“Creativity is seeing the same thing but thinking differently”

– Hon’ble APJ Abdul Kalam
Former President of India
**Overview of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**

The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

Its objective is to create a facilitating environment for transformation of ideas into innovative and impactful solutions at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels across the country.

### Existing Initiatives of Atal Innovation Mission:

**Atal Tinkering Lab**
- To build an efficient incubation network having global linkages in India
- 101 institutions selected so far and 47 Incubators established
- Provide scale up support to Established Incubation Centres
- 500+ startups supported

**Atal/Established Incubation Centre**
- 24 Challenges in collaboration with 5 Ministries launched in ANIC Phase-I
- Challenges in areas critical to national growth
- 951 tech driven innovative solutions offered by Research centres, Corporates and Individuals

**Atal New India Challenge**
- Creative Lab Space in schools to help students realize their imagination
- Around 8878 schools selected for establishing ATLs and 3020 ATLs established across the country
- Aims to build a culture of innovation and technology adoption in India.

### New Initiatives:

**Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC)** - This program aims to provide requisite infrastructure for innovation in unserved and underserved regions of the country.

**Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE)** - In collaboration with Central Government Ministries, it focuses on MSMEs and procurement of their innovative solutions by government and other entities.
Encompassing the complete Innovation Ecosystem

Initiatives of Atal Innovation Mission

- Building a robust Innovation ecosystem in unserved/undeserved regions of India
- Supporting research and innovation in MSME sector
- Supporting Tech Development, Deployment and commercialisation in important sectors
- Encouraging innovation at institute level

Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACIC)

Atal Research & Innovation for small Enterprises (ARISE)

Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)

Atal Tinkering Labs/ Mentor India (8878 schools)

Atal/ Established Incubation Centres (101)

Innovation Cycle

Idea & Research

Problem Identification & Design Thinking

Learning for solution

Tech Development & POC

Prototype

Productisation/Startup
As depicted here, there has been a skewed startup penetration in India towards the Tier I cities which include business and industrial hubs like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore etc. Hence, the supporting infrastructure for innovation like Incubation centres has also been developing rapidly in such cities, creating a void in Tier II, Tier III and less developed regions of India. This is getting reflected in indicators like distribution of startups across India.

In order to fill this void, Atal Innovation Mission has designed a new programme “Atal Community Innovation Centre” (ACiC). Its primary aim is to ensure equitable distribution of infrastructure and other facilities needed for innovation across the country.

Helping communities to engineer creativity through Design Thinking
Introduction to Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC)

- To encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship in the underserved / unserved regions of India that lack infrastructure and facilitating environment for innovation, AIM is launching Atal Community Innovation Centre program.
- Proposed Focus Areas - Tier II, Tier III and underserved / unserved regions of Tier I cities, North-East, J&K, Smart Cities, Aspirational Districts, Rural and Tribal Areas.

Objectives of ACIC
- Community oriented approach to innovation
- Designing solutions for Innovative Offerings - Mind to Market
- Capacity Building of Communities in evolving technologies
- Enabling Infrastructure for building Innovation ecosystem in India

Important Features of ACIC
- Encouraging PPP for establishment of ACIC
- Grant-in-aid from AIM up to 50% of project cost (max Rs 2.5 crore)
- Focus on cross community learnings
- Establishing local, national and global linkages with key stakeholders

Consist of a Tinkering Space
Provide Requisite Infrastructure
Develop Design Thinking Capabilities
Engage industries including MSMEs
## Empowering communities to ideate and bring change

However, the true potential of the communities can be realised when they are provided with resources (financial, infrastructural and people) to bring life to their ideas. ACIC aims to expose innovators to new technologies and help them develop their ideas for societal benefits.

## Rejuvenating the inherent innovative culture among communities in India

Curiosity is a pre-requisite for innovation and Indian communities have always been inquisitive by nature. Testament to this is our rich heritage in Science & Technology. From the invention of ‘Zero’ during ancient times to the present leadership of India in IT sector, it is our inherent talent that has formed the base of these achievements.

## Big Ideas start small

ACIC believes that every individual is an innovator. Sometimes even simple jugaads or quick fixes to everyday problems have potential to target a larger market due to their simplicity and effectiveness. This theme also brings forth how bright minds are hidden in the humblest corners of India, looking out for a small ladder of opportunity, that ACIC aims to provide.

## Transforming and scaling up ideas into market ready products or services

Ideas often fail to create impact due to struggles at various stages of innovation cycle – the journey of an idea to an enterprise not being an easy feat. ACIC aims to make this journey simpler by providing potential ideas with relevant guidance and support throughout this cycle.

## Making India World’s Technology Leader in the 21st Century

By building an ecosystem for self-employability and equitable opportunity, in tandem with modern technologies, ACIC envisions India taking a leapfrog approach to grow into World’s Technology Leader in the 21st Century. What sets apart India at a global scale is its diverse knowledge base of indigenous systems that can help develop fusion systems by moulding traditional knowledge in modern contexts ensuring sustainability through adaptability.
4 Steps to Establish an ACIC

Eligible Academic Applicants
- UGC and AICTE affiliated Universities
- Educational Institutions like ITIs and other technical diploma colleges

Eligible Non-Academic Applicants
- Voluntary and other organizations having good experience and exposure in awareness and promotion of Science & Technology in the country

Source of Funds
- Grant-in-Aid from AIM
- Applicant’s Contribution or Aid from Funding partner(s): Institutions, Adopting agency or other legal entities

Share in Support
- Up to 50% of project cost
- 50% and Above (Up to 80% of the project cost)

Matching or greater contribution from funding partner(s) / applicant

Maximum Support from AIM will be ₹2.5 Crore

Application Launch
- Interested Applicants to apply via AIM Application Portal for Atal Community Innovation Centres

Screening of Applications
- 3-stage screening and final decision by Screening-Cum-Selection Committee and concurrence of MHLC of AIM

Compliance Stage
- Submission of mandatory documents by selected applicants and endorsement by Funding Partner(s)

Grant Disbursal and Inauguration
- On successful completion of due diligence, applicants will receive first tranche of Grant-in-aid to establish ACIC
"I dream of an India that is prosperous, strong and caring. An India that regains a place of honour in the comity of great nations."

Hon’ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Former Prime Minister of India

#AIMtoInnovate
#ACIC-EmpoweringSociety

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