

Grand Challenges Karnataka

Solving for SDGs in Karnataka

1 Background

The Grand Challenges program is a unique innovation program of the Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T (“the Department”) under Karnataka Start-up Policy 2015-2020. In this program, the Department identifies societal problems (linked to **sustainable development goals**) in consultation with other State government departments. The problem statement is then refined and thrown open for startups, innovators and individuals to propose potential solutions to the problem. The program uses a rigorous selection mechanism to crowd source innovations, fund them in stages and award grant money to the final winner. The program also enables access to the government departments for identifying innovative solutions. Focus sectors include Urban Development, Health Care, Food Security, Clean Environment and Education for all, etc.

The program envisages partnership with another Government of Karnataka Department (hereinafter “Partner Department”) which will be primarily responsible for defining the challenge and supporting the pilot implementation. Detailed roles and responsibilities of each entity are defined below.

2 Financial support

1. The funding support offered by the Department under this scheme is in the form of grant-in-aid.
2. Each challenge selects maximum of **5 innovative ideas** under Phase 1, which will be funded up to **INR 10 lakhs** each disbursed in one or two equal tranches (depending on the duration of the pilot).
3. They will be monitored for a period of *three to six-months* under Phase 2. After the completion of the pilot duration, one of the selected innovations will be shortlisted for further funding of up to **INR 50 lakhs** (incase of 2 awardees the grant will be split based on the committee’s recommendation) for a period of 12-15 months for next stage of pilot implementation.
4. The fund disbursement is milestone based and is released in tranches based on achievement of project milestones.
5. Karnataka Startup Cell, KITS would be monitoring the progress of the awardees as per the calls made.

Figure 1: Funding pattern

Phase	Number of startups	Amount per startup (INR)	Total amount (INR)
Phase 2A	5	10,00,000	50,00,000
Phase 2B	1	50,00,000 (as incentive money to implement a technology / develop & commission a specific solution for deployment)	50,00,000
Total amount (Indian National Rupee One Crore Only)			1,00,00,000

3 Institutional mechanism

3.1 APEX Committee

Constitution of APEX Committee

- ▶ The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S & T- Chairman
- ▶ Representatives of Partner Department(s)
- ▶ Industry expert(s)
- ▶ Academic expert (s)
- ▶ Any other members with relevant expertise nominated by ACS/ Principal Secretary
- ▶ The Managing Director, KITS – **Member Secretary**

Role of the Apex Committee:

- ▶ To review and approve the problem statements identified in various sectors
- ▶ Overall approval of funding & budget
- ▶ Internal coordination between the Department and Partner Department(s)
- ▶ Approve final selection of awardees in Phase 1 and 2
- ▶ Approve the funding for Phase 1 and 2 of awardees
- ▶ Shall meet as and when required during a calendar year to review the progress of the Program

3.2 Monitoring Committee

Constitution of the Committee

- ▶ The Managing Director, KITS
- ▶ General Manager(s), KITS
- ▶ Partner Department Officials
- ▶ Domain experts
- ▶ Representatives of Startup Cell/KITS/Department

Role of Monitoring Committee:

- ▶ Fortnightly calls with selected startups (during Phase 2)
- ▶ Provide internal coordination between Partner Department and the Startups
- ▶ Monitor progress of the pilot project fortnightly
- ▶ Monthly update to the Evaluation Committee
- ▶ Provide inputs to the Evaluation Committee for other approvals as required
- ▶ Review the progress made in milestones and approve release of next tranche

3.3 Evaluation Committee

Constitution of the Committee

- ▶ Concerned General Manager, KITS
- ▶ Partner Department Officials
- ▶ Domain Experts
- ▶ Representatives of Startup Cell/KITS/Department

Role of Evaluation Committee:

- ▶ To evaluate the milestones achieved by the awardees and guide the startups in recommended areas of research.

- ▶ The Evaluation Committee will meet to decide on the progress made by the respective awardee, as per their milestones.

4 Role of each entity

4.1 Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T

- ▶ Provide overall co-ordination support / secretariat support for managing the program
- ▶ Constitute APEX Committee, Monitoring Committee and Evaluation Committee for Grand Challenges (with participation from Partner Department)
- ▶ Identify jury members for shortlisting, selection and finalization of the startups
- ▶ Provide co-ordination support in regular reviews during Implementation Monitoring Phase
- ▶ Provide funding of INR 1 crore

4.2 Partner Department

- ▶ Provide support in finalization of challenges
- ▶ Provide data, information, background material, etc. to the Startups for implementation of the pilot in Phase 2
- ▶ Provide **2 Project Anchors** per challenge where challenge will be implemented – one Senior Official and one Junior Official
- ▶ Provide adequate support to startups during the Phase 2
- ▶ Provide support in APEX Committee for Grand Challenges
- ▶ Provide support in Monitoring Committee for Grand Challenges
- ▶ Provide funding of INR 1 crore

5 Operational framework

The program is divided into three Phases

5.1 Design Phase (Phase 0)

In the Design Phase, the Department will engage with the relevant line department/partner department to identify the potential problem statements. The Department will conduct 1-2 brainstorming sessions, refine the problem statement and meet the project anchors from the Partner Department.

5.2 Phase 1 – Challenge Roll out

In Phase 1, the Department rolls out the Grand Challenge. The call for application will be open for minimum **15 days** for startups to respond to the Challenge statement (s). This may be extended based on requirement.

- The applications are processed in two levels.
- First level shortlisting will be done for data sufficiency/eligibility as per the Startup Karnataka policy guidelines by Karnataka Startup Cell team.
- Second level shortlisting will be done in consultation with a pool of jury for the relevant sector.
 - Jury will be nominated by industry associations/ domain experts / Partner Department
 - Technical and financial assessment of the Proposals will be conducted based on below mentioned criteria:
 - Novelty of the Proposal
 - The potential scale and magnitude of the impact of the Proposal in relation to the issue it targets
 - The technical viability of the Proposal
 - The financial feasibility and affordability of the mechanisms suggested under the

- Proposal
 - The sustainability of the solution under the Proposal about implementation on a large scale over an extended period
 - Other factors relevant and pertinent to the success of a Proposal
- Post the second level shortlisting – Department will organize a **Pitch Day** for selection of startups for pilot implementation. The APEX Committee will shortlist upto 5 (five) startups for pilot implementation during the Pitch Day.

5.3 Phase 2 – Implementation monitoring:

Phase 2 has two parts – Phase 2A and 2B

Phase 2A will be for a period of 3 to 6 months:

1. A MOA will be entered between the shortlisted five startups (hereinafter ‘Awardees’) and KITS.
2. Monitoring Committee shall monitor the progress of the Awardees and call for Evaluation Committee meeting as and when the awardees complete the project milestones.
3. Based on the milestones, Startup Cell shall follow up with the Awardees along with supporting documents such as CA Certificate, Statement of Expenditure certified by CA, No-lien account Bank Statement and Progress report.
4. The Evaluation Committee shall visit the site of adoption of the technology/solution, wherever it is applicable, to review the project milestone.
5. At the end of the milestones for tranche 1, the Awardees are called for presentation before the Evaluation Committee and then the Review Committee.
6. Based on the recommendation of Evaluation Committee, the Review Committee shall approve the release of next tranche, depending on their milestones.
7. Startup Cell will prepare a Learnings Report basis the Pilot Implementation of Phase 2A

After the successful completion of last milestone of Phase 2, a Demo Day will be organized by the Startup Cell. During the Demo Day, all five startups and their Project Anchors will make presentations to the Apex Committee. Each of the five teams/startups will be evaluated basis a pre-decided criteria, feedback from the Partner Department and scalability of solution.

Based on the presentation and the criteria, APEX Committee will select 1 or 2 final winners for Phase 2B.

Phase 2B will be for a period of 12-15 months

1. The above-mentioned steps (sl. No 1 to 6) are followed for Phase-2B.
2. After the successful completion of last milestone stipulated for Phase-2B, the Apex Committee based on the recommendation of the Review Committee, shall approve the completion of the pilot deployment and successful implementation of the product/solution in concerned departments. The Awardees shall make a presentation to the Apex Committee.
3. Startup Cell will prepare an Impact Report outlining the 9impact of the finally selected startup/solution.

Figure 2: Overall Grand Challenges Framework

