



Vigyan Jyoti Programme

Why in News?

Recently, the [Vigyan Jyoti programme](#) was extended to 100 districts in its 2nd phase. Vigyan Jyoti Programme was launched by the [Department of Science & Technology \(DST\)](#), Ministry of Science and Technology.

- Further, DST is working proactively to bring gender parity in Science & Technology (S&T) domain through various women-centric programmes.

What are Highlights of the Vigyan Jyoti Programme?

- It aims to address the underrepresentation of women in different fields of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the country..
- As a first step, the “Vigyan Jyoti” has been introduced in the year 2019-20 at the school level wherein meritorious girl students of Class 9-12 are being encouraged to pursue higher education and career in STEM field.
- The Vigyan Jyoti envisaged hand-holding and interventions right from the school level i.e., Class IX and which will continue till the PhD level to encourage girls to pursue a career in underrepresented areas of STEM.
- The Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Education, is the implementation partner of Vigyan Jyoti. NVS has a network of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in more than 600 districts of India.

What are Other Related Government Initiatives?

- **Women Scientists Scheme:** To help women with career-breaks.
- **Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM (WISTEMM) program:** Women scientists can work in research labs in the US.
- **Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) programme:** Improving R&D infrastructure and establishing state-of-the-art research facilities in order to create excellence in S&T in women universities.
- **Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) program:** To develop a comprehensive Charter and a framework for assessing Gender Equality in STEM.
- The [New Education Policy](#) and the [Science, Technology and Innovation Policy](#) could make use of the demographic dividend to progress long in short time to help increase the number of women in science.
- Further, DST has also additionally established **Artificial Intelligence (AI) labs in women universities** with the goal to foster AI innovations and to prepare skilled manpower for AI-based jobs in future.

[Source: PIB](#)

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