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Unified platform to boost startups soon: Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

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The minister was speaking at an interactive session at Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII).

AHMEDABAD: Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union minister of railways, communication, electronics & IT, on Tuesday said that the measure of startup success is not just its unicorn status, but the satisfaction to find solution to an existing problem.

The minister was speaking at an interactive session at Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII). On the occasion, Ashwini Vaishnaw also said that the union government is soon launching Startup India Public Digital Platform

MINISTER GOES OFF STAGE TO FELICITATE DISABLED ENTREPRENEUR

● The event saw the felicitation of five entrepreneurs who have made their mark with their startups. Jignesh Shah, a person with disability, was one of the entrepreneurs. When he could not come to the stage, Ashwini Vaishnaw went off the stage to the last row and handed him the award at the event



● One of the innovations that caught the eye of the minister was a composite material that looks and behaves like plastic but is biodegradable

● At Mahatma Mandir, Vaishnaw said that the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has the potential to become the next UPI

Answering a question about measure of success by a student, Vaishnaw said that the purpose of any startup by definition is identifying a problem and offering a solution. Thus, not all the business ideas could be startups and vice versa. "The true measure of any startup's success is finding a solution to a problem and satisfaction derived from the process," said the minister, adding that even on those measures, India currently has 103 unicorn startups, which is higher than all of Europe combined.

Vaishnaw's event was part of Digital India week celebration which was launched by PM Narendra Modi on Monday at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar. The event at EDII saw participation of industry leaders, university heads, startup founders and students. Vaishaw also interacted with a few of the startups incubated at EDII before the event.

"We are opening up new vistas for the startups to collaborate with the government departments. While Indian Army launched DefEx platform with about 100 startups, Indian Railways has about 150 startups, India Post has 80-90 startups... The initiatives such as Digital Health Mission would have support of 2,500-plus startups," he said. "We are providing open-source platforms for the systems to grow. In the future, we will have systems for education, agriculture, logistics, etc. sectors as we have seen successful implementation of DigiLocker, Umang and UPI."

Vaishnaw hailed Gujarat as 'land of entrepreneurs' and said that he was happy to see the innovations. He termed semiconductors as the new game changers for the entire electronics sector and said that they are likely to announce the first plant establishments in August. He said that with 73,000 startups, India is the world's third largest startup ecosystem.

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