

# Event Report



# Himalayan Startup Trek 2018

April 28-29, 2018  
IIT Mandi Campus

**IIT Mandi Catalyst**  
*a Technology Business Incubator*



## About Himalayan Startup Trek 2018

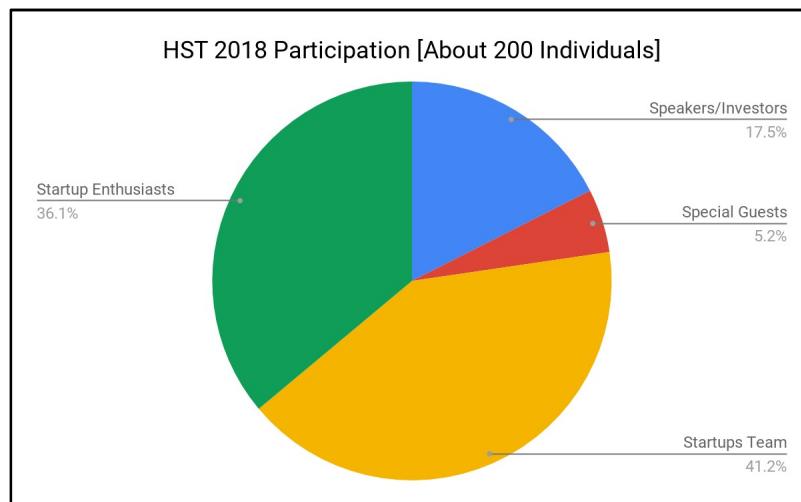
The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Himalayan Startup Trek (HST) was held on April 28-29, 2018 in IIT Mandi Campus of scenic Kamand Valley. Designed to bring together stakeholders of Indian Startup Ecosystem, the two day Annual Event of IIT Mandi Catalyst received attention from investors, startup experts, government officials and budding startups. HST 2018 received an overwhelming response indicating the increase in outreach and scale of HST in a span of few months. HST had its first incarnation in July 2017 by Catalyst in an effort to boost startup ecosystem in Himalayan Region.



## Participation

With a footfall of 200 i.e. thrice the turnout in the first edition, HST 2018 proved to be a success for all stakeholders that were present.

35 speakers /investors participated on various panels, speaker sessions, mentor sessions and Investors Den.



Over 40 startup teams encompassed a range of sectors including clean tech, health tech, consumer tech, edu tech, affordable housing, security etc, engaged in various formats of interactions during the event. In addition, over 100 startup enthusiasts attended various

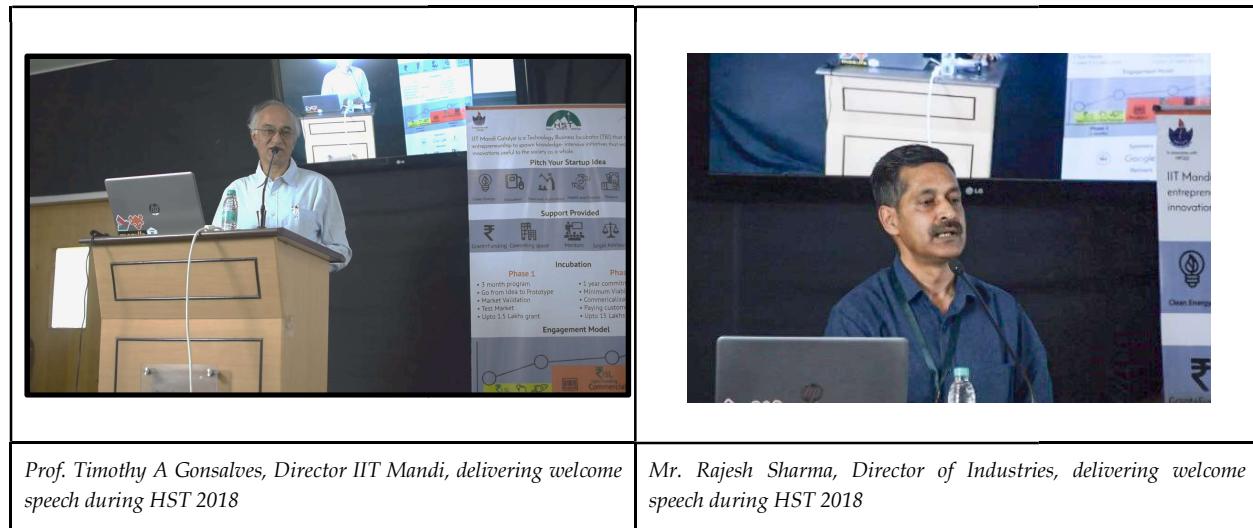
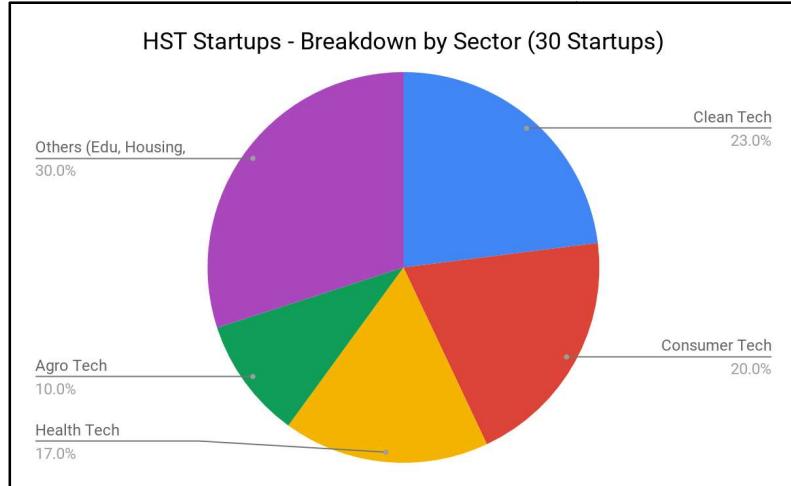
sessions across two days. 30 Startups were invited to pitch during the event to a jury to either raise investor funding or get incubation support from Catalyst. 5-10 startups will be offered incubation support as a follow up to these pitch sessions.

### Inaugural Session

The event kicked off with a welcome address by Prof. T.A. Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi. Prof. Gonsalves set the tone for the event by quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson's famous quote, "Build a better mousetrap, and the world will beat a path to your door", signifying the unique locational advantages that IIT Mandi offers to innovators and entrepreneurs. Following him,

Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director of

Industries, HP govt, also welcomed all participants and encouraged startups to use benefits of HP CM Startup Scheme. He appealed to all stakeholders to collaborate in building entrepreneurship ecosystem in HP.



### Keynote Addresses

Mr. Hemant Kanakia delivered the first keynote address on the topic 'To be or not to be Entrepreneur'. Drawing from his rich experience of two decades as an entrepreneur, mentor and investor, he gave handy tips on Do's and Don'ts for first generation entrepreneurs.

Mr. H.K. Mittal delivered his address through his popular story telling method and gave very interesting and insightful accounts from his years of experiences as the Head of NSTEDB division of DST, GoI.

The third keynote address titled 'Inspiring Innovation' was delivered by Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, an awardee of 'Global Award for Sustainable Architecture'. A full house of startup enthusiasts experienced an awe inspiring account of innovations underway in tough terrain of Ladakh using basic principles of science.



### Panel Discussions and Speaker Sessions

A total of five Panel discussions were held across two days that touched upon various issues relevant to startups including, first generation entrepreneurship, technology issues, customer experience and attracting investors.

In addition, four tech track sessions were delivered by individual speakers focused on latest technologies and emerging areas of innovation. A session on 'Tech Hack' was delivered by Dr. Shantanu Bhattacharya, 'CleanTech' by Mr. Samir Shah. While Dr. Shantanu discussed latest developments in technologies like AR, VR, AI & ML, Mr. Shah addressed the latest in Clean

Energy and Water. Session on 'Blockchain & Cryptocurrency' was delivered by Mr. Vignesh Ramanujam, and on 'Agro Tech' by Mr. Hemendra Mathur. Vinesh deliberated over various use cases of Blockchain while Hemendra focused on technological interventions in agriculture sector.



*Panel: First Generation Entrepreneurship (L to R: Saloni Malhotra, Bhavesh Maglani, Lakshmi V, Vineer Neeraj)*



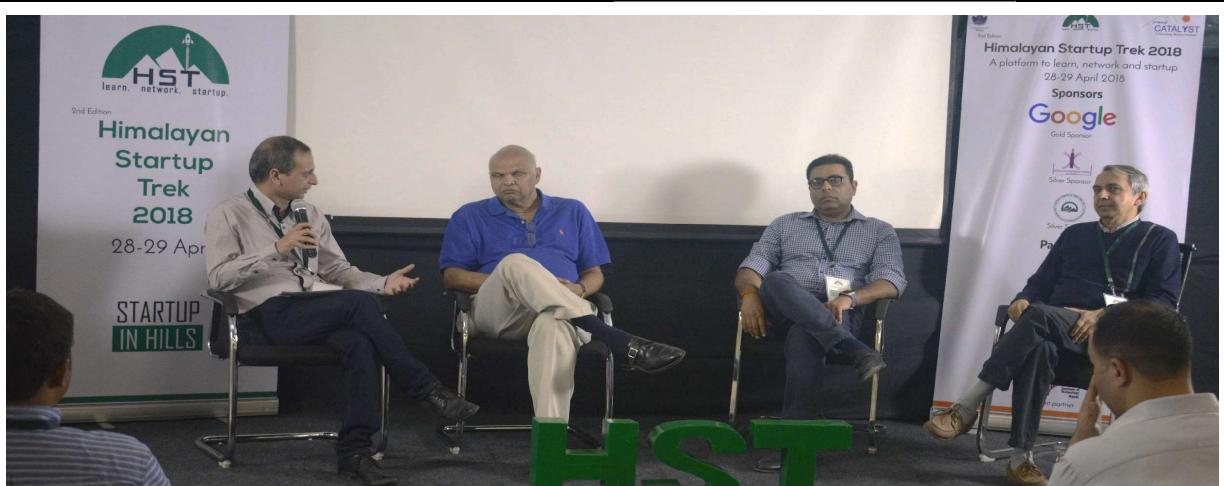
*Panel: Building Startup Ecosystem in Himalayas (L to R: Vivek Sharma, Chintan Bakshi, Sumeer Walia, Saurabh Mittal)*



*Panel: Technologies of Tomorrow (L to R: Gaurav Agarwal, Karthik P, Abhinav Gupta, Kapil Bharati, Amarjeet Singh)*



*Panel: Make for Customers [L to R: Varun Singh, Prof. Bringi Dev, Kshitij Chopra, Anuj Kapoor]*



*Panel: Landing the Right Investors [L to R: Hemendra Mathur, Hemant Kanakia, Manish Kheterpal, Samir Shah]*



Mr. Samir Shah during 'Clean Tech' Talk



Dr. Santanu during 'Tech Hack' Talk



Vignesh during 'Blockchain' Session



Hemendra during 'Agro Tech' Session

### Meet a Mentor Session

Startups were provided with an opportunity to talk to various speakers in one on one sessions with an aim of startups finding right mentors and good advice for their ventures.



Mentor Session with Abhinav Gupta, Startup Advisor



Mentor Session with Karthik P., Google



Startup Teams Speed Dating with mentors during HST 2018

### Investors' Den

Startup teams looking for connections to investors for possible fundraising in near future were provided a chance to pitch to a pool of investors. There was also an opportunity for such teams to meet investors one to one.



Startup team in Investor's Den with Mr. Yashwanth S, Ankur Capital



Mr. Anand Batra, IvyCap during Investors Den Pitch by startup teams

### Round Table of IT Companies in Himachal Pradesh

HST 2018 also facilitated a Round Table of IT companies functioning in the state. Representatives from 8-10 companies attended the session that aimed to discuss challenges facing IT companies, potential for collaboration, and synergies with emerging startup ecosystem in the state. Prof. T. A. Gonsalves, Director IIT Mandi and Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director of Industries, Himachal Pradesh also attended the meeting and guided the discussions.

The meeting concluded with a decision to launch a Consortium of IT Companies in Himachal Pradesh.



*Round Table conference of IT Companies during HST 2018*

### Idea to Market Bootcamp

Prof. Bringi Dev from IIM Bangalore ran a bootcamp for the startups that attended HST 2018. The session focussed on need for lean, articulating value proposition, and achieving market validation through MVP.



*Prof Dev during Bootcamp*

### Pitch for Incubation Support at Catalyst

25 startup teams pitched to a jury of experts to get incubation support from catalyst. Based on feedback, some of these teams will be offered incubation support at IIT Mandi catalyst.





*Pitching competition for incubation support at IIT Mandi Catalyst*

### **Startup Showcase**

Startup teams were provided with an opportunity to exhibit their product/prototype to the participants during HST 2018. A total of 15 startup teams setup display booth in the exhibition area and received valuable feedback from speakers/guests/participants.



*Startup teams display their products during HST Exhibition*

### **Cultural Evening**

On 28<sup>th</sup> April, a cultural evening was organized in which students of Cultural Club of IIT Mandi put up a musical show for HST participants. After intense discussions throughout the day, musical evening provided rejuvenation and entertainment to all present.





*Performances by students and faculty of IIT Mandi during cultural evening*

### **What is next..**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of HST proved to be a successful event with extended outreach and greater impact compared to first edition in July 2017. Team Catalyst would like to thank all speakers, guests, startups, participants, volunteers and members of organizing committees from IIT Mandi for making HST 2018 a big success! A special thanks to sponsors and partners. IIT Mandi Catalyst will come back with a better version of HST in 2019. We look forward to your continued support.

### **Thanks to Sponsors & Partners**

<b>Gold Sponsor:</b> 	<b>Gold Sponsor</b>  Google Developers	<b>Media Partner</b> 
<b>Silver Sponsor</b> 	<b>Silver Sponsor</b> 	<b>Tech Partner</b>  Google Cloud

# See you at HST 2019



Catalyst Team and Startups with HST 2018 Speakers, Investors and Guests

## Contact Us

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## Annexure 1: HST 2018 Speakers and Investors



Hemant Kanakia



H K Mittal



Sonam Wangchuk



Prof. Bringi Dev



Karthik P



Santanu Bhattacharya



Samir Shah



Kapil Bharati



Chintan Bakshi



Abhinav Gupta



Bhavesh Mangani



Dr. Amarjeet Singh



Anuj Kapoor



Kshitij Chopra



Manish Kheterpal



Vivek Sharma



Sumeer Walia



Gaurav Agarwal



Vineet Neeraj



Vignesh R



KC Ayyagari



Hemendra Mathur



Lakshmi V



Saloni Malhotra



Saurabh Mittal



Varun R Singh



Yashwanth S



Anand Batra

See more on [www.iitmandi.ac.in/Catalyst/HST](http://www.iitmandi.ac.in/Catalyst/HST)

## Annexure 2: Catalyst Startup Portfolio



Simplifying solar installations



Re-engineering corporate travel



Adventure sports for online media



Online market for medical devices



Nutritious microgreens for better you



Anti collision system for blind curves



Illuminating flexible advertisement displays



Making skills India, Digital



Landslide warning system

See more: [www.iitmandicatalyst.in](http://www.iitmandicatalyst.in)

### **Annexure 3: Catalyst Board**



T. A. Gonsalves



Saurabh Mittal



H K Mittal



Bringi Dev



Prem F Siril



Kapil Bharati



Saloni Malhotra



Hemendra Mathur



Lakshmi V



Kunal Satyarthi



Varun R Singh

See more: [www.iitmandicatalyst.in](http://www.iitmandicatalyst.in)

### **Annexure 4: Team Catalyst**



Saurabh Mittal



Puran Singh



Volga Verma



Utsav Saini

See more: [www.iitmandicatalyst.in](http://www.iitmandicatalyst.in)

## Annexure 5: HST Organizing Teams

<p><b><u>Program Planning and Scheduling Committee</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Puran Singh Dr. Satvasheel Ramesh Powar Mr. Saurabh Mittal Ms. Volga Verma</p>	<p><b><u>Media &amp; Communication Committee</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Varun Dutt Chair Dr. Kala Venkata Uday Ms. Chandan Sharma Ms. Debashrita Roy Chowdhury</p>
<p><b><u>Venues &amp; Food Committee</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Prosenjit Mondal Dr. Mousumi Mukherjee Dr. Pradeep Kumar (SBS) Dr. Jaspreet Kaur Randhawa Mr. Navish Er. Puneet Kumar Sharma Mr. Pavin Samuel</p>	<p><b><u>Cultural Committee</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury Ms. Sandhya Menon Mr. Pavin Samuel Mr. Sai Sandeep</p>
<p><b><u>Logistics Committee</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Manoj Thakur Dr. Gopi S. Reddy Mr. Rakesh Bhatt Mr. Ankush Sharma</p>	<p><b><u>Sponsorship Committee</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Varun Dutt Dr. Arpan Gupta</p>
<p><b><u>Printing &amp; Merchandise Committee</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Satvasheel Ramesh Powar Dr. Siddhartha Sarma Dr. Ankush Bag Mr. Prakash Singh Negi</p>	<p><b><u>Interns and Volunteers</u></b></p> <p>Rahul Jain Navneet Sharma Pratyush Gaurav Hritik Gupta Parimal Kumar Mayank Akshita Jain Sanal Gupta Sushil Kumar Navdeep Kaur</p>