



Science REPORTER

DIRECTOR
DR RANJANA AGGARWAL

EDITOR
HASAN JAWAID KHAN

ASSISTANT EDITOR
SONALI NAGAR
MEHER WAN

LAYOUT & DESIGN
SARLA DUTTA
MANENDER SINGH

PRODUCTION
ASHWANI KUMAR BRAHMI
ARUN UNIYAL
ANIL KUMAR

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION
CHARU VERMA
RANBIR SINGH



COVER DESIGN
MANENDER SINGH

Transforming India's STI Ecosystem

AFTER independence, India's S&T landscape has been driven by four national S&T policies: Scientific Policy Resolution, 1958; Technology Policy Statement, 1983; Science & Technology Policy 2003, and the Science Technology and Innovation Policy 2013. The first day of the year 2021 saw the first glimpses of a new science, technology and innovation policy as the Department of Science & Technology made a draft of the new policy public for comments and suggestions.

Shaped by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for an *Atmanirbhar* or self-reliant India, the new policy proposes key reforms and suggests new establishments to bring about a transformation in the country's science and technology infrastructure to make it globally competitive and relevant while at the same time driving indigenous capacity in key areas and critical technologies. The new policy proposes to bring about this transformation through key measures that include creation of a National STI Observatory, Technology Support Framework, Strategic Technology Board (STB) and a Strategic Technology Development Fund (STDF), among other measures.

As envisaged in the new policy, the National STI Observatory would be a centrally coordinated repository hosting all financial schemes, programmes, grants and incentives relating to the science & technology ecosystem in the country. It will also store all data related to and generated from the STI ecosystem.

Among a slew of other measures to accelerate and consolidate technology development in India, and also driven by the central philosophy of self-reliance, while the Technology Support Framework will facilitate creation of indigenous technology and indigenization of technology, a Strategic Technology Board (STB) will act as a link connecting different strategic departments, a Strategic Technology Development Fund (STDF) will incentivize the private sector to commercialize strategic technologies for civilian purposes, and an STI Development Bank will facilitate a corpus fund for investing in direct long-term investments in select strategic areas.

To create an environment where grassroots innovations and traditional knowledge play an increasingly significant role in the overall STI landscape in the country, the policy also hopes to create an institutional architecture to integrate Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS) and grassroots innovations into the overall education, research and innovation system. According to the policy, collaborations between grassroots innovators and scientists will be facilitated through joint research projects, fellowships and scholarships.

With access to S&T research and information to the country's researchers becoming difficult owing to the increasing stranglehold of publishing conglomerates, the new policy has also proposed an open data policy that will make information generated by all publicly funded research, including its results, freely accessible to everyone. Besides, in a radical move, the policy has also proposed the 'One Nation, One Subscription' policy for scientific journals whereby the government will buy bulk subscriptions of all the important scientific journals across the world, and provide everyone in India free access to them.

It is expected that the proposals and initiatives envisaged in the new science, technology and innovation policy would measure up to being game changers for the STI ecosystem in the country fueling the country's march to a self-reliant S&T landscape that is also globally relevant.

Hasan Jawaid Khan

Science Reporter is published monthly by the National Institute of Science Communication And Information Resources (NISCAIR), CSIR, Dr K S Krishnan Marg, New Delhi-110 012. NISCAIR assumes no responsibility for statements and opinions advanced by the authors or for any claims made in the advertisements published in *Science Reporter*.

For Editorial Queries: Ph.: 91-011-25848702; **Email:** sr@niscair.res.in; **Fax:** 91-011-25847062

For Sales & Subscription Related Queries: Ph.: 91-011-25841647, 25846301 Extn. 289; **Email:** rs@niscair.res.in

For Advertisement Related Queries: Ph.: 91-011-25843359,291; **Email:** sales@niscair.res.in; **Website:** <http://www.niscair.res.in>

Subscription: Inland: 1 yr: Rs 300/-; 2 yrs: Rs 570/-; 3 yrs: Rs 810/- Foreign: 1 yr (Air Mail): US \$ 90 (Annual)

© National Institute of Science Communication And Information Resources (NISCAIR)