

## **DST invites proposals for fellowships to build a cadre of academic STI policy researchers**

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is mandated to develop and deliver public policy support for the promotion of research and development in the country. In recognition of importance and potential of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in meeting India's developmental challenges through "acceleration of the pace of discovery and delivery of science-lead solutions for faster, sustainable and inclusive growth," the government launched the Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy in 2013.

DST recognized the importance of evidence-driven research and analysis in underpinning the effective achievement of the objectives of this policy and established DST Centers for Policy Research (CPRs) in various academic institutions across the country. These centers are engaged in targeted research in number of key areas relevant to the country, training young scholars in STI policy research, and contribute towards better STI policy making by providing inputs to DST.

DST had announced STI Post-doctoral Fellowships (PDF) to generate a critical mass of policy researchers. The Fellowship Program provides an opportunity to develop the skills for young scientists and engineers who are interested in engagement with the STI policy domain as researchers. On account of announcements made in last three years, a total of 14 selected DST-STI fellows had joined the different CPR to work in the different policy areas. Each fellow has been assigned a research topic with future plan of action.

Recently, The DST has invited researcher to submit proposals for fellowships in science policy to cater to the growing demand and the need to bridge the gap between 'research' and 'practice' in STI policy.

The DST-STI fellowship has been floated to build a cadre of academic STI policy researchers and professionals in the country, such that these fellows may actively contribute in policy making in academia, research organizations, or even in government .The fellows could also be placed at different S&T agencies and organizations based on requirement and demand. Proposals have been invited in three different categories namely STI-Senior Policy Fellow, STI-Postdoctoral Policy Fellow and STI-Young Policy Professional with a larger scope and thematic coverage. The scope of the DST-STI-PFP 2019 includes components like Policy, STI related Data, programmes and schemes, project management, monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment of policy and programmes.

Broadly the components covered are R&D ecosystem mapping, monitoring and evaluation, policies and incentives to promote R&D, R&D related Data analysis, STI mapping and measurement- institutions and clusters, R&D and innovation indicators, composite indicators, STI scoreboards and indices, data for policy , Industrial R&D, industry-academia interaction, public-private partnership models, technology transfer, intellectual property rights (IPR), science entrepreneurship, technology commercialization, incentives and regional policies for startup ecosystem, financial support system for startup and entrepreneurship, Technology trade (imports and exports) and so on.

The fellowship program would provide an opportunity for policy-makers in various government departments and agencies to draw upon STI policy research expertise from this pool. Some of fellows may also be engaged in the process of formulation of a draft STI Policy (Technology Led Innovation Policy) jointly with office of PSA, Govt. of India.

Applicants are required to submit their application only through [www.onlinedst.gov.in](http://www.onlinedst.gov.in) latest by 15th January 2020 and for further details of the call applicants can visit <https://dst.gov.in/news/call-application-dst-science-technology-and-innovation-policy-fellowships-programme>.