SELF APPRISAL BY CPIO AND FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY OF
ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM)

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country and was setup in 2016. Towards this end AIM has taken a holistic approach to ensure creation of a problem-solving innovative mindset in schools and creating an ecosystem of entrepreneurship in universities, research institutions, private and MSME sector. All the initiatives of AIM are currently monitored and managed systematically using real-time MIS systems and dynamic dashboards. AIM is also currently having its programs reviewed by third party agencies for ensuring continuous improvements.

1) Atal Tinkering Labs - at school level

Over the last 3 years AIM has launched the establishment of thousands of Atal Tinkering Labs enabling students from grade 6 to grade 12 to have access to and tinker with innovative tools and technologies like 3D printers, robotics, miniaturised electronics do it yourself kits thus stimulating a problem solving innovative mindset to solve problems in around the community they are in. Till date 5100+ ATLs are operational in 650+ districts and over 2 million students having access to ATLs. Over 70% of the schools selected are givernment, government aided schools and over 70% of these are girls / co-ed schools.

2) Atal Incubators – at Universities, Institutions, industry level

To promote creation of a supporting ecosystem for start-ups and entrepreneurs AIM has been establishing world class incubators called Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) in universities, Institutions, corporate, etc that would foster world class innovative start-ups and become scalable and sustainable enterprises. To date AIM has selected 102 universities / institutions / private players to establish world class Incubators each of which will foster creation and nurturing of 40-50 world class Startups every four years. 68+ of them are already operational with 1400+ operational Startups and the remaining will be operationalised during this year. Over 500 of these startups are women led entreprenurial initiatives.

3) Atal Community Innovation Centres - serving Unserved and Under-Served regions of India

To promote the benefits of technology led innovation to the unserved/underserved regions of India including Tier 2, Tier 3 cities, aspirational districts, tribal, hilly and coastal areas, AIM is setting up Atal Community Innovation Centres with a unique partnership driven model wherein AIM would grant upto Rs 2.5 crores to an ACIC subject to a partner proving equal or greater matching funding. Over 300+ Applications have been received across the country and 25+ ACICs selected to be established subject to due diligence completion this year.

4) Atal New India Challenges - Product and Service Innovations with National Impact

To create product and service innovations having national socio-economic impact, AIM has launched over 24 Atal New India Challenges in partnership with five different ministries and departments of central government. 52 winners have been selected out of 950+ applications received for the same.

5) Applied Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE) - to stimulate MSME industry innovation

To promote innovation in a phased manner in the MSME/Startup sector AIM will be launching ANIC-ARISE (Applied Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises) along with partner Ministries so that great research ideas are converted to viable innovative prototypes followed by product development and commercial deployment.

5) Mentorship and Partnerships - with Public, Private sector, NGOs, Academia, Institutions

To enable all the initiatives to succeed AIM has launched one of the largest mentor engagement and management program "Mentor India – The mentors of Change". To date AIM has over 10000+ registrations nationwide on the AIM iNNONET portal with 4000+ of them allocated to ATLs and AICs

The Functions and duties of each Programme / Scheme being operationalised for AIM, Norms set by it for the discharge of its functions and Procedure followed are as under :-

(i) ATAL TINKERING LABS AND MENTORS OF CHANGE (ATL)

To foster creativity and innovation in young minds, Atal Innovation Mission at NITI Aayog is setting up Atal Tinkering Labs in schools across the country. Till date 14916 schools have been selected for ATL and more than 5100 school have established ATLs in over 650 districts of India. A total Grant-in-Aid of Rs. 20 Lacs is provided to each school for a period of 5 years for set-up and operations of ATL.

To support the ATL initiative, AIM has launched the Mentor India program, one of the largest mentor engagement and management program. Over 4000 professionals from industry and academia are supporting the ATLs across the country as 'Mentors of Change'.

More details about the AIM initiatives can be found here: aim.gov.in.

Functions and duties of the team

- Processing of application and selection of schools for Atal Tinkering Lab as per the guidelines and criteria.
- Compliance process for disbursement of various tranches of ATL Grant-in-Aid.
- Capacity building and training of ATL teachers and students on various aspects of Tinkering and Innovation through partnerships.
- Screening and selection of professionals as 'Mentors of Change' for the ATL network, under the Mentor India program.
- Organising various workshops, events, contests, sessions and activities related to ATL for school and community.
- Formalising partnerships with industry and academia to enhance the reach, quality and impact of the program.
- Recognize stakeholders and provide showcase and learning opportunities.
- Periodic monitoring, documentation, and query resolution.
- Any other duties assigned as per the directions of MD, AIM.

Program Norms and Decision Making

- The organisational norms of the program are set based on standard operating protocol of NITI Aayog and the relevant operational and strategic decisions are made keeping the beneficiary (i.e the ATL stakeholders) in mind.
- All strategic and operational approvals for the program are subject to approval by competent authority and as per the directions of Mission Level High Committee (MHLC) of AIM.

(ii) ATAL INCUBATION CENTRES (AICS) AND ESTABLISHED INCUBATION CENTRES (EICS)

Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) and Established Incubation Centres (EICs) programs are flagship initiatives of Atal Innovation Mission, to revolutionize the entrepreneurial spirit in India and

foster innovative start-up businesses in their pursuit to become scalable and sustainable enterprises. In both schemes, AIM is providing grants of upto INR 10 Crores over a period of 3-5 years.

To this date, AIM has supported 68 Incubators and spread across 22 states and union territories in India. While some of these incubators are sector agnostic and cater to a wide range of start-ups, other are sector-specific and provision next-gen innovation technology-based start-ups across areas like Healthcare and Hygiene, Smart Mobility and Electric Vehicles, Clean Technologies, Agri-tech and Allied areas, Manufacturing, IoT, Social Impact, so on and so forth.

AIM, beyond providing the monetary support, has proactively indulged in fostering the incubation enterprise economy in India via training programs for its incubators. AIM also regularly acquaints incubators with Mentors, Investors, Industry partners, and other National & International key enablers for the benefit of the start-ups. The incubators are monitored continuously on their performance, and development amendments are suggested wherever needed.

More details about the AIM initiatives can be found here: **aim.gov.in**

Functions and duties of the team

- Processing of application and shortlisting of AICs / EICs as per the guidelines and criteria.
- Compliance process for disbursement of subsequent tranches of Grants-in-Aid.
- Designing and implementing various capacity building measures for AICs/EICs which may include training, webinars, knowledge sharing sessions, mentor clinics etc.
- Structuring and managing the 'Mentors of Change' for the startups in the AIC / EIC portfolios
- Forging partnerships with industry, investor networks, and corporates to help incubators and startups connect with various stakeholders of the ecosystem and leverage their resources
- Regular site visits and monitoring and review calls with the incubators
- Providing access to incubators and their startups to various marquee national/international events such as InSpreneur, EWC, etc.
- Building synergies with other AIM programs such as ATLs, ANIC etc. to work towards accelerating the growth of the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem of India
- Any other duties assigned as per the directions of MD, AIM.

Program Norms and Decision Making

- The organisational norms of the program are set based on the standard operating protocol of NITI Aayog. All the relevant operational and strategic decisions are taken keeping the beneficiaries (i.e the AICs/EICs stakeholders) in mind.
- All strategic and operational approvals for the program are subject to approval by the competent authority and are in-line with the directions of Mission Level High Committee (MHLC) of AIM.

(iii) ATAL COMMUNITY INNOVATION CENTRE (ACIC)

To foster community-based innovations through a pre-incubation ecosystem at community level, Atal Innovation Mission at NITI Aayog is setting up Atal Community Innovation Centres in unserved and underserved regions across the country. Till date 20 UGC/AICTE institutions

and 4 NGO/Section 8 Companies have been shortlisted for setting up ACICs spreading across 16 states and UTs of India. A total Grant-in-Aid of Rs. 2.5 Crore is provided to each applicant for a period of 5 years for set-up and operations of ACIC. This Grant-in aid needs to be accompanied by a matching contribution from the applicant to enable a Public Private Partnership (PPP).

To support the ACIC initiative, AIM will launch the ACIC segment for the Mentor India program.

Mentor India is a strategic nation building voluntary initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor innovators/startups in the newly launched Atal Community Innovation Centres and also, in 68+ AIM Incubators across the nation and students in 5000+ Atal Tinkering Labs under the programs of Atal Innovation Mission.

More details about the AIM initiatives can be found here: aim.gov.in.

Functions and duties of the team

- Processing of application and selection of institutions or organizations for Atal Community Innovation Centres as per the guidelines and criteria.
- Compliance process for disbursement of various tranches of ACIC Grant-in-Aid.
- Capacity building and training of ACIC Centre-in-charge and ACIC operations team on various aspects of Pre-Incubation and Innovation through partnerships.
- Screening and selection of professionals as 'Mentors of Change' for the ACIC network, under the Mentor India program.
- Organizing various workshops, events, contests, sessions, and activities related to Innovation and Incubation for ACIC team and community.
- Formalizing partnerships with industry and academia to enhance the reach, quality, and impact of the program.
- Recognize stakeholders and provide showcase and learning opportunities.
- Periodic monitoring, documentation, and query resolution.
- Any other duties assigned as per the directions of MD, AIM.

Program Norms and Decision Making

- The organizational norms of the program are set based on the standard operating protocol of NITI Aayog. All the relevant operational and strategic decisions are taken keeping the beneficiaries (i.e the AICs/EICs stakeholders) in mind.
- All strategic and operational approvals for the program are subject to approval by the competent authority and are in-line with the directions of Mission Level High Committee (MHLC) of AIM.

(iv) ATAL NEW INDIA CHALLENGES (ANIC)

The ANIC program is devised with two-fold vision: -
   a) Help create products from existing technologies relevant for national and social causes (Productization), and,
   b) Help new deep-tech products find markets and early customers (Commercialization).

ANIC's objective is to fast-track development and commercialize industrial-grade products and technologies in areas of national importance and social relevance through a grant-based mechanism. The selected ANIC grantee would be eligible for a funding support of up to a maximum of Rs. 1 crore. based on the evaluation of the applicant's proposal and approval from the competent authority. The approved grant will be disabused in tranches with the release of any tranche fully dependent on

verifiable compliance to approved goals and deliverables by the grantee. To create product and service innovations having national socio-economic impact, AIM has launched over 24 Atal New India Challenges in partnership with five different ministries and departments of central government. 52 winners have been selected out of 950+ applications received for the same.

Functions & duties of the ANIC team

- Design of program guidelines under the direction of MD, AIM, NITI Aayog
- Coordinate with ministries to decide challenges for the ANIC program
- Design & launch application portal to received applications for said challenges
- Extensive out-reach to promote the challenges
- Basic vetting of received applications to remove random/garbage entries
- Coordinating screening and selection of final winners from received applications by a duly constituted screening and selection committee
- Coordinating the budget and goals & deliverables approval of the ANIC winners from duly constituted working committee
- Coordinating with the ANIC winners to ensure their timely due diligence and compliance.
- Periodic follow-up of ANIC winners to ensure that the approved goals & deliverables are being met and grant money is being spent as per approved budget.
- Processing the proper compliance & paperwork for the subsequent tranche(s) disbursement of the ANIC winners.
- Exploring and exploiting possible opportunities/partnerships to support the ANIC winners in development of their products and technologies

Norms set by ANIC team for the discharge of its functions

The organizational norms of the program are set based on the standard operating protocol of NITI Aayog. All the relevant operational and strategic decisions are taken keeping the beneficiaries (i.e the ANIC grantees) in mind.

Procedure followed in decision making process

All strategic and operational approvals for the program are subject to approval by the competent authority and are in-line with the directions of Mission Level High Committee (MHLC) of AIM.

(v) ATAL NEW INDIA CHALLENGES (ANIC) - APPLIED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES (ARISE)

ANIC-ARISE is an initiative to promote research, innovation and competitiveness of Indian startups and small enterprises including Micro, Small, and Medium enterprises. The program's objective is to catalyse research, innovation, find solutions to the sectoral problems and subsequently trigger creation of new industrial sectors, through support of Central Government Ministries / Departments, who will become the first buyer of the solutions / products innovated under the ANIC-ARISE program by start-ups and small enterprises. ANIC-ARISE shall follow the Atal New India Challenges framework to operationalize and institutionalize R&D cum innovation efforts.

ANIC-ARISE will be a multi-phase, multi-sector, and multi-stakeholder program to identify, fund, guide, handhold, and procure from Indian startups and small enterprises. It aims to inculcate a culture and mindset of engaging and co-creating amongst the industry as well as the government, to improve India's import substitution capabilities, develop export leadership in nation-critical sectors, and provide indigenous solutions for challenges in India.

Functions and duties of the team

- Communicating and coordinating program related operations with the departments/ministries.
- Design and building necessary technology platforms to operationalize sector specific challenges
- Organising sector specific events, sessions and activities related to MSME/startup research or innovations
- Other duties assigned as per the directions of MD, AIM.

Program Norms and Decision Making

Every strategic and operational approvals of the initiative are subject to approval and concurrence by Mission Director and Mission Level High Committee (MHLC) of Atal Innovation Mission.

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