

**“Dedicate yourself to what gives your life true meaning and purpose; make a positive difference in someone’s life.” Roy T. Bennett**

**NATIONAL**

**NEW DEFENCE PRODUCTION POLICY**

In the Budget Speech 2018, Government had announced that it will bring out an industry friendly Defence Production Policy 2018 to promote domestic production by public sector, private sector and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

**Draft Defence Production Policy, 2018:**

1. Considering this, a draft Defence Production Policy 2018 has been prepared which provides a focused, structured and significant thrust to development of defence design and production capabilities in the country.
2. The salient feature of the Draft Policy which is already placed in public domain for consultation with stakeholders is as follows:
  - Creation of a dynamic, robust and competitive defence and aerospace industry as an important part of the ‘Make in India’ initiative.
  - Creation of a tiered defence industrial ecosystem in the country.
  - Reducing the current dependence on imports and strive to achieve self-reliance in the development and manufacture of weapon systems/platforms.
3. The Policy mandates for Transfer of Technology or enhanced Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for domestic production in the event of non-availability of manufacturing capabilities in the country.
4. The policy envisages that Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) should focus on system integration, design and development, and actively engage domestic vendors in the private sector for other assembly work.

**NITI AAYOG IDENTIFIED 117 DISTRICTS AS ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS FOR RUSA SCHEME**

NITI Aayog has identified 117 districts as ‘Aspirational Districts’ for Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).

These districts have been selected on the basis of the composite index which includes published data of deprivation enumerated under Socio-Economic Caste Census, Health & Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure.

During the second phase of RUSA, central assistance is provided for opening of new Model Degree Colleges(MDCs) in these ‘Aspirational Districts’ and in unserved & underserved districts in North Eastern and Himalayan States.

The central support provided under the component of new MDCs is infrastructural in nature in which funds are released for creation of Colleges with requisite infrastructure such as appropriate number of class rooms, library, laboratory, faculty rooms, toilet blocks and other essential requirements for technologically advanced facilities.

Additionally, under a separate component of RUSA viz., Faculty Recruitment Support, central support is provided for creation of additional posts of Assistant Professors.

**STARTUP INDIA’S ACADEMIA ALLIANCE PROGRAMME**

To fulfil the Government of India’s mission to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in the country, Startup India launched the Startup Academia Alliance programme

It is a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains.

It aims to reduce the gap between scientific research and its industrial applications in order to increase the efficacy of these technologies and to widen their impact.

By creating a bridge between academia and industry, the Alliance aims to create lasting connections between the stakeholders of the startup ecosystem and implement the third pillar on which the Startup India Action Plan is based – Industry Academia Partnerships and Incubation.

### Functioning of the programme:

1. The first phase of **Startup Academia Alliance** was kickstarted through partnering with **Regional Centre for Biotechnology, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Council on Energy, Environment and Water, and TERI School of Advanced Studies.**
2. Renowned scholars from these institutes, in fields such as renewable energy, biotechnology, healthcare and life sciences were taken on board to provide mentorship and guidance to startups working in relevant arenas.
3. The applications for Startup Academia Alliance were hosted on **the Startup India Hub**, a one-stop destination for startups to apply for opportunities such as incubator and accelerator programmes.

### POLLUTION DUE TO SYNTHETIC FERTILIZERS AND AGRICULTURAL POLLUTANTS

Water bodies in the country are polluted due to the discharge of untreated sewage, industrial effluent, agricultural runoff containing fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

### National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP)

1. Central Pollution Control Board monitors the water quality of both surface and groundwater under the National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP) through a network of monitoring stations in the country.
2. The water quality is assessed for various parameters, including physicochemical, bacteriological, heavy metals, pesticides, etc.

### Steps taken by the Government:

To check the pollution of water bodies, steps taken by the government include:

- formulation and notification of standards for effluents from industries, operations or processes;
- enforcing of these standards by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) through consent mechanism and regular monitoring; setting up of the monitoring network for assessment of water quality;

- Installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring systems (OCEMS) to check the discharge of effluent directly into water bodies;
- promotion of cleaner production processes; installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for the cluster of Small Scale Industrial units;
- issuance of directions for implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge in certain categories of highly polluting industries;
- issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, etc”.

### IWAI SETS OUT ON LARGE PUBLIC OUTREACH ALONG GANGA FOR JAL MARG VIKAS PROJECT

Inland Waterways Authority of India held a two day long intensive advocacy and communications outreach at Sahibganj and Rajmahal in Jharkhand.

These interventions are set to change the socio-economic landscape of the land-locked region which has missed the development.

Participants included people from diverse backgrounds – NGO, Panchayat Members, Village Pradhans, Farmers, Fisherman, Boatmen and other local community.

The IWAI is working with State Livelihood Missions for imparting necessary skill training for the youth, boatmen and other community members so that they could benefit from the employment opportunities, informed the IWAI officials who conducted the outreach programmes.

The multi-modal terminal at Sahibganj will play an important role in transportation of domestic coal from the local mines in Rajmahal area to various thermal power plants located along NW-1.

Other than coal, stone chips, fertilizers, cement and sugar are other commodities expected to be transported through the terminal.

\*\*\*