



HIC 2019

# HIMALAYAN INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2019



MAY 25-26 | IIT MANDI CAMPUS

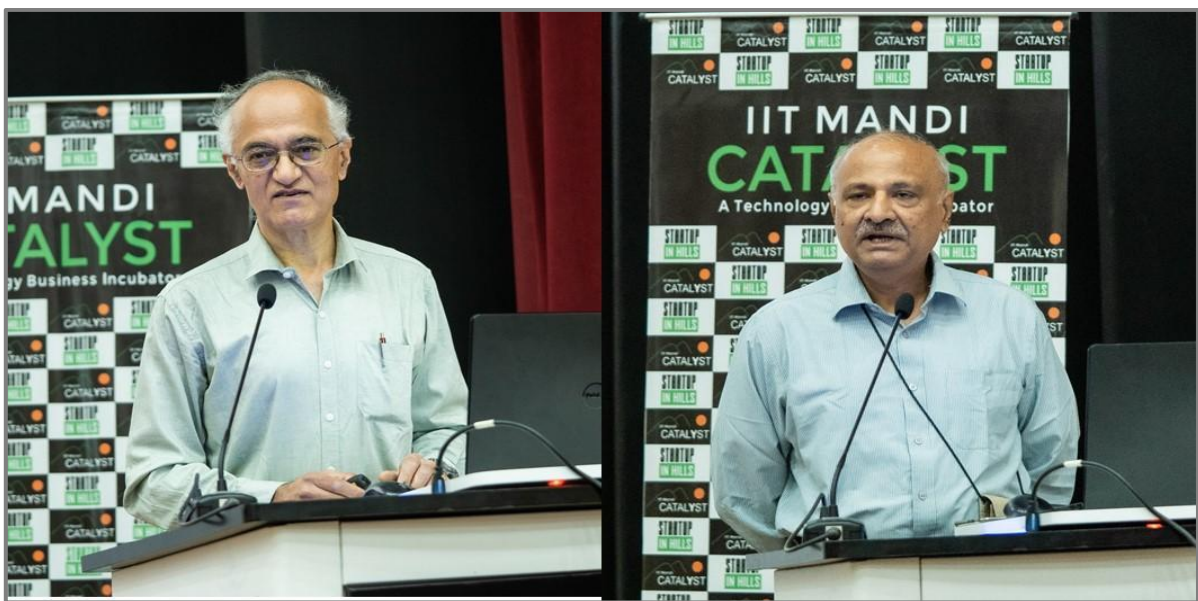


*building solutions for Himalayan Region*

## Inaugural Session

The first edition of Himalayan Innovation Challenge (HIC) was held on May 25-26, 2019 at the IIT Mandi Campus in Himachal Pradesh. HIC 2019 was successful in bringing together a range of individuals and organizations that care about building solutions for the Himalayan Region and are willing to ideate, deliberate, debate and innovate to this end. HIC 2019 was designed to actuate a series of innovative technology-based solutions designed specifically to solve social and economic problems in the Himalayan regions of the world.

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 inviting all the budding entrepreneurs to join this exciting journey to build the future. Prof. Gonsalves said, *“Understand, Compare, Assess, Adopt and Develop, are the key features required for a startup. I hope all the budding entrepreneurs and IIT Mandi Catalyst will make a big mark in the betterment of Himalayan Region.”*



**Prof. T A Gonsalves (left) and Prof. N S Dinesh (Right) addressing the audience during inaugural session of HIC 2019**

Prof N S Dinesh shared learnings from his experiences of many years of product building and encouraged the participants to make products that are useful to the society. This was followed by the keynote address by Ambar Srivastava, Founder, Wrig Nanosystems. Mr. Srivastava pointed that in the fast-moving world of today one needs to innovate at a constant pace. He stressed on how entrepreneurship is instrumental in bringing innovative ideas to the forefront. *“We need new innovative ideas and entrepreneurship is the best way to bring these new ideas into the light. We are living in a world where entrepreneurship is the best career option. ‘Philosophical grooming’, ‘having a passion for productivity’ and ‘to keep evolving’, are three elements for becoming a successful entrepreneur”*, he said.



**Mr. Ambar Srivastava delivering the keynote address during inaugural session of HIC 2019**

### **Panel Discussion**

A panel discussion on ‘Entrepreneurship in Himalayan Region: Role of Institutions and Entrepreneurs’ followed the keynote address. Moderated by Mr. Saurabh Mittal, Founder QYON, the panel included Mr Ajay Kara, Director, Agri and Natural Resources, PWC, Mr. Varun Rattan Singh, Founder, Development Logics, Dr. Shyam Masakapalli, Assistant Professor, IIT Mandi, Mr. Rajesh Jain, MD, WAPP Systems. The discussion highlighted the role that educational institutions like IIT Mandi have in developing the entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Himalayan region. Also, the panel brought forth a range of themes that were relevant to innovators and entrepreneurs in the Himalayan region.



**Panellists (L to R): Mr. Saurabh Mittal, Mr. Rajesh Jain, Mr. Varun Singh, Mr. Ajay Kakra, Dr. Shyam K. Masakapalli**



## Role of Catalyst in Building Solutions in Himalayas

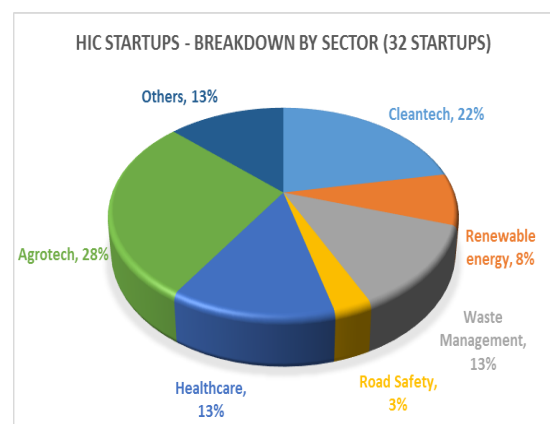
Dr. Puran Singh, Faculty in-charge IIT Mandi Catalyst introduced the incubator to the audience and said *“IIT Mandi Catalyst is a low cost-high end destination for startups and functions as a facilitator and enabler of innovation. With a focus on building solutions for the Himalayan region, Catalyst has intellectual resources available at IIT Mandi to nurture new startups. To address and building solutions for issues in the Himalayan region, Catalyst invites you to build products at IIT Mandi and to startup in hills.”*



## Participation by Startups

32 startup teams out of over 120 applicants were shortlisted to participate in the event. The startups encompassed a range of sectors including cleantech, agro-tech, waste management, renewable energy, road safety and healthcare participated in the pitch competition for incubation support at IIT Mandi.

The teams also competed to win cash prizes worth INR 1 Lakhs sponsored by Himachal Pradesh Centre for Entrepreneurship, Dept of Industries, HP.



Breakdown of Startups by sector



Participants during HIC 2019

## Pitch by Startups

Closed door pitch sessions were held during which startup teams presented their innovative ideas and showcased products to a panel of experts. The panel handpicked as many as 15 innovative ideas and Catalyst will enable these innovators/ entrepreneurs in prototyping, testing and implementing to create an impact in the Himalayan region. Three of the top teams were picked for the cash prizes.







**Startup teams presenting their ideas to the jury of experts**



## **Speaker session**

Mr. Varun Rattan Singh and Mr. Rajesh Jain shared their respective entrepreneurial journeys with an interactive audience of participating teams and IIT Mandi students on day two.



**Mr. Rajesh Jain sharing his entrepreneurial journey with startups**



**Mr. Varun Rattan Singh sharing his entrepreneurial journey with startups**

## Startup Showcase

Startup teams had an opportunity to exhibit their prototypes and products during HIC 2019. A total of 20 start-up teams setup display booths in the exhibition area and received valuable feedback from participants.



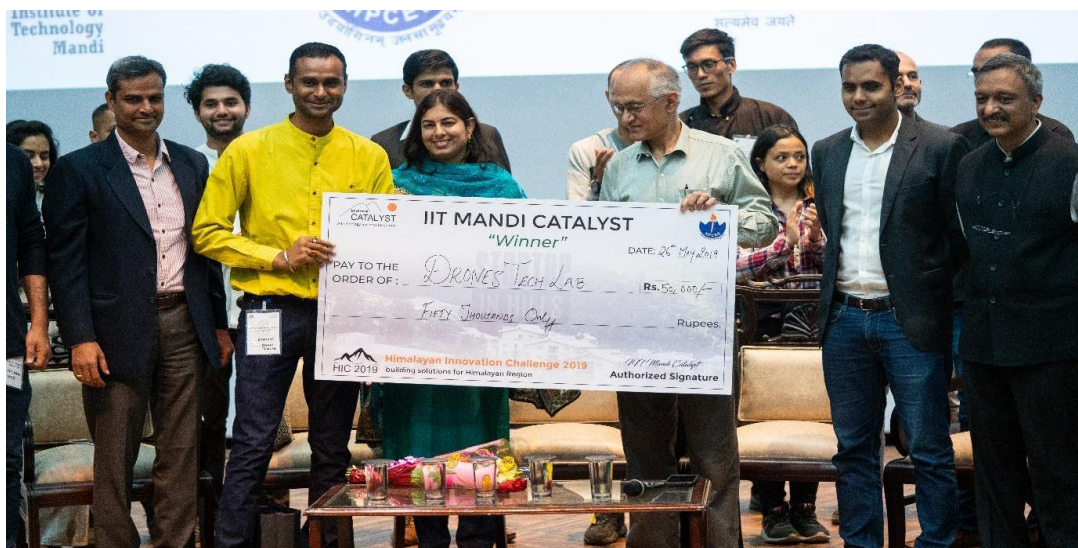
Teams showcasing their products at display booths



## Closing & Prize Distribution

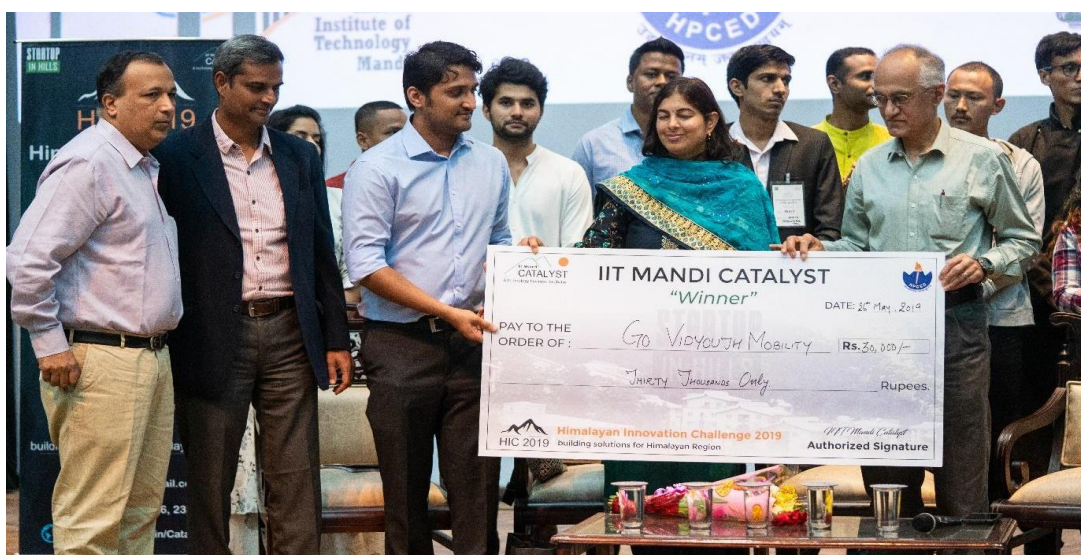
Total prize money of INR 1 lakh was awarded to top three ideas out of the thirty-two startups that made presentations during the HIC 2019. The cash prize was sponsored by HP Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Department of Industries, Himachal Pradesh Government. Ms. Deepika Rana, Deputy Director, Department of Industries, Himachal Pradesh, Prof. T A Gonsalves, Mr. Ambar Srivastava and Mr. Rajesh Jain handed the prizes to the winning teams.

**‘Drones Tech Lab’ won the First prize of INR 50,000:** The startup provides Smart IoT based precision agriculture package including hardware, software and easy data analytic platform to reduce losses being incurred by farmers due to the absence of proper smart precision IoT based Agri solutions for pre, post and during cultivation.



**Team Drone Tech receiving the Top Award during HIC 2019**

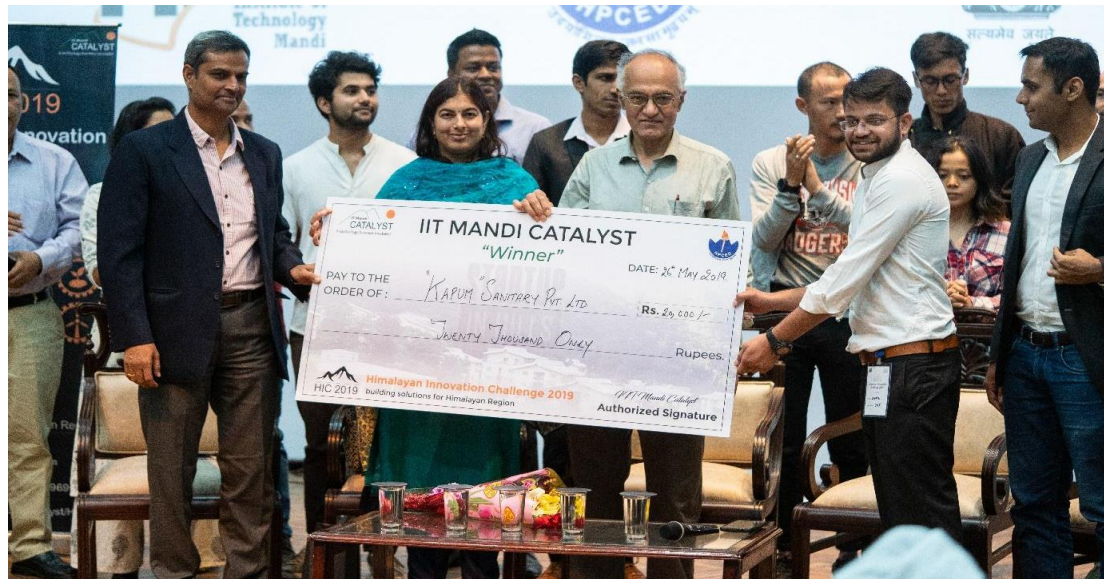
**‘Go Vidyouth Mobility’ won the Second prize of INR 30,000:** Go Vidyouth is building a low-cost extended range Electric Two-Wheeler with zero emissions in EV mode/ low emissions in the range extender (REx) mode that eliminates vehicle dependence on charging stations.



**Team Go Vidyouth Mobility receiving the First Runner up Award during HIC 2019**



**KapUM won the Third prize of INR 20,000:** KapUM has built a mechanically actuated auto-flush for toilets with locking and unlocking mechanism that makes operation and maintenance easy for public toilets.



**Team KapUM receiving the Second Runner up Award during HIC 2019**

In addition to the top three teams, Catalyst picked 15 teams that will be offered incubation support at IIT Mandi Catalyst, the first technology business incubator in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The teams will be provided mentoring and financial support to build their product and commercialize in a phased manner.



**15 Shortlisted startup teams during closing ceremony of HIC 2019**



## THANKS!

Team Catalyst would like to thank the speakers, jury, guests, startups, participants, volunteers and members of organizing committees for making HIC 2019 a big success! A special thanks to sponsors and partners.



## What's Next from Catalyst?

IIT Mandi Catalyst will come back with the third edition of its Annual Flagship Event, '**Himalayan Startup Trek**' in September 2019. We look forward to your continued support. Stay tuned for more.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Edition**

# Himalayan Startup Trek 2019

**“The Annual Flagship Event”**

Panel Discussion

Pitching

Investors

Mentoring

Funding

Incubation

Startup

Networking

Innovation