

# India's first Virtual Science Lab for children

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**In news-** Recently, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology launched India's first Virtual Science Lab for children **under CSIR Jigyasa programme.**

## **About the virtual lab-**

- CSIR Jigyasa's Virtual lab will be an inspirational science lab where **students will read, have fun and carry out those experiments and materials** which are presented by the CSIR scientists and other stakeholders.
- The new facility will benefit **students from Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Government Schools.**
- CSIR has **partnered with IIT Bombay to develop this Virtual Lab platform.**
- **The target audience** for the Virtual Lab platform is students of the standard **VI to XII (11-18 years)** who would like to explore science using different activities, experienced researchers and faculties on the subjects of Science, Mathematics, Biology and IT.
- **Its main aim is to provide quality research exposure and innovative pedagogy for school students to drive their scientific curiosity** based on an online interactive medium with simulated experiments, pedagogy based content, videos, chat forums, animations, gaming, quiz, facility sharing, webinars etc.
- It would **provide a virtual tour of CSIR laboratories and expose students to research infrastructure.**
- The platform will also have the **option to interact with scientists and seek their inputs or clear student's doubts and** help in knowledge Upgradation for Teachers and Students.
- In order to involve other labs **MoU has been signed with**

**JawaharNavodayaVidyalayas and also with Atal Tinkering Labs of NITI AAYOG.**

- **Other major stakeholders for the programme are** the academic based community consisting of MHRD, CSIR scientist's faculties, Ph.D. research students, school and junior college students, Sansthas, NGOs, Independent outreach faculties.

### **Jigyasa programme of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-**

- It is one of the major initiatives taken up by CSIR at national level for further **widening and deepening its Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR).**
- It was **launched in 2017.**
- It **focuses on connecting school students and scientists** so as to extend student's classroom learning with well planned research laboratory based learning.
- It is **implemented by the CSIR in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).**
- Student Residential Programmes, scientists as teachers and teachers as scientists, lab specific activities/Onsite Experiments, visits of scientists to Schools/Outreach Programmes, science and maths Clubs, projects of National Children's Science Congress and tinkering laboratories are some of the activities included under the programme.