



Draft National Science Technology and Innovation Policy, 2020

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Why in News

Recently, the draft of the **5th National Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP)** has been uploaded by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** on its website.

This Policy will replace the **Science Technology and Innovation Policy of 2013**.

Key Points

- **Aim:**
 - To bring about **profound changes through short, medium and long-term mission mode projects** by building a nurtured **ecosystem that promotes research and innovation** on the part of both individuals and organizations.
 - To **identify and address strengths and weaknesses of the Indian Science Technology and Innovation (STI) ecosystem** to catalyse socio-economic development of the country and also make the Indian STI ecosystem globally competitive.

- **Important Provisions:**

- **Related to Equity and Inclusion:**

- **Gender Equality:**

- It proposes that at least **30% representation be ensured for women** in all decision-making bodies, as well as “**spousal benefits**” be provided to partners of scientists belonging to the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) community.**

- The **LGBTQ+ community** should be **included in all conversations** related to **gender equity**, and provisions be made to **safeguard their rights** and promote their representation and retention in the science and technology sector.

- **Child and Elderly Care:**

- **Child-care benefits are proposed to be made gender-neutral**, and **flexible work timings and adequate parental leave** are to be offered to cater to maternity, childbirth and child care.

- All publicly-funded research institutions and universities will be asked to provide **day-care centres for children of employees**, and **also have a provision for elderly care.**

- **For Disabled:**

- For the **benefit of people with disabilities**, the policy asks all publicly-funded scientific institutions to make “**structural and cultural changes**” to support their inclusion.

- **Other Related Provisions:**

- For age-related cut-offs in matters relating to selection, promotion, awards or grants, **the “academic age” and not the biological age would be considered.**

- **Removal of bars on married couples** being employed in the same department or laboratory.

- As of now, married couples are not posted in the same department, leading to cases of loss of employment or forced transfers when colleagues decide to get married.

- **Open Science Policy (One Nation, One Subscription):** To make scientific knowledge and data available to all, the government has proposed:

- **To buy bulk subscriptions of all important scientific journals across the world, and provide everyone in India free access to them.**

- To set up a **Science, Technology and Innovation Observatory** that will serve as the central repository of all kinds of data generated from scientific research in the country.

- **Research and Education:**
 - It proposes to establish **Education Research Centres (ERCs)** and **Collaborative Research Centres (CRCs)** to provide research inputs to policymakers and bring together stakeholders.
 - **Research and Innovation Excellence Frameworks (RIEF)** will be developed to enhance the quality of research along with the promotion of engagements with the relevant stakeholders.
 - A dedicated portal to provide access to the outputs of such publicly-funded research will be created through the **Indian Science and Technology Archive of Research (INDSTA)**.
 - To set up Infrastructure to **boost local Research and Development capabilities** and **reduce large scale import** in selected sectors of domestic importance such as electronic hardware for home appliances, railways, intelligent transport, clean tech, defence, etc.
- **For Strengthening India's Strategic Position:**
 - To achieve **technological self-reliance** and **position India among the top three scientific superpowers** in the decade to come.
 - To **double the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) researchers, Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD)** and private sector contribution to the GERD every 5 years.
 - Establishment of a **Strategic Technology Board** that will **bridge all strategic government departments**, and monitor and recommend technologies to be bought or indigenously made.

Source:PIB