

# A step towards Nation Building **HCLTech Grant Granule**

(October - November 2025)

Unveiling of Briefing Booklet



# HCLTech Grant Edition XI Rollout

## Edition XI completes Stage 4 of the Selection process

HCLTech Grant Edition XI received 300 innovative, scalable and sustainable detailed project proposals from 300 shortlisted organizations and were reviewed by the subject matter experts and HCLFoundation team members. In the Detailed Proposal Review held on October 8th, 9th, 10th and 13th, for the categories of Education, Water, Biodiversity and Health respectively, 60 NGOs were selected for the next stage.

The field level due diligence for these organizations were carried out by subject matter experts and HCLFoundation team members starting 24th October 2025 till the end of November 2025. These visits allow the evaluation team to gain deeper insights into the impact, sustainability, and on-ground engagement of each proposed initiative, ultimately helping identify the most promising projects for the prestigious HCLTech Grant Edition XI. The team ensures that only the most credible, impactful, and sustainable organisations advance to the final stages of the prestigious HCLTech Grant selection.



Subject Matter Experts and HCLFoundation team members at the Detailed Proposal Reviews

# Celebrating Partnerships

## HCLTech Grant India celebrates a decade of purpose, partnerships and progress

HCLTech Grant India has successfully completed a decade of working with the communities in the rural hinterlands by empowering the Fifth Estate – the Non-Profit Organizations. Launched on 16th January 2015, Mr. Shiv Nadar, Founder of HCL, announced a 100-crore commitment towards identifying, supporting and scaling the work of SPOs that are driving impactful change in the core areas of Environment, Health and Education.

Graced by the jury members of the HCLTech Grant, Ms. Robin Ann Abrams, Chairperson, HCLTech Grant; Ms. Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson – HCLTech, Trustee – Shiv Nadar Foundation, Founder & Trustee – The Habitats Trust, Chairperson – CSR; Mr. Suresh Narayanan, Former Chairman and MD, Nestle India Ltd.; Mr. B. S. Baswan, retired IAS Officer, the event was a celebration of a decade of partnership with these grassroots organizations. The event also witnessed the esteemed presence of Mr. Shiv Walia, CFO, HCLTech; Mr. Rahul Singh, COO, HCLTech; Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, SVP – Global CSR, HCLTech and Director, HCLFoundation, among other dignitaries, partners and changemakers.

The ceremony was opened by the children from Bal Raksha Bharat's Peace Project with HCLFoundation in Leh who performed a beautiful rendition of nomadic songs and dance.



10 Year Celebration of HCLTech Grant



Children from Bal Raksha Bharat, Leh, performing for the opening ceremony of the celebration

## A Decade of Impact



Welcome address by Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, SVP, Global CSR, HCLTech & Director, HCLFoundation

### The Journey So Far: Dr. Nidhi Pundhir on the 10 Year Journey

Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, in her welcome address highlighted the impact of the diverse projects under HCLTech Grant across the 22 States and 2 Union Territories in these 10 years. She expressed her gratitude to Ms. Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson, HCLTech and Jury member, sub-jury, subject matter experts, and the core team of HCLTech Grant. While introducing all the HCLFoundation programmes, she asserted how HCLTech Grant has been one of the boldest CSR grants of the country, which has been implemented by several others.

She quoted Malcolm Gladwell from his book, "The Tipping point", 'The tipping point is that 'magic moment', when an idea, trend or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips and spreads like wildfire. HCLTech Grant has been that idea and today it is owned by all of us'. What began as a simple idea to strengthen India's most effective non-profits has reached a tipping point where it has evolved into a self-sustaining movement of trust, transparency and transformation.

"The true impact of the HCLTech Grant goes beyond numbers; it is seen in restored dignity and transformed lives at the last mile."

The impact of the work carried out under the HCLTech Grant programme was captured in an Impact Book, which is a testament to collaboration, community leadership and meaningful partnerships across India and was unveiled by the Jury members during the ceremony. On this occasion, the HCLTech Grant Edition X winners and recipients were awarded certificates by the esteemed Jury members. Every moment resonated with pride and gratitude.

**87,636**

organizations registered

**13,383**

completed applications

**169.3 Cr**

funds committed

**67**

projects

**2.3 M**

lives impacted

**22 States and 2 Union Territories.**



#### Winners

● Health

● Education

● Environment

#### Runners-up

▲ Health

▲ Education

▲ Environment

## The Chairperson's address

Delivering the keynote address, Ms. Roshni Nadar Malhotra stated, that Mr. Nadar's vision for HCLFoundation was to create a credible group of NGOs to help strengthen their governance and scalability and to serve as a bridge between donors and

deserving organizations. Till date, HCLTech Grant has not just given funding, but as an investment in India's changemakers who are now building stronger self-reliant communities every single day.

She remarked, "HCLTech Grant is more than a CSR Programme; it's a partnership which is built on trust, purpose and shared commitment to reach the last mile and to ensure no community and no potential is left behind. What Mr. Nadar said more than a decade ago, still guides us today, that Excellence needs an enabling environment."

Citing Mr. Nadar's analogy of a 100 meter race, noting that unless everyone begins at the same starting point, it is unfair to expect them to succeed or scale, she says "HCLTech Grant is one such initiative within the HCLFoundation that makes sure that everybody is fair at the 100 mtr line."



Keynote address by Ms. Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson, HCLTech

## Concluding Remark by the Chair of the HCLTech Grant Jury

Ms. Robin Abrams concluded the event by thanking, appreciating and recognizing all the organizations on behalf of the HCLTech Grant Jury for the confidence, trust, and dedication to their own mission, while reminding that there is more work to be done.

She also encouraged organizations to challenge themselves to explore AI, experiment and integrate it into workflows and projects to create tangible results.



Concluding remark by Ms. Robin Abrams, Chairperson, HCLTech Grant Jury

## Glimpses from the Cultural evening

The evening shimmered with cultural performances, shared stories, and heartfelt reflections, under the tree of life - a reminder that when communities, corporates, and compassion come together, progress follows.



Meghshala Trust's Music Band performs at the Cultural Eve



A performance by Lokmata Rani Rashmoni Mission

## Partners' Meet 2025

The Partner Meet on November 7, 2025, carried this spirit forward, with grassroots organizations sharing their journeys and the collective vision for the road ahead. The meet was not just a reflection on the past, but a forward-looking summit aimed at scaling "The Fifth Estate" – the robust network of NGOs driving change in India's most remote corners. All the winners of HCLTech Grant spoke about their projects and shared their best practices.



HCLTech Grant team and the partner organizations at the Partners' Meet 2025



## At the National Conference & Exhibition on CSR

A national conference & exhibition on Corporate Social Responsibility (NCCSR 2025) on Leveraging CSR Excellence on Tribal Development at The Ashoka Hotel on 6th & 7th October 2025. Dr. Ushas George, Program Officer, HCLTech Grant attended the conference along with other HCLFoundation team members. The conference included various multi-stakeholder panel discussions by the experts, leadership talks on corporate commitment and policy level strategies that need to be in place and exhibition space on models by best CSR practices that would foster tribal development.



HCLFoundation team members at the National Conference & Exhibition on CSR

# Partnerships Bulletin

## Delegates from HCLTech and HCLFoundation visit The Corbett Foundation in Kutch, Gujarat

HCLFoundation delegates visited The Corbett Foundation, the #Environment category winner of HCLTech Grant Edition IX to witness the ongoing project, "Guardians of Grasslands: Empowering communities to safeguard pastures for the long-term conservation of critically endangered bustards and associated species in Kutch, Gujarat". Chair of the HCLTech Grant Jury, Ms. Robin Abrams and Dr. Nidhi Pundhir along with Ms. Simi Suri and members of the HCLTech Grant team, engaged closely with communities and conservation partners working to protect the fragile landscape of Naliya along with the Director of TCF, Mr. Kedar Gore, Mr. Jhala, Dr. Rather and Ms. Vidhi where they encountered one of India's rarest living treasures – the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB). Across every interaction, the spirit of Kutch – its communities, biodiversity, and conservation champions – shone through, demonstrating how meaningful change unfolds when leadership, grassroots action, and scientific commitment unite.



Ms. Robin Abrams, Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, and Ms. Simi Suri with the rural community in Kutch, The Corbett Foundation



On ground exploration of the work executed by The Corbett Foundation, Kutch, Gujarat

## Mr. Robin G Thomas visits Pallium India Trust

Mr. Robin G Thomas, Associate General Manager, HCLTech Grant visited Pallium India Trust - the #Health category recipient of the Edition X HCLTech Grant. The aim of the visit was to meet the leadership and team of the organization including Dr. M. R. Rajagopal, Chairman Emeritus and Founder, Binod Hariharan, Chairman & CEO and Shriya Singh COO; discuss the possibilities of collaboration and volunteering; and engage with the community to better understand the work executed by Pallium India Trust under the project - "Palliative care service delivery through home visits in Rural Trivandrum". He also visited homes in the area Vilappilsala, under the City 2 Homecare team along with Sr. Falin Jothi, Deepak C Zachariah and Palliative care assistant – Abhilash. The project focuses on delivering accessible, compassionate palliative care to individuals in their homes and thus enhance the quality of life for patients and families while addressing healthcare disparities.



Mr. Robin G Thomas visiting the homes of people receiving Palliative care support



## Exploring the work of PlanatEarth

Mr. Robin G Thomas, Associate General Manager, HCLTech Grant and Ms. Prakriti Khar, Deputy Manager, HCLFoundation visited PlanatEarth, the Edition VIII HCLTech Grant #Environment category award winner, on 25th and 26th November 2025. The team gave a detailed presentation on the progress of Project DROP (Drive to Recover Ocean Plastic) and Project VMF (Vembanad's Macro Fight), where they shared the waste collection and recovery achievements, upcycling and circular economy models, community engagement and operational developments. The team visited the Upcycling Unit, where they observed the waste art techniques and workforce training and empowerment initiatives; and the VMF Production Unit at Puliyannam where they witnessed the Water Hyacinth drying operations, sawdust processing and moisture management, briquette production workflow and material movement and daily output planning. They also interacted with the fishermen community at the collection point of Munnambam Harbour. In the past two years, the project has demonstrated a scientific approach to efficiently integrate waste-to-energy solutions.



Mr. Robin G Thomas and Ms. Prakriti Khar at PlanatEarth, Cochin



Crafts made with ocean plastic by PlanatEarth, Cochin

## Rapid Response in Jammu: She Hope Society Provides Vital Flood Relief

She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs, the Edition IV winner in the category of #Health demonstrated extraordinary commitment by providing immediate humanitarian aid and long-term disaster management support during the recent Jammu flash floods. The flash floods caused by multiple cloudbursts and heavy rains, resulted in numerous deaths and extensive damage to homes and infrastructure.

The She Hope Society undertook relief and rescue operations, provided food, essential kits, mobility aids, and solar lights during the months of August and September in the areas Gujar Nagar, Narwal Jammu, Nagrota Bypass, Upper Barmani, JD Colony Nala, Gujar Colony, Vikram Chowk, and Barmani Jammu, in collaboration with the government departments, Civil Society Jammu and the Government Medical College of Jammu.

We appreciate the impactful work and compassion of She Hope Society in extending support for the flood affected communities during the time of crisis.



Distributing essential kits, food, mobility aids and solar lights at the flood affected areas



Flood Relief and Rescue in Jammu by She Hope Society

# Stories of Transformation

## Help in hand through digitalization

In Pakyong district, at Ahopul Kishan SS, studies Bidhan Limbu, a class 3 student, with a brain disorder. It was remarkable to watch him bloom into an eager learner through the Meghshala app. Once disinterested in reading and writing, Bidhan now thrived with the app's interactive lessons in his native Limbu language. His teacher beamed with pride, crediting Meghshala for unlocking Bidhan's potential. This small victory showcased the power of digital education to change lives, one student at a time.



Students learning through Meghshala App at Ahopul Kishan SS, Pakyong, Sikkim, Meghshala Trust

## Case Study 4: Priya's Essay on Her Mother's Determination to Educate Daughters

Priya, a 6th-standard Yuwa School student, wrote a Hindi essay describing life in an eight-member family where her father's alcoholism led to violence and stigma for not having a son. Despite severe poverty and community ridicule, the mother persisted in enrolling all six daughters in English-medium schools. Priya concludes that the sisters have decided to complete their education and become independent, refusing to accept the fate prescribed for rural girls. Her writing reflects both the harsh realities students face and the shifting aspirations nurtured through Yuwa's safe, supportive academic and life-skills environment.

## Pallium India: Restoring Hope Amid Crisis

When 55-year-old Shibu Kuriakose, a former hotel manager, was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, his life spiraled into uncertainty. Financial constraints reduced his dialysis sessions to half the recommended number, while his family faced homelessness and emotional collapse—his wife, the sole caregiver, battled suicidal thoughts under crushing responsibility. With no steady income and an elder son's education at risk, the situation was dire.

Pallium India through a systems approach. Through Pallium India's intervention through the HCLTech Grant project, emergency aid, hospital and living expenses were covered, and a sponsor secured the son's complete education, lifting a major burden. This support not only stabilized the family but also safeguarded Shibu's critical care. The case underscores the transformative power of financial advocacy and long-term donor support in preventing families from slipping back into crisis, turning despair into resilience and hope.

# HCLFoundation

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