

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
POLICY RESEARCH CELL**

Minutes of 1st Meeting of Committee of experts to review Policy Research Centres (PRCs) held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 2.00 PM at Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Delhi- 110016.

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The following members were present:-

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| 1. Dr. S. K. Joshi, Hon. Emeritus Scientist, N.P.L New Delhi | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, IAS, Bengaluru, | Co-Chairman |
| 3. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST | Member Invitee |
| 4. Dr. Renu Swarup, Sci 'H', New Delhi | Member |
| 5. Dr. Swati Basu, Adviser, Min of Earth Sciences | Member |
| 6. Dr. H. Devaraj, Vice- Chairman, UGC, New Delhi | Member |
| 7. Dr. G. N. Qazi, Vice-Chancellor, Hamdard University | Member |
| 8. Dr. Chander Shekhar, Sci 'G', ICMR, New Delhi | Member |
| 9. Dr. Arbind Prasad, DG, FICCI, New Delhi | Member |
| 10. Mrs. Geeta Kathpalia, Sci 'G', DeitY, New Delhi | Member |
| 11. Dr. Praveen Arora, Sci 'G', DST, New Delhi | Member |
| 12. Dr. P.C. Pant, Sci 'E', MNRE, New Delhi | Member |
| 13. Sh. S. B. Kaushik, Director (Fin), DST New Delhi | Member |
| 14. Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Sci 'G', DST, New Delhi | Member Secretary |
| 15. Dr. Akhilesh Mishra Sci 'C', DST, New Delhi | Convener |

The members or nominee from Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, CSIR, ICAR, Director, NSIT, Delhi and Dr. Akhilesh Gupta, Sci 'G,' DST could not attend the meeting.

The meeting was attended by 4 Centre's coordinators (as given in table below). Prof. T. A. Abinandanan, Centre coordinator at IISc Bengaluru could not attend the meeting as he was not able to present at the Review Meeting.

At the outset, Secretary DST welcomed Prof. S. K. Joshi, the Chairman, Dr. Baldev Raj, the Co-Chairman and the members of the Expert Committee and described purpose and objectives of the meeting. He said that the policy functions relating to Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is an important aspect to be followed by DST. He said that Department of Science & Technology has established Five Policy Research Centres (PRCs) at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar (Central) University (BBAU), Lucknow, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad with expectation for science policy research in specific areas. These centres have been given specific focus/ theme Area to carry

out policy research. He also urged the experts committee to review work function of the Centre as most of them have already completed one year of the establishment. Secretary, DST was very keen to know specific policy papers/ recommendations from these Centres.

Prof. S. K. Joshi, the Chairman of the Expert Committee said that the Department has got enunciated the STI Policy and has established five DST Centre for Policy Research to develop and deliver policy support to the Department. He welcomed the initiative by the Department said it was need of time to have such centres doing policy research across the country.

Prof. Baldev Raj, the Co-Chairman of the Expert Committee appreciated DST's initiative to strengthen policy research mechanism through policy research Centre in academic institutions and opined that quality outcome of these Centre will help the Government to design new schemes/programmes on the basis of evidence/research done by the Centres. He expressed his view to monitor closely the work of these Centres as they are being nucleated. He remarked that proper guidance and mentoring through experts are essential to keep the Centre on performance track.

Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Member Secretary of the Committee gave a brief background of all Policy Research Centres and their specific objective. He mentioned that policy research for developmental sector like Science and Technology is becoming a national need. He expressed the opinion that during the preparation of the 12th Five Year Plan of the Department, a need was felt to strengthen the Policy Research Mechanism within DST to provide evidence based planning approaches. He informed the committee that as part of this, a dedicated "Policy Research Cell" is formed in the Department. He also informed committee members that one of the deliverables of the above 'Cell' is to set up Policy Research Centres at different institutions in the country in 12th Five Year Plan.

Member Secretary also informed the committee that DST is already in touch with the Centres and already organized two review meetings at EDI, Ahmedabad and BBAU, Lucknow, respectively. He urged the members of the Committee to review the physical and financial progress made by each of the Centre and to extend their valuable guidance and support in this regard.

Thereafter, Coordinators of the each Centre were invited for presentation before the Committee. Order of the their presentation was as mentioned below;-

| SL No. | Name of the Centre | Presentation by |
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| 1. | DST- Centre for Policy Research" at Panjab University, Chandigarh | Prof. R. Tewari |
| 2. | DST- Centre for Policy Research in S&T Entrepreneurship at "Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)" Gandhinagar | Prof. D. K. Awasthi |

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| 3. | DST- Centre for Policy Research" at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar (Central) University, Lucknow | Dr. Venketesh Dutta |
| 4. | DST- Centre for Policy Research at IISc-Bangalore | -Absent- |
| 5. | DST- Centre for Policy Research" at Indian Institute of Technology New Delhi | Prof. Ambuj Sagar |

The Committee made detailed deliberations on the presentation and following recommendations were made:

| Sl. No. | Name of the Institute | Recommendations of the Committee |
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| 1. | DST- Centre for Policy Research" at Panjab University, Chandigarh | Committee felt that Centre's performance for academia-industry interaction as assigned to it, needs improvement and suggested to take help from FICCI to take care of the data from Industry. The committee suggested that a revised strategy needs to be worked out and more coordinated approach will be required by the Center. It was also recommended to attach some experts to this Centre as Mentors. |
| 2. | DST- Centre for Policy Research in S&T Entrepreneurship "Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)" Gandhinagar | The Committee praised the Centre for publishing two books on the case studies of Hi-Tech entrepreneurs. Committee felt that Centre should go ahead and complete the task of policy paper before starting some new studies on Role of S&T for Success of the 'Make in India' initiative as proposed by the Centre. |
| 3. | DST-Centre for Policy Research at IISc-Bangalore | The Committee noted the absence of coordinator of Centre. The Committee decided to ask the coordinator of the Centre to make presentation and discuss the performance/achievement with Dr. Baldev Raj, Co-Chairman of the Committee and Director, NIAS, Bengaluru. Co-Chairman may send his |

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| | | review report to the Department for further necessary action. |
| 4. | DST- Centre for Policy Research" at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar (Central) University, Lucknow | <p>The Committee appreciated the work depicted by the Centre during the presentation. The Centre had prepared working papers in five different areas like health, water, energy, climate change & agriculture as the outcome of the Centre. The committee observed that Centre Coordinator is the expert of policy research and has done extensive work in area related to water. It was suggested to conclude the studies in other areas in coming months with outcome of field studies incorporated in the Working Papers and give more focus on area of inclusiveness and STI interventions in the water & health related sectors.</p> <p>Further, it was suggested that the Centre can also take up the impact evaluation study of major S&T projects funded by different agencies in India on inclusive growth parameters.</p> |
| 5. | DST-Centre for Policy Research at Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi | <p>The Committee appreciated the high level work related to Innovation Assessment by the Centre. However, committee observed that area covered by the Centre is too vast and it should focus on Innovation's Assessment in the field of Agriculture Technology.</p> |

The Committee reviewed the progress of all the Centres and observed that the projects were isolated; it must be outcome-oriented. Further, even though the mandate and the objectives of all the Centers were clearly defined, the roadmap to achieve the objectives was not clearly visible. The Committee gave a clear direction to all the Centers and requested the Coordinators to work with a focused approach to deliver policy recommendations.

It was also decided that a mentor's workshop be organized with help of National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru and all the Centre's investigators be exposed and trained in tools of policy analysis and evaluation. Experts can be also invited from outside India. If required, an exposure visit of Centre's Staff can be

planned by DST to various leading institutions who are working in STI Policy. Director, NIAS agreed to formulate a proposal and organize the workshop.

The committee suggested to keep the same budget allocation for the financial year 2015-16 as was in 2014-15 subject to fulfillment of conditions to the satisfaction of DST. Subsequent release of funds may be done on year to year basis after evaluation of progress made by the Centres in publication of evidence based reports, documents etc.

The Committee suggested another review of the progress of all the Centres after 6 months.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(Dr. S. K. Joshi)
Chairman