

# Himachal: IIT Catalyst gears up for 'Startup Exploration Programme'

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**SHIMLA:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT ) Mandi Catalyst, the first technology business incubator of HP, is all set to launch its first start-up batch of the year 2019 .

The programme, which begins on February 7, will help the startups to convert their ideas into viable businesses.

“The first phase of the Incubation program will run for three months during which startups will get funding support of upto Rs 1.5 Lakh, in addition to mentoring, networking and training,” said IIT spokesman. Twelve startups from different sectors such as Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Waste Management, Agrotech, Renewable Energy and Online services

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have been shortlisted for the program. Five out of these 12 teams are from Himachal. The teams will relocate and work from co-working space of Catalyst in Mandav Complex in Mandi town where they will be provided hostel facility and office space for next three months. On completion of the programme, Catalyst will provide one-year incubation programme which includes up to Rs 15 lakh seed funding. Startups are expected to utilise the money to further improve their product.