

25 leading investors to meet 48 bright startups for funding

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jalpur: Half a dozen marquee startup investors among the leading 25 will hold over 1,100 sessions with 48 young entrepreneurs in the city on Friday.

The startups have been selected over four months through a series of selection processes from most of the incubation centres in Rajasthan. About 50% of the startups have also been selected from about 30 cities of the country.

Ravi Modani, president of TiE-Rajasthan, said the response to the two-day Smash Up event has been so robust that they had to close registrations before 10 days of the event which is supported by the Department of Information Technology and Communication (DoIT&C).

Modani said that investors like Nexus Venture Partners, Bessemer Venture Partners, 8x Ventures, Ivy Cap Ventures, Indian Angel Network, Unicorn India Ventu-

SOME OF LEADING STARTUP INVESTORS

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- ▶ Let's Ventures
- ▶ 100x.VC ▶ CIIE.Co
- ▶ Dexter Angels ▶ AngelList

res, Let's Ventures, 100x.VC, CIIE.Co, Dexter Angels, and AngelList among others would be speed dating with these startups to assess their potential for funding.

"The mix of funding agencies has been designed in a manner that all kinds of startups will have scope for raising funds. Startups looking for angel funding will have enough opportunity as well," added Modani.

The event will see participation of over 500 ecosystem players. Speaking about the

quality of the startups and their business ideas, Sanjay Yadav, convenor of Smash Up, said that there is a vast improvement.

"If we compare the quality of business ideas we have come across, there has been a significant improvement. We have some local startups who are working on web 3.0. It's exciting to see social commerce startups tapping social media platforms to sell anything," said Yadav.

Yadav said that funding is no longer a constraint for good business ideas. He said, "Now, the Venture Capital funds which used to invest at later stage in the lifecycle of a startup, are now investing at the early stage. These days, startups can also tap various government programmes run by different departments. All these factors contributing to the improved ecosystem," he added. Modani cited a study that says 17% of the country's IT professionals are from Rajasthan.

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