

Jawaharlal Nehru University

05 July 2020

Dear colleagues and students,

While we are collectively fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, there are some challenges in the digital world that have engulfed us in the past few weeks. You are aware of how certain Apps, which have recently been banned in India, could have posed a threat to our national security and compromised the user data privacy. This needs an immediate remedial action by India by developing our own Apps.

Time has come for us as a country to be innovative and take up the challenge of making India self-reliant in the digital world. You may know that India contributes to nearly 75% of global digital talent pool. To encourage startup culture in digital applications, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) portal last year. India also has a National Policy on Software Products-2019 to develop India as a software product nation.

Taking advantage of the impetus provided by the Government of India through its research supportive schemes, JNU is now focusing on the translational research and technology transfer. As a major step in this direction, the university has established its incubation centre by creating a special purpose vehicle (SPV) named as Atal Incubation Centre-Jawaharlal Nehru University Foundation for Innovation (AIC-JNUFI). The AIC-JNUFI is established as Section 8 'not for profit' Company under the Companies Act 2013. The AIC-JNUFI will provide the tech-support and guidance through its academic mentors and experts, infrastructure and networking that may be required by the start-up. The AIC-JNUFI is formed to promote and support start-ups at JNU in various sectors like health, IT, energy/environment, food/agriculture, rural technologies, and other areas, without limiting the scope of activities.

Let us use our expertise in the university and the new opportunities provided to you by the university in the form of AIC-JNUFI to rise to the occasion in making India self-reliant. I would like to specifically bring to your notice the "AatmaNirbhar Bharat Innovate Challenge" thrown to all of us by MeitY in partnership with Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission. The challenge is to develop Indian Apps in different categories such as Social Networking, E-Learning and Games etc.

This is a great opportunity for the faculty members and students in JNU to showcase their talent and expertise in developing Indian Apps and contribute to the national cause. Please brainstorm together with your teachers, germinate the ideas and implement them by participating in the "AatmaNirbhar Bharat Innovate Challenge". You can find the details about this challenge at <https://innovate.mygov.in/app-challenge/>

With best wishes on the occasion of Guru Poornima.



M. Jagadesh Kumar