

N1. Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog & National Informatics Centre (NIC) jointly launches CollabCAD in ATL schools

India Education Diary- 13 April 2020

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New Delhi: Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and National Informatics Centre (NIC) today jointly launched CollabCAD, a collaborative network, computer enabled software system, providing a total engineering solution from 2D drafting & detailing to 3D product design.

The aim of this initiative is to provide a great platform to students of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) across country to create and modify 3d designs with free flow of creativity and imagination. This software would also enable students to create data across the network and concurrently access the same design data for storage and visualization.

ATLs established across India, provide tinkering spaces to children to hone their innovative ideas and creativity. AIM's collaboration with NIC's CollabCAD is a great platform for students to utilize indigenous, state-of-the-art made-in-India software for 3D modeling/slicing to use 3D Printing.

A customized version of CollabCAD for ATLs with features that are most relevant to school students to materialize their ideas and creativity into physical solutions has been developed to enable designing without constraints and, thus, allowing creativity and innovation to thrive.

Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog Shri R Ramanan while launching CollabCAD online via social media said that 3D printing is going to be an integral part of the new 21st century innovations and AIM, NITI Aayog is proud to enable designing through CollabCAD in 5000 Atal Tinkering Labs with over 2.5 million students having access to it.

"I am delighted to announce the launch of yet another important module called CollabCAD design module. It is an amazing software CAD system that would enable students to create innumerable 3d designs. I look forward to students to give freedom to their creativity and imagination and create great innovations using this opportunity while they tinker from home as well as in their ATL labs when the schools open normally," he added.

Meanwhile, NIC is playing a crucial role in pushing the online module to reach to the students all across the country by providing a huge source of data through this software CAD system.

Sharing her views, Director General NIC Dr Neeta Verma said, NIC is happy to share this make in India 3d product CollabCAD which will be used by around 5000 schools where Atal Tinkering Labs are established.

"It is an indigenous three dimensional computer aided design system which helps the used to build models in virtual 3d space and create and engineering drawings for shop floor which makes it a complete package for smart manufacturing. We take great pride in collaborating with AIM, NITI Aayog to launch this opportunity for students," she said.

Moreover, in light of the current situation, the ATL program has launched a 'Tinker from Home' campaign to ensure that the children across the county have access to useful easy-to-learn online

resources to keep themselves fruitfully occupied. The objective of the initiative is to harness the creativity and innovativeness of children by encouraging learning through self-initiation.

AIM also launched the Game Development module in partnership with DELL Technologies and Learning Links Foundation. It is an online platform where students can start their learning journey while tinkering from home. Through the platform they can learn to create their own games and also share it with others. This platform envisages to make students transition from 'game players' to 'game makers'

Similarly, by launching CollabCAD and gaming module as part of the 'Tinker from Home' campaign, young students are encouraged to learn and contribute to the journey of nation building from the safe space of their homes.

About AIM

Atal Innovation Mission housed at NITI Aayog is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. At the school level, AIM is establishing ATLs in all districts across India. As of today, AIM has selected a total of 14,916 schools across the country spread across 33 different states and union territories, for the establishment of ATLs.

News Source: <https://indiaeducationdiary.in/atal-innovation-mission-niti-aayog-national-informatics-centre-nic-jointly-launches-collabcad-in-atl-schools/>

N2. Jammu dist launches e-pass service for emergency movement from "red zone"

Outlook India- 13 April 2020

Jammu Deputy Commissioner Sushma Chauhan said the software has been meticulously designed and developed by the National Informatics Centre J&K and the Service Plus Team of NIC, Delhi, using ...

Jammu, Apr 13 (PTI) The Jammu district administration on Monday launched e-pass service for people in the coronavirus 'red zone' to obtain online permission for emergency movement during the lockdown period.

Jammu Deputy Commissioner Sushma Chauhan said the service will facilitate emergency movement of public from the 'red zone areas' who are otherwise not allowed to move out of the restricted area.

"Now after the launch of this e-PASS facility, any person in a situation of emergency residing in the pre-defined red/containment zones can now apply online by going to the web site," she said.

"The applicant will be redirected to a web site for filling some details like their own particulars, purpose for which the pass is required", she added.

She said the software has been meticulously designed and developed by the National Informatics Centre J&K and the Service Plus Team of NIC, Delhi, using service plus framework.

"The online facility supports three types of ePASSes namely, Within the District, Inter District and Inter State.

"It is a complete work-flow based application with eMail and SMS alerts to citizens. Once the request for ePASS is approved by District Authorities, ePASS is sent through registered email and, also, alerts are sent through SMS," she said.

She said the applicant can also visit <https://erviceonline.gov.in> for tracking the status of application by providing their unique application reference number generated at the time of applying online.

Every ePASS generated will also have a QR code embedded within, with the help of which law-enforcement agencies can verify the authenticity of the ePASS, she said.

Every e-pass generated will also have a vehicle e-pass with QR code which can be pasted on the windscreen of vehicle to allow hassle-free movement of essential vehicles also on the roads, she added.

The Deputy Commissioner also informed that though initially this service is available only for red zones, it will be subsequently extended to entire district.

News Source: <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/jammu-dist-launches-epass-service-for-emergency-movement-from-red-zone/1801358>

N3. Task force to identify suspected COVID-19 cases at booth level in Delhi

The New Indian Express- 14 April 2020

*The teams would submit a daily report in the evening through a mobile app to be developed **National Informatics Centre, Delhi**, reads the order passed by Delhi ...These teams will go to households and inquire about any suspected coronavirus case in over 13, 000 booths in the city.*

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government on Monday set up a five-member team at each and every booth in the city for strict compliance of lockdown as well as for door-to-door verification to trace suspected cases of COVID-19. Led by a booth-level officer, the Corona Foot Warrior Containment and Surveillance Team (CFWCST) will also have a civil defence volunteer, an Asha or Anganwadi worker, a sanitation worker, and a beat constable of Delhi Police.

These teams will go to households and inquire about any suspected coronavirus case in over 13, 000 booths in the city. The teams would submit a daily report in the evening through a mobile app to be developed National Informatics Centre, Delhi, reads the order passed by Delhi chief secretary Vijay Dev.

“The team members shall make requisite field visits to enforce social distancing in their respective jurisdiction especially in Jhuggi-Jhopri cluster, unauthorised colonies, and abadi areas etc and to ensure compliance of various instruction issued by the Government of India or the Delhi government including compulsory wearing of masks.

The team shall first convince the public to abide by instruction, failing which, shall initiate penal action against the violators,” said the order. While on foot patrol, the CFWCSTs will visit each household on daily basis and identify suspected cases of COVID-19. If any suspected case is identified, the team will need quarantine the person, initiate measures for testing and also alert the doctor. Anganwadi workers will be trained by the health department, sources said. The team will also be responsible for speedy and smooth transportation of corona suspects to quarantine facilities and will also supervise sanitisation in their areas. “Once the containment cluster is identified, the teams shall ensure that containment or management plan so made to manage the cluster is followed scrupulously,” said the order.

Provision for penal action

At the same time, the city government said penal action will be taken against the violators, if they do not agree to comply with the instruction of the CFWCST.

News Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2020/apr/14/task-force-to-identify-suspected-covid-19-cases-at-booth-level-in-delhi-2129859.html>

M1. Govt's innovation challenge for development of video-conf solution

Times of India- 14 April 2020

NEW DELHI: As the country works from home due to the coronavirus lockdown, Ministry of *Electronics & Information Technology* on Monday ...

NEW DELHI: As the country works from home due to the coronavirus lockdown, Ministry of *Electronics & Information Technology* on Monday announced an 'innovation challenge' for development of a video-conferencing solution under the Digital India Initiative.

The challenge is open for participation to the industry, start-ups and individual experts. The end product will be an Indian software product at par with international apps. It should have a high-quality audio set-up, and should work in low and high network scenarios.

"The initiative is an attempt to promote Indian software products as envisaged under the National Policy on Software Products," Meity said.

The challenge will be conducted in three rounds. In the first round, ten companies/startups will be selected and will be given Rs 5 lakh each to build prototypes.

Of these, three will be selected in the second round to build the complete solution and will be given Rs 20 lakh each. Of the three, the best one will be selected and in order to provide initial market, the winning team with the best-judged solution will get a contract to deploy their solution for use by the central and state government entities for a period of 4 years, apart from getting Rs 1 Crore in the first year and an additional 10 lakhs per year for 3 years.

News Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/govts-innovation-challenge-for-development-of-video-conf-solution/articleshow/75131961.cms>

M2. MeitY announces innovation challenge for ‘Made in India’ video conferencing solution

Hindu BusinessLine. 14 April 2020

MeitY on Monday announced an ‘Innovation Challenge for Development of a Video Conferencing (VC) Solution’ under the Digital India Programme, with a prize money of up to ₹1 crore for the winning team.

Govt invites startups, innovators to develop a world-class video conferencing solution . DNA India. 14 April 2020

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Monday announced an ‘Innovation Challenge for Development of a Video Conferencing (VC) Solution’ under the Digital India Programme, with a prize money of up to ₹1 crore for the winning team.

“The winning team with the best-judged solution will receive ₹1 crore in the first year and an additional support of ₹10 lakh per year towards operations and maintenance, for a period of three years after the first year of deployment, subject to terms and conditions of the final contract to be signed,” the Ministry said in a statement.

It said the government will give recognition and certificate from MeitY for “innovative solution” to the top 10 entries selected from Stage-1, and each selected team will receive funding of ₹5 lakh to build their prototype.

“Due to Covid-19-related safety measures, video conferencing has become very common. To encourage development of a world-class VC solution, MeitY has launched this grand challenge. It seeks to encourage Indian IT start-ups and software product companies to come up with a world-class VC solution,” it said.

The teams would present their prototypes to a distinguished jury to select top three entries. The best three entries of Stage-2 will receive ₹20 lakh each to build their solutions following the design principles and best practices, it said.

MeitY said the final VC solution should support all video resolutions and audio quality, work in low and high network scenarios, be low on usage of power/ processor, not have any external hardware dependency, and be able to work on any device.

It added that details can be found from the Ministry’s website.

News Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/meity-announces-innovation-challenge-for-made-in-india-video-conferencing-solution/article31336302.ece#>

O1. Four platforms suitable for remote working from home during Covid-19

Hindu BusinessLine. 14 April 2020

With the Centre extending the lockdown till May 3 in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak in India, employees are working from home without hampering productivity. Instead of halting operations, businesses are choosing viable solutions to shift towards remote working methods.

O2. Prolonged lockdown may result in job cuts in IT industry: Former NASSCOM prez

Economic Times. 12 April 2020

NASSCOM former president R Chandrashekar said the work-from-home systems being adopted by several firms across the globe, including India, may have a negative impact on the industry in the short-term, but in the long run it would change the work culture which hitherto was not experienced by many of the IT firms in India.