

# **AICTE – YOUTH UNDERTAKING VISIT FOR ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE (YUVAK)**

## **STUDY TOUR of ATAL TUNNEL**

### **Introduction & Overview**

Atal Tunnel has been built under the Rohtang Pass on the Leh-Manali Highway as an all-weather route to Leh and Lahaul and Spiti valleys. At a length of 9.02 km, it is the longest tunnel above 10,000 feet (3,048 m) in the world and is named after former Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3 October 2020.

The tunnel reduces the overall distance between Manali & Leh from 116 km to 71 km and the travel time from 5 - 6 hours to about 2 hours.

The tunnel has been built using the New Austrian tunneling method and has been equipped with a semi-transverse ventilation system, where large fans separately circulate air throughout the tunnel. A 2.25 m tall and 3.6 m wide emergency tunnel has been integrated into the tunnel cross-section beneath the main carriageway for evacuation during emergencies. Pollution sensors continuously monitor the air quality in the tunnel and if the air quality in the tunnel is below the desired level, fresh air is injected into the tunnel via two heavy duty fans on each side of the tunnel.

Atal tunnel, an engineering marvel, is an important & interesting case study for of Civil, Mechanical & Structural Engineering Students.

### **Scheme**

The scheme is intended for providing Financial Grant for conducting a Study Tour of ATAL TUNNEL by Students / faculty of AICTE approved Institutions in the field of technical education.

### **Objectives**

1. To gain firsthand knowledge & information about the latest techniques used in construction of the tunnel and in **particular about the New Austrian tunneling method**.
2. Gain insight about the challenges & of risks encountered during the execution of this project and their resolution with particular reference to excavation during heavy snowfall in winter, blasting & digging of unstable rocks, alignment of the tunnel in view of digging & excavation from both ends of the tunnel, excavation & tunneling at more than 46 avalanche sites on approaches to the tunnel, disposal of huge quantities of excavated rock and soil, constant dewatering of heavy ingress of water, mudslides, landslides etc.
3. For enhancing the quality of engineering education in the country and to inculcate the research & innovation culture amongst the students.
4. To encourage engineering students to improve their field of technical education.

### **Eligibility**

1. **AICTE approved Institutions in the field of Technical Education having latest NIRF ranking between 001 to 500 are eligible for the grant.**
2. **Team of 10 Students + 1 Faculty member of each eligible Institute.**
3. **Students should be from Regular 2nd & 3<sup>rd</sup> year B.E./B.Tech. and/ or Integrated M. Tech. students of Civil, Mechanical & Structural Engineering disciplines.**
4. **Selected students of the team should have minimum CGPA of 8.5 in the previous semester.**

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#### **Duration of Study Tour & Limit of Financial Grant**

The Study Tour will be for a period of 3 days excluding journey period from the Institution to Manali & back.

Grant will be for a maximum of **25 Institutions from NRO & NWRO Regions and 75 Institutions from remaining Regions** in a financial year.

Grant will be for Team of 10 Students + 1 Faculty member of the Institute as per details below:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Expenditure Heads</b>	<b>For Institutes under NRO &amp; NWRO</b>	<b>For Institutes under Other Regions</b>
1.	Train Fare from Institute to Chandigarh & back	<b>Rs. 30,000.00</b>	<b>Rs. 60,000.00</b>
2.	Transport charges from Chandigarh to Manali (including visits to ATAL Tunnel) & back	<b>Rs. 30,000.00</b>	<b>Rs. 30,000.00</b>
3.	Boarding & Lodging and incidental expenses at Manali for 03 days	<b>Rs. 1,10,000.00</b>	<b>Rs. 1,10,000.00</b>
<b>Total Grant Amount :</b>		<b>Rs. 1,70,000.00</b>	<b>Rs. 2,00,000.00</b>

#### **Disbursement of the Grant**

50% of the total Grant will be paid to the Institution on receipt of finalized itinerary & schedule of the Study Tour.

The Institution will submit a Tour Report within One Month of conclusion of the Study Tour along with Utilization Certificate duly audited by Chartered Accountant.

Balance amount payable will be restricted to the 50% of the Grant Amount OR (Total Expenditure – Grant Amount Paid) whichever is less.

#### **Processing Methodology**

1. **AICTE approved Institutions in the field of Technical Education having latest NIRF ranking between 001 to 500 are eligible for the grant.**
2. **Each eligible institute can send ONLY ONE team of 10 Students + 1 Faculty member.**
3. **Selected students of each team should have minimum CGPA of 8.5 in the previous semester.**
4. **25 Institutions from NRO & NWRO Regions and 75 Institutions from remaining regions, as per the eligibility criteria, will be selected in a financial year on the basis of their NIRF ranking.**
5. Online submission of application by the **eligible** institute.
6. Screening of the received application at the Council Level.
7. An offer letter will be issued as the proposal gets selected and the same will be sent through email to the Institution.
8. The submission of application does not automatically mean that it has the approval of the AICTE.
9. **Only ONE proposal per Institute** will be accepted during the entire duration of the scheme.