



# HIMALAYAN HEMP

*Social enterprise with a cooperative model (Estd. in 2019)*

## PROFILE

### Type

Social Enterprise

### Industry

Cannabis and hemp

### Headquarter

Kangra, HP

### Products and Services

Hemp sanitary pads, hempcrete blocks, hemp seed oil, hemp seed protein powder, hemp fabrics, hemp fiber, hemp hurds

## CONTACT US



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## ➤ CO-FOUNDERS

### HANEESH KATNAWER

*BE (Production Engineering) with 10 years experience in Lean Six Sigma*

### SONAM RATUBHA SODHA

*MBA (HR, IBM and International Trade) with 9 years of experience in HR and admin.*



Himalayan Hemp is a national and international award-winning social enterprise co-founded by Haneesh Katnawer and Sonam Ratubha Sodha in 2019 with an objective to preserve the indigenous varieties of cannabis and hemp plants in the Himalayan Range.



Himalayan Hemp began with an aim to make World's 1st reusable, compostable, super-absorbent and rash-resistant hemp sanitary pads and with the help of various government grants, they are in the process of launching their sanitary pads. In line with the menstrual hygiene, they are also working parallelly on other products such as hempcrete blocks, architectural design services, consultancy services, and textiles research,

“50,000 plus products like medicine, paper, and bio-plastic can be made from this amazing plant. It can bring environmental and economic changes globally. My vision is to bring justice to the taboo plant, spread more awareness, and holistically preserve the Himalayan variety of cannabis and hemp, and we named our community Himalayan Hemp.”

- **Sonam Ratubha Sodha, Co-founder, Himalayan Hemp**



Himalayan Hemp represents an Indian hemp-based social enterprise established in 2019 with an aim to revive the marginalised and narcotic-affected communities of the Himalayan Range by creating a cooperative model with eco-conscious product training and research based on sustainable products made by the cannabis and hemp plants.

During our continued extensive research concerning the significance of hemp fibre in the textile industry, our team took upon an incredible prospect and mission of creating India's first 100% organic hemp-based sanitary pad set to revolutionise the menstrual hygiene industry, which received recognition and monetary grants from Central Government.

Unlike traditional sanitary napkins made from synthetic materials that can substantially impact women's health, making them increasingly predisposed to debilitating ailments, our hemp fibre napkins are free from pernicious chemicals, fragrances and toxins. Furthermore, hemp fabric is naturally highly absorbent and durable, making it appropriate for multiple uses compared to cloth fabrics. It possesses an immense potential to positively impact local economies by enabling farming activities and production while being environmentally conscious. Our Organisation fundamentally envisions dispelling social stigmas surrounding menstruation and empowering rural women in India by equipping them with accessible, affordable and effective menstrual hygiene products.

Despite numerous technical impediments, our team of experts established the project 'hemp slap' and fully substituted synthetic materials in constructing one of India's first permanent and habitable structures in Himachal Pradesh, which received remarkable recognition as an awardee in the National Startup Awards, 2023. Additionally, our substantiated business model and its demonstrated growth potential successfully qualified us for several accelerator/incubator programmes, including FLCTD (Facility for Low Carbon Technology Deployment), UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation), Niti Ayog and AIC-Sangam.