Silicon Valley entrepreneurs to attend Start Up India event

NATIONAL BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Softbank founder and CEO Masayoshi Son and Uber founder Travis Kalanick are among 40 Silicon Valley heavyweights expected to attend the 'Start Up India' launch on January 16 where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the government's action plan for promoting startups.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley would inaugurate a day-long workshop on startups to which CEOs and founders of 2,000 Indian startups have been invited.

Those invited from Silicon Valley include top venture capitalists and angel investors.

"We would like the youth of

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India to connect with the startup idea and become job creators instead of job seekers. The intention is to create an enabling eco-system for such start-ups by keeping government's role minimal and easing the compliances they face," said Amitabh Kant, Secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. Apart from sessions on themes such as digitisation, women entrepreneurs, healthcare and financial inclusion, the workshop will in-

clude a session with top secretaries to the Government of India where representatives of startups can ask them questions on subjects concerning their domain.

Google will be offering $15,000 of equity funding for early stage startups at a session called 'Launchpad Accelerator' where startups can make live presentations about their business ideas. Softbank President and Chief Operating Officer Nikesh Arora would also guide the youth in raising funds.

The event, that is to conclude with the Prime Minister's address, would be telecast live at all IIMs, IITs, NITs, central universities and among youth groups in over 350 districts, Mr. Kant said.