

## Inviting innovators to foster social entrepreneurship with focus on assistive technology

23 December 2024 | News

### Seventh edition of the Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge for 2024-2025 launched



Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with Citi Foundation, have officially launched the seventh edition of the Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge for 2024-2025.

This year's challenge invites young entrepreneurs, including those with disabilities, to develop innovative solutions that "Enhance access to opportunities and well-being for Persons with Disabilities" (PwDs). The initiative, designed to foster social entrepreneurship and drive sustainable development, will be implemented in collaboration with AssisTech Foundation (ATF).

Applications are open now, inviting young entrepreneurs and differently abled entrepreneurs innovating solutions that "Enhance access to opportunities and wellbeing of Persons with Disabilities" to apply.

This edition, for 2024-2025, will be implemented in collaboration with AssisTech Foundation (ATF), India's leading organization accelerating Assistive Technology (AT) innovation for People with Disabilities.

Youth Co:Lab, co-created in 2017 by UNDP and Citi Foundation, aims to empower and invest in youth to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship. In India, Youth Co: Lab was launched in 2019 in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.

As of the end of 2024, Youth Co:Lab has conducted six national theme-specific youth social innovation and entrepreneurship dialogues in India through this collaboration, reaching over 19,000 people and supporting the creation or enhancement of 2600 youth-led social innovation and entrepreneurship teams

This year, the Youth Co: Lab National Innovation Challenge 2024-2025, held in collaboration with AssisTech Foundation (ATF) will focus on empowering young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs with disabilities innovating for solutions that "Enhance access to opportunities and well-being of Persons with Disabilities", across the following sub-categories: Inclusive

and Accessible Assistive Technology (AT), Inclusive Educational Technology and Skilling Solutions and Accessible and Inclusive Care Models.