



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### BIS Launches 'Learning Science via Standards' Series

[Bureau of Indian Standards \(BIS\)](#), has launched a new initiative called '**Learning Science via Standards**', aimed at helping students understand the practical applications of scientific concepts, principles, and laws in the manufacturing, functioning, and testing of products.

It is in line with BIS's earlier '[Standards Clubs](#)' initiative, which has already formed over 4200 clubs with more than one lakh student members. Standards Clubs undertake **student-centric activities like debates, quiz and competitions, including standards-writing competitions**. BIS provides **financial support to these clubs** for up to three activities in a year.

The 'Learning Science via Standards' initiative is expected towards **bridging the gap between theory and real-life use of science education** and promoting a culture of quality and standardization in the country.

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### Atal Innovation Mission Launches ATL Sarthi

[Atal Innovation Mission](#) (AIM) [NITI Aayog](#) launched ATL Sarthi, a comprehensive **self-monitoring framework** to strengthen the ecosystem of [Atal Tinkering Labs](#) (ATL).

AIM is establishing ATLs in schools across India **to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design thinking mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing** etc. So far (March 2023), AIM has funded around 10,000 schools to establish ATLs.

ATL Sarthi is a **tool to enable the ATLs to be efficient and effective**. The initiative has **four pillars** ensuring the performance enhancement of ATLs through a self-reporting dashboard known as '**MyATL Dashboard**' and **Compliance SOPs for schools** to ensure financial and non-financial compliances, on-ground enablement of ATLs in collaboration with relevant local authorities through **Cluster-based Approach** and providing ownership to schools to analyze their performance through **Performance-Enablement (PE) Matrix**.

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### Bumchu Festival: Sikkim

Bumchu is an **annual holy water vase ritual** commemorated in **Tashiding Monastery**, one of the most sacred **Buddhist pilgrimage sites**, located on a hilltop overlooking the **Rangyet River** in Sikkim.

Bumchu means "**pot of sacred water**" in Tibetan. The water inside the vase is shared among the worshippers. The water is thought to have **healing qualities and to grant luck and riches** to those who drink it. The celebration takes place on the **14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the first lunar month, which often falls in February or March**.

Legend has it that in the eighth century, a great [Buddhist](#) guru who brought Buddhism to [Tibet](#), blessed the location of the monastery. Later the monastery was founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

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