

BEYOND QUANTUM COMPUTING

Hidden Industrial Opportunity Surfaces in India's Emerging Quantum Ecosystem

STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES, COMMERCIAL READINESS & INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITY MAPPING (2026-2035)

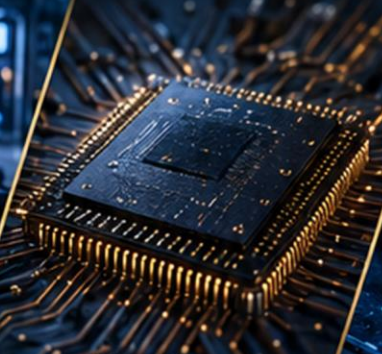
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BEYOND QUANTUM COMPUTING · Edition 1 - Strategic Opportunity ·

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*Hidden Industrial Opportunity Surfaces in India's Emerging
Quantum Ecosystem*

Techadyant Labs

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Part I: Executive Summary

ES.1 Strategic Overview

India's quantum ecosystem has crossed a critical threshold in 2026. The National Quantum Mission (NQM), launched in 2023 with an outlay of 6,003 crore (approximately \$600 million), has achieved more than half of its eight-year targets within just three years, a pace that significantly outpaces initial projections. This acceleration is not merely a scientific achievement; it represents the emergence of an industrial economy beneath quantum technology, a fundamental transition from laboratory research to commercial deployment with profound implications for India's manufacturing sector, supply chains, and strategic autonomy in the emerging quantum era.

The central finding of this report is that India is transitioning from quantum research to quantum utility at a velocity that has surprised both domestic stakeholders and international observers. The commercial implications extend far beyond quantum computing into three distinct but interconnected ecosystems: communication, sensing, and materials, each with its own industrial supply chain, import dependencies, and hidden opportunity surfaces that remain largely unexplored by policymakers and investors alike. This transition creates a time-sensitive window for industrial positioning that will determine whether India becomes a quantum technology exporter or remains dependent on foreign capabilities for decades to come.

The scale of the opportunity is substantial. Our analysis identifies an aggregate addressable market exceeding 40,000 crore (approximately \$5 billion) by 2035 across quantum communication, computing, and sensing applications. However, the window for capturing this opportunity is narrowing as the United States, European Union, and China accelerate their own quantum industrialization programs. The impending arrival of Q-Day, the point at which quantum computers can crack existing cybersecurity algorithms, now expected around 2029-2030, adds urgency to the commercialization timeline. Nations and enterprises that fail to transition to quantum-secure infrastructure within this compressed timeframe face significant strategic and economic risks.

This report maps the full industrial opportunity surface of India's emerging quantum ecosystem. It goes beyond the well-documented scientific achievements to examine the less visible but equally critical dimensions: the supply chain vulnerabilities that could constrain progress, the state-level clusters that are catalyzing commercialization, the startup ecosystem that is scaling rapidly, and the hidden industrial opportunities that lie in the layers of technology that connect quantum research to commercial deployment. The analysis is grounded in primary data from government publications, industry interviews, technology assessments, and comparative benchmarking against global quantum leaders.

Key insight. Accelerated Timeline Compression The NQM has achieved more than 50% of its eight-year targets in just three years. Q-Day expectations have moved from 2035 to 2029-2030, compressing commercial and policy timelines by 5-6 years. India's 1,000-km QKD network was achieved nearly five years ahead of the original 2,000-km target timeline.

ES.2 The Three Pillars of India's Quantum Transition

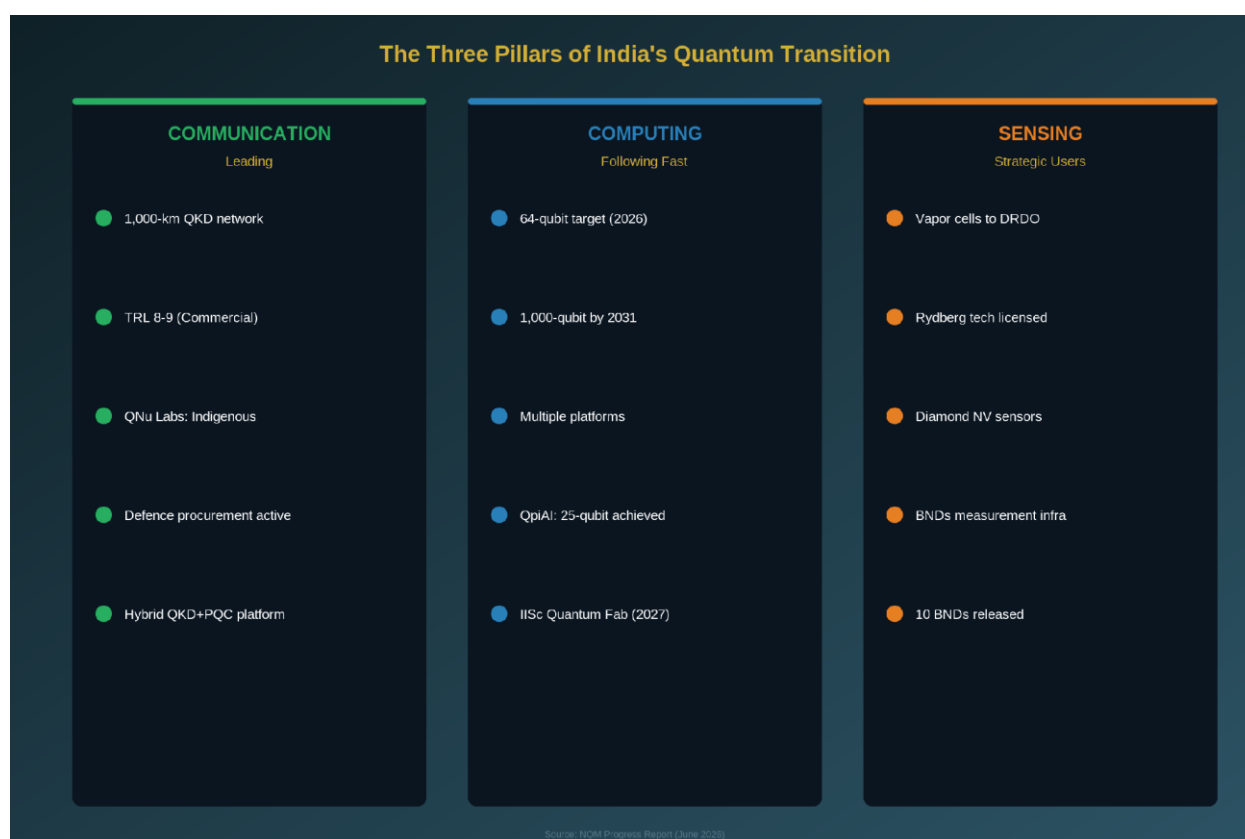


Figure 1 — The three pillars of India's quantum transition: communication, computing and sensing.

ES.2.1 Communication Leads Commercialization

India has demonstrated a 1,000-km quantum-secure communication network using indigenous technology developed by QNu Labs, leapfrogging the original 2,000-km target timeline by nearly five years. This represents one of the longest quantum key distribution (QKD) deployments globally since the mission's launch, and it positions India among a select group of nations with operational QKD infrastructure. The technology is designed to work across challenging terrains, including underwater and underground networks, expanding its potential strategic applications significantly beyond urban fiber deployments.

The industrial significance of this achievement cannot be overstated. QKD provides theoretically unbreakable encryption by leveraging the fundamental principles of quantum mechanics, specifically the observer effect, where any attempt to intercept a quantum-

encrypted message inevitably disturbs the quantum states and reveals the eavesdropper's presence. For India's defence establishment, financial systems, and critical infrastructure operators, this capability represents a paradigm shift in secure communications. The technology is expected to strengthen secure communications across defence networks, banking systems, power grid control systems, and government communications. Defence procurement processes have already begun, and the technology is being evaluated for integration into India's broader cybersecurity architecture.

The QKD achievement also demonstrates a broader strategic capability: India's ability to develop and deploy complex quantum hardware systems end-to-end, from theoretical research through engineering to field deployment. This systems integration capability, often overlooked in technology assessments, is precisely what differentiates nations that can build quantum industries from those that merely conduct quantum research. QNu Labs, the startup behind India's QKD breakthrough, has evolved from a research project to a commercial entity with defence contracts, illustrating the path from laboratory to market that other quantum technologies must now follow.

ES.2.2 Computing Follows Fast

From a 7-qubit superconducting system, India is on track to deliver a 64-qubit product in 2026, with a roadmap to 300 qubits within one to two years and 1,000 qubits within five years, a trajectory that puts India ahead of the original NQM schedule. Dr. Ajai Chowdhry, Chairman of the NQM Mission Governing Board, has confirmed that multiple platforms including superconducting, photonics, semiconductors, and trapped ions are being developed in parallel to hedge against technological uncertainty. This multi-platform strategy is a deliberate choice to avoid the risk of backing a single technology that may not scale, a mistake that has hampered quantum programs in other nations.

The computing pillar represents both the most visible and the most complex dimension of India's quantum transition. Quantum computing promises exponential speedups for specific classes of problems, including cryptographic analysis, molecular simulation for drug discovery, optimization of logistics and supply chains, and machine learning acceleration. However, the path from today's noisy intermediate-scale quantum (NISQ) devices to fault-tolerant quantum computers remains technically challenging. Error correction, qubit coherence, and scaling fidelity are the primary technical hurdles that India's multi-platform approach is designed to address.

India's strategy of parallel platform development is particularly noteworthy because it reflects a sophisticated understanding of technology risk management in a domain where no single approach has yet proven dominant globally. Superconducting qubits, the most mature platform, offer fast gate operations but require extreme cryogenic cooling. Photonic

approaches offer room-temperature operation but face challenges in deterministic entanglement generation. Trapped ion systems offer high-fidelity operations but scale more slowly. By investing across all four platforms simultaneously, India maximizes its probability of achieving a commercially relevant quantum computing capability within the NQM timeframe, while also building expertise across the full spectrum of quantum hardware engineering.

ES.2.3 Sensing Reaches Strategic Users

A critical milestone was achieved in June 2026 when CSIR's National Physical Laboratory handed over five vapor cells developed for quantum sensing applications to the Solid-State Physics Laboratory (SSPL), DRDO. This marks the transition of quantum sensing components from laboratory research to strategic user adoption, a significant inflection point in India's quantum sensing trajectory. Additionally, Rydberg Systems Based Broadband E-Field Sensing Technology was licensed to Nostradamus Technologies Private Limited, Hyderabad, demonstrating the beginning of commercial technology transfer in the sensing domain.

Quantum sensing, often described as the quiet revolution in quantum technology, leverages quantum phenomena such as superposition, entanglement, and quantum interference to achieve measurement precision that far exceeds classical limits. Applications range from magnetic field sensing for mineral exploration and submarine detection, to gravitational sensing for underground structure mapping, to atomic clocks for precision timing in telecommunications and navigation. For India's defence establishment, quantum sensing offers capabilities that are strategically critical, including enhanced detection of submarines, improved geophysical surveillance, and more accurate positioning in GPS-denied environments. The DRDO's adoption of indigenous quantum sensing components signals the beginning of a new generation of defence systems with quantum-enhanced capabilities.

The commercial potential of quantum sensing is equally significant, though less frequently discussed in policy circles. Quantum sensors can improve medical imaging resolution, enable more precise manufacturing quality control, enhance environmental monitoring for climate applications, and support precision agriculture through soil and water quality sensing. The technology transfer to Nostradamus Technologies represents the first step in building a commercial quantum sensing supply chain in India, and the success of this partnership will serve as a template for future technology transfers in the sensing domain.

ES.2.4 Indigenous Cryogenic Capability Validated

Amaravati Quantum Valley achieved a landmark milestone with its indigenous dilution refrigerator successfully reaching 4 Kelvin (-269 degrees Celsius) using over 80 percent

domestically sourced components. This demonstrates India's capacity to build critical quantum hardware infrastructure, previously viewed as an import-dependent category, within the country. The dilution refrigerator is an essential component for superconducting quantum computers, which require operation at millikelvin temperatures to maintain qubit coherence. By demonstrating indigenous capability in this critical subsystem, India has removed one of the most significant bottlenecks in its quantum computing supply chain.

The significance of this achievement extends beyond the immediate technical milestone. Dilution refrigeration is a complex engineering discipline that requires expertise in cryogenics, thermal engineering, vacuum systems, and precision control. India's success in building an indigenous dilution refrigerator with 80 percent domestic content demonstrates a level of systems engineering maturity that is directly transferable to other quantum hardware subsystems. The engineering teams and supply chain relationships developed through this effort create a foundation for building other complex quantum systems, from superconducting circuits to quantum control electronics. This is precisely the kind of industrial capability building that transforms a research program into a sustainable technology ecosystem.

ES.3 Key Strategic Insights

Key insight. Finding 1: Accelerated Timelines Are Reshaping Strategy Q-Day, the point when quantum computers can crack existing cybersecurity algorithms, is now expected around 2029-2030 due to rapid progress in error correction and algorithms. This has compressed commercial and policy timelines significantly. An NQM task force has created a step-by-step roadmap: Phase 1 (by 2028) mandates that critical national infrastructure must transition to quantum security, followed by Phase 2 for commercial enterprises by 2029. This timeline compression demands immediate action from both government and private sector stakeholders.

The acceleration of Q-Day timelines has profound implications for India's quantum strategy. Previously, policymakers and enterprises operated under the assumption that quantum computers capable of breaking RSA-2048 encryption were a decade or more away, providing ample time for transition planning. The revised 2029-2030 timeline reduces this preparation window to just three to four years, creating urgency for immediate action. The NQM task force's phased approach, mandating quantum security for critical national infrastructure by 2028 and for commercial enterprises by 2029, reflects a pragmatic recognition of this compressed timeline. However, implementation of this roadmap requires significant investment in post-quantum cryptography infrastructure, workforce training, and regulatory frameworks that do not yet exist at the required scale.

Key insight. Finding 2: The Sovereign Stack Imperative Dr. Ajai Chowdhry has articulated a product-driven blueprint for absolute technological sovereignty. Due to impending US and European export controls on quantum technologies, the NQM's core focus is the entirely indigenous development of products and subsystems to ensure self-sufficiency. This represents a strategic shift from the traditional approach of importing critical components and focusing on integration, towards a comprehensive build-within-India approach that encompasses every layer of the quantum technology stack.

The sovereign stack concept represents a fundamental rethinking of India's technology development strategy. Historically, India has often adopted an import-and-integrate approach, purchasing critical components from foreign suppliers and focusing domestic effort on system integration and software. The quantum domain, with its strategic sensitivity and impending export controls, demands a different approach. Dr. Chowdhry's vision of a fully indigenous quantum stack, from raw materials through components through systems through software, reflects a recognition that dependence on foreign suppliers for any layer of the quantum technology stack creates strategic vulnerability. This is particularly acute in the context of increasing geopolitical tensions and the weaponization of technology supply chains by major powers.

Key insight. Finding 3: State-Level Clusters Are Catalyzing Commercialization Andhra Pradesh's Amaravati Quantum Valley, operating as a national testbed with over 120 organizations engaged and 30 companies focused on quantum hardware, has validated the viability of indigenous cryogenic manufacturing. Karnataka has launched a 1,000 crore state quantum mission, a Quantum Hardware Park, and a regulatory sandbox. These state-level initiatives are creating the physical infrastructure and regulatory environment necessary for quantum technology commercialization.

The emergence of state-level quantum clusters is one of the most significant structural developments in India's quantum ecosystem. While national-level policy and funding provide the strategic direction and resources, the actual commercialization of quantum technologies requires physical infrastructure, skilled workforces, regulatory frameworks, and industry networks that are inherently local. Amaravati Quantum Valley in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka's Quantum Hardware Park represent two distinct but complementary models of state-level quantum cluster development. Amaravati focuses on being a national testbed for quantum hardware, providing shared infrastructure and testing facilities that individual companies could not afford to build independently. Karnataka's approach, centered in Bangalore, leverages the state's existing technology ecosystem and venture capital networks to accelerate quantum startup growth.

Key insight. Finding 4: Startup Ecosystem Is Scaling Rapidly The NQM has expanded support to 17 startups, with nine new ventures added recently. These startups are working on quantum biosensors for disease detection, photon sensing technologies, quantum positioning systems, atomic memory, and precision electronic systems. The Technology Development Board has received over 100 proposals within two months of issuing a call, indicating growing industry interest.

The rapid expansion of the quantum startup ecosystem is a leading indicator of commercial viability. Startups represent the primary mechanism through which laboratory research translates into commercial products, and the growth from eight to seventeen NQM-supported startups in a short period signals that the ecosystem is reaching a critical mass of entrepreneurial activity. The diversity of focus areas, from biosensors to positioning systems to atomic memory, indicates that entrepreneurs are exploring the full breadth of quantum technology applications rather than concentrating solely on the high-profile quantum computing segment. The 100-plus proposals received by the Technology Development Board within two months of its call is particularly noteworthy, as it suggests that the visible success of early NQM-supported startups has catalyzed a much larger pipeline of potential quantum ventures.

Key insight. Finding 5: Technology Transfer and Measurement Infrastructure Maturing CSIR transferred seven technologies to industry and released ten Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravyas (BNDs), certified Indian reference materials, covering phytochemicals, precious metals, and propane gas. These BNDs support laboratories, industry, and regulatory agencies by providing reliable measurement standards, reducing dependence on imported reference materials.

The maturation of technology transfer and measurement infrastructure represents the often-invisible foundation upon which commercial quantum ecosystems are built. Without reliable measurement standards, it is impossible to manufacture quantum components to the required tolerances, verify the performance of quantum systems, or establish quality control processes for quantum product manufacturing. The release of ten BNDs by CSIR is significant because it establishes India's capacity to produce its own reference materials, reducing dependence on imported standards from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or other foreign metrology institutes. The seven technology transfers to industry demonstrate that the pipeline from research to commercialization is beginning to function, providing templates and precedents for future transfers.

ES.4 Industrial Opportunity Map

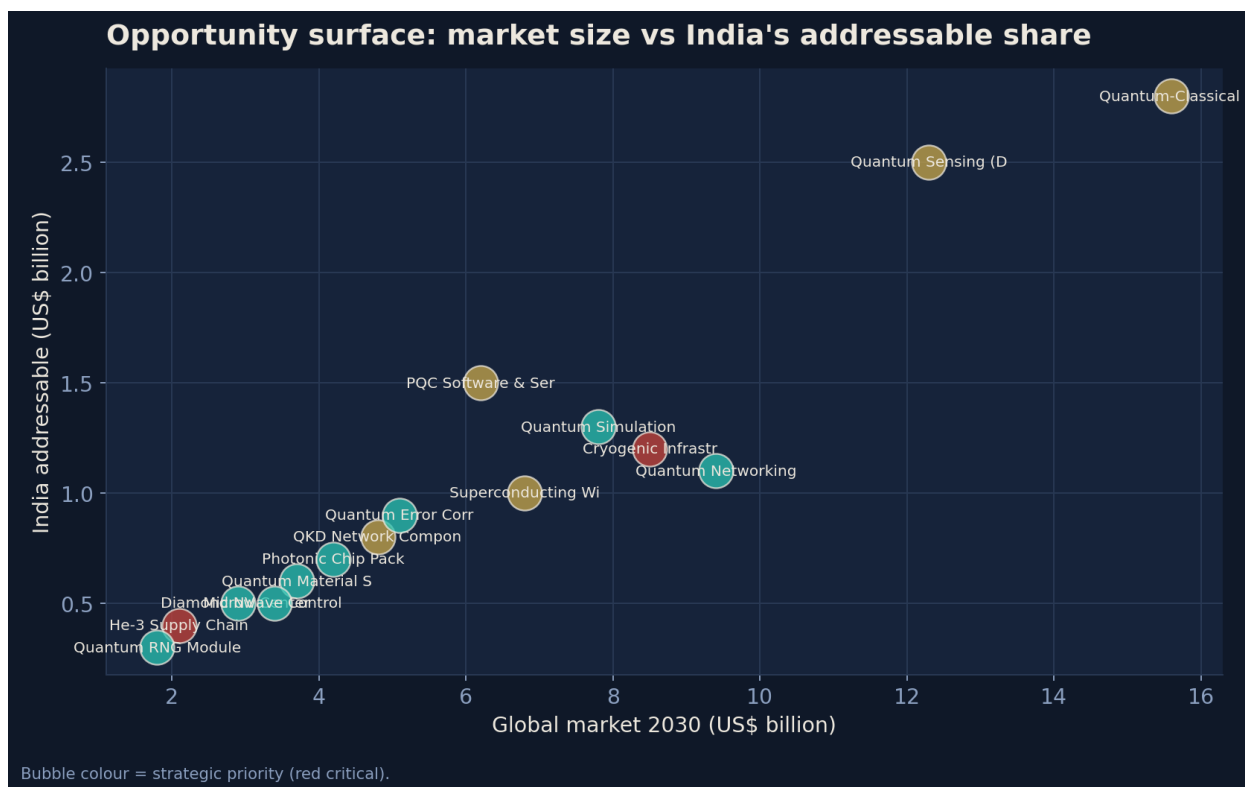


Figure 2 — Industrial opportunity surface: global market size versus India's addressable share.

ES.4.1 Immediate Opportunities (2026-2028)

The immediate opportunity window presents the most time-sensitive industrial prospects in India's quantum ecosystem. These opportunities are characterized by existing technology readiness, active procurement processes, and clear market demand from government and defence sectors. Companies and investors who position themselves now to capture these opportunities will establish first-mover advantages that compound over the decade. The combined market size for immediate opportunities is estimated at 4,000-7,000 crore by 2030, with significant revenue potential beginning in 2027-2028 as procurement cycles mature and production scales. Each opportunity represents not just a product market but an ecosystem of suppliers, integrators, and service providers that will develop around it.

Table 1 — Es.4 Industrial Opportunity Map.

Opportunity	Current Status	Market Size (by 2030)	Key Players	Readiness
QKD System Deployment	Commercial; 1,000-km network	1,000-2,000 Cr	QNu Labs, Defence	TRL 8-9
Post-Quantum Cryptography	Policy roadmap; Phase 1 by 2028	2,000-3,000 Cr	Banks, Telecom	TRL 6-7
Quantum Sensing Components	Delivered to DRDO	500-1,000 Cr	CSIR-NPL, SSPL	TRL 7-8

Opportunity	Current Status	Market Size (by 2030)	Key Players	Readiness
Dilution Refrigerator Mfg	4K achieved; 80% indigenous	500-1,000 Cr	AQV, Startups	TRL 6-7
Quantum Workforce Training	1 lakh professionals needed	500-1,000 Cr	Universities, TDB	TRL 5-6

The QKD system deployment opportunity is the most mature and immediately actionable. With a 1,000-km network already operational and defence procurement underway, QNu Labs and its supply chain partners are positioned to generate significant revenue over the next two to three years. The expansion from the current network to the 2,000-km target and beyond will require additional hardware, installation services, and ongoing maintenance, creating a sustained revenue stream. Furthermore, as India's QKD technology proves itself in strategic applications, commercial demand from banks, telecom operators, and data center operators is expected to emerge, significantly expanding the addressable market. Companies that build capabilities in QKD system integration, fiber-optic network engineering for quantum signals, and quantum key management software will find immediate demand for their services.

Post-quantum cryptography services represent the largest immediate opportunity by market size. Unlike QKD, which requires new hardware, post-quantum cryptography involves upgrading existing software systems to use quantum-resistant algorithms. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has already standardized several post-quantum cryptographic algorithms, and the NQM task force has mandated that critical infrastructure must transition to quantum-secure protocols by 2028. This creates a massive demand for consulting, implementation, and testing services across India's banking, telecom, and government sectors. Indian IT services companies, with their existing cybersecurity capabilities and large workforce, are well-positioned to capture a significant share of this market, provided they invest in quantum cryptography expertise quickly enough to meet the compressed timeline.

ES.4.2 Growth Opportunities (2028-2032)

The growth opportunity window encompasses technologies that are currently in advanced development or early validation but are expected to reach commercial readiness within the next two to six years. These opportunities require patient capital and strategic positioning now, but offer substantially larger market sizes and longer competitive moats than the immediate opportunities. The combined market size for growth opportunities is estimated at 6,000-12,000 crore by 2035, with significant revenue potential beginning in 2029-2031 as technologies mature and scale. Companies that invest in building capabilities for these

opportunities now, while the market is still forming, will be positioned to capture disproportionate value as the market expands.

Table 2 — Es.4 Industrial Opportunity Map (cont. 2).

Opportunity	Current Status	Market Size (by 2035)	Timeline	Risk Level
Quantum Control Electronics	Under validation at AQV	500-1,000 Cr	2028-2030	Medium
Single-Photon Detectors	Development; QKD scaling driver	500-1,000 Cr	2029-2031	Medium-High
Quantum Processor Mfg	64-qubit 2026; 1,000-qubit 2031	2,000-5,000 Cr	2030-2035	High
Quantum Cloud Platforms	Planning stage	3,000-5,000 Cr	2030-2032	Medium
Quantum Error Correction	Research phase	1,000-2,000 Cr	2031-2035	Very High

Quantum processor manufacturing represents the highest-value but also the highest-risk growth opportunity. India's trajectory from 7 qubits to a projected 1,000 qubits within five years, if achieved, would place India among a small group of nations with indigenous quantum computing hardware capability. However, the technical challenges of scaling from dozens to hundreds of qubits while maintaining coherence and gate fidelity are formidable. The multi-platform approach reduces but does not eliminate this risk. Companies that invest in quantum processor manufacturing infrastructure, including cleanroom facilities, fabrication equipment, and testing capabilities, will be building long-term strategic assets, but must be prepared for extended development timelines and significant capital investment. The IISc fab facility, expected to come online in mid-to-late 2027, will be a critical enabler for this opportunity.

ES.4.3 Long-Term Strategic Opportunities (2032-2035+)

Long-term strategic opportunities represent the frontier of India's quantum industrial potential. These opportunities require sustained investment over seven to ten years and carry the highest technical and market risk, but also offer the most transformative potential. The combined market size for long-term opportunities is estimated at 30,000-55,000 crore by 2035 and beyond, representing the largest value creation opportunity in India's quantum ecosystem. These opportunities are characterized by their systemic nature: they require coordinated investment across multiple technology layers, regulatory frameworks, and market development efforts, making them suitable primarily for large-scale public-private partnerships or strategic industrial initiatives.

Table 3 — Es.4 Industrial Opportunity Map (cont. 3).

Opportunity	Current Status	Market Size (by 2035+)	Dependencies	Strategic Value
Quantum Foundries	IISc fab mid-to-late 2027	5,000-10,000 Cr	Fab infrastructure	Very High
National Quantum Network	2,000-km target by 2027	10,000-20,000 Cr	QKD + fiber infra	Critical
Quantum-Safe Telecom	Planning	15,000-25,000 Cr	PQC + QKD integration	Critical
Quantum AI Platforms	Research	5,000-10,000 Cr	Quantum computing + AI	High
Quantum Materials Mfg	Early research	3,000-8,000 Cr	Materials science	High

The national quantum network represents perhaps the single most strategically significant long-term opportunity. A nationwide quantum-secure communication backbone, connecting government offices, defence installations, financial institutions, and critical infrastructure operators, would fundamentally transform India's cybersecurity posture. The estimated market size of 10,000-20,000 crore reflects not just the hardware and installation costs but also the ongoing services, maintenance, and upgrades that a national network would require over its operational lifetime. The 2,000-km QKD network target for 2027, if achieved, would represent the first phase of this national network, demonstrating the feasibility and building the operational experience needed for nationwide scale. However, building a national quantum network also requires resolving complex regulatory, interoperability, and governance questions that do not yet have clear answers.

ES.5 Strategic Dependency Map

India's quantum ambitions are constrained by critical supply chain dependencies that represent both strategic vulnerabilities and industrial opportunities. Our analysis identifies a four-layer dependency structure, from raw materials through components through systems through software, with varying degrees of import exposure at each layer. While the NQM's sovereign stack initiative aims to address these dependencies comprehensively, the timeline for achieving true self-sufficiency varies significantly across technology domains, from twelve months for some components to over four years for others. Understanding these dependencies is essential for prioritizing investment and managing risk in India's quantum industrialization program.

Table 4 — Es.5 Strategic Dependency Map.

Component	Primary Suppliers	Strategic Vulnerability	Mitigation Timeline
Cryogenic Systems	Global few suppliers	Export control risk	12-24 months
Helium-3	US, Russia, Canada	Near-total dependency	Long-term
Single-Photon Detectors	Global few suppliers	QKD scaling bottleneck	24-36 months

Component	Primary Suppliers	Strategic Vulnerability	Mitigation Timeline
Superconducting Materials	US, Japan, Germany	Single-source risk	36-48 months
Quantum Processors	IBM, Google, IonQ	Complete import dep.	48-60 months
RF Control Electronics	US, Europe	Moderate dependency	24-36 months
Specialized Fiber Optics	Japan, Europe	Low-moderate risk	18-24 months
Vacuum Systems	Germany, Japan	Moderate dependency	24-36 months

Key insight. The Helium-3 Bottleneck Helium-3, essential for dilution refrigeration in quantum computing, represents India's most acute supply chain vulnerability. With near-total import dependency on the US, Russia, and Canada, and global supply constrained by limited production sources, India must pursue alternative cooling technologies and domestic Helium-3 recovery programs to secure long-term quantum computing capabilities. The Amaravati Quantum Valley's success with 80% indigenous dilution refrigerator components is a critical step, but the Helium-3 dependency remains a strategic risk that requires dedicated policy attention and investment.

ES.6 Recommendations Overview

This report makes fifteen strategic recommendations organized across three categories: government policy, industry action, and research priorities. These recommendations are designed to be actionable within the current policy framework and resource constraints, while also identifying longer-term structural changes needed to sustain India's quantum industrialization over the full 2026-2035 period. The recommendations are prioritized by impact and urgency, with the highest-priority items addressing immediate gaps in the ecosystem that, if left unaddressed, could constrain progress across all three quantum technology pillars.

Table 5 — Es.6 Recommendations Overview.

Priority	Recommendation	Category	Impact	Timeline
1	Accelerate PQC migration for critical infrastructure	Government	Very High	Immediate
2	Establish quantum supply chain fund	Government	Very High	6-12 months
3	Scale Amaravati model to 3 more states	Government	High	12-18 months
4	Launch quantum workforce program	Government+Industry	High	6-12 months
5	Create quantum testing and certification labs	Industry	High	12-24 months
6	Fund Helium-3	Research	High	12-36 months

Priority	Recommendation	Category	Impact	Timeline
	alternative research			
7	Establish quantum IP framework	Government	Medium-High	6-12 months
8	Build national quantum cloud platform	Government+Industry	High	18-36 months
9	Integrate quantum into defence procurement	Government	Very High	6-18 months
10	Create quantum startup accelerator	Industry	Medium-High	6-12 months

The full analysis supporting these recommendations, including detailed implementation roadmaps, cost estimates, risk assessments, and stakeholder mapping, is presented in Part XVI of this report. Each recommendation is accompanied by specific action items, responsible agencies, success metrics, and contingency plans. The recommendations are designed to work as an integrated package: individual recommendations reinforce each other, and the full set addresses the ecosystem holistically rather than optimizing for any single dimension.

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