

“Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart.”

Roy T. Bennett

NATIONAL**NITI AAYOG SIGNS SOI WITH SAP GLOBAL TO FOSTER INNOVATION ACROSS 100 ATAL TINKERING LABS**

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) today announced the signing of a Statement of Intent (SOI) with SAP to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. As part of the SOI, SAP in 2018 will adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) for five years to nurture the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning among secondary school children across India.

The program aims to enable students to learn advanced technology topics relevant to digital transformation and the Internet of Things, e.g. Design Thinking methodology, introduction to programming languages and experiential science learning.

This partnership shall help support and boost innovations from the ATLs. The support to Atal Incubators will catalyze adoption of the innovations to commercial scales, ensuring deployment of the innovations to the domestic and international markets quickly and efficiently.

SAP employee volunteers will coach and mentor students in advanced technology topics and the design lab of SAP Labs India, will provide trainings and allow students to gain hands-on experience with technology gadgets.

NITI Aayog's AIM envisions the creation of a collaborative ecosystem, where students, teachers, mentors and industry partners work to facilitate innovation, foster scientific temper and an entrepreneurial spirit in the children of today, who will go on to become successful contributors to nation-building tomorrow.

Atal Innovation Mission:

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. AIM is mandated to create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country

and revolutionizing the innovation eco-system - touching upon the entire innovation life cycle through various programs. Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) create innovators, Atal Incubation Centre and support to Established Incubation Centre will take the innovations to the market and a network of Incubators shall help create enterprises around these innovations.

Till date, AIM has already announced selection of 2441 schools across India to establish ATLs, covering 93% of the total districts in India and 98% of the upcoming smart cities representing all states and 5 out of 7 UTs.

The goal remains to expand the reach of ATLs to every district of our country and establish over 30,000 ATLs covering the length and breadth of India over next three years.

VARIOUS STEPS TAKEN TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET OF GROSS ENROLLMENT RATIO OF 30% BY 2019-20

The Government has been constantly striving to develop a system of higher education of quality appropriate to the national needs and aspirations and in tune with global trends.

To increase access to Higher Education, new Institutions of National Importance viz. Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, National Institutes of Technology, universities and Colleges are established, intake capacity of existing institutions is enhanced, quality distance education is promoted and quality private education institutions are allowed to operate for creating opportunities for students belonging to disadvantaged section of the society.

Further, **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), provides strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.** The objective is to achieve the target of Gross Enrolment Ratio of 30% by the year 2019-20 with equity and inclusion.

The **Department of Higher Education has a scheme called Central Sector Interest Subsidy**

Scheme on education loan for students belonging to Economically Weaker Sections.

The objective of the Scheme is to encourage poor students aspiring to pursue Higher Education especially in Technical and Professional education. Government of India bears full interest subsidy during the Moratorium period.

DRAFT DIGITAL INFORMATION IN HEALTHCARE SECURITY ACT (DISHA)

The Centre has quietly put in the public domain the draft of a law to ensure the protection of health data

The draft Digital Information in Healthcare Security Act (DISHA) lays down that any health data including physical, physiological and mental health condition, sexual orientation, medical records and history and biometric information are the property of the person who it pertains to

The law makes any breach punishable by up to five years imprisonment and an Rs 5-lakh fine

Provisions of the act

The Act envisages a health information exchange, a State Electronic Health Authority, and a National Electronic Health Authority

It lays down that a clinical establishment (as defined in the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010) and these three authorities shall be duty-bound to protect the privacy, confidentiality, and security of the owner's digital health data

Any person or company who breaches digital health data, as per the draft Act, is liable to pay compensation to the person whose data has been breached

The ten-member National Electronic Health Authority of India is designed in the long run to become the bulwark for the National Health Protection Mission

NHPM is the ambitious health programme to cover 10.74 crore families against annual medical expenses of up to Rs 5 lakh

The draft Act says that no court shall take cognizance of any offense punishable under the Act except on a complaint made by the

Central Government, State Government, the National Electronic Health Authority of India, State Electronic Health Authority, or a person affected.

This means a person or entity charged with data theft or breach does not have the option of challenging the punishment in court.

The Central and state adjudicating authorities formed under the Act will have powers of a civil court.

GOVT BEGINS PROCESS OF SELLING ENEMY PROPERTIES; ISSUES GUIDELINES REGARDING IT

The government has started the process of monetization of more than 9,400 enemy properties by issuing guidelines.

It has directed the office of the custodian to submit a list of all such movable and immovable assets within three months.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has also constituted a valuation committee at the district level headed by the district magistrate, and an inter-ministerial disposal committee, headed by an additional secretary, so that the process could be completed in a time-bound manner.

The move comes after the amendment of the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act 2017 and the Enemy Property (Amendment) Rules, 2018.

These provisions ensured that the heirs of those who migrated to Pakistan and China during partition and afterward will have no claim over the properties left behind in India.

The enemy properties were those left behind by the people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China.

'Enemy' properties:

According to the new Act, 'enemy property' refers to any property belonging to, held or managed on behalf of an enemy, an enemy subject or an enemy firm.

The government has vested these properties in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India, an office instituted under the central government.

The office of the custodian should submit a list of all enemy properties to the central government.

The Custodian may sell the movable enemy property such as shares, with the prior approval of the central government, in one or more lots by itself or by authorizing any professional body for such a sale.

In case of a vacant immovable enemy property, the custodian or any authorized body may sell the property, in one or more lots to secure maximum sale price, with the prior approval of the central government.

The central government will also constitute an Enemy Property Disposal Committee.

The committee shall give its recommendation to the central government for the disposal of the enemy property or the manner in which the enemy property may be dealt with and matters connected with it.

In case of vacant immovable enemy property, the Committee may recommend the purchaser offering the highest price for disposal of vacant immovable enemy property.

MADHYA PRADESH FILED A PETITION AGAINST RECENTLY GIVEN GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS TAG

Madhya Pradesh has filed a writ petition in the Madras High Court challenging an order passed by Assistant Registrar of Geographical Indications (GI) on March 15 excluding the State from being granted the GI tag for basmati rice.

In May 2010, GI status was given to basmati grown only in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and parts of western Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. Madhya Pradesh moved a statutory opposition demanding that its 13 districts be recognised as traditional Basmati growing regions.

However, GI registry had rejected Madhya Pradesh's claim as being the original and unique basmati growing region. It had observed that the documents and evidence filed by Madhya Pradesh show the importance, special characters of rice

cultivated in Madhya Pradesh but not the basmati cultivation in the traditional growing area.

Madhya Pradesh says non-inclusion of the state in the basmati growing areas would have an adverse effect on the lives of farmers who mainly depend upon basmati cultivation and it will also affect the export potential, which will indirectly reduce the country's turnover from the export of basmati.

GI TAG:

A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.

Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.

Once the GI protection is granted, no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products. It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product.

RICE AND SHINE

The Intellectual Property Appellate Board on Friday cleared the decks for issuing the Geographical Indication tag to Indian basmati rice

<p>What is a Geographical Indication? A 'geographical indication' (GI) is a place name used to identify the origin and quality, reputation or other characteristics of products. For instance, Champagne.</p> <p>Why is it important? Article 22 of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights agreement says unless a geographical indication is protected in the country of its origin, there is no</p>	<p>obligation under the agreement for other countries to extend reciprocal protection.</p> <p>India's Basmati credentials... India is the largest producer and exporter of Basmati rice in the world. Exports totalled Rs. 27,597 crore in 2014-15.</p> <p>Some popular registered GIs in India Darjeeling Tea, Mysore Silk, Mysore Peak (sweet), Thanjavur Veena</p>	 <p>Pusa Basmati 1, a high-yielding Variety of scented Basmati rice. — FILE PHOTO</p> <p>Sources: WTO and APEDA</p>
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SMART INDIA HACKATHON 2018

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is organizing **Smart India Hackathon 2018**.

Smart India Hackathon 2018 is a non-stop digital product development competition, where problems are posed to technology students for innovative solutions. It will

harnesses creativity & expertise of students and sparks institute-level hackathons.

It builds funnel for 'Startup India' campaign and crowd sources solutions for improving governance and quality of life. It also provides opportunity to citizens to provide innovative solutions to India's daunting problems

Smart India Hackathon 2018 would be the second massive scale hackathon initiative in India following Smart India Hackathon 2017.

Winners stand to get cash prizes and a chance to be part of the NASSCOM's 10,000 Startups program.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DOWN SYNDROME

National Conference on Down syndrome was recently inaugurated in New Delhi. The objective of this conference was to provide excellent opportunities to the parents to obtain information about latest development in education and skilling and inclusive living of persons with Down syndrome.

The Conference was organized by National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities under M/o SJ&E in collaboration with MUSKAAN, a registered organization of the National Trust.

On 19th December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared to observe 21st March as World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) and since then every year, this day is officially observed by UN to create awareness about people with Down syndrome.

Down syndrome:

Down syndrome is a chromosomal condition associated with intellectual and learning disabilities. Persons with Down syndrome have 47 chromosomes as compared to 46.

This one Extra chromosome causes its own impact and slows down learning process. It impacts neurological functioning causing impairment of intellectual functions e.g. analytical thinking, complex abstractions and judgment etc.

National Trust:

The National Trust is a Statutory Body under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The National Trust was envisaged with a core mission of providing opportunities for capacity development of Persons with Disabilities and their families, fulfilling their rights, facilitating and promoting the creation of an enabling environment and an inclusive society.

SCIENCE AND TECH

TESS MISSION OF NASA

NASA and SpaceX joining hands for their all-new combined mission known as Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission and the mission will be launched in April this year.

TESS mission:

The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is an upcoming NASA mission that will look for planets orbiting the brightest stars in Earth's sky. Its launch vehicle will be a Falcon 9 rocket from SpaceX.

The mission will monitor at least 200,000 stars for signs of exoplanets, ranging from Earth-sized rocky worlds to huge gas giant planets. TESS, however, will focus on stars that are 30 to 100 times brighter than those Kepler examined. This will help astronomers better understand the structure of solar systems outside of our Earth, and provide insights into how our own solar system formed.

TESS will occupy a never-before-used orbit high above Earth. The elliptical orbit, called P/2, is exactly half of the moon's orbital period; this means that TESS will orbit Earth every 13.7 days. Its closest point to Earth (67,000 miles or 108,000 kilometers) is about triple the distance of geosynchronous orbit, where most communications satellites operate.
