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25th May 2016

Dear Shri Khuntia,

Subject: NITI Aayog launches initiative to establish 500 Atal Tinkering Laboratories in Schools.

The Government of India has setup the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** including **Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU)** at NITI Aayog. The overarching purpose of this Mission is to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in India.

To foster creativity and scientific temper in students, Atal Innovation Mission will establish 500 Atal Tinkering Laboratories in schools. It will provide one time establishment grant-in-aid of Rs. 10 lakh for establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) in schools (grade VI – XII) across India. Further, an amount of Rs. 10.0 lakh would also be provided for each ATL over a period of 5 years for operational expenses of ATLs. Thus, an amount of Rs. 20 lakh per Atal Tinkering Laboratory in each selected school will be spent. Young children will get a chance to work with tools and equipment to understand the concepts of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and also give shape to their creativity. Competitions at regional and national scale will also be organised to showcase the innovations developed by the children. For further details on the scheme, please refer to the implementation guidelines at <http://niti.gov.in/content/atal-tinkering-laboratories>.

We are seeking applications online from schools desirous of applying to this scheme. The last date of submission of applications is 17th June 2016. In this regard, we request you to kindly circulate information about this scheme to relevant Government Departments, including State Governments, Central Board of Secondary Education, Indian Certificate of Secondary Education, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti among others and encourage schools to apply. For further queries, please contact us at md-aim@gov.in and 011 – 23096607 / 23092291.

I am enclosing a copy of the scheme guidelines with this letter for your reference and circulation. We look forward to your active support.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Amitabh Kant)

Dr. S. C. Khuntia,
Secretary,
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