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Dialy News Pedia

Rajiv Gauba Committee on incidents of lynching.

A panel headed by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, which deliberated on measures to check incidents of lynching, submitted its report to a Group of Ministers headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh. Committee is created to suggest measures and legal framework to effectively deal with incidents of mob violence and lynching.

A senior government official said social media platforms — Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and Twitter — would be made accountable for not blocking malicious posts and videos when brought to their notice and an "FIR could be lodged against their country heads" for not complying with government orders and they could be prosecuted under law.

Points of concern

The expert panel deliberated on measures to curb incidents of mob lynchings

Social media: The expert panel concurred on the need make social media platforms, such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Youtube, accountable for not blocking malicious posts

Penal action: The panel suggested that an FIR could be launched against top officials of such platforms for not complying with government orders

Course of action: Social media platforms have reportedly agreed to improve their compliance rates following the Centre's call for doing so

In May-June, more than 20 people were lynched based on fake posts or rumours floating on various social media platforms

Why is it needed?

- The move came after recent Supreme Court direction to central government on the issue of mob violence and lynching.
- The apex court had denounced sweeping incidents of lynching as an affront to the rule of law and called for law to deal with such horrendous acts of mobocracy.
- It had passed a series of "preventive, remedial and punitive" measures to deal with lynching and mob vigilantism.
- It had made Centre and state governments accountable for mob violence and lynching and had asked them to take steps to curb and stop dissemination of irresponsible and explosive fake messages and videos on social media platforms which incite such incidents.

O-SMART

Cabinet approves Umbrella scheme "Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)" of Ministry of Earth Sciences

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the umbrella scheme "Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)", for implementation during the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20. The scheme encompasses a total of 16 sub-projects addressing ocean development activities such as Services, Technology, Resources, Observations and Science.

Impact:

The services rendered under the O-SMART will provide economic benefits to a number of user communities in the coastal and ocean sectors, namely, fisheries, offshore industry, coastal states, Defence, Shipping, Ports etc. Currently, five lakhs fishermen community are receiving this information daily through mobile which includes allocation of fish potential and local weather conditions in the coastal waters. This will help in reducing the search time for fishermen resulting savings in the fuel cost. Implementation of O-SMART will help in addressing issues relating to Sustainable Development Goal-14, which aims to conserve use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development. The state-of-the art early warning systems setup for oceanic disasters viz., Tsunami, storm surges, are also providing round the clock services for India and countries of the Indian Ocean, which have been recognized by UNESCO.

Google's Project Navlekha to help regional publications go online.

Google announced Project Navlekha at its **4th edition of Google for India Event held** in New Delhi. Project Navlekha has been launched to enable Indian publishers of regional languages to publish their content online, without facing the trouble of selling printed copies.

The official website of Navlekha can be easily interpreted by users. Users can also obtain help from experts to set up their publication website.

Search engine giant Google has unveiled Project Navlekha to make online content relevant for more Indian users especially in local languages. India is important market for Google as it is second largest population of internet users in the world. At present, amount of online content in Indian languages is only 1% of what is available in English.

Navlekha is word derived from Sanskrit meaning "a new way to write." This project aims to bring 135,000 local language publishers online by making web hosting smooth and simple.

It will allow local publishers who do not have websites to make their offline content fit for online publishing in less than a minute.

It also comprises tool that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to allow publishers to simply scan documents or PDFs and create instant web pages on the platform. No expert digital knowledge is required in the process. Under Navlekha project, Google will help these publishers to receive training and support and a branded page domain for the first three years.

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

It is an international organisation of seven nations of South Asia and South East Asia, housing 1.5 billion people and having a combined gross domestic product of $3.5 trillion (2018).[3][4] The BIMSTEC member states—
Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal[5]—are among the countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal.

Fourth BIMSTEC Summit Declaration, Kathmandu, Nepal (August 30-31, 2018)

"Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region"

Evolution of BIMSTEC

BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand - Economic Cooperation) was formed at a meeting in Jun 1997 in Bangkok. Myanmar was admitted in Dec 1997 and the organization was renamed as BIMST-EC. The grouping expanded when Nepal and Bhutan were admitted in Feb 2004. The grouping's name was changed to BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) at 1st Summit Meeting held in Bangkok in Jul 2004.

BIMSTEC principles:

The founding principles of BIMSTEC are as follows:

i. Cooperation within BIMSTEC will be based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, no-interference in internal affairs, peaceful co- existence and mutual benefit.

ii. Cooperation within BIMSTEC will constitute an addition to and not be a substitute for bilateral, regional or multilateral cooperation involving the Member States.

Area of Cooperation

BIMSTEC has been steadily expanding its agenda. The grouping has identified 14 priority areas: transport and communication, tourism, environment and disaster management, Climate change, Fisheries, Agriculture, Public Health, Poverty Alleviation, Culture and counter terrorism and transnational crime etc.

What is BIMSTEC grid interconnection?

➢ It is a Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation in BIMSTEC
➢ In the fourth meeting of BIMSTEC held in January 2017, the MoU was discussed and finalised.
➢ The MoU provides a broad framework of cooperation for the implementation of grid interconnections for the purpose of carrying out trade in electricity.
➢ Its objective is to promote rational and optimal power transmission in the BIMSTEC region.
➢ The MoU for the establishment of the BIMSTEC grid interconnection facilitates:
   o Optimization of energy resources in the BIMSTEC region for mutual benefits on non-discriminatory basis subject to laws, rules and regulations of the respective Parties;
   o Promotion of efficient, economic, and secure operation of power system by developing regional electricity networks;
   o Necessity of optimization of capital investment for additional capacity generation across the region; and
   o Power exchange through cross-border interconnections.

Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council

(PM-STIAC)

Government has constituted a high power committee to advise it on policy matters related to science, technology and innovation

Named as PM-STIAC (Science, Technology, Innovation Advisory Committee), the 21-member committee,

It will be headed by Principal Scientific Advisor to the government of India. It has nine members, including Chairperson. Apart from nine members, it will also have twelve special invitees — eleven ex officio secretaries 10 central ministries, related to science, technology, energy and education, are special invitees to the panel.

The committee will advise the Prime Minister on all matters related to S&T, innovation and monitor the implementation of PM's vision on the same.
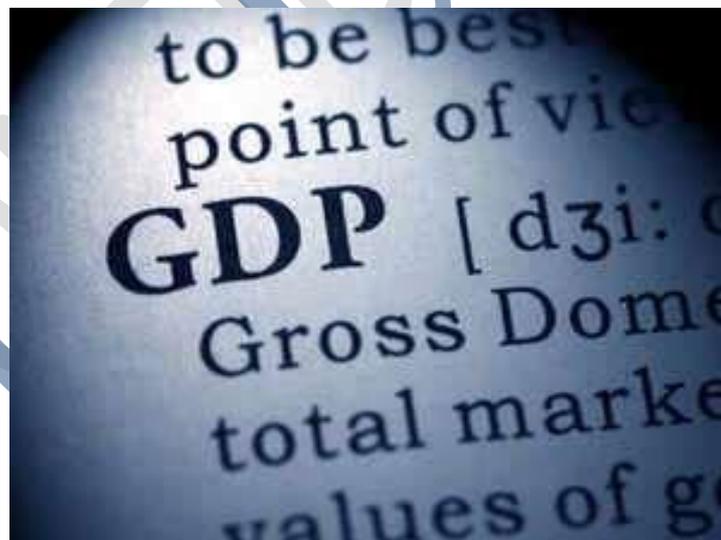
It will facilitate the formulation and implementation of policies and decisions provide action-oriented and future preparedness advice and assist in directing S&T to solve the socio economic problems in the country. It will also have a large focus on driving innovation in education, research, industry etc.

PM-STIAC will effectively supersede the SAC-Cabinet and SAC-PM.

EDITORIAL.

To Read.

India's R&D spend stagnant for 20 years at 0.7% of GDP

India's spending on R&D in terms of percentage of GDP has been stagnant at 0.6 to 0.7 per cent in the last two decades -- much lower than the US, China, South Korea and Israel, the Economic Survey said today. The country needs to redouble its efforts to make improvements in science and R&D, said the Economic Survey 2017-18, tabled in Parliament by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

It has called for doubling national expenditures on R&D. Although India's investment in science, which is measured in terms of Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD), has tripled in the last decade, the ratio was stagnant at 0.6 to 0.7 per cent of the GDP. "India's spending on R&D (about 0.6 per cent of GDP) is well below that in major nations such as the US (2.8), China (2.1), Israel (4.3) and Korea (4.2)," the survey said. India's GRED has tripled in the last decade to Rs 85,326 crores in 2014-15 from Rs 24,117 crore of 2004-05. It is estimated at Rs 1,04,864 crore in 2016-17. According to the Survey, East Asian countries like China, Japan and Korea have seen dramatic increases in R&D as a percentage of GDP as they have become richer. "India, on the other hand, has only seen a slight increase. In fact, in 2015, there was a sizable decline in R&D spending even as GDP per capita continued to rise. At its current rate, India would just barely reach GERD of 1 per cent of GDP by the time it was as rich as the USA," it added. Private investments in R&D have severely lagged public investments in India, it said. In most countries, the private sector carries out most of the R&D. However, in India, the government is not just the primary source of R&D funding but also a primary user of these funds. "According to one analysis (Forbes, 2017) there are 26 Indian companies in the list of the top 2,500 global R&D spenders compared to 301 Chinese companies. 19 (of these 26) firms are in just three sectors - pharmaceuticals, automobiles and software," said the Survey. India has no firms in five of the top ten R&D sectors as opposed to China that has a presence in each of them. About three-fifths of government's investment in R&D is spread over the key government science funding agencies like Atomic Energy, Space, Earth Sciences, Science and Technology and Biotechnology, the Survey said. Even more, government expenditure on R&D is undertaken almost entirely by the central government.

"There is a need for greater State Government spending, especially application oriented R&D aimed at problems specific to their economies and populations," it said. The survey also pointed out that there has been an increase in the number of enrolments in Ph.D with 1.26 lakh students in 2015-16. While, in terms of publications and patents, India has improved and increased its global share. "Between 2009-2014, annual publication growth was almost 14 per cent. It increased India's share in global publications from 3.1 per cent in 2009 to 4.4 per cent in 2014," the Survey said.

According to WIPO, India is the seventh largest patent filing office in the World. It has suggested some measures as to improve math and cognitive skills at the school level, encourage investigator- led research, link national labs to universities and create new knowledge eco-systems to improve science and R&D in the country.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS.

1. Choose the wrong statement regarding O-SMART?
   a. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs inaugurated this scheme..
   b. O-SMART will help in addressing issues relating to Sustainable Development Goal-17.
   c. Aims to conserve use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development.
   d. All the above.

2. Which of the following country shares border with Indian Ocean.
   a. Burma.
   b. Thailand.
   c. Nepal.
   d. Maldives.

3. Rajiv Gauba Committee related to
   a. Police reforms.
   b. Child home care.
   c. Mob violence and Lynching.
   d. Farmer suicide.

4. Navlekha to help regional publications go online is the project of .
   a. Microsoft.
   b. World Bank.
   c. Facebook.
   d. Google.

5. Choose the right statement related to PM-STIAC
   a. It will facilitate the formulation and implementation of policies and decisions
   b. The committee will advise the Prime Minister on all matters related to S&T, innovation and monitor the implementation of PM's vision on the same.
   c. Both.
   d. None.

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q: How Globalisation benefiting the growth of national GDP. Discuss.