

XR Startup Program

January 31, 2023

In news– MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and Meta have announced the list of 120 startups and innovators for the XR Startup Program recently.

What is the XR Startup Program?

- It is a **collaboration between MSH and Meta to discover, nurture, and accelerate Extended Reality (XR) technology startups** and innovators across India.
- The Program **includes an Accelerator and a Grand Challenge**, aimed towards boosting the emerging tech ecosystem in the country, was kicked-off close on the heels of the recent National Startup Day.
- Out of the startups selected in the Accelerator Program, over 30% are from tier 2/3 cities across India. Also, 40% of the selected innovators and startups in the grand challenge are from tier 2/3 cities. Further, more than 20% of the cohort has women innovators and startups with women founders/ co-founders.
- **The Accelerator Program is supporting 40 early-stage start-ups working in XR technologies** with a grant of Rs. 20 lakhs each.
- Further, the **Grand Challenge will encourage early-stage innovators in sectors like Education, Learning and Skills, Healthcare, Gaming and Entertainment, Agritech & Climate Action and Tourism & Sustainability.**
- **The innovators will be provided support to upscale from the R&D phase** to developing workable products and services.
- At first 80 innovators will attend a bootcamp, out of which, a total of 16 innovators will be provided grants of Rs 20 lakhs each and further support to help them develop Minimum Viable Product (MVP)/ prototypes.

- **The Accelerator and Grand Challenge are also supporting start-ups and innovators** with establishing customer connections, partnership opportunities and fundraising among other things.
- **The program is being executed in partnership with implementation partners including, Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) at IIT Delhi (North Zone),** Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) at IIIT-H (South Zone), Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) at SMUTBI (East Zone), and Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council (GUSEC) (West Zone).