

About I-STEM

The Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM) is a national online portal of the Government of India that helps researchers and innovators discover and access high-cost, publicly funded scientific equipment across the country.

In simple terms, I-STEM enables users to:

- See what advanced research equipment is available in India
- Know where it is located
- Officially request time to use it for their research or innovation work

I-STEM focuses exclusively on publicly funded (government-funded) research equipment.

What is I-STEM?

I-STEM is a national initiative conceived and supported by the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (OPSA), Government of India** and launched by the **Honorable Prime Minister of India**.

It is important to clearly understand what I-STEM does — and what it does not do.

I-STEM does not:

- Perform research
- Own any equipment
- Operate laboratories

I-STEM connects users with publicly funded research equipment hosted across:

- Central and State Universities
- IITs, IIITs (Centrally funded and Public-Private Partnership), NITs, IISERs, IISc, NITTTRs, GFTIs, and other Science, Technology and Engineering Institutions
- National laboratories
- Other institutions hosting government-funded equipment, including public or private institutions

Why is I-STEM needed?

India has a large amount of advanced and expensive research equipment distributed across institutions nationwide. However, many potential users are often unaware of:

- **Where** specific equipment is located
- **Whether** it is available when required
- **Whom** to contact
- **How** to formally request access

As a result, valuable research infrastructure often remains under-utilised.

I-STEM addresses this gap by bringing information on publicly funded research equipment together on a single national portal.

What does I-STEM do?

Through the I-STEM portal, users can:

- **Search** for required research equipment
- **Find** facilities by location or region
- **Check** availability
- **Request** time to use equipment
- **Receive** technical and operational support from the host laboratory

Users do not purchase equipment. They book time to use it for their research or innovation activities.

Key points to note

- I-STEM *does not* own equipment
- I-STEM *does not* operate laboratories
- I-STEM *does not* provide commercial testing services
- Equipment ownership *remains* with the host institution
- Equipment operation is *managed* by the host laboratory staff
- All approvals and access decisions *rest* with the host institution
- I-STEM functions *solely* as a connecting and enabling platform

Who can use I-STEM?

I-STEM supports Indian citizens engaged in genuine research and innovation, including:

- Researchers and faculty
- Graduate, postgraduate, and PhD students
- Startups and MSMEs
- Industry R&D teams
- Grassroots innovators and independent researchers

How does I-STEM help users?

For researchers, students, startups, and industry:

- **Eliminates** the need for heavy investment in costly equipment
- **Saves** time and resources
- **Enables** faster access to suitable facilities
- **Offers** flexibility to choose nearby or preferred locations
- **Provides** access to expert technical and operational support

How does I-STEM help institutions?

For universities and research laboratories, I-STEM helps by:

- **Improving** utilisation of publicly funded equipment
- **Reducing** duplication of expensive infrastructure within regions
- **Enhancing** national visibility of institutional research facilities
- **Promoting** academic–industry and inter-institutional collaboration
- **Improving** return on public investment

How does I-STEM support national planning?

For the Government of India, I-STEM:

- **Enables** informed planning by reducing repeated investments in similar equipment within the same region
- **Helps** direct public funding to regions where research infrastructure is genuinely needed
- **Strengthens** India's overall research and innovation ecosystem

I-STEM is a national portal that helps users find publicly funded research equipment in India and officially request time to use it, with full support from the host laboratory.