

Indian Railway Innovation Policy – “StartUps for Railways”

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In news– Minister of Railways has launched “StartUps for Railways” recently.

Salient Features of Indian Railway Innovation Policy are:

- **Grant up to Rs. 1.5 Crore to innovator** on equal sharing basis with provision of milestone-wise payment.
- Complete process from floating of the problem statement to development of prototype is online with defined time line to make it transparent and objective.
- **Trials of prototypes will be done in Railways.** Enhanced funding will be provided to scale up deployment on successful performance of prototypes.
- Selection of Innovator/s will be done by **a transparent and fair system** which will be dealt through online portal inaugurated today by Minister of Railways.
- Developed Intellectual property rights (**IPR**) will remain with innovator only.
- Assured developmental order to innovator.
- **De-centralization of complete product** development process at divisional level to avoid delays.
- This policy will bring scale and efficiency in the field of operation, maintenance and infrastructure creation through participation of very large and untapped startup ecosystem.
- Prior to framing this policy field units were asked to provide Problem Areas. In response to it, around 160 problem statements have been received till date. To start with, **11 problems statements have been identified to deal via new.**

- Policy aims to leverage innovative technologies developed by Indian Startups, MSMEs, Innovators and Entrepreneurs to improve operational efficiency and Safety of Indian Railways.