



# Policy Paper for Public Consultation



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*Language Inclusive Program of Innovation (LIPI) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog Government of India*

*December 2025*

**Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. AIM's objective is to develop programs 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.**

## **1. Purpose of this Document**

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, is seeking public inputs on the **Language Inclusive Program of Innovation (LIPI)**, especially on the establishment and operationalisation of LIPI Centres across the country. Your views, suggestions, and experiences will help refine the program before its full-scale rollout.

## **2. Background**

Language Inclusive Program of Innovation (LIPI) is designed by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, to lower the language barrier in India's innovation ecosystem by supporting innovators in all 22 scheduled languages of India. A major challenge in India's innovation ecosystem today is that the innovators and investors who don't speak English are largely excluded. This is a rather large gap.

India's innovation and startup ecosystem has grown rapidly, yet it remains largely English-centric. According to the 2011 Census, only 10.4% of Indians spoke English, and that too as their second, third or fourth language. Clearly, the rest 90% of people who do not speak English too are creative as any. Yet, India's innovation ecosystem is not language-inclusive. The LIPI program is designed to support such people.

This exclusion affects millions of grassroots innovators, artisans, farmers, tribal entrepreneurs, and rural micro-entrepreneurs who think, innovate, and transmit knowledge primarily in their mother tongues. It similarly affects local businesses that transact in their mother tongues and yet contribute significantly to India's economy. India's extraordinary linguistic diversity—22 scheduled languages, over 120 major languages, and more than 270 mother tongues—must become a strength rather than a constraint.

Becoming a startup is a journey of going from an idea to a business. This journey involves four major steps: (a) designing an innovative solution (b) attracting investment (c) reaching the market and (d) compliance with regulation. In India today, there are business incubators who provide help with each of these steps; unfortunately, however, all such services are delivered in English.

The LIPI Program is designed to go beyond by building capacity across the ecosystem to deliver such services in all 22 scheduled languages of India and at the same time being inclusive to the people. Over the past year, the Atal Innovation Mission has successfully prepared a group of trainers in each of the 22 languages of India to learn and teach the modern subject of Design Thinking in their language.

### **3. The Language Inclusive Program of Innovation (LIPI)**

The Language Inclusive Program of Innovation (LIPI) is designed to remove the language barrier and build a truly inclusive innovation ecosystem by enabling the delivery of world-class innovation support in all 22 scheduled languages of India.

#### **3.1 Objectives of LIPI**

1. Lower the language barrier for innovators and investors across all 22 scheduled languages of India.
2. Build capacity in the ecosystem to deliver incubation, investment, market access, and regulatory support in vernacular languages.
3. Enable emerging innovators to learn modern tools (e.g., Design Thinking) and take ideas from ideation to impactful solutions in their own languages.
4. Create deep knowledge resources for innovation in vernacular Indian languages.
5. Bring vernacular investors and local businesses into the startup ecosystem.
6. Converge central and state government schemes toward a more language-inclusive innovation ecosystem.
7. Nurture startups by providing scouting, mentoring, workshops, maker spaces, seed funding, and other facilities in local languages.

### 3.2 Guiding Principles

1. Build an inclusive ecosystem where the language barrier is lowered, not merely offer translation services.
2. Ensure equal opportunity for vernacular innovators and entrepreneurs to create scalable solutions.
3. Contextualise knowledge for both *language* and *culture*.
4. Promote sustainable development of vernacular innovations across the entire ecosystem.
5. Celebrate India's linguistic and cultural diversity, not be against English language.

## 4. Questions for Public Input

We particularly welcome feedback on the following:

1. How should LIPI Centres be structured and governed to ensure genuine language inclusivity?
2. What incentives or support would encourage incubators, universities, and existing AIM Incubators and other similar Incubators to adopt the LIPI framework?
3. How can we best identify, train, and sustain high-quality vernacular mentors and task-force members?
4. Are there existing initiatives (by state governments, educational institutions, NGOs, or private incubators) in vernacular innovation support that should be integrated or scaled under LIPI?
5. What challenges or unintended consequences might arise, and how can they be mitigated?
6. Any additional suggestions to make India's innovation ecosystem truly inclusive of all 22 scheduled languages and beyond?
7. What are the various implementation models for the Language Inclusive Program of Innovation (LIPI)?
8. What types of implementing bodies can deliver the LIPI program to vernacular innovators?
9. Which types of implementing bodies are particularly suited to combining innovation promotion with social sector initiatives to support vernacular innovators?

## How to Submit Your Input

Please send your feedback by 10<sup>th</sup> January **2026** through any of the following channel:

Form Link: <https://forms.gle/Wd6cK86ZgD6i2qxu8>

Individuals, state/central government bodies, educational institutions, incubators, NGOs, foundations, industry associations, and all other stakeholders are encouraged to respond.

A summary of the feedback received and AIM's response will be published after the consultation closes.

When the potter in Kachchh, the weaver in Chanderi, the bamboo technologist in Tripura, and the herbal healer in Jharkhand can file a patent, raise venture capital, and go global in their own *bhasha* and *sanskriti* — only then will India become the world's most unstoppable innovation nation.

Thank you for helping make India's innovation ecosystem accessible to every Indian, in every language.

**Atal Innovation Mission NITI Aayog, Government of India**

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