

**Ministry of Science and Technology**  
**Government is seeking consultation on National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy**

**January 1, 2021**

Relevant to all Mahindra Businesses

## **History of STIPs**

- **Scientific Policy Resolution 1958:**
  - India's first major science policy can be traced back to the year 1958.
  - SPR 1958 laid the foundation of the scientific enterprise and scientific temper in India.
- **Technology Policy Statement 1983:**
  - The primary feature of TPS 1983 was technological self-reliance through promotion and development of indigenous technologies.
  - Adoption of indigenous technology would reduce vulnerabilities in critical areas and would help maximise the utilisation of local (human and material) resources.
- **Science and Technology Policy 2003:**
  - Its aim was to keep up the pace with science and technology, to stay competitive in an increasingly globalised world and to meet the primary goal of equitable and sustainable development.
  - It called to invest heavily in the research and development sector with the aim of increasing investment to 2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- **Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2013:**
  - The decade of 2010 to 2020 was declared as a decade of innovation.
  - It was acknowledged that in order to stay globally competitive, it was necessary to make a transition into a knowledge-based economy.
  - This policy document was a step in the direction towards building a robust national innovation ecosystem.

## What is the philosophy behind the policy?

- Unlike previous STI policies which were largely top-driven in formulation, the 5th national STI policy (STIP) follows core principles of being decentralised, evidence-informed, bottom-up, experts-driven, and inclusive.
- It aims to be dynamic, with a robust policy governance mechanism that includes periodic review, evaluation, feedback, adaptation and, most importantly, a timely exit strategy for policy instruments.
- The STIP will be guided by the vision of positioning India among the top three scientific superpowers in the decade to come; to attract, nurture, strengthen, and retain critical human capital through a people-centric STI ecosystem; to double the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) researchers, gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) and private-sector contribution to GERD every five years; and to build individual and institutional excellence in STI with the aim of reaching the highest levels of global recognition and awards in the coming decade.

## What are the 4 Interlinked Tracks?

- Track I: It involves an extensive public and expert consultation process through Science Policy Forum, a dedicated platform for soliciting inputs from larger public and expert pools during and after the policy drafting process.
- Track II: It comprises experts-driven thematic consultations to feed evidence-informed recommendations into the policy drafting process. 21 focused thematic groups have been constituted for this purpose.
- Track III: It involves extensive intra-state and intra-department consultation with Ministries and States.
- Track IV: It constitutes an apex level multi-stakeholder consultation.

## For Further Reading

1. <https://www.drishtiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/science-technology-and-innovation-policy>
2. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/sti-policy-science-technology-innovation-policy-atmanirbhar-bharat-5th-national-sti-policy-7135888/>
3. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1685427>