

# Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF)

February 12, 2022

**In news-** To mark the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with UNDP, India has launched the Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF) recently.

## About Community Innovator Fellowship-

- It is **developed as a pre-incubation model which will provide youth with an opportunity to establish their social enterprise** focusing on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) based solutions for solving community issues.
- This is going to be a **one-year-long intensive fellowship program** which has been designed for an aspiring community innovator irrespective of their socio-economic background.
- During the course of this fellowship, **each fellow will be hosted at one of the AIM's Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs)** and shall acquire SDG awareness, entrepreneurial skills and life skills while they are working on their idea.
- **The ACICs would nurture youth-led innovations by providing suitable resources** in terms of operating facilities, co-working space, maker labs and a dynamic business network to the innovator.
- The CIF Program will focus on facilitating knowledge and capacity building among aspiring community innovators essential to their entrepreneurship journey.
- **The fellowship is a convergence of all the elements – values, interventions and stakeholders** – that facilitates in building a sustainable community innovation ecosystem.

- Further, AIM also released the Operations Manual, which is a knowledge and capacity building framework, which shall support the foundational and operational functioning of an ACICs.
- ACICs have been established with a focus to develop the start-up and innovation ecosystem in the underserved regions of the country.
- Currently, there are 12 ACICs across 9 states in the country and the target is to establish 50 such centres in the country.

**Note-** In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly declared **February 11 as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science** to achieve equal access and participation of women and girls in science.