

A step towards Nation Building

HCLTech Grant Granule

(December 2025 -January 2026)



HCLTech Grant Edition XI Rollout

The journey of HCLTech Grant Edition XI crossed 3 major milestones in the months of December and January! Having cleared the Sub-Jury round, shortlisted organizations from all four categories are now undergoing thorough due diligence and video shoots, in preparation for the HCLTech Grant Jury Review.

Consolidation Meeting

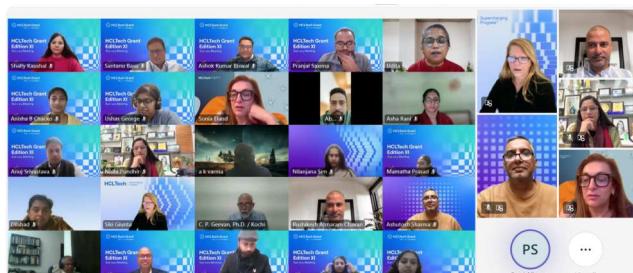
After intensive field evaluations and expert deliberations, 40 Social Purpose Organizations were shortlisted for their incredible innovative projects in the thematic categories of Biodiversity, Water, Health and Education. The subject matter experts, HCLFoundation team members along with the governance partner – Grant Thornton, deliberated on the merits of each proposal and selected 10 organizations from each category for the next round. These 40 organizations and their transformative work on ground will be featured in the HCLTech Grant Compendium – The Fifth Estate.



Consolidation Meeting with Subject matter experts and HCL Foundation team members

Sub-Jury Review

The Sub-Jury of HCLTech Grant shortlisted the final 3 Non profit organizations each in the thematic categories of Biodiversity, Water, Education and Health in the 5th stage of HCLTech Grant Edition XI.



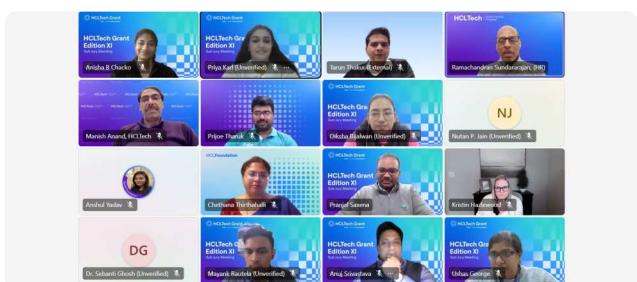
Sub-lury Review - Biodiversity



Sub-lury Review - Water



Sub-Jury Review - Education



Sub-Jury Review - Health

These 12 shortlisted organizations are currently undergoing the final round of Due Diligence by our governance partner through thorough background checks, review of relevant documents and discussions with the personnel, executives, board members and stakeholders to ensure complete transparency and operational excellence. While the governance team crunch the numbers, the production team is hitting the road. To truly understand the merit of a project, our jurors need to see it in action. Our video team is currently on ground with the 12 finalists, capturing the on-ground reality of the organizations and the project. These videos will serve as a bridge between the remote field sites and the esteemed jury panel, showcasing the raw potential and human impact of these projects in high definition, helping the jurors to move beyond spreadsheets to see the faces and communities that will be transformed by these initiatives. The final winner in each category will receive a grant of ₹5 Crore for a four-year project, while the runners-up will receive ₹50 Lakhs each.



Glimpses from Video shoots of top 12 finalists for HCLTech Grant Edition XI

Partnerships Bulletin

Expanding strategic partnerships for Biodiversity Conservation

Lokmata Rani Rashmoni Mission (LRRM) is the #Environment category winner of the HCLTech Grant Edition X. The organization, awarded for its project Conservation of Biodiversity for Life and Livelihood is working towards conservation of soil biodiversity, agro and freshwater aqua biodiversity, village and forest biodiversity, livestock biodiversity and creating the first school level Biodiversity Education Centre and Village Biodiversity Park. To achieve the objectives of the project and to dive deeper into the work of conservation of biodiversity, Manos Unidas and PwC India Foundation have also agreed to extend its support to LRRM. Manos Unidas will support in the excavation / re-excavation of 200 ponds for rainwater harvesting as a co-finance activity and engage another 250 landless farmers in Black Bengal Goat Rearing activities. LRRM will work with PwC India Foundation for project Mukti to install 1034 additional Improve Cook Stoves and setup 200 Nutrition cum Conservation Garden and involve 200 more women in indigenous poultry business, which will further support in the idea of the project being executed by HCLFoundation.

Board Visit to HCLTech Grant projects in Tamil Nadu

Mr. Simon John England, Board of Director, HCLTech and CSR Committee Member visited the HCLTech Grant Project sites in Kotagiri & Chennai in Tamil Nadu along with the HCLTech Grant and HCLFoundation team members from 13th to 16th January 2026. The delegates visited the project site of Keystone Foundation, the Edition III HCLTech Grant Winner in the category of #Environment, working towards "Hill waters & wetlands for communities and wildlife - Eco restoration & applied ecology and Advocacy in Nilgiri Biosphere reserve in Tamil Nadu. The visit included an immersive walkthrough of the Longwood Shola forest in the Nilgiris, now recognized as a Ramsar site for its unique biodiversity and critical hydrological importance to understand the local ecology and the changes resulting from Keystone's intervention, particularly the regeneration of native plant species, improved water retention in the watershed and increased habitat protection for endemic species. The team also interacted with community members in Aracode, who shared their experiences of adopting sustainable practices and observing tangible improvements in water availability and reduced human-wildlife conflict.



HCLTech Delegation on site with the Keystone Foundation team

They also visited the wetland in Indco serve tea factory, where the women from local self-help groups spoke about their involvement in sustainable livelihood activities and micro enterprises.

The discussions with the Keystone team focused on the extensive ecological restoration work undertaken across the Nilgiri landscape with HCLTech Grant that continued and further strengthened and enhanced in their present collaboration with Harit by HCLFoundation.

On January 15 and 16, 2026, the team visited Gurupriya Vision Research Foundation, the HCLTech Grant Edition X Winner in the category of #Health, working towards the project, "Vision on Wheels" that focuses on eradicating childhood blindness due to Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) across over 10,000 villages in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Without timely diagnosis and treatment, this condition can lead to retinal detachment and irreversible blindness. Early screening, preferably within the first few weeks of life is critical, and Gurupriya's work bridges this crucial gap. The delegation met the Foundation's leadership and team to understand the model of the project. The mobile outreach and tele-ophthalmology systems enable weekly screenings across multiple districts that ensure early ROP detection and treatment. The team visited the District Early Intervention Centre at Chengalpattu Medical College where they demonstrated how diagnoses are made on site and how immediate treatment decisions are taken for infants identified with ROP.

These visits highlighted how HCLTech's support empowers organizations to drive sustainable, grassroots change. To build on this momentum, Witnessing the change driven by these partnerships, Mr. Simon recommended expanding ROP screening into the underserved regions and integrating AI solutions to improve early detection, streamline workflows and support clinical decision-making.



HCLTech delegation with the Gurupriya Vision Research Foundation team

Taking Initiative, Paying Attention and Making Meaning

In the district of Vidisha and Raisen, Madhya Pradesh the team of Sangath conducted formative qualitative research to explore beliefs and practices and aspirations of the community health workers, community health officers and caregivers. The study focused on ANC and PNC care, nutrition, and modalities of early childhood caring, rearing and stimulation practices that exist in the community setting.

This work highlighted a wide range of culturally motivated behaviours in the daily lives of families that contribute to poor health outcomes. There is a visible reluctance around child immunization since many families associate vaccines with harm, rather than protection. Seasonal migration is another major barrier, where families frequently move out for economic opportunities that disrupts continual maternal health follow-ups and child nutrition monitoring. Pregnant women often avoid going to the hospital for regular checkups citing costs and time away from work or home duties.

This observational learning provides a critical evidence base, documenting the localized factors of affecting maternal and child health in the community. More specifically, these conversations unpacked potential interpretations and suggestions of targeted messaging that validates local needs, including breastfeeding techniques, maternal nutrition, timely vaccination, family planning, mother-child bonding, kangaroo care for preterm babies, and father's involvement.



Focus Group Discussion with CHOs, Sangath, Madhya Pradesh

Stories of Transformation

Reviving Nature and its Allies

The Corbett Foundation (TCF) in Kutch recently witnessed the roosting of 30-50 harriers (Pallid and Montagu's) at the restoring grassland plots of Kanakpar, Kutch. This is a profound achievement as Harriers provide important ecosystem services, that make them "friends of farmers", especially when their population has been declining globally, and habitat loss is a major threat.

Their diet consists mainly of locusts, grasshoppers, and other invertebrates, and as per a study, Montagu's harrier in captivity consumes an average of 28 gm of insects per day. A single flock of harriers in the Bhal region of Gujarat was once estimated to consume between 2 and 2.5 million locusts during a single winter season. This figure highlights their voracious appetite and indicates how they help reduce the need for pesticides. These are the indirect economic and ecological benefits of grassland restoration.

TCF, the #Environment category winner of the HCLTech Grant Edition IX is one of the pioneers in working in grassland restoration and has been working in this area for the last 10 years. They received the Grant for the project, "Guardians of Grasslands: Empowering Communities to safeguard pastures for the long-term conservation of critically endangered bustards and associated species in Kutch, Gujarat." The presence of these Harriers in this region underscores the value of TCF's community-based, conservation-oriented habitat restoration work. These restored grassland plots are now home to nearly 300 species of flora and fauna, including many threatened species.



Harrier sightings at The Corbett Foundation, Kanakpar, Kutch

A story of Leadership and Empowerment

Sajeena Nisar, who was previously a homemaker, joined the PlanatEarth team as an upcycling artist, where she received skill-based training in waste-to-value practices and actively participated in environmental production and awareness activities. Her continuous engagement with the project enhanced her confidence, communication abilities, and understanding of community issues, enabling her to emerge as a socially aware and capable leader. This personal and professional transformation was reflected during the recent Panchayat elections, in which she was elected as the Ward Member of Ward No. 11, Karumaloor Grama Panchayat. Her journey from a household role to an elected representative highlights the role of sustainable livelihood opportunities in fostering women's leadership, empowerment, and meaningful participation in local governance, aligning strongly with HCLFoundation's vision of inclusive and community-driven development.



From homemaker to Ward member -
Sajeena Nisar, Karumaloor Grama Panchayat

Dreams beyond Disease

Eighteen-year-old Aanchal Kumari from Parsa Panchayat, Shivaji Nagar Block, dreamt of becoming a teacher after completing her intermediate studies. She had just started preparing for D.El.Ed when her parents began discussing her marriage.

Aanchal's family had already faced several health struggles. Her mother Manju Devi, once a TB patient, had recovered after private treatment; her father Rampunit Mandal, a bus driver, is HIV positive and had completed TB treatment three years earlier.

When Aanchal developed a high fever and a lump in her neck, her parents sought private treatment in Baheri, spending heavily without improvement. Fearing social stigma that might affect her marriage, they avoided the local PHC and went to DMCH Darbhanga, where tests confirmed glandular TB. Shocked and heartbroken, Aanchal feared her dreams were slipping away.

With the support of Pratima Ji, the block coordinator at Innovators in Health, India, Aanchal began DS-TB treatment at PHC Shivaji Nagar. However, after a month with no improvement, further tests revealed Drug-Resistant TB (DR-TB). She was referred to Sadar Hospital, Samastipur, where Longer Regimen DR-TB treatment was started.

The journey was tough, but Aanchal's determination never faded. With counselling, care, and regular medication, her health gradually improved. Now, three months into treatment, Aanchal has resumed her online studies, hopeful once again about her future.

Her story reflects not just the struggle against TB, but also the strength of a young girl who refused to let illness define her dreams.



IIH team visiting Aanchal Kumari

Reopening of Anemala AWC (tribal hamlet)

In the tribal Anemala hamlet, 35-year-old teacher Puttamma couldn't operate the Anganwadi for 4 years due to no building, limiting services to home-delivered PVTG rations with zero preschool attendance. The circle coordinator communicated with local leaders, WCD department for a new structure, and door-to-door parent visits emphasizing preschool benefits. An Anganwadi Habba at DB Kuppe PHC showcased activities, enlightening parents and inspiring Puttamma to start preschool activities in a PHC premises in an open space. These efforts revived the centre: today, 12-15 children attend regularly, making the preschool environment fully active once more.



Puttamma with her Anganwadi children at Anemala hamlet, Makkala Jagriti, Karnataka

From Early Marriage Risk to University Scholarship

Kanchan entered Yuwa School at age 8, unable to read or write, from a subsistence-farming family where girls were expected to drop out and marry young. Through a decade in Yuwa's football and life-skills environment, she became a workshop facilitator, developed confidence, and persisted academically despite family pressure. This quarter she received a full four-year scholarship to Kumaraguru University (Tamil Nadu), including room and board. Kanchan describes herself as a dreamer who learned at Yuwa how to take daily steps toward her goals. Her journey reflects Yuwa's long-term impact on education, leadership, and mobility for rural girls.

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