

India's 5th National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Draft - Key Points

- Establishment of a **National STI Observatory** that will act as a central repository for all kinds of data related to and generated from the STI ecosystem. It will encompass an open centralised database platform for all financial schemes, programmes, grants and incentives existing in the ecosystem.
- A future-looking, all-encompassing **Open Science Framework** to provide access to scientific data, information, knowledge, and resources to everyone in the country and all who are engaging with the Indian STI ecosystem on an equal partnership basis. Creation of a dedicated portal to provide access to the outputs of such publicly-funded research.
- Strategies to improve STI education making it inclusive at all levels and more connected with the economy and society through processes of **skill building, training and infrastructure development**.
- Each department/ ministry in the central, the state and the local governments, public sector enterprises, private sector companies and startups to set up an **STI unit with a minimum earmarked budget** to pursue STI activities. Each State also to earmark a percentage of the state allocation for STI-related activities under a separate budget head. Increased STI investments boost fiscal incentives, enhancing support to industry, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), for pursuing research through innovation support schemes. Hybrid funding models with enhanced participation from public and private sectors. Set up an **STI Development Bank** to facilitate a corpus fund for investing in direct long term investments in select strategic areas.
- The policy aims to create a **fit for purpose, accountable research ecosystem** promoting translational as well as foundational research in India in alignment with global standards.
- Fostering **S&T led entrepreneurship**, and improving participation of the grassroots levels in the research and innovation ecosystem. Establishing an institutional architecture to integrate **Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS) and grassroots innovation** into the overall education, research and innovation system. Facilitation of collaborations between grassroots innovators and scientists.
- Promote technology self-reliance and indigenization to achieve the larger goal of “**Atmanirbhar Bharat**” by adopting a two-way approach of indigenous development of technology as well as technology indigenization focused upon national priorities.
- Developing an **India-centric Equity & Inclusion (E&I) charter** for tackling all forms of discrimination, exclusions and inequalities in STI leading to the development of an institutional mechanism. Facilitate an inclusive culture through equal opportunity for women along with candidates from rural-remote areas, marginalised communities, differently-abled individuals including Divyangjans, irrespective of their socio-economic backgrounds, proportionate representation of women in selection/ evaluation committees, addressing of ageism related issues and consideration of experienced women scientists for leadership roles and regular gender and social audits in academic and professional organizations.
- **Mainstreaming science communication and public engagement** through the development of capacity building avenues through creative and cross-disciplinary platforms, research initiatives, and outreach platforms. Development of a locally relevant and culturally-context-specific models.
- Developing pathways to a dynamic, evidence-informed and **proactive international S&T engagement** strategy. Intensifying engagement with the Diaspora through attracting the best talent back home. Complimenting ‘S&T for Diplomacy’ with Diplomacy for S&T’.
- Developing a **decentralized institutional mechanism** balancing top-down and bottom-up approaches, focusing on administrative and financial management, research governance, data and regulatory frameworks and system interconnectedness.
- Establishment of **STI Policy Institute** to build and maintain a robust interoperable STI metadata architecture, conduct and promote nationally and internationally relevant STI policy research and strengthen the science advice mechanism at national, sub-national and international levels.

Join us live on  <https://youtu.be/T1WxqvOG4YU> on Thursday, 21st Jan. 2021 11:00 hrs. onwards & provide us with your valuable views/recommendations/suggestions

For the complete STI Policy Draft kindly visit: https://cpr.puchd.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/STIP_Doc_1.4_Dec2020.pdf

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