Science Technology and Innovation Policy

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Why in News

The **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India (Office of PSA) and the **Department of Science and Technology** (DST) have jointly initiated a decentralized, bottom-up, and inclusive process for the formulation of a new national **Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP 2020).**

Key Points

- **The fifth S&T policy** of India is being formulated at a crucial juncture when India and the world are tackling the **Covid-19** pandemic.
- The STIP 2020 formulation process has been organised into **4 highly interlinked tracks:**
    - **Track I** 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** 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** involves consultations with Ministries and States.
    - **Track IV** constitutes apex level multi-stakeholder consultation.
- The STI Policy for the new India **will also integrate** the lessons of Covid-19 including building of an **Atmanirbhar Bharat (self- reliance)** through ST&I by leveraging our strengths in R&D, Design, S&T workforce and institutions, huge markets, demographic dividend, diversity and data.

Science and Technology Policies in India

Previously **four major policies** have been implemented since independence namely

1. Scientific Policy Resolution 1958:

- India's first major science policy can be traced back to the year 1958.
- SPR1958 laid the foundation of scientific enterprise and scientific temper in India.

2. Technology Policy Statement 1983

- The primary feature of TPS1983 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.

3. Science and Technology Policy 2003

- Aim was to keep 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 into the R&D sector with an aim of increasing investment to 2% of GDP.

4. Science Technology 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.

Source: PIB