

PRESS RELEASE

IIT Mandi Catalyst invites Applications for 3rd edition of Himalayan Startup Trek

The annual flagship event will have about 30 speakers and 50 startups from across the country. Audience will have a chance to listen to distinguished speakers from startups ecosystem. Early stage startups will pitch for incubation support at IIT Mandi.

MANDI, 6th August 2019: Indian Institute of Technology Mandi's Technology Business Incubator [Catalyst](#) is hosting third edition of its Annual Flagship Event, Himalayan Startup Trek (HST) on 14th and 15th September 2019.

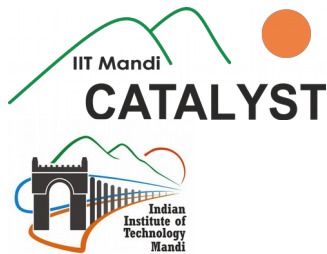
Startups, innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs can apply to pitch during this event and get an opportunity to meet investors/experts one to one. The last date to apply is **31st August 2019**. The event aims at bringing together the stakeholders of Indian Startup ecosystem and providing a platform to young entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas for incubation support and to raise funding from investors. Applications can be filled on the [event website](#).

In the past two years, IIT Mandi Catalyst has disbursed over Rs. 1 crore in grants and investments to more than 30 startups, out of which 16 are from Himachal Pradesh. Of these, four startups have progressed into the commercialization phase. These startups have generated more than 60 employment and internship opportunities.

The event will feature an interesting portfolio of speakers ranging from experienced to young entrepreneurs, commercial investors to social impact investors, and technology experts to business experts.

The early stage startups will learn about the fundamental aspects of running a business. Operational startups that already have some experience will get to meet investors. Startup will also have a chance to interact with government officials and industry experts.

IIT Mandi Catalyst will pick handful of startups with the most innovative ideas and provide incubation support. **The shortlisted candidates will get Rs. 16.5 lakh-worth of grant and investment through an in-campus residential program from IIT Mandi Catalyst.** Along with the budding entrepreneurs, it will be an opportunity for corporate and government organizations to join hands with IIT Mandi Catalyst and support initiatives that will benefit the society at large.



Speaking about the 3rd edition of Himalayan Startup Trek 2019, Dr. Puran Singh, Faculty In-Charge, IIT Mandi Catalyst, said, “HST 2019 is an event that is diligently curated to benefit the early stage startups. Entrepreneur-Talks, Tech talks and dedicated one to one time with startup experts will help shape the ideas of budding entrepreneurs. We invite startups from across the country to experience first-hand the startup ecosystem that IIT Mandi is building in the hills.”

During HST 2019, various Tech/Business talks will be delivered by eminent speakers. Panel discussions, One-on-one meetings and ‘Speed dating’ will also be organized between the startup teams and the experts. This will provide the teams a chance to network with the investors to raise seed funds and incubation support. IIT Mandi Catalyst will commit financial and active mentoring support to Individuals/teams/startups that bring forth promising ideas and commit to implementing them on the ground.

Catalyst aims to create impact in a range of relevant areas that bear importance for Himalayan region, including:

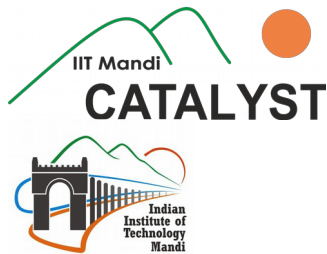
- Renewable Energy
- Inclusive Growth
- Healthcare
- Road Safety
- Disaster Management
- Clean Energy
- Education
- Agriculture
- Waste Management
- Natural Resource Management

Through its support programs, IIT Mandi Catalyst guides early stage entrepreneurial initiatives by providing support in infrastructure, finances, mentoring, and industry connections, thereby making itself an attractive destination for startups across the country.

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About [IIT Mandi](#)

Since the first batch of 97 students joined in July 2009, IIT Mandi has grown to host 1,300 students including 300 PhD, 46 MS research scholars, besides 110 Faculty and 150 staff. IIT Mandi's fully residential campus in Kamand boasts 1.2 lakh sq.m. of completed buildings with 95,000 sqm currently under construction. IIT Mandi has been ranked No. 20 in the Engineering Institutions Category in the [India Rankings 2019](#) released by National Institutional Ranking Framework, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India. In the Outreach and Inclusivity metric of NIRF, IIT Mandi is 1st among all 23 IITs.



Since 2010, IIT Mandi's faculty has bagged nearly 180 projects worth more than Rs. 85 crore. A notable mention is the Advanced Materials Research Centre (AMRC), created in 2013 with an investment of about Rs. 50 crore, housing advanced instruments for characterization of materials. The Institute also hosts a 'Class 100 Clean Room' facility, a world-class research centre that is first-of-its-kind in India. In 2017, the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, selected IIT Mandi to lead the prestigious Rs. 10 crore FarmerZone™ Project.

The unique, project-oriented B.Tech curriculum is centred around its 4-year long Design and Innovation stream. It is poised to become the first IIT to offer a B.Tech in Data Science & Engineering. There are many active MoUs with TU9 in Germany since May 2011. About 25 students from WPI, U.S., have been visiting IIT Mandi every year since 2013, along with 2 WPI faculty.

Launched in 2016, IIT Mandi's Catalyst is the first Technology Business Incubator in Himachal Pradesh. EWOK (Enabling Women of Kamand Valley) is another innovative program run by IIT Mandi, which focuses on imparting Skills training to rural women to enable them to start village-scale business.

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