



DST-IBM Collaboration for STEM

Why in News

Recently, the [Department of Science and Technology](#) (DST) and **International Business Machines Corporation** (IBM) India have announced **collaborations to scale up the initiatives, [Vigyan Jyoti](#) and Engage with Science.**

- Both DST and IBM India **aim to create a robust STEM ecosystem** that nurtures critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and next-generation innovators.
- DST and IBM India will **work together to further integrate and develop science and technology in the education ecosystem** with short term courses, workshops, mentoring, and online science content communication for teachers and students in India.

Key Points

▪ Vigyan Jyoti:

- It was **launched by the DST in 2019.**
- **Aims:**
 - To **promote [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics](#) (STEM) learning** among girl students and build confidence and excitement towards these streams.
 - STEM is a **curriculum** based on the idea of educating students in 4 specific disciplines, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, in an interdisciplinary and applied approach.
 - To **create a level-playing field** for meritorious girls from **grades 9 to 12**, especially from the top colleges in the areas where girls are hugely underrepresented.
 - To solve the multidimensional problems associated with the **[meagre representation of women.](#)**
- The programme provides a **scholarship, visit to nearby scientific institutions, science camps, lecturers** from eminent women scientists, and **career counselling.**
- It is currently **implemented by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya** (JNV) in 58 districts, with the participation of about 2900 students.
 - JNV is a **system of central schools for talented students predominantly from rural areas** in India.
 - They are run by **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti**, New Delhi, an **autonomous organization under the Department of School Education and Literacy**, Ministry of Education.

▪ Engage with Science:

- Engage with Science by **Vigyan Prasar** is another initiative to **build interest and create a community of practice** with students, teachers, and scientists connecting the high school students to the higher education institutions.

- **Vigyan Prasar** is an autonomous body under the DST to help India's science popularisation agenda through several strategic initiatives.
- This is an **interactive platform** that will be built on the **Over-The-Top (OTT) platform** to encourage and inspire high school students to pursue science and technology for a career.
 - An OTT media service is **any online content provider that offers streaming media as a standalone product.**
 - The term is **commonly applied to video-on-demand platforms**, but also refers to audio streaming, messaging services, or internet-based voice calling solutions.
 - It needs **access to the internet and smartphones, tablets, laptop/computers.**
- **Benefits of the Collaboration:**
 - It will make these programmes reach the students and teachers in **interactive ways on a large scale which will make learning relevant** and foster scientific spirit among the country's youth.
 - **Existing opportunities** for meritorious girls to nurture their interest in STEM **will be expanded** through the learning platforms.
 - The engagement with science platforms will **make students interact, participate and get involved with the sampling and active consumption of science and technology content**, including Cloud, Big Data, etc. through the usage of digital tools.
 - This will **strengthen the DST's initiative to increase the number of women in technology** fields.

[Source: PIB](#)

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