

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

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**Source:** *PIB & Ministry of Science & Technology*

Recently Prime Minister has launched the I-STEM portal during the Indian Science congress event in Bengaluru.

## What is it and who initiated it?

**Initiated by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the GoI** as an important national program to **build a unique 'One Nation One Research Web Portal' for scientific community**, the Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM): Linking Researchers and Resources, will hold the database of all the R&D facilities established in institutions around the country, and enable their sharing in a transparent manner. The IP protected Portal has been **built by and is managed by, Nanoscience Centre of Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.**

## Key features of the portal

- **All academic institutions, national research labs, and aided/affiliated institutions with R&D facilities funded by agencies of the GoI, will be required to list them on the I-STEM Portal.**
- In addition, this will also serve to **provide a live inventory of R&D facilities in academia, national labs, and industry, whether created with public and private investment.**
- It is required that the funding agencies in R&D (in science, technology, engineering, medicine, and agriculture), make sure that all institutions list their

public-funded facilities on the I-STEM portal and ensure that they are made available to users (Internal and External).

- The I-STEM Portal is **designed to be the gateway for users/researchers to locate the specific type of facility they need for their R&D work** and to identify the one that is either located closest to them or available the soonest. Once a researcher locates the desired facility through I-STEM, s/he can make an online reservation for using it, paying for it through a secure payment gateway.
- The Portal will thus provide **comprehensive data on the sharing of facilities** and, thereby, on the active participation of institutions in the I-STEM project.
- **The portal also supports a panel of experts in various fields of science, engineering, and technology** so that researchers can seek their advice to achieve greater success in their R&D projects.

### **Who can access the portal?**

- Not just public and private academic institutions, but the industry will also be able to share their R&D lab equipment as well as scientific products/equipment accessories.
- Furthermore, the industry will also be able to access needed facilities through I-STEM for their R&D. This will enable start-ups to leverage public and private investment to pursue their innovative ideas, and come up with successful products and services.

### **Significance of the portal**

- I-STEM is expected to **greatly enhance the utilization of R&D equipment nationwide**, thereby reducing duplication and saving precious public funds through a reduction in the capital budget for R&D, and releasing funds that can provide support to a much larger number of researchers,

especially those in smaller and more remote institutions.

- I-STEM is also expected to **enhance collaboration among academics and between industry and academia.**
- The I-STEM project will also likely result in the creation of skilled manpower at various levels, enhancing job opportunities, and in the building of a better R&D ecosystem in the country, in public as well as private organizations.
- Thus, the I-STEM initiative is aimed at and is **expected to lead to, greater R&D productivity, innovation, especially among start-ups, resulting in the growth of industry and the national economy.**