

IIT Mandi Catalyst concludes its 3rd edition of Himalayan Startup Trek 2019

Indian Institute of Technology Mandi Catalyst, the first technology-based incubator in Himachal Pradesh, concluded the third edition of its annual flagship event, Himalayan Startup Trek (HST) on 14th and 15th September 2019. The event aimed at bringing together the stakeholders of the Indian startup ecosystem and provided young entrepreneurs a platform to pitch their ideas for incubation support and fund raising.

More than 270 teams applied for HST 2019. A total of 60 teams including individuals and organizations were shortlisted.

Welcoming the participants to the Himalayan Startup Trek 2019, Prof.

Timothy A. Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi, said, *“The key features for a startup are to understand, compare, assess, adapt and develop. I hope all the budding entrepreneurs who have joined us for the 3rd annual HST will learn something new from the experiences of the speakers who have joined us here at IIT Mandi.”*

During the event, various tech/business talks were delivered by eminent speakers. Panel discussions, one-on-one meetings and ‘speed dating’ were also organized between the startup teams and the experts. This gave the early stage startups an opportunity to learn about the fundamental aspects of running a business. Operational startups that have prior experience got a chance to meet investors to raise funding.

Ideas ranging from agriculture, waste management, climate change, renewable energy, road safety, disaster management, to healthcare sectors were presented and discussed at HST 2019.

IIT Mandi Catalyst handpicked as many as 25 innovative ideas and gave them on the spot offer letters to join the incubation program. Through this program, IIT Mandi Catalyst will guide early stage entrepreneurial initiatives by providing support in infrastructure, finances, mentoring, and industry connections.

It is notable that, with this program, IIT Mandi Catalyst is all set to disburse over Rs. 10 Cr. to startups over the period of next 5 years. In the past three years, IIT Mandi has disbursed over Rs. 1 Cr. worth of grants and investments to over 30 startups that have gone through the 3-month residential program in which startups were provided technical mentoring by faculty at IIT Mandi while they built prototypes or tested and improved their products.