

National Innovation Portal of National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India

Background

The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India, an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India is India's national initiative to strengthen the grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge with a mission to help India become a creative and knowledge-based society by expanding policy and institutional space for grassroots technological innovators.

The common people from all parts of the country are regularly sharing their ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge with NIF. There are several hundred amongst these which have been incubated by NIF over a period of time and collectively managed to generate a significant societal impact. It is also important that the inherent value proposition in such

large number of innovations and traditional knowledge practices is not missed and therefore, they should constitute a database which can be made available and looked as a source of solutions by common people for practically all kind of problems where Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) can play a role. The Innovations portal of NIF is one such database of innovations and traditional knowledge by the people, for the people and of the people. It is a reflection of vast knowledge that exists in the country and should be deployed to solve a variety of problems, especially if they have a proven solution in other parts of the country. Not just India, the whole world can benefit from such a vast pool of innovations and traditional knowledge.

The Innovations portal currently is the home to about 1.15 lakh innovations and poised to grow with time, as common people will continue to innovate and share their innovations with NIF in the larger interest of the country. The year 2020 has been one of those where

expectations of common people from Science had been at its zenith. Citizens across the world had been perturbed by challenges arising out of COVID-19 and looking beyond boundaries for a solution. Outstanding traditional knowledge had been known for attributes leading to wider therapeutic window and rare side effects, and many such practices which are already being used in rural parts of the country, will be a major highlight of this innovations portal.

The innovations portal would be an important enabler of national priority of being self-reliant in most of the activities we undertake. India continues to be a country that encourage SMEs, start-ups and job creation, for which an underlying technology with an innovation is a prerequisite. The innovations portal presents an ocean of technologies for supply to budding entrepreneurs. The innovations portal can be an important vehicle for initiatives like “Atmanirbhar Bharat” and “Vocal for Local” where country require a right application of knowledge.

The innovations portal can be easily accessed and citizens can spend time knowing more about the technologies which are part of the database. If more information is required on any of the technologies that interests people, then NIF could suitably provide more information on the chosen innovation or traditional knowledge. The role of innovator is important and NIF will ensure the original innovator to be part of the commercial/social exploitation of the innovation at a larger scale, bringing benefit to the entrepreneurs (be it an MSME, individual, R&D institution or an academic institution), original innovator and the public at large.
