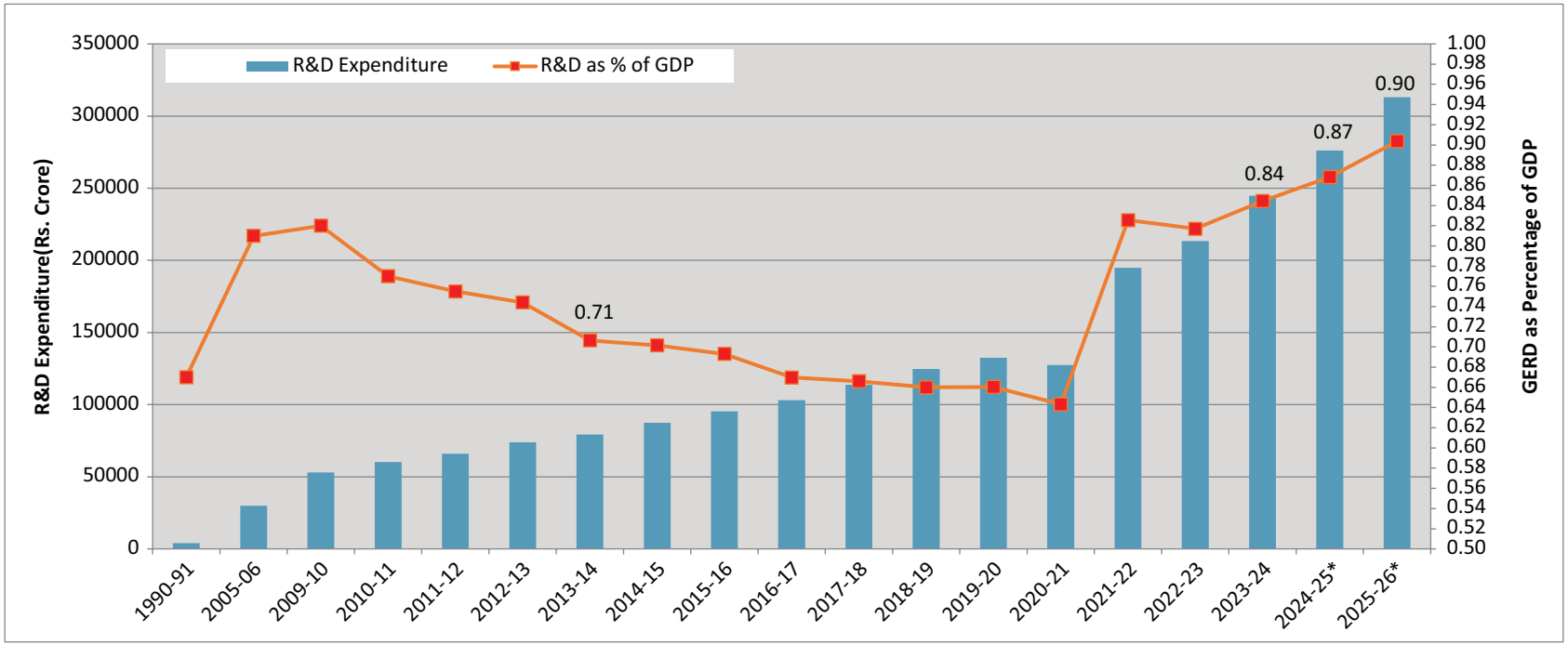
The outcome of the Survey resulted in national estimates of major indicators such Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD), Business Enterprises Expenditure on Research and Development (BERD) and Full time Equivalent (FTE) researchers engaged in R&D activities in the country and many other Indicators. The draft reports were reviewed, validated and finalized in consultations with a duly constituted Expert Committee.

The National S&T Survey, 2024–25 culminated in the publication of two flagship reports: ***Science and Technology Indicator Tables 2025–26*** and ***Research and Development Statistics at a Glance 2025–26***. The insights and trends presented in *Research and Development Statistics At a Glance* cover key dimensions of the national R&D ecosystem, including R&D expenditure, human resources, institutional participation, research output, and sectoral performance. Developed using standardized definitions and internationally accepted methodologies, these trends help in understanding country's R&D landscape and serve as an important evidence base for policy formulation, strategic planning, resource allocation, performance monitoring, and international benchmarking.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Chart 1: National R&D Expenditure and its Percentage of GDP

- India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) has shown sustained growth over the past decade. The country's GERD more than tripled, rising from Rs. 79,355.89 crore in 2013–14 to Rs. 244,767.81 crore in 2023–24. This reflects a strong and consistent increase in investments toward research, innovation, and technological development.
- The upward trend is expected to continue, with GERD projected to reach Rs 276,196.13 crore by 2024-25 and Rs. 313,007.02 crore by 2025–26, underscoring India's growing commitment to strengthening its research and development ecosystem.

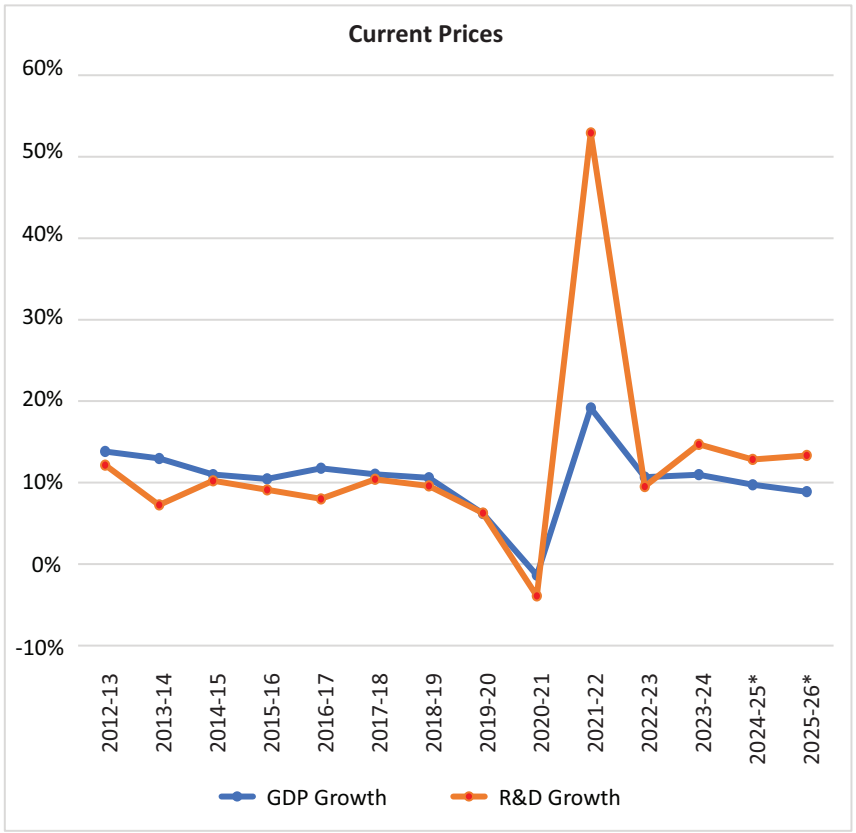


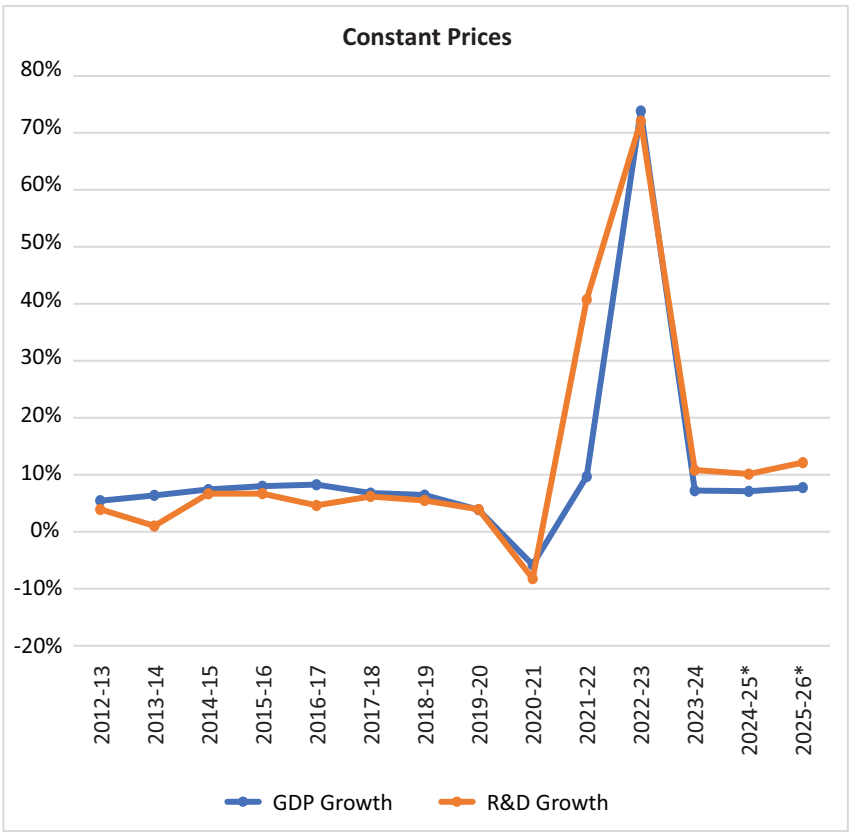
Source: National Science and Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS), Department of Science & Technology, Government of India
* Estimated

- For the first time, India's GERD as a percentage of GDP reached to **0.84%** in 2023-24. It increased from 0.64% in 2020-21 to an all-time high in 2023-24. This upward trajectory is expected to continue, with GERD projected to reach 0.87% in 2024-25 and 0.90% in 2025-26.

Chart 2: GERD and GDP Annual Growth Rate at Current and Constant Prices

❖ GERD and GDP, in absolute terms, have shown a consistent rising trend over the years. The annual growth rate of R&D (both at current and constant prices) kept fluctuating during 2012-13 to 2020-21 while it has been higher than that of GDP after 2021-22 (except for year 2022-23 in which GDP growth rate was higher).



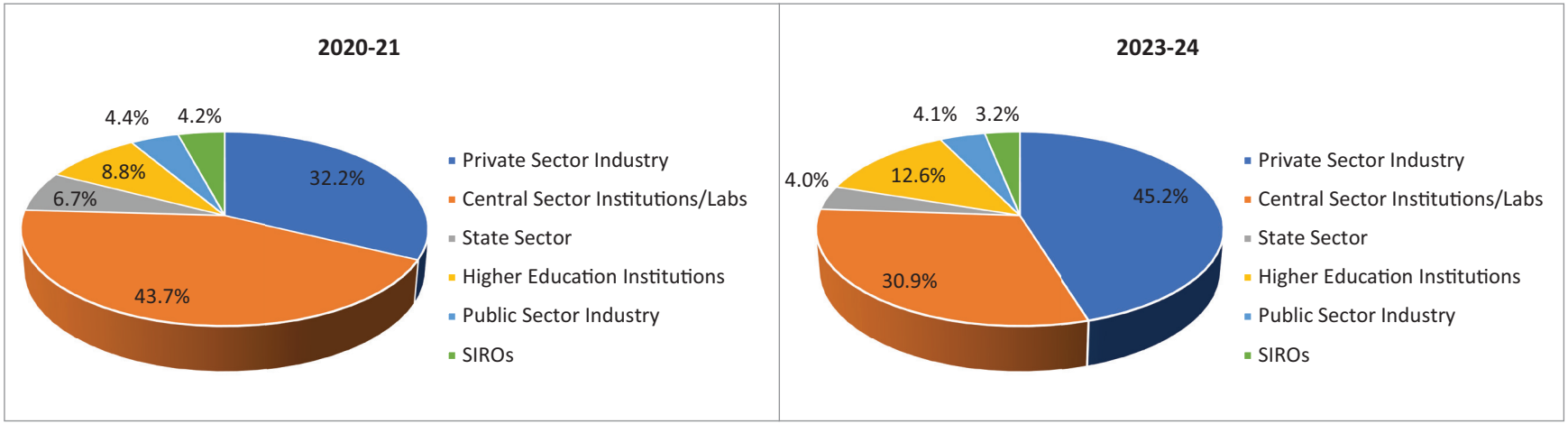


Source: NSTMIS, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

❖ India's GERD increased to 120.6 billion current PPP US$ in 2023-24 from 57.9 billion current PPP US$ in 2020-21.

Chart 3: National Expenditure on R&D by Sectors, 2020-21 vs. 2023-24

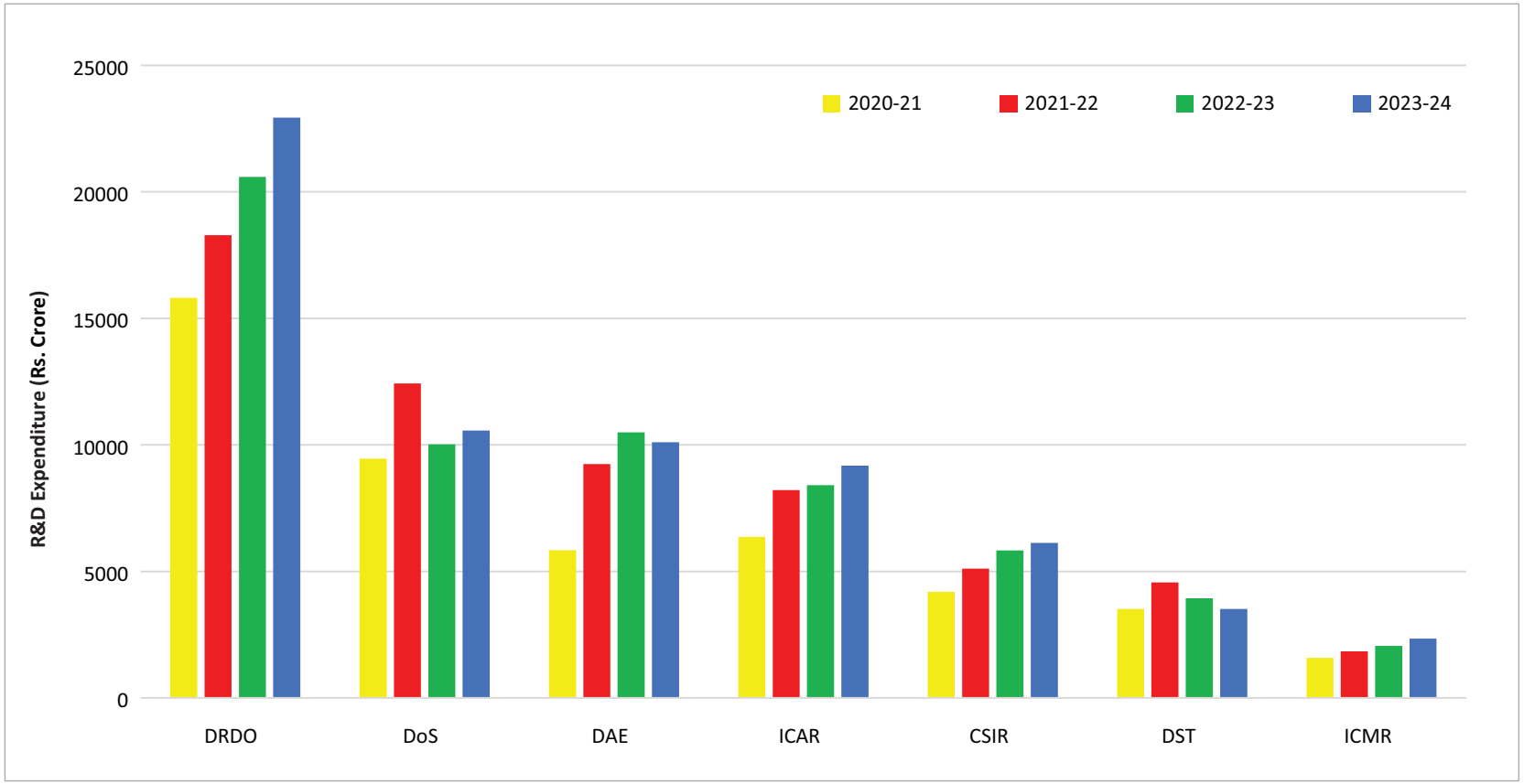
- During 2023-24, GERD is mainly driven by the Private Sector Industry (45.2%), Central Sector Institutions (30.9%), Higher Education Institutions (12.6%), and Public Sector Industry (4.1%). Institutions under the State Government contribute 4.0%, and SIROs contribute 3.2% in GERD.



Source: NSTMIS, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

- A notable trend in recent years has been the growing role of private sector industry in India's R&D ecosystem. The share of private industry in GERD increased significantly from 32.2% in 2020-21 to 45.2% in 2023–24, highlighting stronger private industry participation and investment in research, innovation, and technological development in the recent years.

Chart 4: R&D Expenditure by Select Scientific Agencies

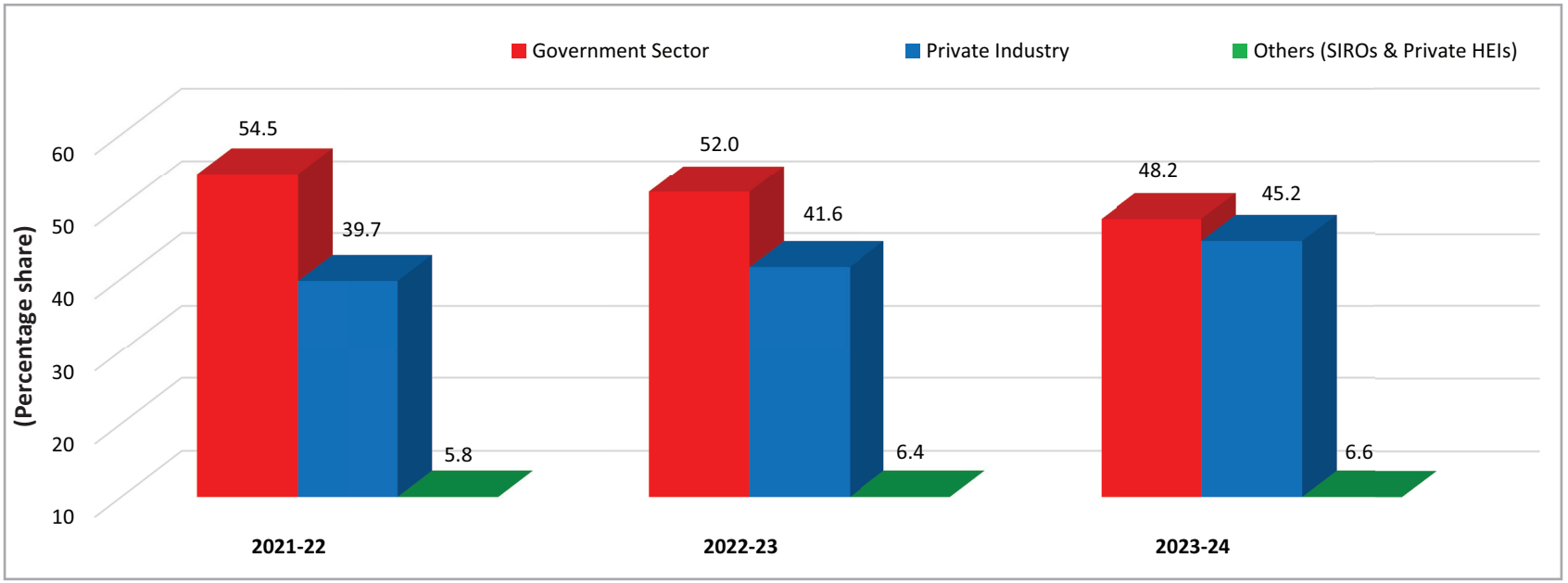


Source: NSTMIS, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

- During year 2023–24, 76% of the R&D expenditure incurred in Central Sector came from 12 major scientific agencies.
- Amongst the 12 Central Government major scientific agencies, DRDO accounted for the maximum share of 32.7% of R&D expenditure, followed by DOS (15.0%), DAE (14.4%), ICAR (13.1%), CSIR (8.7%), DST (5.0%), ICMR (3.3%), MeitY (2.7%), DBT (2.1%), MoES (1.9%), MoEFCC (0.9%), and MNRE (0.1%).

Chart 5: Share of Government Sector and Private Industry in GERD, 2023-24

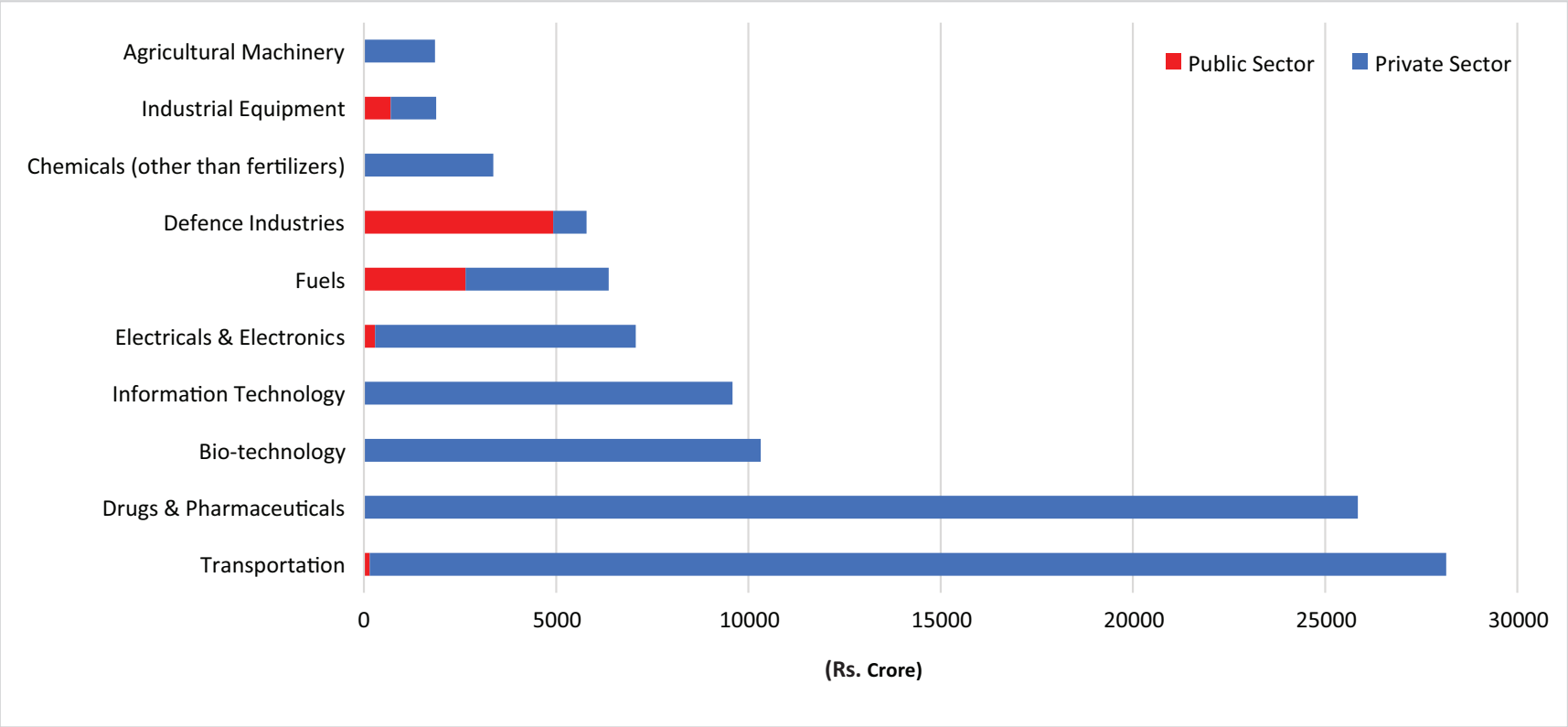
- The private industry R&D spending grew steadily between 2021-22 to 2023-24, maintaining an average year-on-year growth rate of approximately 20%.
- The government sector (comprising of central & state government R&D Institutions/Labs, public & joint sector industries, and public higher education institutions) still remains the primary contributor to India's GERD.



Source: NSTMIS, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

Chart 6: R&D Expenditure by Leading Industrial Groups, 2023-24

❖ During the year 2023-24, Public Sector R&D was led by Defence Industries, followed by Fuels, Industrial Equipment and Electricals & Electronics, while the Transportation Sector, Drugs and Pharma, Biotechnology, Information Technology, Electricals & Electronics, etc., dominated the Private Sector R&D.

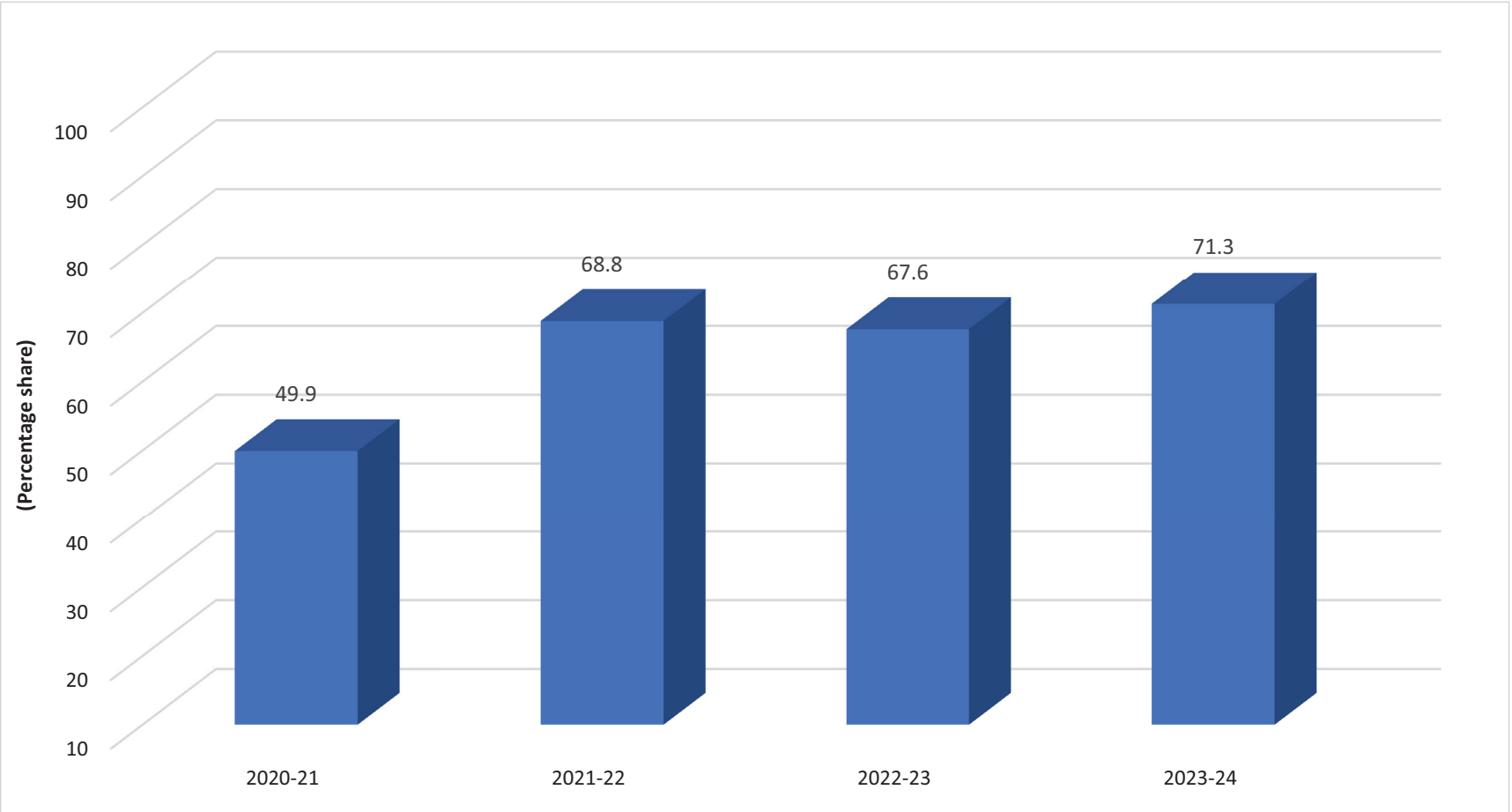


Source: NSTMIS, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

❖ In the industrial R&D, Transportation occupied the first place with a share of 32.6% followed by Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (21.4%), Bio-technology (8.6%), Information Technology (7.9%), Electricals & Electronics (5.9%), etc.

Chart 7: Share of MNCs R&D in Business R&D Expenditure in India

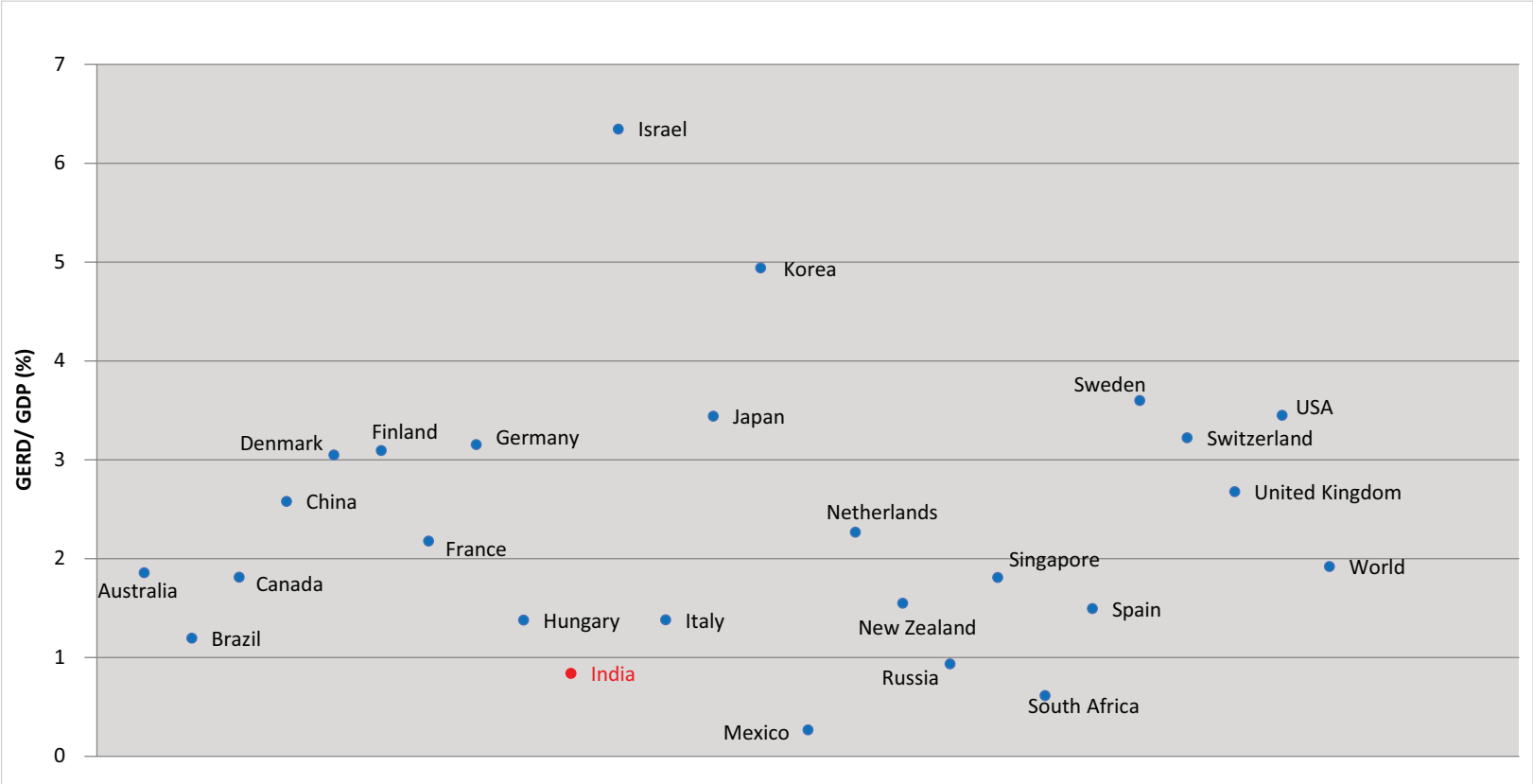
❖ The percentage share of MNCs in total business R&D in India increased from 49.9% in 2020-21 to 71.3% in 2023-24. These MNCs include 252 Private Sector Indian MNCs, 124 Private Sector Foreign MNCs, and 14 Public Sector Indian MNCs.



Source: NSTMIS, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

Chart 8: GERD as Percentage of GDP for Select Countries, 2023

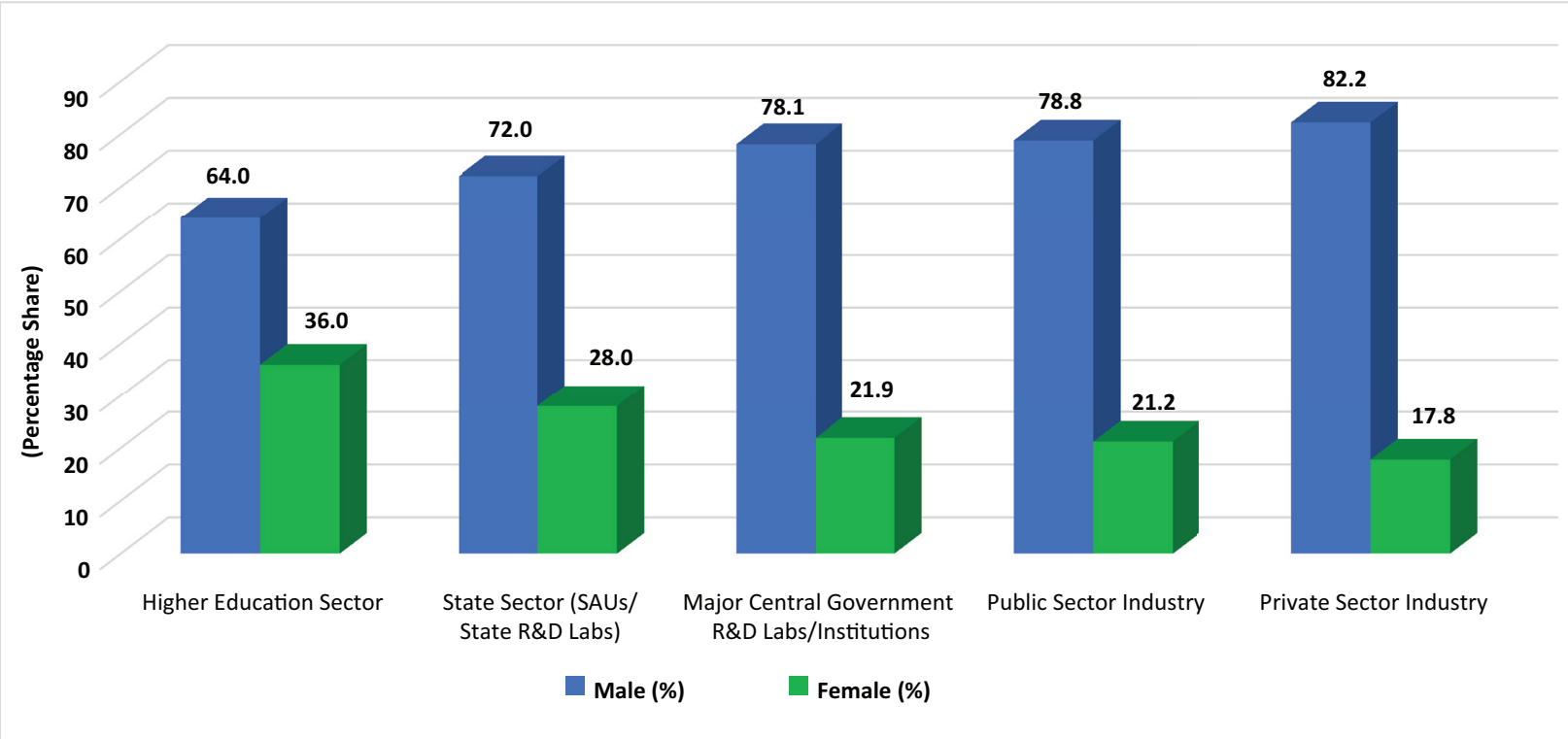
- Most of the developed countries spent more than 2% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on R&D.
- India spent 0.84% of its GDP on R&D in 2023-24, while the same among some of the other developing BRICS countries was Brazil (1.19%), Russian Federation (0.94%), China (2.58%) and South Africa (0.61%).



Source: UNESCO website accessed on 21.06.2026 and India - R&D Statistics 2025-26, DST, GoI.

Chart 9: Percentage Share of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Researchers in R&D, 2023-24

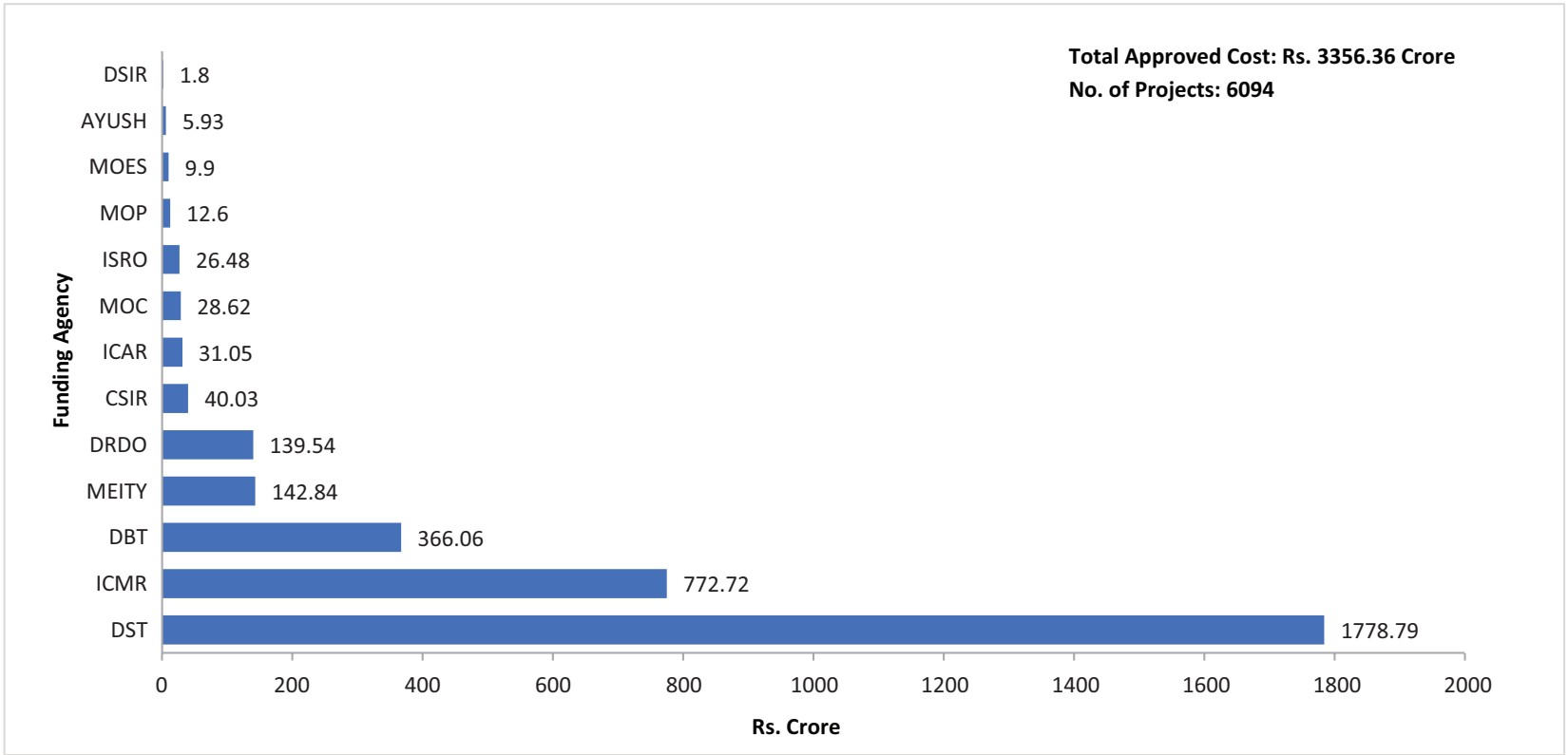
- As on April 1, 2024, there were 5.07 lakh full time equivalent (FTE) researchers in the country. Notably, women represent a significant pillar of this workforce, accounting for 1.47 lakh women FTE researchers.
- The percentage share of women FTE Researchers in total FTE Researchers increased to 29% in 2023-24 from 18.6% in 2020-21.
- The number of Full Time Researchers (FTE) per million population in India has increased to **354** in 2023-24 from 262 in 2020-21.
- The highest share of women researchers was in the higher education sector (36%) followed by State Agricultural universities (28%) and private sector industry (18%).



Source: NSTMIS, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

Chart 10: Agency-wise Funding Support for Extramural R&D Projects, 2023-24

- Extramural R&D projects funding support was increased to Rs. 3356.36 crore in 2023-24 from Rs. 2002.70 crore in 2020-21. Its share in the national GERD was 1.4% during 2023-24.
- Extramural R&D funding support was dominated by DST (53%), followed by ICMR (23%) and DBT (11%), MeitY (4%) and DRDO (4%) respectively. The two departments under Ministry of Science and Technology i.e. DST & DBT jointly contributed to 64% of the total extramural R&D funding.

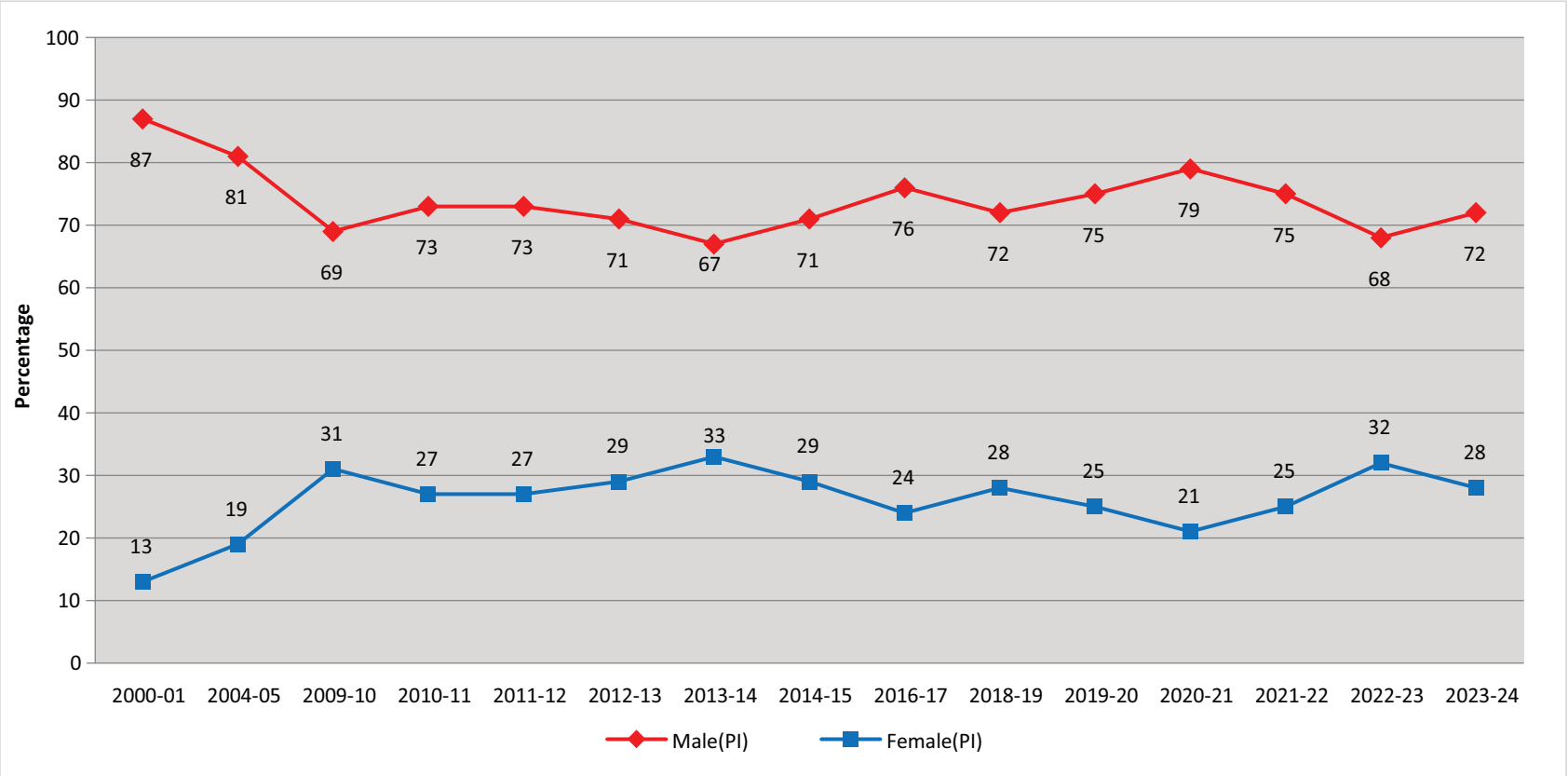


Source: NSTMIS, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

- Academic sector received 73% of the total extramural R&D support, followed by National Laboratories (20%), etc.

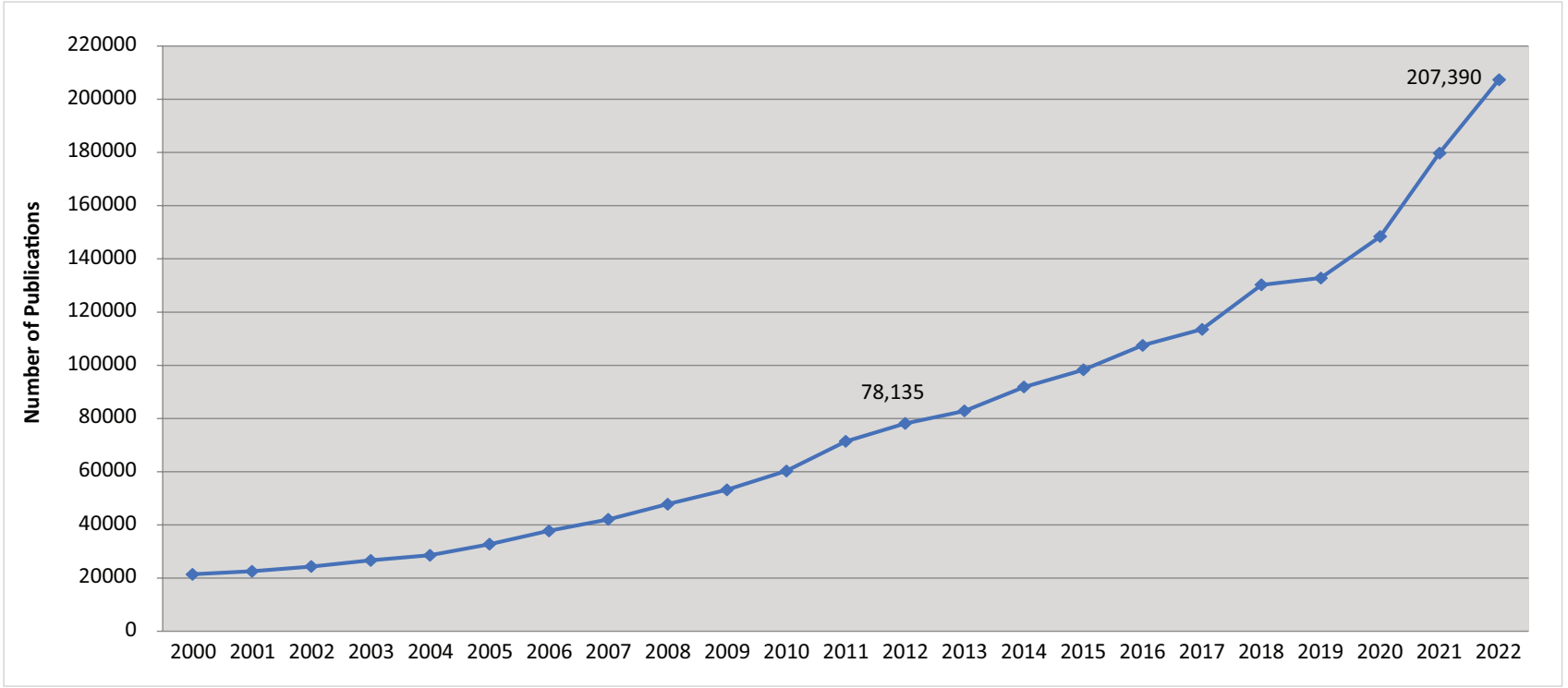
Chart 11: Gender Participation in Extramural R&D Projects by Central S&T Agencies

❖ Women's participation in extramural R&D projects has increased significantly to 28% in 2023-24 from 13% in 2000–01 reflecting the impact of various initiatives undertaken by the Government in the S&T sector. On average, in last two years, women participation share was 30 per cent.



Source: NSTMIS, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

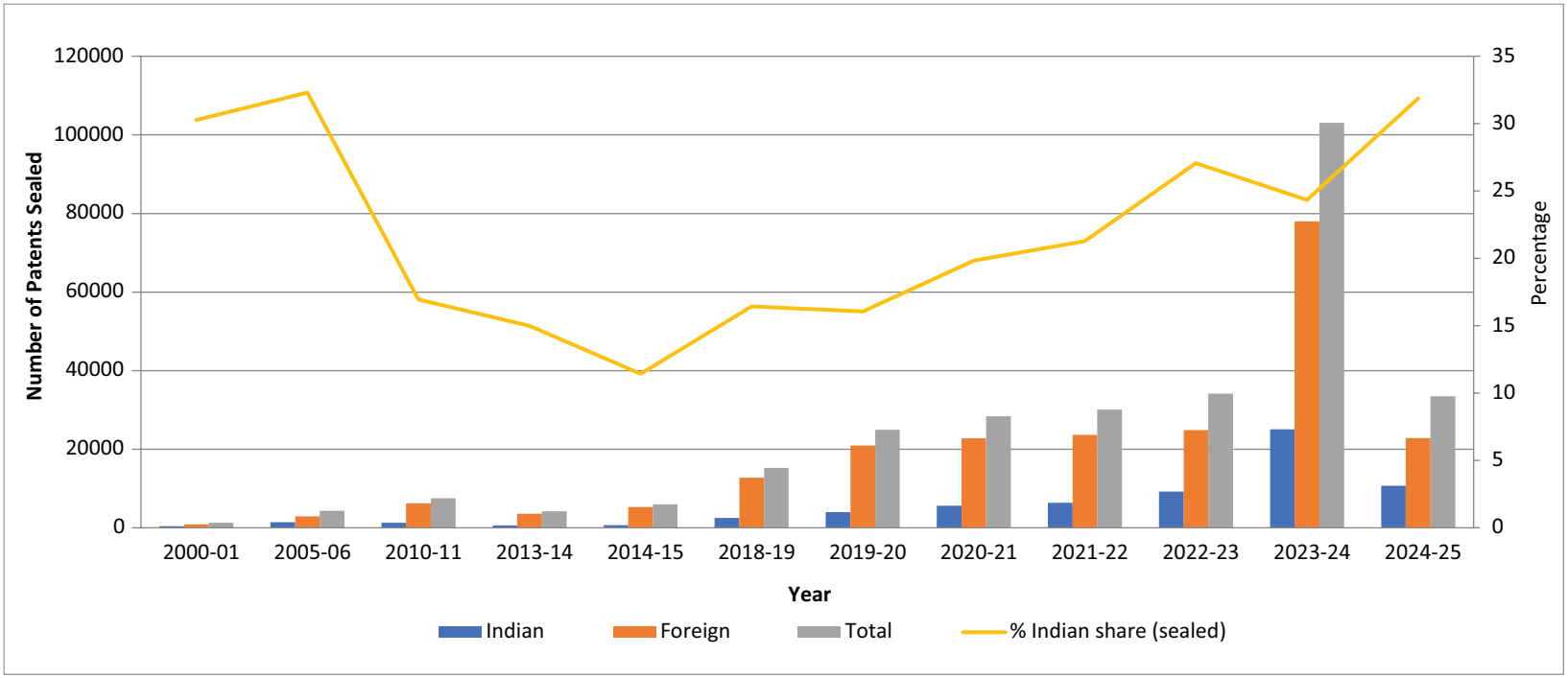
Chart 12: India's Research Publication Trend, 2000-2022



Source: Science & Engineering Indicators, 2024, NSF, USA

- India's scientific publication output has shown a rising trend during the last decade. India has grown faster than many developed and developing countries such as USA, UK, Germany, France, Japan, Korea, Brazil, etc.
- India's research output in publication is increased by more than 2.5 time from 78,135 in 2012 to 2,07,390 in 2022 as per NSF database.
- India's growth rate of scientific publication was 10.25% as against the world average of 4.74% during 2012-22 as per the NSF database.
- India's share in global research publication output has increased over the years from 3.7% in 2012 to 6.2% in 2022 as reflected in NSF database.
- During 2022, India was ranked at 3rd Position following China (1st) and USA (2nd) in scientific publication output.

Chart 13: Number of Patents Filed and Sealed in India

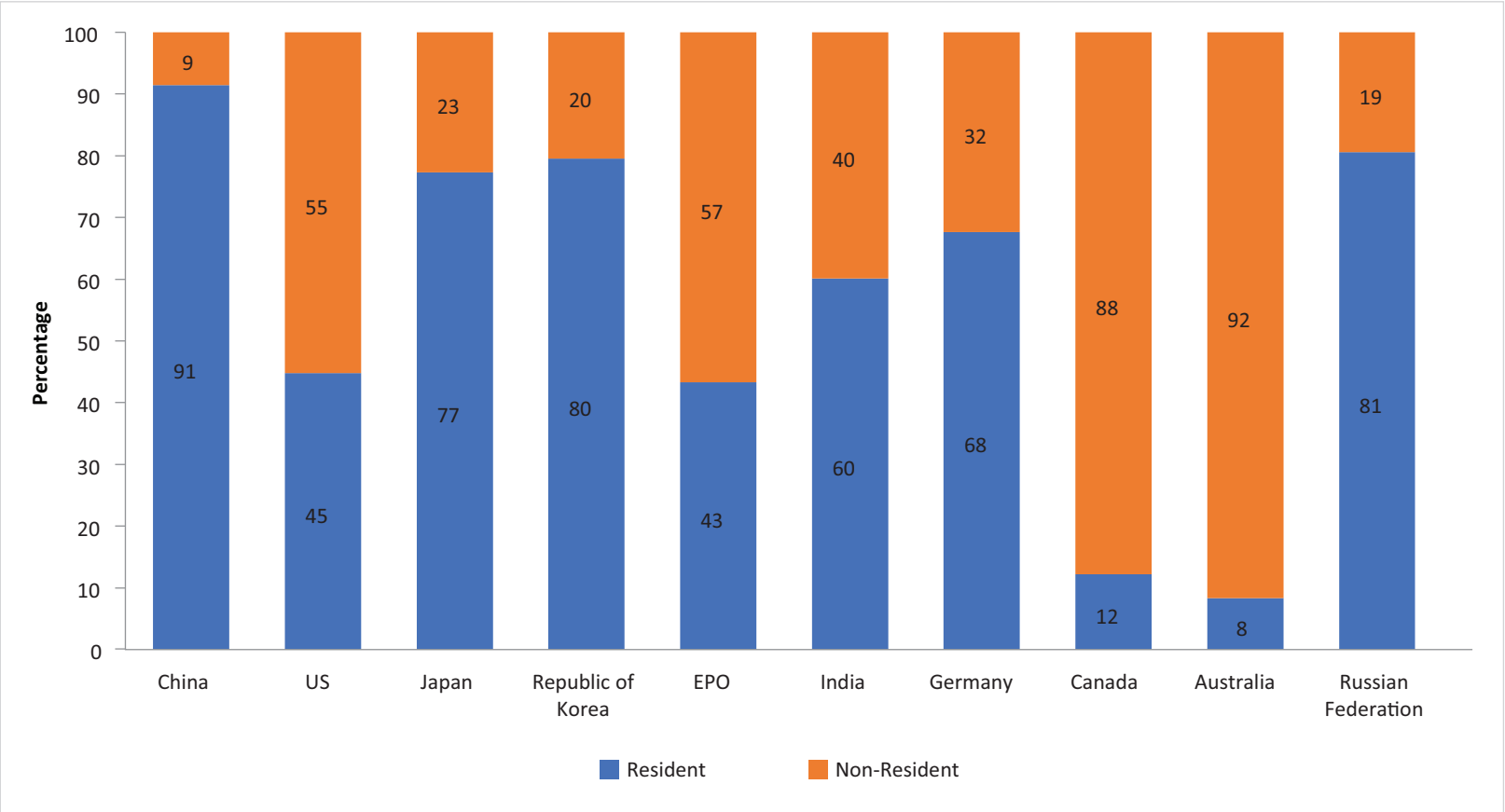


Source: Annual Reports of the Controller General of Patents, Design and Trade Marks

- Patent applications filed in India are dominated by disciplines like Computer Science & Electronics, Polymers, Chemistry, Physics, and Metallurgy.
- During 2024-25, a total of 1,10,375 patents were filed in India, out of which, 68,201 (62%) patents were filed by Indian Residents.
- Nearly 65% of foreign patents filed in India during 2024-25 were from five countries viz., USA (31.7%), Japan (12.8%), China (10.1%), Germany (7.2%) and France (3.2%).
- The share of Indian patents in total patents sealed at Indian Patent Office has increased to **32%** in 2024-25 from 15% in 2013-14.

Chart 14: Patent Applications Filed by Residents and Non-Residents at Select Patent Offices, 2024

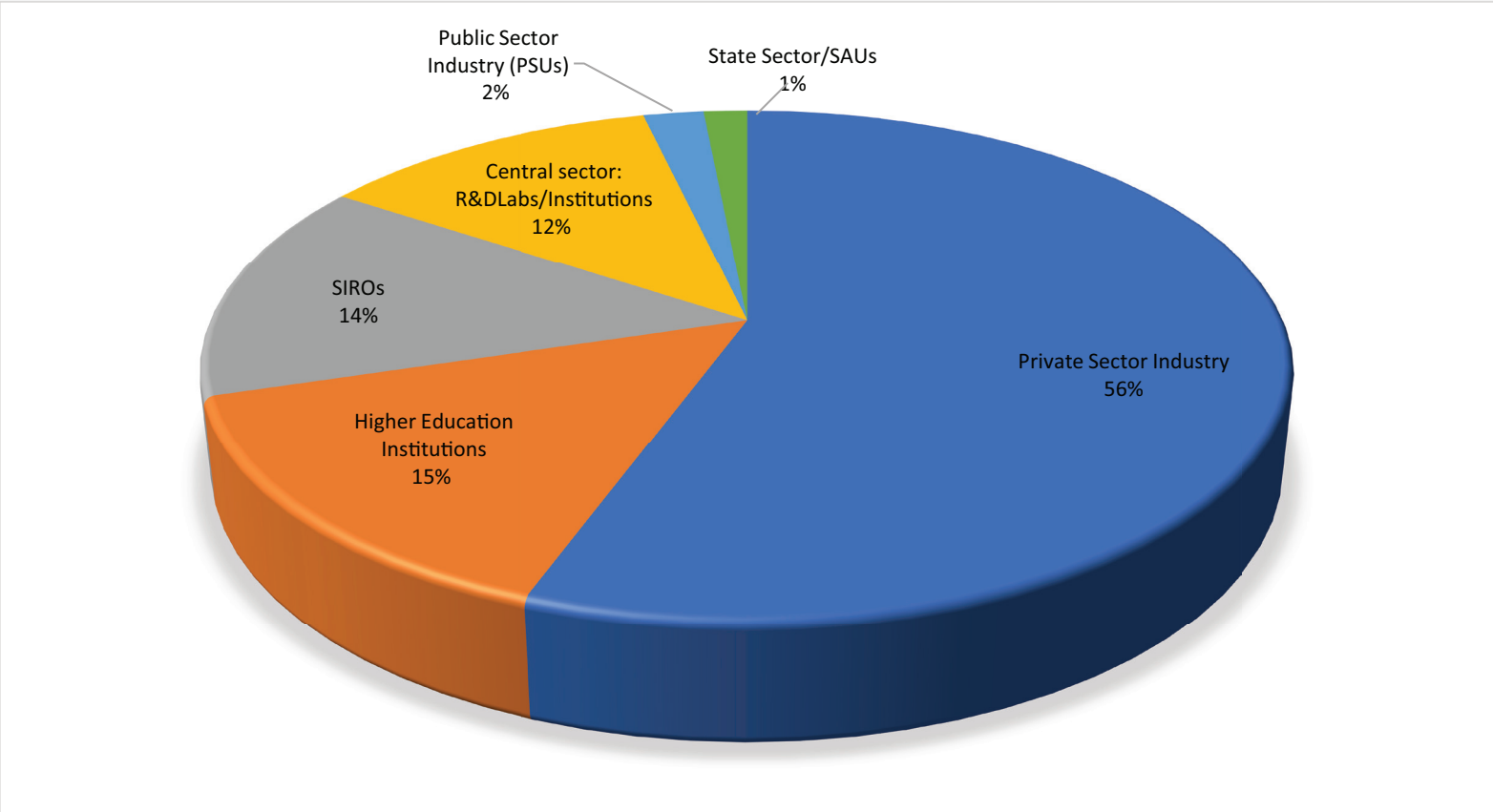
❖ As per WIPO report on World Intellectual Property Indicators, 2025, Indian Patent Office stands at 6th Position among top 10 patent filing offices in the world. In terms of Resident Patent filing also, India ranked at 6th Position.



Source: World Intellectual Property Indicators 2025

Chart 15: Sectoral Distribution of R&D Institutions Participated in the National S&T Survey, 2024-25

❖ A total of 4912 R&D Institutions across the country participated in National S&T Survey, 2024-25. Among the respondents, the private sector industry accounted for 56%, followed by higher education institutions (15%), SIROs (14%), and central sector R&D labs/ institutions (12%). The remaining responses came from public sector undertakings (2%) and state sector institutions/state agricultural universities (1%).



Source: NSTMIS, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India

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DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
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