



I-STEM Enters Phase-II

Why in News

The **Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM)** project has been accorded an extension for five years, until 2026 and enters its **second phase** with added features.

I-STEM®
Linking Researchers and Resources
Launched by the Honourable
Prime Minister of India

Indian Science, Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM)

I-STEM: Strengthen the Indigenous Development of Scientific Instruments

After establishing a National web portal through which R&D equipment in institutions across the country can be located and accessed in a transparent way, I-STEM is entering a New Phase with the following objectives -

- ▶ Working towards a more comprehensive listing of R&D facilities. Availability, and their active use
- ▶ Providing partial assistance to Tier 2 and Tier 3 institutions for the maintenance of facilities shared through I-STEM through Comprehensive AMC program
- ▶ Partial assistance to Users from Tier 2 and Tier 3 institutions who use facilities through I-STEM
- ▶ Promoting the indigenous development - especially by startups - of scientific equipment and value-added technical supplies, including software, used for R&D; enabling such development via the (national) Digital Catalogue of indigenously developed technologies and products maintained by the I-STEM portal
- ▶ Establishing regional centres for providing technical training and skill development, in part by restoring/stripping R&D equipment written off by I-STEM institutions; thus developing a stream of talent and gainful employment through maintaining and upgrading R&D facilities
- ▶ Providing access through the web to R&D software platforms to Academic Users to promote R&D and more effective instruction/learning, especially in smaller institutions.

```
graph TD; A[Software Services through I-STEM] --> B[Indigenous Equipment Development]; B --> C[Skill Development Program]; C --> D[User friendly R&D facilities access across the country]; D --> E[Partial funding to Institution, Researchers and Start-ups]; E --> A;
```

//

Key Points

▪ I-STEM:

◦ About:

- I-STEM is a **National Web portal for sharing R&D** (Research and Development) facilities.
- The portal **facilitates researchers to access slots for the use of equipment**, as well as to share the details of the outcomes, such as, patents, publications and technologies.

◦ Launch:

- Launched in January 2020. It is an initiative of Office of the **Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India under the aegis of **Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) mission**.

- **PM-STIAC:** It is an overarching Council that facilitates the Principal Scientific Adviser's Office to **assess the status in specific science and technology domains, comprehend challenges in hand, formulate specific interventions, develop a futuristic roadmap** and advise the Prime Minister accordingly.

- **Goal:**

- The goal of I-STEM is to strengthen the R&D ecosystem of the country by connecting researchers with resources.
- Promoting **technologies and scientific equipment development indigenously**, and **providing necessary supplies and support to researchers** by enabling them an access to existing publicly funded R&D facilities in the country through the I-STEM web portal.

- **Phase-I:**

- In the first phase, the portal is listed with more than 20,000 pieces of equipment from 1050 institutions across the country and has more than 20,000 Indian researchers.

- **Phase-II:**

- The portal **will host indigenous technology products listed through a digital catalogue**. It will also **host and provide access to selected R&D** (Research and Development) **software** required to undertake research projects by students and scientists.
- The portal will also **provide a platform for the various City Knowledge and Innovation Clusters** to enhance effective use of R&D infrastructure through leveraging collaboration and partnership built on a shared STI (**Science Technology and Innovation**) ecosystem.
- New phase will be designed as a dynamic digital platform that will provide a **boost to research and innovation especially for 2 tier and 3 tier cities** and also for the emerging start-up ecosystem.

Source: PIB

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/i-stem-enters-phase-ii>