



Mr. Harish Mehta is known as one of the driving forces behind galvanizing the Indian IT industry. He co-founded nasscom in 1988 and was first elected Chairman. He continues to be the Convener of its Chairman's Council.

Mr. Mehta is also the award-winning author of the 2022 national bestseller 'The Maverick Effect'. Inspired by *The Maverick Effect*, a Harvard case study on the power of self-regulation has been introduced. The message of the book continues to expand its reach through paperback, translated Gujarati, and Audible audiobook versions, with forthcoming editions in Hindi and Marathi. The IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry has introduced the 'Maverick Effect Awards' as part of their annual Digital Innovation Awards to recognize the transformative ideas in Mr. Mehta's book. He is passionately taking the message of 'The Maverick Effect' all over India and abroad from emerging economies like Nepal to developed economies like UK, spanning industry associations, educational institutes, leadership forums, global MNCs and NGOs.

He also brought Silicon Valley's The Indus Entrepreneurs or TiE to India in 1999, to promote innovation driven entrepreneurship. He focused on attracting exceptional talent to non-profits, bringing in the likes of Dewang Mehta to nasscom in 1991, and Rajiv Vaishnav to TiE Mumbai in 1999. Today, nasscom and TiE stand tall enabling startups and tech companies as well as India's digital transformation.

Mr. Harish Mehta's entrepreneurial journey is embodied by the Onward Group of Companies. He was the Dy. Chairman and MD of Onward Novell (1992-2005), a 50:50 JV between Onward Group and Novell, Inc. (2nd

largest personal software company globally then). Under his guidance, Onward Technologies has flourished as a global engineering and digital services organization - making its mark amongst the largest 2000 global companies in North America & Europe. Previously, he was one of the chief architects of the Hinditron–Digital (DEC) JV in India in 1987.

He is a founding member at Infinity Ventures Fund, India's first corporatized venture fund. He also promoted the Indian Angel Network (IAN) in Mumbai, one of the largest angel networks in the world. Under the aegis of G20/S20, he was a key member of the team tasked with crafting a comprehensive, self-regulatory corporate governance framework tailored to the unique needs of startups.

He was director at College of Engineering, Pune (COEP) from 2010 to 2015 and was recognized as a distinguished alumnus in 1995. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including lifetime achievement honors and titles such as CEO of the Year, from the likes of Dataquest and IMC among others.

He is an active volunteer of Onward Foundation & Dewang Mehta Foundation.

Mr. Harish Mehta holds a bachelor's in electrical engineering from COEP and a master's in computer science from Tandon School of Engineering NYU (F.K.A. Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute).