

Mentor India

Terms of Engagement

Mentor India is an Atal Innovation Mission initiative to engage leaders who will empower young innovators at Atal Tinkering Labs.

I. Atal Innovation Mission

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of our country. AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platforms and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation & entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country.

AIM's flagship programs include –

- Atal Tinkering Labs - ATL
- Atal Incubation Centers - AIC
- Atal Community Innovation Centres -ACIC
- Atal New India Challenges - ANIC
- Applied Research and Innovation in Small Enterprises – ANIC-ARISE

II. Atal Tinkering Labs

Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated works spaces where students (Class 6th to Class 12th) learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India. The labs are powered to acquaint students with state-of-the-art equipment such as 3D printers, robotics & electronics development tools, IoT & sensors etc.

The lab activities are designed to spur the spark of creativity, and go beyond regular curriculum and text book learning. The labs will let students explore skills of the future such as design and computational thinking, adaptive learning and artificial intelligence.

Atal Innovation Mission has setup up more than 8000 functional ATLS across India and aims to have 10,000 such labs running by end of 2021.

The Atal Tinkering Labs are being established in government as well as private schools which are passionate about science and innovation. Each selected school is provided a grant-in-aid that includes a one-time establishment cost of Rs. 10 lakh and operational expenses of Rs. 10 lakh for a maximum period of 5 years. Additional support is also provided by creating resources which will guide schools on concepts of tinkering and the key elements of successfully implementing an Atal Tinkering Lab on the ground.

Operation of the Atal Tinkering Labs will be monitored on a suitable periodic basis by an advisory body comprising of the following suggested members:

- i. Principal of the School as Chairman

- ii. Faculty-in-charge of the ATL as Convener (hereby defined as Atal Tinkering Lab In-Charge)
- iii. Representative from local industry/local community/ young innovators/ reputed academia/ alumni as Two Members
- iv. Parents of School students as Two Members

III. Mentor India

Mentor India is a strategic nation building voluntary initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students in 8000+ Atal Tinkering Labs that Atal Innovation Mission has established / is in the process of establishing across India.

We are looking for leaders who can volunteer on a regular basis in one or more such labs and enable students to experience, learn and practice future skills such as design and computational thinking, critical thinking, and applying what they have learned in classrooms to in a more hands-on setting. Additionally, from such experienced mentors, we hope that students will learn professionalism and life skills.

These labs are non-prescriptive by nature, and mentors are expected to be enablers rather than instructors.

Possible areas of contribution could be, but not limited to: a) Technical Knowhow: building prototypes, b) Innovation and Design: inculcating solution-oriented approach, c) Inspirational: leadership and self-motivation, and d) Business and Entrepreneurship: encouraging ideas and team building

Terms of Engagement of Mentors

1. Candidates from Corporates (including but not limited to corporations, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, innovators, maker-spaces, NGO partners), Government organizations, higher education institutes, academicians (including applicants from research organizations) are eligible to apply and become a part of Mentor India.
2. The selected mentors are expected to provide mentorship within the outlined areas in the Proposed Areas of Mentorship section and adhere to the responsibilities mentioned in the Proposed Roles and Responsibilities section .
3. Selected mentors are to volunteer their time and services strictly on a pro-bono basis.
4. Atal Innovation Mission will be an enabling agency for Mentor India and work with volunteer mentors / corporates / schools to ensure smooth functioning of the program. In order to assess the impact of the program and contribute towards its improvement, Atal Innovation Mission will monitor the mentoring activities based on a duly formed criteria and feedback on an ongoing and consolidated basis.
5. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of minors (any individual under the age of 18)/children. Thus, AIM requires mentors to

conduct themselves appropriately (including but not limited to the guidelines mentioned in this document) with the minors/children who participate in AIM, Atal Tinkering Labs & Mentor India programs and take reasonable measures to ensure the safety of such minors/children. Mentors will ensure that no activity or programme is undertaken with minors/children without the express permission of their parents / guardians, or relevant authorities for unaccompanied minors. Mentors must immediately disclose all charges, convictions and other outcomes of an offence, which occurred before or occurs during their association with AIM that relates to minor/child exploitation and abuse.

6. Safety and security of school students is of utmost importance to AIM, NITI Aayog and hence AIM, NITI Aayog reserves the right to take appropriate safety measures in coordination with the Atal Tinkering Labs Advisory Committee, local administrative and law enforcement agencies etc. No mentor will be permitted to meet or take any school students outside the school premises without the explicit written permission of the school principal and the Atal Tinkering Lab In-Charge.
7. The online interaction between mentors and students should always take place in the presence of an Atal Tinkering Lab In-Charge / designated school teacher.
8. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog reserves the right to select the mentors through a rigorous screening and selection process approved by the MD, AIM. All decisions regarding mentor selection by the MD, AIM will be final and binding. AIM, NITI Aayog will not be responsible for the behaviour of the selected mentors.
9. The proposed mentor matching to ATLs, will be finalized by AIM, in consultation with the respective Atal Tinkering Labs, after successful due diligence of the mentors. While utmost effort will be devoted to ensuring that the selected mentors get the Atal Tinkering Labs of their choice, such a choice cannot be guaranteed.
10. Mentors can take up to 3 ATLs at a time. We recommend all mentors take at least one school for offline mentoring and one school for online mentoring.
11. The selected mentors are not to promote their products and / or services inside the school under any circumstances. Any mentor indulging in such activities may be removed from the program.
12. All selected mentors have to complete their profile and go through the trainings on the web portal developed for Mentor India before they can start with their engagement with the ATLs. Mentors also have to report their mentoring sessions on the web portal as and when they conduct a session. If a mentor does not report at least one session in three consecutive months, the school would be reassigned and the mentor would be put in the pool of “unassigned mentors”. These mentors may restart their engagement by selecting a new school through the web portal, upon assignment of which by AIM, they will be once again considered as “active mentors”.
13. When conducting sessions, mentors may show their web portal profiles as a proof of engagement with the ATL.

14. Mentor India is a voluntary program and while Mentors of Change are actively associated with NITI Aayog, under no circumstances are they allowed to use NITI/AIM logo for any purposes. Any mentor found doing so may be removed from the program by AIM, NITI Aayog.
15. Selected mentors are also expected to interact with other mentors through the portal developed for Mentor India. These interactions could include supporting and reviewing specific innovation projects, support in innovation competitions, and community outreach. The expected time commitment for such interactions is 30 - 40 hours in a year.
16. The selected mentors will be requested to spread awareness about the program and provide regular feedback to increase the impact of the program.
17. The selected mentors must not plagiarize, use, copy or reuse any idea, concept, innovation or intellectual property, protected or not, that is or may be created by any student(s) and is discussed, comes into their possession, or is shared with them by any means of communication whatsoever. The intellectual property rights for the ideas/projects/innovations created during this process belongs solely to the students.
18. The selected mentors must maintain confidentiality about the student's personal details, other mentor's personal details, student ideas/projects/innovations and agree that the intellectual property created out of this interaction belongs to the students only. Furthermore, AIM would like to state that the ATL advisory body shall hear and opine on all internal matters/issues related to usage of the ATL including but not limited to project involvement, team compositions for projects and competitions, intellectual property rights, etc. These issues are to be resolved by this advisory body.
19. The performance and contributions of selected mentors will be monitored on a regular basis by AIM, NITI Aayog. AIM, NITI Aayog reserves the right to terminate services of mentors at any point of time without any justification.
20. This is merely an indicative guideline whose scope may be expanded to ensure that best interest of the minor/child is taken as the primary consideration in case of any dispute/complaint. Any relevant sections of the domestic law, which include but are not limited to The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 etc may be applicable as determined by the competent authority.
21. In case of any escalated dispute, the same shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of Delhi.
22. Mentor India guidelines, including Terms of Engagement, are subject to periodic review in consultation with concerned stakeholders, and may be modified in future.

Proposed Areas of Mentorship

The contributions of the selected mentors is expected, but not limited to, one or more of the following areas:

I. Technical Know-How

- i. Utilize available equipment to build products in various fields, including IoT, electronics, mechatronics, biomedical engineering, 3D printing, robotics, etc.
- ii. Help to build prototypes using the latest technologies.

II. Innovation and Design

- i. Focus on problem solving including aspects of design thinking.
- ii. Inculcating a solution-oriented approach.

III. Inspirational

- i. Emphasize on personal journey and holistic soft skill development, learning from failures, and becoming self-motivated to strive for excellence.
- ii. Inculcate leadership skills, self-motivation and reflection on oneself
- iii. Encourage students to create a business model in order to form sustainable and successful enterprises
- iv. Instil and inspire students to become entrepreneurial leaders and encourage team building

IV. Break stereotypes and bias to bring about mindset and behavioural change

V. Provide guidance and support to the ATL and students in participating in ATL activities, marathons, bootcamps, etc.

Proposed Roles and Responsibilities

1. In-person mentoring session **at least once a week for 1 - 2 hours on an ongoing basis for at least 1 year** (typically 40 academic weeks). Such sessions will be focused on guiding and nurturing students in Atal Tinkering Labs for problem formulation, finding solutions to common problems faced in day to day life, and finally tinkering on ideas converting them into scalable solutions
2. Submission of mentoring report on the Innonet Portal with details of the session, number of students involved and theme of the session. **At least 1 mentoring report to be submitted every month.**
3. **Support at least 10 teams to participate in marathons, competitions, bootcamps, etc.** These activities happen throughout the year and all mentors expected to support their ATLs participate in minimum two activities every year.
4. Engage in events and sessions hosted by Regional Mentors of Change and Atal Innovation Mission. **These events and sessions happen every month and all mentors are expected to participate in at least one event every three months.**
5. Support the school in reaching out to communities in neighbouring areas and guide ATL In Charge(s) with the operational aspects of the lab.