

### EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES: A JOURNEY INTO

# ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUNDS





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#### What are AIFs?

An Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) refers to a privately pooled investment vehicle that operates outside of traditional investment markets such as stocks, bonds, and cash.

These funds typically invest in assets such as real estate, private equity, hedge funds, commodities, infrastructure, and other alternative asset classes.





#### Types of AIFs:

#### 1 Category I AIF:

These funds invest in start-ups, early-stage ventures, social ventures, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), infrastructure, or other areas that the government or regulators consider socially or economically desirable.

#### 2 Category II AIF:

These funds invest in assets like private equity, debt, infrastructure, and real estate without using significant borrowing. They cater to accredited and institutional investors and are regulated by SEBI in India.

#### 3 Category III AIF:

This type of fund employs diverse trading strategies and may use leverage or borrowing to amplify returns. These funds often engage in high-risk activities such as derivatives trading, short selling, and speculative investments.



#### Who Can Invest in an AIF?

- >>> Residents of India, NRIs, and foreign nationals are eligible to invest in these funds.
- >> The minimum investment threshold for investors is Rs. 1 crore. However few AIFs have a payment schedule wherein the fund managers call for the investment in tranches.
- >> The number of investors in every scheme is restricted to 1000, except angel funds, where the number of investors goes up to 49.
- AlFs entail a minimum lock-in period of three years.



#### Why Consider AIFs?

- Diversification: AIFs offer exposure to non-traditional assets like private equity, real estate, and commodities, reducing portfolio risk.
- Potential for Higher Returns: AIFs may outperform traditional investments due to their active management style.
- Risk Management: AIFs use sophisticated strategies to manage risk, protecting investors from market volatility.





#### Why Consider AIFs?

- Innovation: AIFs can invest in innovative sectors and strate-gies that are not accessible through traditional investments.
- **Expert Management:** AIFs are managed by seasoned professionals with deep market knowledge and expertise.
- Regulatory Oversight: AIFs are regulated by securities regulators, ensuring transparency and investor protection.





#### To bring it to a close

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