TAMILNADU SPACE INDUSTRIAL POLICY: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEWS: Why has Tamil Nadu adopted a space sector policy?

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Tamil Nadu has launched its Space Industrial Policy to attract ₹10,000 crore investment and boost employment in the space sector, following the Indian Space Policy 2023. The policy offers subsidies and infrastructure support to promote private sector participation and innovation in space technology.

Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy: Overview and Key Provisions

Context and Background

- Tamil Nadu becomes the third state after Karnataka and Gujarat to frame a state-specific space industrial policy.

- The initiative follows a recommendation from IN-SPACe to support the Centre's broader Indian Space Policy 2023.

Aim of the Policy

- To catalyse space sector development and attract significant private investment.

- To integrate Tamil Nadu into the national and global space economy by providing targeted incentives and infrastructure.

Investment and Employment Targets

- Aim to attract ₹10,000 crore investment in the space sector over the next 5 years.

- Expected to generate nearly 10,000 direct and indirect jobs in the same period.

Subsidies and Incentives

- *Payroll Subsidy*: Offered to companies involved in R&D or those setting up global capability centres in space technology.

- *Space Bays*: Selected regions to be notified and promoted as 'Space Bays', with structured incentive packages for investments up to ₹300 crore.

- *Industrial Housing Incentive*: Developers of space industrial parks will receive 10% subsidy on residential infrastructure costs, with a cap of ₹10 crore over 10 years.

- *Green Initiative Subsidy*: 25% subsidy on capital costs for environment-friendly and sustainable initiatives, capped at ₹5 crore.

Broader Framework: Indian Space Policy – 2023

Vision and Objectives

- To expand India's space capabilities and commercial ecosystem.

- To promote socio-economic development, national security, environmental protection, and scientific research through space technology.

- To enable global cooperation and align with international space standards.

Scope and Applicability

- The policy applies to all space activities conducted within Indian jurisdiction, whether public or private.

- The Department of Space (DoS) will issue operational directives for its implementation.

Strategy and Private Sector Role

- Enable full-spectrum participation of private players in areas such as:

  - Satellite development and operations.

  - Ground station infrastructure.

  - Launch vehicle design and launch.

  - Space transportation and re-entry systems.

  - Communication, navigation, and remote sensing services.

  - Space situational awareness, mining of asteroids, and resource commercialization.

  - Human spaceflight and international partnerships.

Key Institutions and Their Roles

1. IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre)

- A single-window autonomous body created to:

  - Authorise both government and private space operations.

  - Facilitate private access to ISRO infrastructure and technologies.

  - Promote innovation clusters, incubators, and accelerators.

  - Handle safety standards, liability issues, and regulatory compliance.

  - Enable commercial launches and approve data dissemination.

2. ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)

- Refocused mandate under the new policy:

  - Dedicated to advanced R&D in emerging space technologies.

  - Take the lead in human spaceflight and scientific space missions.

- Gradually transfer operational and commercial responsibilities to industry.

- Facilitate public access to remote sensing data.

- Encourage academia-industry collaboration and enable future human space missions.

3. NSIL (NewSpace India Limited)

- Commercial arm of the Department of Space:

  - Procures and manufactures satellites and launch vehicles.

  - Commercializes ISRO's technologies.

  - Provides space services to both government and private clients.

4. Department of Space (DoS)

- Plays a coordinating and regulatory role:

  - Ensures proper role allocation among ISRO, IN-SPACe, and NSIL.

  - Coordinates with international partners and ensures global compliance.

  - Facilitates dispute resolution, safety regulations, and interoperability.

  - Upholds India's commitments in global navigation and remote sensing systems.

Significance of the Policies

- Enables a structured and transparent space regulatory regime.

- Empowers private players with operational autonomy.

- Positions India competitively in the global space economy.

- Shifts ISRO's focus from operations to innovation and exploration.

- Encourages sustainable, inclusive, and technologically advanced space infrastructure.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/why-has-tamil-nadu-adopted-a-space-sector-policy-explained/article69618576.ece