

# THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL V



The HCL Grant is a recognition of the rise of community-led ecosystems, Non-Governmental Organizations – The Fifth Estate. The other four estates that democracy rests on are – the legislative, judiciary, executive, and free press. These estates not only define the fabric of our society but also act as potent drivers propelling India to the next level of growth and prosperity. It is imperative that the growth process that we as a nation subscribe to is inclusive, and carries forward all sections of the society across geographies. This is where the community-led ecosystems are destined to play a decisive role in building a stronger, future-ready India.



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VOL V

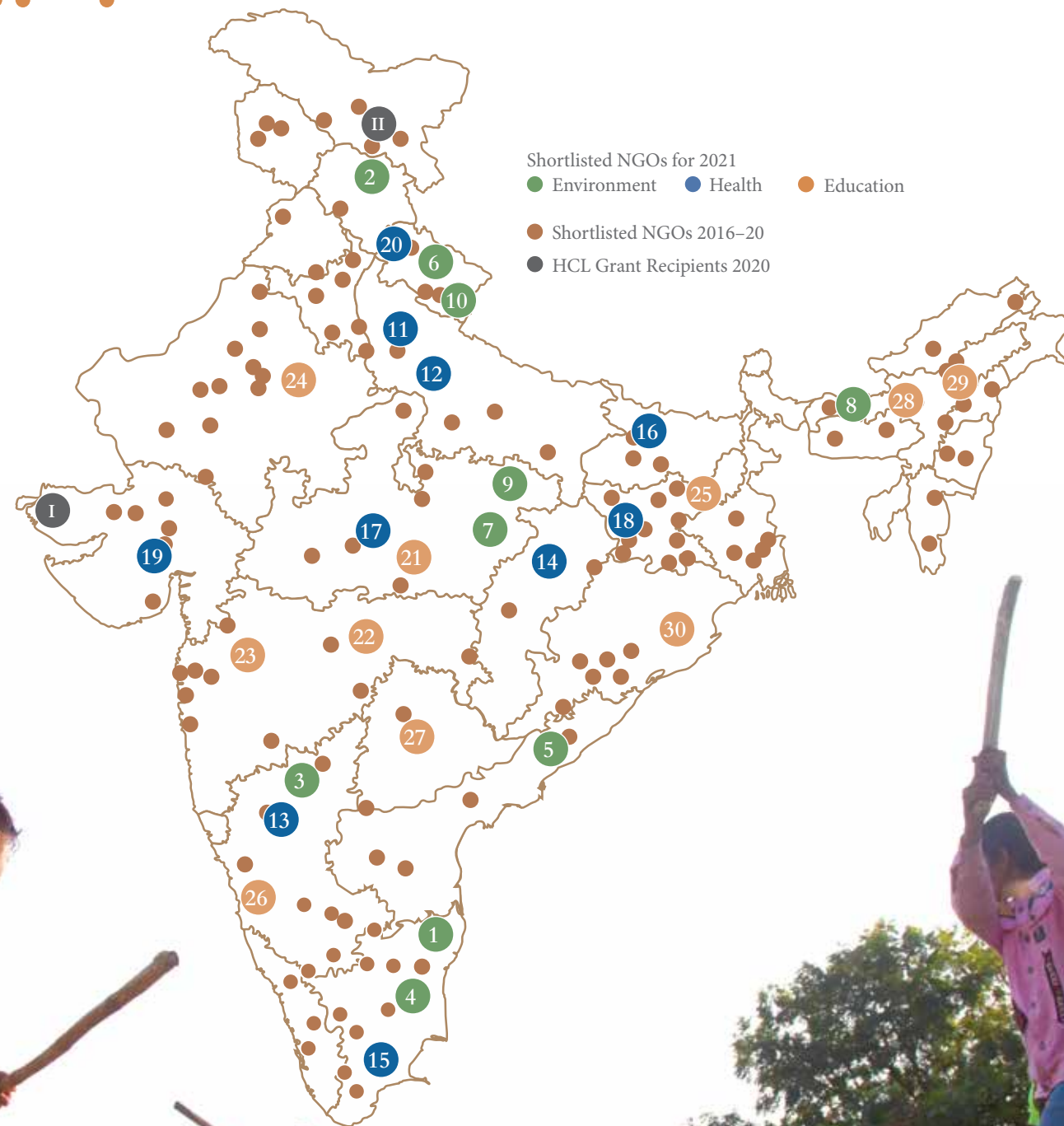
NGOs Transforming Rural India  
in Environment, Health and Education



**HCL**

SHOWCASE  
**Roli Books**

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# RESILIENCE IN ACTION



**THE HCL GRANT**, a flagship programme of the HCL Foundation, began as an idea that sought to institutionalize the process of corporate social responsibility (CSR). In the last six years, the HCL Grant in collaboration with its partners – community-led ecosystems or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) – has worked intensively to create a paradigm shift in the seemingly insurmountable challenges hindering rural development in India. By empowering NGOs, or the Fifth Estate, to metamorphose exciting, innovative ideas into reality and

deliver long-lasting solutions at scale, the HCL Grant has set rolling the unstoppable juggernaut of nation building.

A transparent, incisive and democratic process of application open to all NGOs, field investigations that traverse the length and breadth of the country, external audits by a governance partner and final selection by an eminent expert jury – these rigorous steps cull out highly credible organizations with deep roots in the community, which deserve recognition and funding for their novel programmes. The chosen organizations



present dynamic, holistic and sustainable models of rural transformation in the areas of Environment, Health and Education. The NGOs selected for the HCL Grant receive ₹ 5 Crore (US\$ 0.71 million) each, and the finalists receive ₹ 25 Lakhs (US\$ 0.04 million) towards a project in their chosen area. So far, the HCL Foundation has committed more than ₹ 60 Crore (US\$ 8.34 million) towards the Grants.

The criteria for selection of the NGOs that receive the Grant are exhaustive. They measure the Relevance, Innovation, Sustainability, Scalability, Replicability, Inclusiveness and Financial Modelling of the organization, and of the specific project applied for. These parameters are not merely employed for selection, which is only the first step of the HCL Grant process; they are also used to gauge the actual impact of rolling out and implementing the Grant in a three-five year time frame. Throughout this period, the HCL Foundation fortifies NGOs both programmatically and in governance, enabling them, through a 365-day engagement, to play a decisive role in building an equitable, inclusive, future-ready India. The Grant is designed to buttress these organizations in their determination to construct new frameworks of social change.

And change there has been. Systemic, viable and transformative change. The programmes created by the 17 NGOs that have received the Grant so far, invigorated by the support of the Grant Team, give a voice to the communities themselves to seed that change for long-term

impact, thus escalating development at the grassroots exponentially, even galactically. By encouraging the adoption of these strategies by all stakeholders, fruitful collaborations have extrapolated the benefits of the programmes across geographies. And through conflating their goals with existing government initiatives, synergies have formed that will profoundly deepen impact and trigger scaling up. The partner NGOs, true agents of change, have made further leaps: in many cases, they have been able to drive change even at the policy level.

By bolstering rural development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations, and implementing projects that catalyse palpable progress, the HCL Grant and the Fifth Estate together have been able to sow the seeds of resilience in the rural communities they champion. That resilience has sprung forcefully into action as a response to the unprecedented catastrophe which is the COVID-19 pandemic.



## CONNECTING THE DOTS: HCL GRANT AND COVID-19

HCL possesses an inherent culture of giving. At the outset, when the pandemic's economic and social costs began to manifest clearly, HCL came together with urgency and commitment to formulate a response to the situation. In order to not divert resources from long-term development initiatives in environment, education and health, and to stabilize the community-led entities we support, the HCL Foundation immediately allotted separate funds to our partner NGOs for relief and restoration programmes. The NGOs in turn launched efforts to strengthen their beneficiaries and communities through this difficult period, while ensuring that the continuity of Grant-fed on-ground projects was not compromised. This quick reaction to the pandemic was only possible because these dedicated NGOs have grown to be extraordinarily resilient in the face of adversity.

The process for the HCL Grant Edition VI was not waylaid due to the pandemic either – it was merely tweaked. Applications were invited with a new stage added – the

requirement of an abstract review. Detailed virtual meetings were held at every stage for vigorous due diligence and shortlisting of NGOs, bringing together consultants and subject matter experts from all over India. The HCL Grant team mobilized local networks across regions to ensure safety for our investigators during the field validation visits and minimized long-distance travel.

The HCL Grant Symposiums, the outreach programme for NGOs, were a ray of hope for a sector mired in despair at the ravages of the pandemic, which had sucked up resources and dried up corporate funding. The HCL Grant Symposiums, through high level panel discussions, build capacity of the NGOs, helping them structure their proposals and strategy for funding, clarifying the criteria and the process, and facilitating meaningful engagements. This year, eight e-Symposiums were conducted virtually, allowing many more participants from across India to attend these as a series. There were a total of 8000 registrations from highly motivated NGOs, who also had more time this year to devote to project idea and application. As a result, the percentage of applicants increased by 70 percent in 2021.

Because of the HCL Foundation's excellent partners in the field, community and stakeholder networks were firmly in place. These groups of rural citizens have interacted with each other previously through the HCL Grant engagements. A feeling of solidarity emerged, melding them into an energetic and valuable workforce within their regions, making relief efforts much more feasible.



We could connect the dots for relief projects seamlessly – because we knew the dots were there. Furthermore, we understood these geographies intimately, which, without the Grant and its years of consolidation and outreach, would have been impossible. Every programme of the Grant stayed intact, from nutrition for children, contraceptive distribution, women farmers' collectives projects or the operation of primary health centres (PHCs) in remote villages. Using the same channels and networks within communities as are used for the Grant programmes, pandemic-related issues were tackled effectively. Thus, adolescents in Yuva Kendras stayed safe from being pushed into early marriages; employment for returning migrants through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was made possible; and thousands of food packets, medical supplies, masks and other essentials were distributed through our own web of community-based organizations and workers.

## IMPACT AND RESPONSE

The seeds of resilience, now sown, have propelled The HCL Grant's partner NGOs towards stellar outcomes, embedded as they are in government frameworks and working in tandem with a range of stakeholders. A courage of conviction and dedication to their cause adds velocity to their trajectory of transformation. This is precisely what has helped them stay afloat and focussed on their commitment to empower underserved communities even during a worldwide pandemic.

## FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY HCL Grant Recipient, Environment, 2017

**HCL Grant Project Title:** iCare – Informed Collaborative Action for Resilience of Ecosystems: Conservation of Shared Natural Resources (Commons) through Community Institutions

Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is committed to restoring and conserving Commons such as land, forest and water resources in the country, by promoting community-led institutions, securing tenure of commons using technology and leveraging public investments.

Over 26,000 hectares of common land and forest land was brought under community governance. The HCL Grant commitment of ₹ 5 Crores helped FES leverage approximately ₹ 43 Crores through MGNREGA for 50+



water harvesting structures and soil moisture conservation work; ₹ 8 Crores through various line departments for linking social security and agriculture schemes, and ₹ 1.29 Crores from NABARD for developing horticulture wadis/orchards.

#### COVID-19 Response

On the ground, FES aided migrant workers returning to their homes to find work through its linkages with MGNREGA scheme. The village institution, after discussions with the Community Resource Person (CRP) and the FES team, stepped in and offered to purchase standing crops from farmers for ₹ 5500.

#### CHILD IN NEED INSTITUTE HCL Grant Recipient, Health, 2017

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Creating Community-Based Safety Net for Better Health and Nutrition Outcomes for Children, Adolescents, and Women of West Bengal through a Life-Cycle and Community-Based Approach



Child in Need Institute (CINI) has been working with women and children's health, nutrition and education, and breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, abuse and violence. CINI's unique Child Friendly Communities in West Bengal and Jharkhand have reached over 5 million people. Its Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre model has been taken up by the central government. The Government of West Bengal has upscaled its maternal nutrition component to all forty-six blocks of three districts allowing CINI to reach 10,000 frontline workers through cascade training



*'I was unable to get work for the last 15 days. I don't even know which disease has made us lose our jobs. Now I have no rice at home, kids are hungry. So many people came but you are the first to deliver the ration at my home...'* — *Jyoti Devi, Kujju, Ramgarh, beneficiary of Srijan Foundation*

and 1,38,000 pregnant women. Capacity enhancement of frontline workers and communities reduced anaemia from 74 per cent to 51 per cent among pregnant women, and improved feeding practices among children.

#### COVID-19 Response

CINI continued to work during the pandemic to buffer its beneficiaries, field teams and communities-based groups while maintaining social distance and handwashing norms. Through its existing networks, it distributed dry ration to malnourished children and 300 families in Nagrakata, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

#### MELJOL HCL Grant Recipient, Education, 2017

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Aflatoun – Social and Financial Education Programme

MelJol's programmes, in particular its social and financial literacy modules, develop children's citizenship skills by focusing on children's rights and responsibilities. Its popular Aflatoun programme has been implemented in 11 Indian states reaching out to approximately 4,00,000 children

and teachers as well. Through MelJol's interventions, over 30,000 children and their families have been linked with mainstream financial institutions like banks and post offices. 85,957 children have had first-hand experience of the benefits of savings, financial planning and budgeting across six districts of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. MelJol collaborated with the state education department and gram panchayats to roll out the programme. The Government of Chhattisgarh agreed to implement the Aflatoun model of social and financial education across 1300 government primary schools in the state after seeing its success elsewhere.





**KEYSTONE FOUNDATION**  
**HCL Grant Recipient,**  
**Environment, 2018**

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Hill Waters and Wetlands for Communities and Wildlife – Eco-Restoration, Applied Ecology and Advocacy

Keystone’s programmes are highly relevant to the Western Ghats where springs have been disappearing. The programme also addresses human-wildlife conflict in the Kotagiri region. They are inclusive, having directly impacted more than 22,000 lives including tribes like Todas, Kotas, Irulas, who fall under Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Keystone has increased awareness about traditional and chemical-free agriculture, water issues, native species and more through radio programmes on Radio Kotagiri (the local community radio), reaching out to more than 10,000 people. Keystone Foundation is on the board of the district level association, ‘The Nilgiris District Organic Farming Association’, to make the Nilgiris an organic district.

**COVID-19 Response**

Keystone was the first NGO to be contacted by the district administration for assistance during the pandemic. It was involved with ferrying supplies to affected people. 830 households across twenty-five villages of Kotagiri taluk were provided with support.

**ELEUTHEROS CHRISTIAN SOCIETY**  
**HCL Grant Recipient,**  
**Health, 2018**

**HCL Grant Project Title:** ECS LifeConnect – Integrated Approach to Improve Healthcare Access and Prevent Maternal and Child Deaths in Nagaland

Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS) has brought down the incidence of HIV among injecting drug users and antenatal women in the Nagaland significantly. Through community action facilitated by it, people’s livelihoods, health, literacy and monetary transactions have improved manifold. A State Level Health Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary, Nagaland, has been constituted to establish convergence among different government departments for HCL Grant project villages. Two of the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) supported by the HCL Grant, Longpang and Changlangshu, received the ‘Kayakalp Award’, given for cleanliness of district public health facilities, and empanelled with

the AYUSH Scheme of the Government of India. Longpang PHC is a Public-Private Partnership managed by ECS in collaboration with the Government of Nagaland. Eight health centres have been revived under the PPP model, benefitting 33,000+ people. Changlangshu PHC was built from scratch jointly by ECS and the community, and activated in 2018. The government has added a new building to the premises, boosting the capacity of the PHC manifold.

**COVID-19 Response**

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisation has distributed food rations kits for 300 households, provided nutrition support to 1288 pregnant and lactating mothers, and distributed 5000 masks across HCL Grant supported villages in Nagaland. Also, the Longpang PHC was temporarily converted to District hospital for Tuensang district to combat the COVID-19 situation. During the pandemic, because of the existence and penetration of the HCL Grant, it became the only properly functional source of healthcare in Nagaland.



ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND (SIGHTSAVERS INDIA)  
HCL Grant Recipient,  
Education, 2018

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Sambalan – Inclusive Education for Children with Visual Impairment in Rajasthan, Bihar and West Bengal

Sightsavers India functions through its multi-pronged approach encompassing ‘Eye Health’, ‘Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities’, and ‘Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities’. It works with the government and local partners to administer care, innovating new products to make surgeries accessible to all. Sightsavers India has reached over 55 million people and has conducted over 36 million eye treatments



since its operations began in India. Digital Learning Centres in Bihar, Rajasthan and West Bengal give access to education for CVIs (Children with Visual Impairment). Assistive devices were given to the students of government schools to mainstream them. The Government of Bihar has provided training to 56,000+ teachers to create a conducive environment in schools for CVIs.

**COVID-19 Response**

The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children who are CVI was comprehensively avoided, as due to the safety net provided by the NGO’s interventions and the HCL Grant, these children did not have to drop out from mainstream classes.

WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA  
HCL Grant Recipient,  
Environment, 2019

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Connecting Landscapes, Empowering People and Protecting Elephants – An Initiative to



‘This Village Reserve Forest is supported by WTI. Since we created this VRF, it has helped us in many ways. It preserves the water catchment area and provides life support to human and wildlife both.’ — *Salbison R. Sangma, South Garo hills, Meghalaya*

Secure the Baghmara-Balpakram Elephant Corridor and Protect the Wildlife Habitats of Garo Hills, Meghalaya

Through nearly fifty projects across the country, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) addresses its mandate to conserve wildlife and habitat, and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals in partnership with communities and governments. It has assisted the Forest Department in rescuing over 5000 wild animals, conducts anti-poaching training, and has insured Forest Department staff. Government bodies such

as the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC), Meghalaya State Forest Department, District Medical and Health Office are closely working with WTI on the project. People from the local community gained livelihood opportunities as wage workers in rejuvenation of fisheries, ponds, school renovation and plantation activities.

**COVID-19 Response**

Food security ensured for needy people in two HCL Grant project villages in the South Garo Hills, Meghalaya. Social distancing was maintained during the entire process.







**SHE HOPE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**  
HCL Grant Recipient,  
Health, 2019

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Humanitarian Assistance to Strengthen Inclusion and Safety of Vulnerable Persons Especially Women and Children in conflict affected areas across 6 districts of Jammu and Kashmir

She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs (SHSFWE) is an NGO working in isolated and border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, aiming to bring positive changes in the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) by providing them access to good healthcare, education and livelihood opportunities, and advocating for the rights of PwDs. Since 2009, SHSFWE has run rehabilitation sessions in villages.

She Hope provided me an artificial limb and also trained me in tailoring skills. The centre has helped me a lot and made me self-reliant.'

— Afroza, from Kupwara, Kashmir

Artificial limbs, assistive devices and innovative, lowcost home modifications increase mobility and community participation. SHSFWE leveraged approximately ` 0.21 Crore from the Department of Social Welfare, benefitting 1000+ PwDs.

**COVID-19 Response**

Given the geography and the history of the region, the response to the pandemic had to be very specific. SHSFWE came equipped to immediately manage the pandemic – its community workers became the team for spreading messages, stitching masks and more. 105 families were provided with food kits, hand sanitizers, masks and 450 hygiene kits. 700 families received dry ration benefitting 3,500+ people. Prescriptive medicine support was also provided to 1500 poor people.

**SRIJAN FOUNDATION**  
HCL Grant Recipient,  
Education, 2019

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Educating the Women Farmers for Better Livelihood Opportunities and Better Income Generation

Srijan Foundation works to build capacity of community-based organizations and civil society, creating development models, articulating demands and realizing rights. It engages with marginalized and socially excluded communities, especially women and children in Jharkhand. Areas of work encompass supporting elected women representatives, safe mobility of women, counter trafficking and collectivization of women, promoting child rights and preventing child labour, alternative childcare programmes and disability

programmes, sustainable agriculture and livelihood promotion, women, adolescent and child health, education, food security, and more. The project helped leverage government schemes and 1722 women were linked with the Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Gas Yojana. Twelve Self Help Groups (SHGs) were also given 1 Lakh health insurance under Kisan Credit Card scheme. The promotion of models like Annapurna, Machan, Nutrition Garden, and more have ensured the maximum output and the optimal utilization of the available resources.

**COVID-19 Response**

Srijan carried on its work of engaging in scientific farming practices, infrastructure, awareness campaigns and connecting people to government schemes during the days of the pandemic following all safety protocols.

'My husband used to work as a mason, but he lost his job due to the lockdown. Then we heard about Srijan. Today I am earning as well as growing vegetables for my family.' — Reena Devi, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

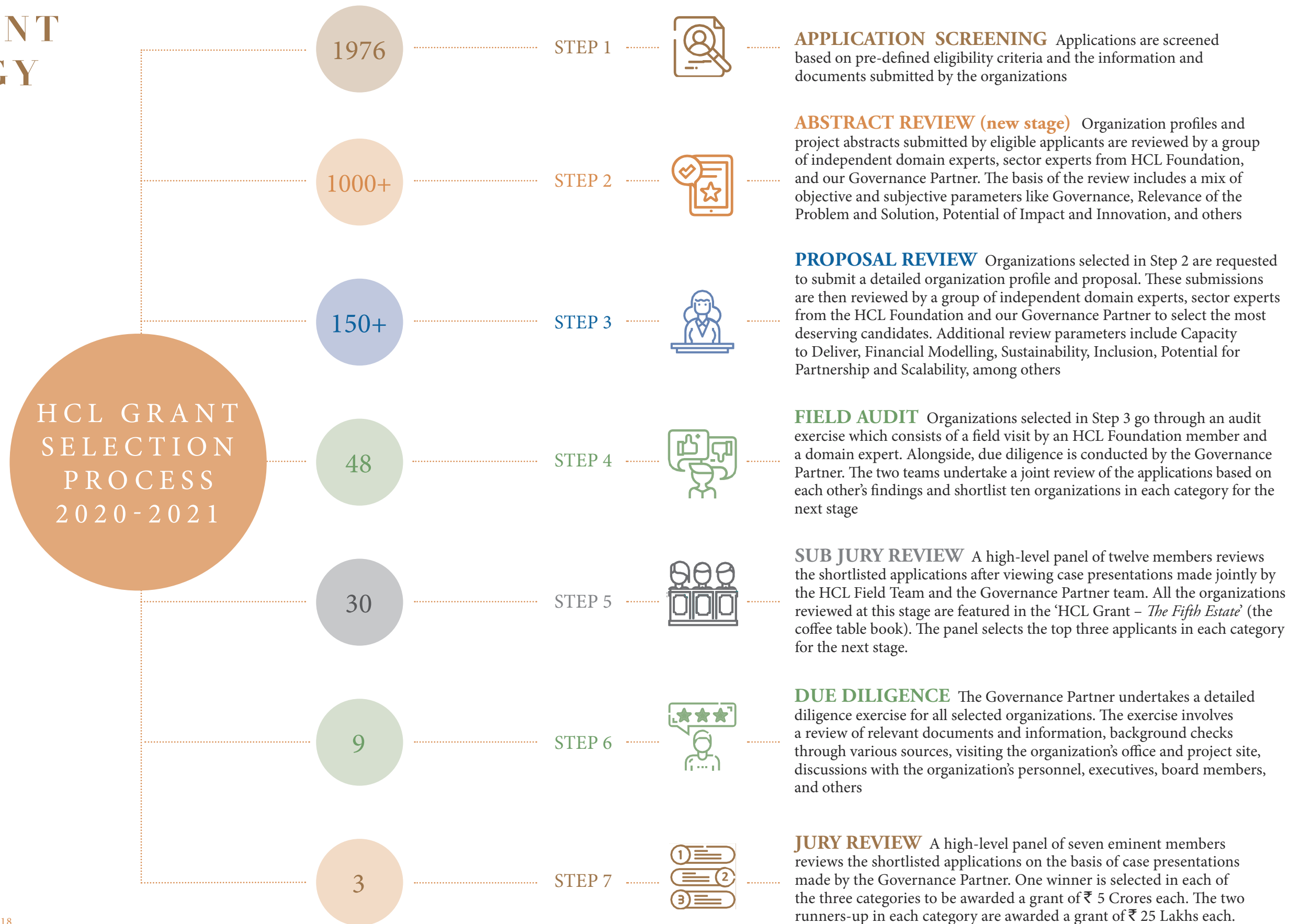


# THE HCL GRANT METHODOLOGY



**THE HCL GRANT** has consistently proven the value of a sound, rigorous methodology to mine out the NGOs that receive its Grant every year. These are stellar organizations making a transformative impact in Education, Health and Environment in rural India. For six years now, since its inception in 2015 – pandemics and acts of God notwithstanding – the application process has encouraged organizations from all over India to apply with innovative models which propel rural development. The applications are screened using the essential criteria of sustainability, relevance, innovation, replicability and scalability to assess the NGO's project; and financial modelling and inclusion to assess the NGO itself. Pan-India symposiums are held (virtually in 2020) to clarify the process and build the potential for partnerships between HCL and the grassroots organizations that wish to apply for the Grant. Due diligence, including audits, field investigations and assessments at different levels is conducted by the HCL Foundation team, along with subject matter experts, external consultants and a governance partner – Grant Thornton. The shortlisted NGOs are then reviewed by an experienced Sub Jury, and the three final recipients chosen by a Jury of eminent persons.

The top NGO in each category receives ₹ 5 crores (US\$0.71 million) each. The two other finalists in each category also receive grants of ₹ 25 lakhs (US\$0.04 million) each.



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. The organization must be a registered not for profit entity in India i.e., either a Society or a Trust or a Section 8 (previously Section 25) company or any other organization (if allowed to receive CSR funding by a relevant government body in line with Section 135 of The Companies Act, 2013).
2. The organization must have registered u/s 80G of The Income tax, 1961.
3. The organization must have registered u/s 12AA of The Income tax, 1961.
4. The organization must have the below mentioned average expenditure (as per income and expenditure account) for the last three financial years viz. 2016–17, 2017–18 and 2018–19:
  - If applying under Education and Health category – minimum ₹ 1 Crores or above
  - If applying under Environment category – minimum ₹ 0.50 Crores or above
5. The organization must have the below-mentioned functional existence (as per their registration certificate) in India on or before 31 March 2020:
  - If applying under Education and Health category – minimum 10 years or above
  - If applying under Environment category – minimum 5 years or above
6. The organization must be in full compliance with applicable regulatory rules and must have valid documents for registration, audited financial reports, etc. The organization must have valid and timely submissions (wherever applicable) for – income tax, employee provident fund, professional tax, minimum wages, employee state insurance, goods and service tax, and FCRA and/or other relevant regulation depending on the nature of funding/donations it receives.

## PREREQUISITES

### APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

1. The organization must have adequate experience of working in rural areas in India.
2. The bye-laws of the organization must allow it to undertake a project in the proposed thematic category.
3. The organization must have a good rapport with local administration in the proposed project's location.
4. The organization, including its governing body members, must not have any pending litigations.
5. The organization must not be blacklisted by any government agency/department/ministry, donor, or international agency.
6. The organization, including governing board members, must not have any negative media coverage, or any other controversy associated with it.
7. The organization must not have any political or religious affiliations.
8. The organization (if announced as winner or runners-up) must open a separate and new bank account for HCL Grant funds.

### PROPOSED PROJECT

1. The proposed project must be in line with the provisions of Schedule VII of Section 135 of The Companies Act, 2013, and the CSR Rules 2014, and its amendments / clarifications.
2. The proposed project must be in rural area/s.
3. The proposed project must be designed for direct implementation by the applicant organization. Sub-granting of HCL funds is not allowed.
4. The proposed project (in each category) must be designed for a grant amount of ₹ 5 Crores for a period of 3 to 5 years.
5. The grant amount must not be used solely for infrastructure development such as construction, renovation, purchase of fixed assets like land, buildings and vehicles, among others. Further, proposed infrastructure development costs must be spent in line with project objectives and activities defined.
6. The Grant can be used to scale-up an existing project or for a new project where co-funding is involved. However, HCL must be apprised of all funders and stakeholders in advance. Additionally, the organization must be able to report the utilization, outreach and impact achieved specifically through the HCL Grant amount.

## RECIPIENTS OF THE HCL GRANT



‘Health, Education and Environment are the most important pillars of India’s development goals and I am highly impressed with the kind of impact these NGOs are bringing in the rural communities. Also, the robustness of the identification process is something I have not witnessed before. I congratulate both HCL as well the winners and finalists for the phenomenal work they are doing in their respective fields.’ — *Kapil Dev, ex-Captain of the Indian cricket team and world-renowned all-rounder, at the HCL Grant Ceremony, 2020, HCL Campus, Noida*

# HCL GRANT 6TH EDITION PROCESS & MILESTONES



**2** 21 JUL-  
14 AUG 2020  
2 Physical  
Symposiums &  
8 E-Symposiums



**1** 17 JUN 2020  
HCL Grant Portal Live

**3** 17 AUG 2020  
Last date for  
NGOs to apply



**4** 20 AUG-15 SEP 2020  
Abstract review basis  
predefined matrix – Stage 2



**5** 18-22 SEP 2020  
Detailed application review  
basis predefined matrix.  
Shortlisting NGOs – Stage 3



**6** 25-30 OCT 2020  
Shortlisting NGOs  
– Stage 4 (Field Visit  
& Due Diligence)



**7** 1-30 NOV 2020  
Field Visit of 48 shortlisted NGOs

**9** 13-17 DEC 2020  
Sub Jury Meetings  
– Stage 5

**8** 5 NOV 2020  
HCL Grant Kick-off  
Workshop Meeting

**10** 2 DEC 2020  
Field visit closure  
and second shortlist  
of Top 30 NGOs



**11** JAN-FEB 2021  
Jury Preparations  
& E-Coffee Table Book

**12** 1-30 JAN 2021  
Due diligence of Finalist  
NGOs & Video Shoot of  
Finalists – Stage 6



**13** 12 FEB 2021  
Jury Meeting and  
Selection of HCL  
Grant Recipients

PAN-INDIA OUTREACH THROUGH MASS MEDIA  
ENGAGEMENT WITH 15 HCL GRANT RECIPIENT NGOS

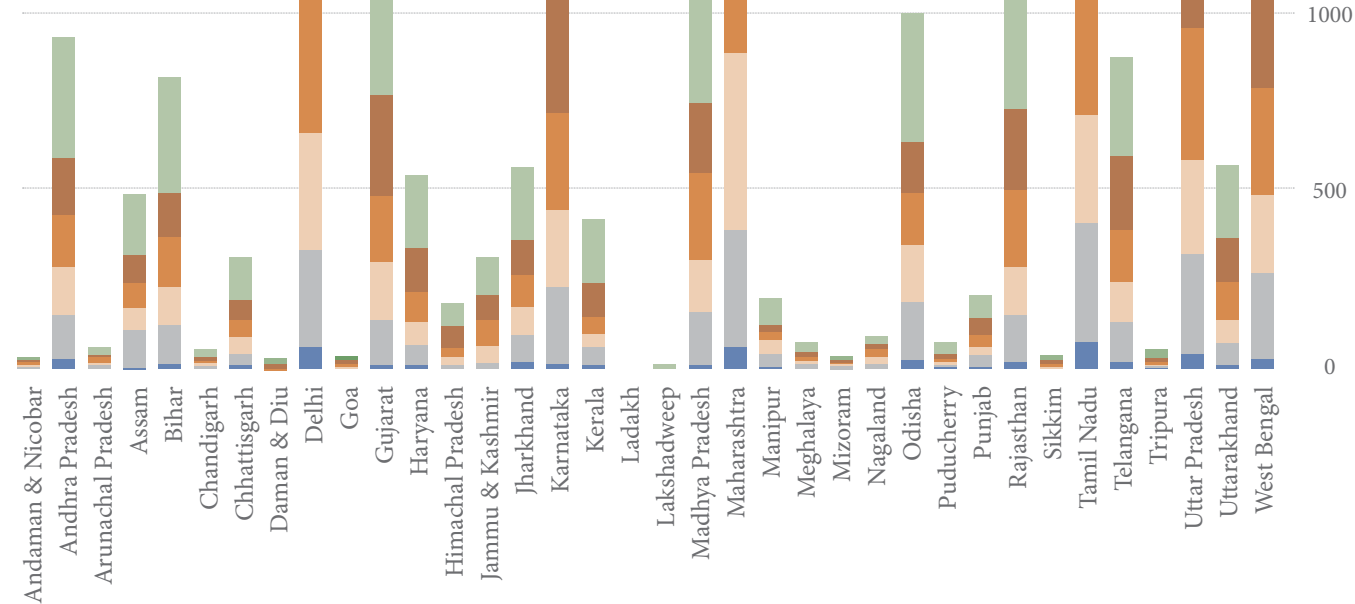
# HCL GRANT KEY STATS EDITION I-VI

## COMPARISON OF NGO REGISTRATIONS

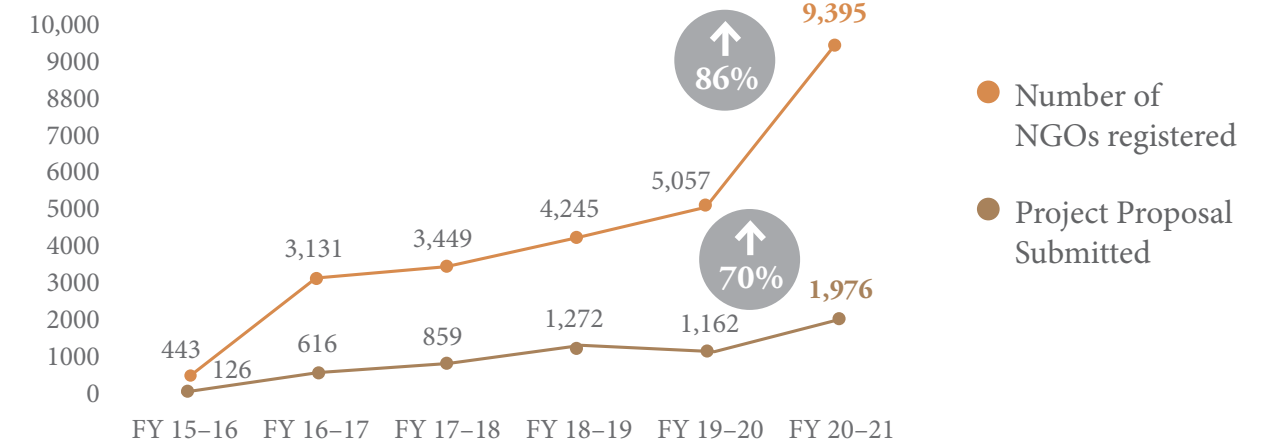
FY 20 ● FY 19 ● FY 18  
FY 17 ● FY 16 ● FY 15

Total number of applications over the last 5 years

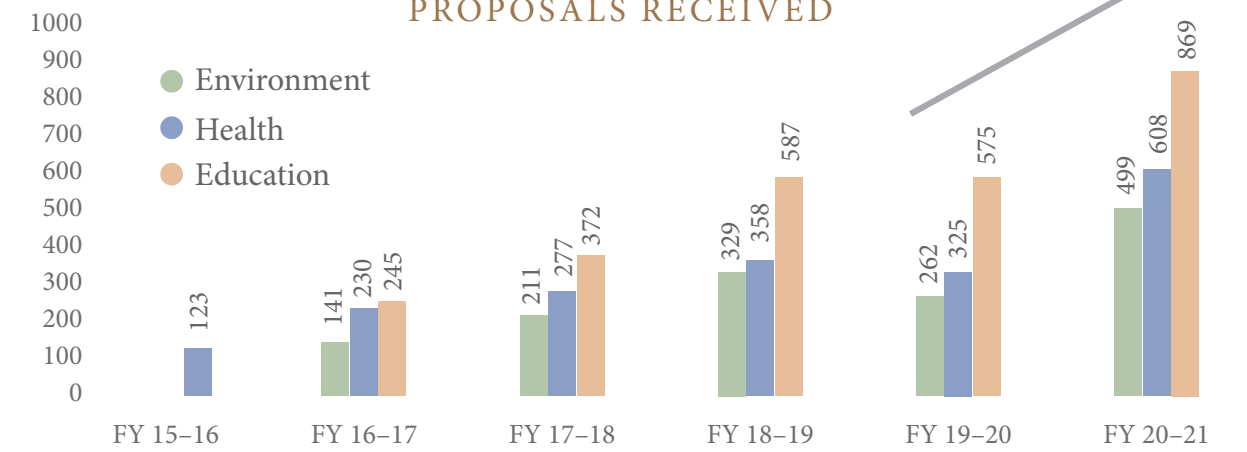
2020: 9395  
2019: 5057  
2018: 4245  
2017: 3449  
2016: 3131  
2015: 443



## HCL GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION STATUS 2020-2021

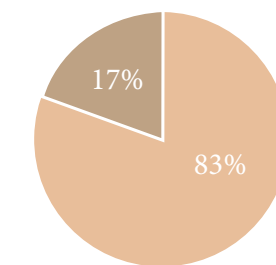


## CATEGORY-WISE HCL GRANT PROPOSALS RECEIVED



## TOTAL NUMBER OF REPEAT REGISTRATIONS FY 2020-21

Total Registrations  
FY 20-21: 9395  
● Number of New Registrations  
(FY 20-21): 7798  
● Number of Repeat  
Registrations (FY 19-20): 1597



# JURY



## ROBIN ABRAMS

Robin Abrams holds both a bachelor of arts and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska. She was most recently interim CEO at ZiLOG. She has been the President of Palm Computing and Senior Vice President at 3Com Corporation, and President and CEO at VeriFone. She has been President and General Manager of the Americas for Apple Computers. Prior to that, she was the Vice President and General Manager of Apple Asia, where she was responsible for sales, marketing and market development in the region.

Ms. Abrams spent eight years with Unisys in several senior-level positions, including a five-year stint in Asia Pacific, managing the delivery of business solutions focussed on banking, airlines, government and networking. The first twelve years of her career were in various management positions at Wells Fargo Bank.

Ms. Abrams has served several US public company boards including ZiLOG, BEA Systems (until it was acquired by Oracle) and OpenWave Systems. She currently serves on the boards of Lattice Semiconductor, Sierra Wireless and FactSet Research.



## SURESH NARAYANAN

Suresh Narayanan has over thirty-five years of rich and exhaustive experience in the FMCG industry and has held senior management and top leadership roles in leading global companies. He is on the Board of Directors of Nestlé India Limited since 2015. Mr. Narayanan joined Nestlé in 1999 as Executive Vice President for Sales in India, where he spearheaded major structural and strategic changes in Sales and Customer Management and set up the chilled dairy business. Since then, he has worked with Nestlé Indochina as Executive Director for Sales, Marketing and

Food-Services, and Nestlé India as Head of Sales for India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. He has been Chairman and CEO of Nestlé Philippines and Managing Director of Nestlé Singapore Pte. Ltd.

Mr. Narayanan holds a master's degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and has a diploma from the IMD Program for Executive Development. He has been honoured at the Forbes India Leadership Awards 2017 as the Best CEO in the Multinational category. He was recognized among the 'Most Valuable CEOs' in 2019 by Business World and also awarded 'Best CEO - FMCG' for 2019 by Business Today. Under his leadership, in 2019, Nestlé India won the 'Best Governed Company Award for 2018' by Asian Centre for Corporate Governance and Sustainability.



## BHARTENDRA SINGH BASWAN

Mr. Baswan headed the Government Committee to review recruitment procedures for the higher civil services till August 2016. He regularly speaks on public policy issues at a number of institutions. He has held some of the key positions in the government including Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie; Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, Government of India; Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals); Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India; Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India; and finally retired as Education Secretary, Government of India. Post retirement, he spent time in the Planning Commission as a Senior Consultant and later served as the Director of the Indian Institute of Public Administration. He



currently lectures on Public Policy Drivers in various institutions and is working on a book.

## RICHARD LARIVIERE

President Emeritus of the Field Museum in Chicago since 2020, Dr. Lariviere's career in academia and business is grounded in expertise on India. His work with the information technology industry (beginning in 1992)

comprised devising country entry strategies for American companies wishing to have a large presence in India. Among the companies he has worked with are Deluxe Corporation, General Instrument Corporation (now part of Motorola), Cisco Systems, Sabre Holdings, HCL Corporation, Perot Systems, MetLife, and others. His academic writing has garnered international prizes. He was a professor and Dean of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin, Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor at the University of Kansas, and President of the University of Oregon. He has served on the Board of many prestigious organizations across the world. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Life member of Council on Foreign Relations, Life member of the American Oriental Society, and on the advisory boards of several American universities.



## SHIV NADAR

Shiv Nadar established HCL in 1976 as an original garage start-up, revolutionizing Indian technology and product innovation. Today, HCL is a US\$ 10 billion global technology conglomerate, employing over 1,53,000 people in fifty countries as on 30 September 2020. In 1994, Nadar established the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which is today the largest philanthropic organization in India, having established seven institutions covering the entire spectrum of education and benefiting over 30,000 students directly. As of March 2020, the Foundation has invested US\$ 900 million across various initiatives. Nadar has received several honours and accolades in the past, notable being the third highest civilian award - Padma Bhushan, bestowed upon him by the President of India in 2008.



## PALLAVI SHROFF

Pallavi S. Shroff is the Managing Partner of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., with about thirty-eight years of extensive experience. Her broad and varied representation of public and private corporations and other entities before various national courts, tribunals and legal institutions has earned her national and international acclaim. Ms. Shroff is

the head of the dispute resolution practice and also mentors the competition law practice at the firm. She has frequently featured in several international publications and legal directories. She has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chambers India Awards 2019. Fortune India and Business Today have both recognized her as one of The Most Powerful Women in Business. Ms. Shroff is presently a director on the boards of Apollo Tyres, Trident Group, One97 Communications Ltd. (Paytm), Asian Paints Ltd., IndiGo and Juniper Hotels Ltd.

# SUB JURY

## Environment

ANURADHA KHOSLA Vice President, Enterprise HR, HCL Technologies

MAJOR GEN. GOPALAKRISHNAN JAISHANKAR Head, Dean Student Welfare, Shiv Nadar University  
SHASHI BANERJEE Principal, Shiv Nadar School, Noida

TRISHA GHOSE Project Director, The Habitats Trust

## Health

MANISH ANAND Senior Vice President, HCL Technologies

KIRTI KARAMCHANDANI Head - Government Relations, HCL Corporation

PARVEEN JUNEJA Vice President, Human Resources, HCL Corporation

DR. BIBEK BANERJEE Senior Dean and Head Strategic Initiatives, Director, School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Shiv Nadar University

## Education

AMBIKA NATARAJAN Vice President, New Vistas - Leadership, HCL Technologies

ANUBHA BALI Head, Career Development Centre, Shiv Nadar University

COL. (RETD.) GOPAL KARUNAKARAN President, Shiv Nadar Schools

ROBIN SARKAR Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative, Shiv Nadar Foundation

# HCL GRANT CEREMONY 2020



UNVEILING OF THE HCL GRANT COFFEE TABLE BOOK VOL. IV by (L-R) **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, Executive Director and CEO, HCL Corporation | Chairperson, HCL Technologies | Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation | Founder and Trustee, The Habitats Trust; **Shiv Nadar**, Founder, HCL | Chief Strategy Officer, HCL Technologies | Founder and Chairman, Shiv Nadar Foundation; **Kapil Dev**, a legend in the global world of cricket; **Prateek Aggarwal**, Chief Financial Officer, HCL Technologies; **Nidhi Pundhir**, Director, HCL Foundation

## HCL GRANT RECIPIENTS



2020

**ENVIRONMENT** Under the Mango Tree Society 30  
*Reducing poverty through beekeeping*

**EDUCATION** Bal Raksha Bharat 34  
*Ensuring children's rights to nutrition, education and protection*



## Under The Mango Tree Society



Pollinators are under threat worldwide and declining due to multiple factors – the use of pesticides, deforestation, commercial agriculture and unsustainable practices like honey hunting. The interventions by Under The Mango Tree Society (UTMTS) encompass awareness of the critical role of bees in the ecosystem, training, conservation, and also creating a supportive ecosystem where bees can thrive among 5190 smallholders in tribal communities of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Its people-centric projects ensure that small and marginal farmers are able to benefit from locally available indigenous bees as pollinators, increasing yields and incomes.



*Educating farmers on bees and biodiversity*

### The HCL Grant Project in Action

The HCL Grant has helped us expand our interventions to new blocks and districts in the three states (Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh) we work in. The whole process of intensive due diligence and winning the HCL Grant award has also increased our credibility with other potential donors. It has allowed us to plan for the long term – five years – which is critical for a young organization and programme like ours.

Because of the COVID-19 lockdown, rapid digitization of processes became a necessity. The local team being scattered

Founded by Vijaya Pastala in 2009

HCL Grant Project Approach: Increasing biodiversity through beekeeping

HCL Grant Project Title: Keeping Indigenous Bees Buzzing and Supporting Biodiversity Conservation in Tribal Communities

Beneficiaries: Smallholders in tribal communities and their neighbours

Location: 115 villages in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra





in remote places with poor network connectivity, it was difficult to conduct virtual team meetings for planning. However, this was gradually resolved. Many of our team members first learnt how to operate smartphones to connect for meetings, while some had to identify spots with the best network connectivity and least disturbances. What initially seemed unreal turned out to be very effective in terms of primary planning at the beginning of project implementation. Local teams now refer to their phones as ‘pocket-office’.

### Working with the HCL Foundation

The HCL Foundation has helped to streamline some of our internal processes, and provided exposure to best practices of

other partners. Overall, it has been a good learning experience and has encouraged us to focus on capacity building.

### The Impact of the HCL Grant

The larger effect of a programme like the HCL Grant is that it helps set up best practices across the sector with a lot of possibilities for cross-learning. The due diligence process is something that inspires a lot of confidence in other stakeholders, be it potential partners or existing donors. Going forward, we see ourselves further strengthening our programme, expanding our team and building a stronger organization for the future.

— *Sujana Krishnamoorthy, Executive Director, Under the Mango Tree Society*



### Stories of Impact

#### Jhapiya Village, Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh

After attending the awareness sessions conducted by UTMTS, the farmers from Jhapiya village showed an overwhelming interest towards learning beekeeping. Usually, not more than five to seven farmers would register from a single village; but this time fifteen farmers registered for the training. Apart from the willingness to learn, final selection is done on the basis of their knowledge about different types of bees, availability for trainings and meetings, ability to network at local level and to spot colonies in nature. While registering for the training, a farmer shared: ‘being a smallholder, learning beekeeping shall prove to be advantageous in all aspects – agriculture, honey in backyard and conserving the local bee population.’

*The art of handling the tiny saviours of our environment*



## Save the Children (Bal Raksha Bharat in India)



Save the Children works across 120 countries. Known as Bal Raksha Bharat in India, it works in twenty states – reaching the most marginalized children with the motto of leaving no child behind. It is focussed on giving children ‘the right start’ so that they go on to achieve their full potential. It seeks to build a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Working in concord with several partners, including the central government, it has impacted over 10 million children in India.



*Empowering communities for education of all*

Founded by Eglantyn Jebb in 1919

**HCL Grant Project Approach:** In conflict-affected areas, investing in the soft skills of children through peace-building modules

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Promoting Quality Education through a Culture of Peace and Safe Learning Environments for the Most Marginalized Children of Jammu and Kashmir  
**Beneficiaries:** Students aged 6–14 years, teachers, master trainers, head teachers, education administration, community leaders and members  
**Location:** 60 villages in Budgam and Leh districts of Jammu and Kashmir

**The HCL Grant Project in Action**  
HCL Grant has provided us with timely support in scaling up our programme, Peace Education and School Safety, seen as a key solution to continued instability in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), inhibiting children from learning in safe/peaceful spaces, and our peace-education curriculum with Teachers as Peace Champions, designed with Jamia University and piloted across fifteen schools in J&K already. Having secured the J&K Education Directorate’s expression of support, Save the Children is now scaling up the peace project in sixty government run schools in Budgam and Leh districts, capacitating approximately 5000 direct beneficiaries including children, teachers, communities and state administrators to undertake peace-building initiatives, safety audits, risk mapping and child



safeguarding – in classrooms, schools and neighbourhoods. The larger ambition is to mainstream peace education and school safety into the state’s education system.

Through this intervention we will be strengthening the schools as zones of peace and ensuring community participation at all levels. To achieve this milestone, we are consistently working closely to form and strengthen Children’s Groups (CGs) and School Management Committees (SMCs). We are closely working with the government on launching an app-based peace module, development and training of comprehensive school safety and security modules, conducting school safety and security audits, and advocating the introduction of the peace curriculum into the education system. All these activities are being done keeping the COVID-19 guidelines in mind.

### Working with the HCL Foundation

The HCL Grant team has been constantly supporting us through the project review process

and sharing of key updates. Also, the team is very proactive in addressing and understanding the challenges of J&K in particular.

### The Impact of the HCL Grant

The enrollment drive in close coordination with the Education Department in December 2020 ensured that parents from the same community and intervention schools began sending their children to the government schools. Our children in the intervention schools and within the community have benefitted from awareness exercises and linkages of different schemes provided by the Education Department, as well as social protection schemes. In particular, through this project we aim to establish child protection mechanism in schools, and ensure peace and harmony by establishing the schools as zones of peace. The project also trains teachers and resource persons to take the learnings of peace into their respective village and schools, and to demonstrate a culture of peace and harmony through active participation of children in the intervention schools.

— Bidisha Pillai, CEO, Bal Raksha Bharat

### Stories of Impact

#### Hurdi-Mulpora, Budgam District

During the baseline survey, the village was found to have no formal structure for an SMC. After forming and strengthening the SMC and due to its successive capacity building programmes, the community began to respond to various child protection issues, especially of COVID-19 affected children. A CG was also formed along with the SMC in the village. The close association between the two groups facilitated openness and regular discussion around the issues of affected children, drop-outs, never-enrolment, psycho-social children and school related issues in the community.

*School is my conflict-free zone*

# ENVIRONMENT



## *Finalists 2021*

Development of Humane Action (DHAN) Foundation 44

*Striving for an equitable, ecologically sensitive and poverty-free society*

Nature Conservation Foundation 52

*Creating equal spaces for society and nature*

Saahas 60

*Sustainable waste management at source through community initiatives*

## *Shortlisted 2021*

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems 68

*Combining sustainable and traditional knowledge systems*

Centre for People's Forestry 72

*Restoring community forest resources and transforming lives of the marginalized*

People Science's Institute 76

*Rights, management of resources and livelihood security for forest communities*

Professional Assistance for Development Action 80

*Creating opportunities for an equitable and just society*

Seven Sisters Development Assistance 84

*Strengthening communities and sustainable development in the North east of India*

Society for Development Alternatives 88

*Creating viable livelihoods for underserved communities*

The Corbett Foundation 92

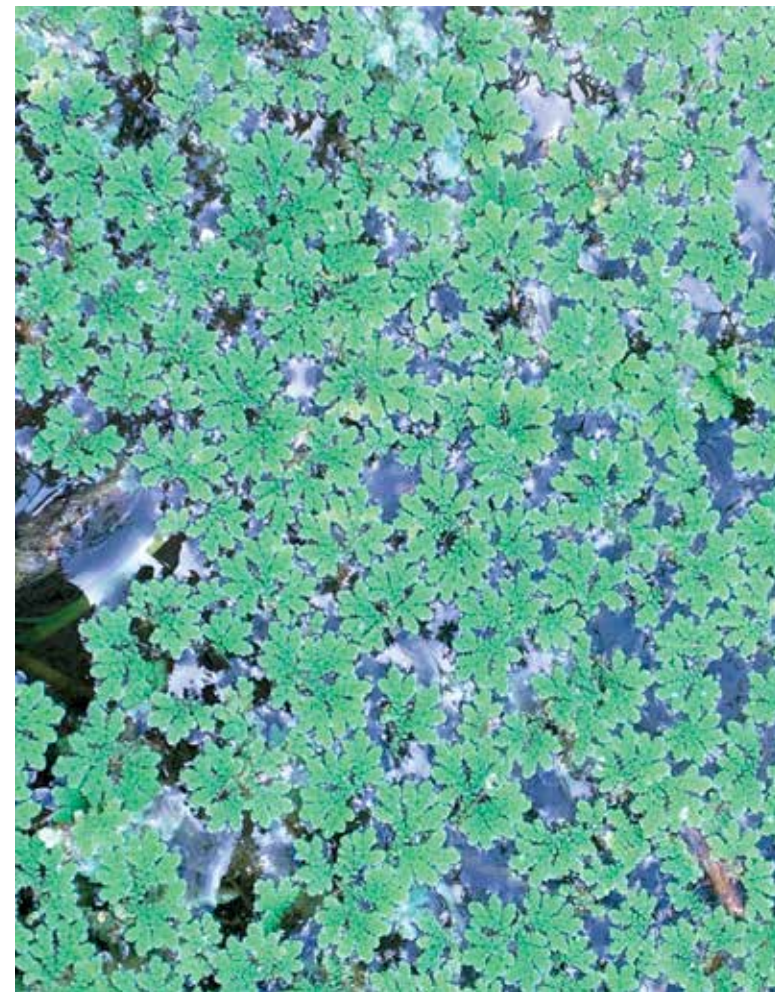
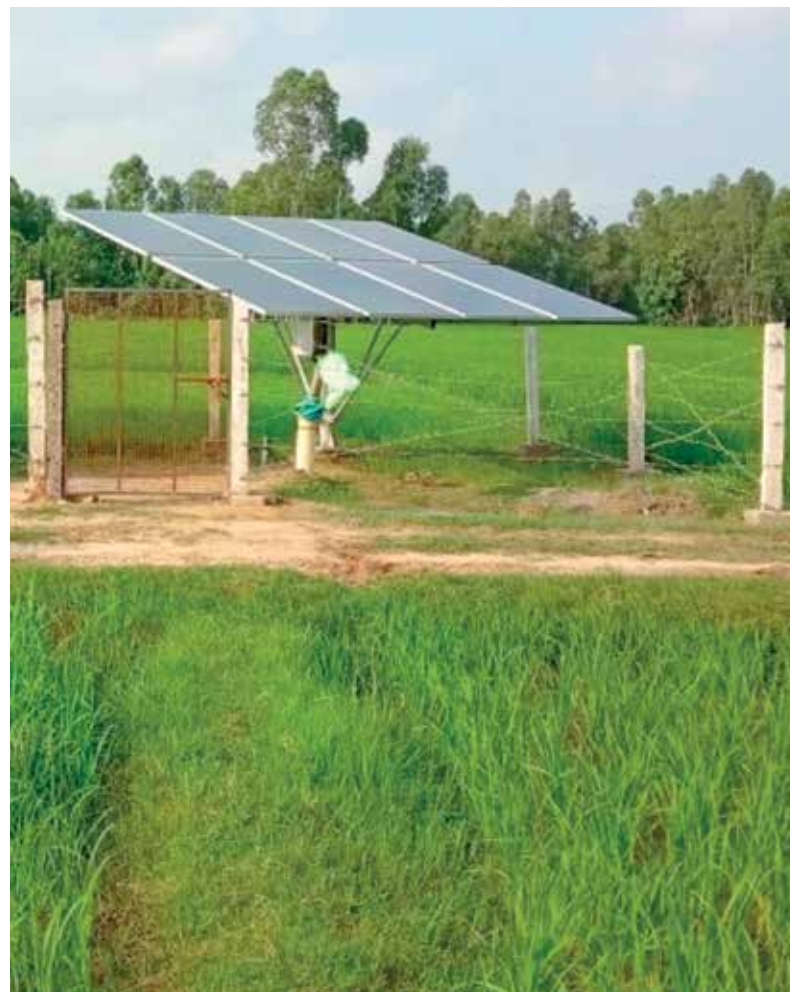
*Mitigating human-animal conflict and community-based conservation*

This category includes projects providing access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; combatting climate change and its impact; supporting sustainable conservation of flora and fauna; facilitating wildlife protection and conservation; protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands; conserving and rejuvenating natural water bodies; battling desertification, deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity loss; targeting pollution and promoting sustainable use of non-renewable resources; and making the community aware and involved in these processes. To qualify for the HCL Grant, the project must focus on direct action that leads to long-term impact, achieved through lasting behavioural change.



From rejuvenating Majuli, the river island, to restoring spring ecosystems in the Himalayas; from the restoration of community forests to the long-term conservation of tigers and elephants; from waste segregation at the village level to reviving ancient rice varieties – the NGOs shortlisted in the ENVIRONMENT category are catalysing communities to imbibe sustainable practices across India. Innovation powered by research and technology works to promote harmonious engagements between humans, natural resources and wildlife – with the committed goal of preserving our beloved planet.







## Development of Humane Action (DHAN) Foundation



Established in 1997 by M.P.Vasimalai

Development of Humane Action (DHAN) Foundation strives for a society that is equitable, ecologically sensitive and free of poverty. Its projects are implemented by communities and sustainable institutions through ethical and democratic processes. Its core work areas are poverty eradication along with community development, impacting over 2.1 million households and promoting 400 people's federations. DHAN has been able to lift close to 5,00,000 community members out of poverty over the last two decades. It is currently working on driving improvements in the areas of development, finance, water, agriculture and coastal conservation across fourteen states.

*Mooring lives and livelihoods for the future*  
Following pages (46-47): *Mangroves, the nature's scaffolding*

**DHAN FOUNDATION IS DRIVEN BY** Gandhian principles and a deep, abiding belief in unleashing the potential of people. The Foundation had two thematic areas when it began: the Kalanjiam Community Banking Programme, and the Vayalagam Tankfed Agriculture Development Programme. Today, it functions through a network of programmes, institutes, centres and community organizations that come under the umbrella of the 'DHAN Collective', sharing and co-learning their way to grassroots development. It has made tremendous inroads into areas like water resources, health, education, information and communication technology (ICT), and microfinance. Democratic access to technology for the poor through its own organizations interfaces with environmental issues to ferment a unique model of grassroots action.

However, there is more to DHAN than just peoples' collectives. 'DHAN adopts a two pronged strategy: direct action (promoting groups and federations, and peoples' institutions) and resource support through technical support and assistance,' explains M.P. Vasimalai, Executive Director of the NGO, who is also a valued advisor to the







*The boon of biodiversity*



*The wetlands sustain both the birds and us in their fertile embrace*  
 Following pages (50–51): *Verdant mangroves revived with care*

government and various development forums for policy advocacy. Its ideas like mentorship programmes for young people towards social leadership and ensuring prosperity for the disadvantaged, stem from this thought: 'Keep the community as the center and think of yourself as peripheral'.

This philosophy was also evident in DHAN Foundation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The very peoples' institutions promoted by DHAN across various streams served as safety nets for the communities. 3000 field staff and 10,000 community volunteers worked at ensuring livelihoods through implementation of conservation projects, creating market viabilities for farmers and sustenance through subsidies; promoting sustainable agricultural practices and building the communities' immunity by encouraging indigenous food practices;

ensuring health by awareness and behavioural change initiatives; and providing tele-medical support through virtual wellness centres. A true people's movement.

**HCL Grant Project Approach:** Protecting coastal ecosystems by conserving wetlands through community led intervention  
**HCL Grant Project Title:** Wetland – Conserving Coastal Wetland Ecosystem through Local and Native Communities in Delta Districts

**Beneficiaries:** 16,000 people from the lagoon and sea fishing community, 200 from the creek fishing community, 550 marginal farmers, 10,000 wetland birds (both migratory and native) and 800 black buck  
**Location:** 20 villages in Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, and Tiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu





# Nature Conservation Foundation



Founded by T.R. Shankar Raman, Divya Mudappa, M.D. Madhusudan, Rohan Arthur and Charudutt Mishra in 1996

Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) has a vision of a world where nature and society can flourish together through evidence-based conservation, research and responsible engagement with society. NCF works on various research and conservation-based projects in remote locations across thirteen states, including leading the formulation of the well-known Project Snow Leopard. NCF's community-based projects create impact through interventions in diverse environments, such as coral reefs, tropical rainforests, wetlands, coastal areas and high mountains. NCF received the prestigious Whitley Award for Nature in 2005, 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2017, in addition to several other national and international awards.

*The wilderness is integral to our lives*  
Following pages (54–55): *The ibex runs free where humans leave their mark*

**HUMANS AND WILDLIFE MUST COEXIST** for a sustainable future.

Harmonising the relationship between animals and rural communities by mitigating conflicts is crucial to sustain fragile landscapes across the country. Equally important is the exchange of traditional ecological and scientific knowledge systems of conservation with these communities, producing conservation leaders for the future. 'We partner and work with local communities that formerly hunted hornbills who now cherish and protect them, depend on local fishers to document sightings of elusive marine species like dugongs, and work closely with shepherds in the Himalayas to protect their herds from wild animals. We engage with different conservation partners depending on the context – in tea and coffee estates, we work with estate owners to protect and restore rainforest fragments, while in urban areas, we engage the wider public and school children in monitoring changes in seasonal patterns of trees and birds in the face of changing climate,' explains Yash Veer Bhatnagar, Senior Scientist at NCF.





*Conserving the perfection of the natural world*



*Sustainable livelihoods for forest fringe communities*  
Following pages (58–59): *A landscape of harmony between people and wildlife*

Other collaborators include local and state governments, forest departments, and even the armed forces.

NCF's interventions are rooted in long-term engagements with the landscape and with communities, yet the ultimate aim is to make the programmes self-sustaining. Often, after this goal is reached, and the community is successfully running the intervention itself, NCF remains engaged as a catalyst, deepening and broadening its interventions and research.

Realizing that the communities it works with would have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, NCF used its strong network of local staff, students, researchers and field coordinators to

carry on its work, and even began new projects to scaffold the population through the difficult months.

**HCL Grant Project Approach:** Conserving wildlife and promoting human welfare through reduced conflict and improved livelihood opportunities

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Mitigating Negative Human-Wildlife Interactions Through Local Stakeholder Engagement and Empowerment

**Beneficiaries:** 8500 resident households, 100 migratory herders, wildlife including black and brown bears, snow leopards, wolves, and ibex

**Location:** 35 villages in Lahaul–Spiti and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh





## Saahas



Founded by Wilma Rodrigues in 2001

Recipient of the FICCI Circular Economy Award 2019, Saahas envisions India as a leading circular economy with zero waste communities, zero waste burning and zero landfill waste. Its projects have shown considerable impact in the areas of urban/rural waste management and livelihood for informal sector workers through successful segregation of over forty-one tonnes of waste per day and service to 58,000 houses. Its current focus is on eight states to set up community-owned waste management systems in more than fifty villages.

*Turning the village into paradise again*  
Following pages (62–63): *Waking up to knowledge that will save the earth*

**SAAHAS BELIEVES** that 90 per cent of the waste generated by us can be kept out of landfill sites if it is handled properly. This can only happen if we begin to change our perception of waste. ‘Instead of looking at waste management as a system for “efficient disposal” we look at waste as a resource that can be brought back into the production cycle, thus reducing the dependence on virgin material and closing the loop. We believe that when waste is “managed at source, it is a resource,” explains Archana Tripathi, COO, Saahas. Similarly, Saahas also promotes the idea that waste disposal is our responsibility, rather than the common perception of ‘not in my backyard’.

Saahas is determined to shift people’s and the governments’ focus towards sustainable waste management as well as its benefits, including slowing climate change. Decentralized community waste processing centres, ‘Kasa Rasa’, show people in urban centres the way to sort, aggregate and send waste for recycling or composting. Saahas has expanded its projects to rural waste







*Composting and segregating – the environment benefits, and the village thrives*



*Pathways to a zero-waste world*  
Following pages (66–67): *The weight of a better world in our hands*

management as well, customizing solutions for villages. Propelling programmes for waste workers' welfare and social inclusion, and generating dignified livelihoods in the sector are other core areas for this dedicated NGO. In 2014, Saahas was aided by two important events: the CSR Act, a boon for corporate support, and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, which catapulted its mission into the mainstream.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Saahas conducted relief activities and awareness campaigns – but it was uniquely placed to deal with a bigger issue: 'We developed awareness material on handling waste during the pandemic, and trained our team in following the safety protocols during waste

collection, transportation and processing of waste, especially the bio-medical waste (masks, gloves) generated from homes,' says Archana Tripathi.

**HCL Grant Project Approach:** Waste segregation and processing at the village level for improved waste management and reduced negative environmental impact

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Sustainable Waste Management Through Community-Owned Rural Resource Recovery Systems

**Beneficiaries:** 11,40,000 village residents

**Location:** 560 Villages in Udupi, Ramanagara, Ballari and Dakshina Kannada districts of Karnataka





## Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems



Founded by A.V. Balasubramanian  
and K. Vijayalakshmi in 1995

The Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) strives towards sustainable growth of agriculture, food and nutritional security using indigenous knowledge, practices and wisdom. It focuses on strengthening the livelihoods of farmers and promoting cultivated biodiversity. Working closely with Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) groups with over 20,000 shareholders, its initiatives impact small, marginal and landless farmers. Overall, it has worked with over 1,10,000 farming families across five districts of Tamil Nadu. CIKS is currently engaged in the conservation and scaling up of indigenous paddy seed varieties, and micro and small scale enterprises.

*Transplanting prosperity*

**WHILE TRAINING FARMERS** in methods of sustainable agriculture in Tiruvannamalai district, the CIKS team learned that farmers could no longer source traditional varieties of rice with a built-in, natural resistance to pests and diseases. So the organization persevered, located eight varieties and preserved them. This bank has now increased to 140 varieties of indigenous rice. A.V. Balasubramanian, Founding Trustee and Director of CIKS, explains that 'the CIKS methodology involves looking deep into the heart of ancient knowledge systems'. It attempts to understand the rationale behind these systems, and apply it to the present through research, training and outreach. This includes promoting organic and chemical free methods of farming, making inputs like compost and bio pesticides available to farmers, and identifying, initiating, nurturing and developing small units that have equipment and people to process traditional paddy varieties.

CIKS endeavours to scale up its models and strengthen farmers' livelihoods by



*Harking back to the wisdom of traditional methods*



*Fertile fields from earth-friendly farming*

nurturing FPCs, led and managed by the farmers themselves, and empowering marginalized groups like women, landless people and small farmers by prioritizing specific activities for them. By forming market linkages, influencing policy and partnering with different types of organizations – from private and non-profit to state-led – it has been able to amplify its impact.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, besides ensuring safety and continuity among its partners, it conducted awareness programmes for its teams as well as farmer groups, and gathered support for affected farmers through its CSR programmes. 'COVID-19 has also generated certain new opportunities which can benefit farmers, such as an increase in marketing

opportunities through e-commerce, increased opportunities due to increased public interest in organic/natural foods, and traditional rice varieties as a source of improved nutrition and resistance to disease,' says A.V. Balasubramanian.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Conservation of Germplasm of Traditional Rice Varieties (TRV) and Scaling up of Their Cultivation through Sustainable Agriculture, Contributing to an Environment-Friendly and Climate-Resilient Path to Food Security

**Beneficiaries:** 12,450 farmers

**Location:** 100 Villages in Nagapattinam, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu



## Centre for People's Forestry



Founded by M.V. Sastri and  
Dr. D. Suryakumari in 2002

Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) works towards the emancipation of forest dwelling/dependent and other resource-poor communities through the realization of their rights, and access, control and management of their natural resources in a sustainable way. CPF has impacted over 700 villages and drives capacity building, skill diversification and enhancement of livelihood security, as well as policy change and advocacy. It has partnerships with local NGOs, Vanasamakhyas, and collaborations with the Forest Department and other government agencies at state and national levels.

*Our forests, our wealth*

**IN REMOTE FOREST-FRIDGE VILLAGES**, about 300 million tribal and other local people depend on the forests for their subsistence and livelihood. Till 1988, most governments treated forests as revenue-earning resources, effectively turning forest dwellers or dependents into 'encroachers' in the very forests which had been their home for hundreds of generations. This blatant injustice motivated organizations like CPF to rally movements by tribal and other forest communities to restore their livelihoods and habitat. 'CPF believes that "the claim to conservation, control and management of the forest resources belongs to the forest dependent/dwelling communities, and their livelihoods should be the primary concern of all forestry programmes,"' says Gargi Das, Senior Programme Officer, CPF.

Once the Forests Rights Act was enacted in 2006, it gave the forest communities Individual Forest Rights to the land tilled by them; Community Forest Rights, i.e., rights to access and utilize the forest resources;



*Miracles come from combining technology and traditional knowledge*



*Building capacity for self-reliance*

and Community Forest Resource Rights, to conserve and manage the forests within their customary boundaries. CPF has had credible success in submitting claims to the land on behalf of these underserved communities and helping them attain their due entitlements. It also became a catalyst, empowering the communities to plan and implement strategies themselves towards conserving, controlling and managing the community forest resources, and interacting with local and district governments. ‘Building community institutions and nurturing them to be self-reliant is central to all the work taken up by CPF,’ explains Gargi Das. Besides this, CPF works on initiatives that introduce and support sustainable agriculture, crop diversification, watershed

development, market linkages, and more. In 2018, CPF entered into a partnership with Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) for financial support in the area of Community Forest Resource rights claims and management.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Establishing Systems for Restoration of Community Forests (e- Restore)  
**Beneficiaries:** 95,732 persons and 50,000 acres of forest area  
**Location:** 500 villages in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh



## People Science's Institute



Founded by a group of IITians in 1988

At People's Science Institute (PSI), poverty is understood in terms of shortage of human, social, natural, physical and financial capital in communities. Thus, its primary goal is to eradicate poverty through the empowerment of the poor, and the productive, sustainable and equitable use of available human and natural resources. Its programmes have been successfully implemented in 21,600 households of 270 villages in twelve states across the country. In the next five years, PSI aims to reach over 500 villages with livelihood security for 50,000 households, provide fluoride-free water to 100 villages, and revive 1000 springs.

*Learning ways to bring springs alive*

**WHETHER IT IS IN THE COLD REACHES** of the Himalayan region of India or drought stricken Bundelkhand, PSI's pioneering work catalyses the empowerment of a community to take their future prosperity and productivity in their own hands. Securing livelihoods, innovating and disseminating appropriate technologies, and working with a knowledge-based methodology, PSI has engaged with every issue related to poverty and the environment – from analysing problems to influencing policy.

After the severe drought in Palamau, Bihar, in 1991, PSI began evolving an approach to watershed management and understanding the traditional water resources across the country. A few years later, the Uttarkashi earthquake saw the Institute gear up to engage with disaster mitigation and the employment of traditional earthquake resistant features to build disaster-safe housing. To address the rising air and water pollution across the country, environmental monitoring was added to PSI's agenda. In addition, its 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyan' programme for self-reliant development based on community-led micro planning grew in response to the starvation



*Science's helping hand makes water management thrive*



*Water's future is in the good hands of the community*

deaths in 2001 in Odisha. Similarly, other issues like agri-ecological practices, safe drinking water and river conservation were also addressed when the need arose.

“The unique characteristic of the Institute is in its approach of “science for the people, of the people and by the people”. In all its programs, efforts are undertaken to integrate traditional wisdom and science with appropriate modern technologies, while also creating a cadre of barefoot professionals and strengthening community based institutions,” says Dr. Debashish Sen, Director, PSI.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PSI conducted awareness programmes, distributed dry ration kits to distressed families, and facilitated financial assistance and quarantine centres. Its community groups made masks and its own lab made

hand sanitizers. Donors were convinced to extend the running initiatives, and livelihood programmes were designed for migrants returning home. For PSI's village-level functionaries, virtual training and guided mentoring exercises are being planned in the near future.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Restoring Spring Ecosystems in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)

**Beneficiaries:** 4846 people, 60 springs, and 12,000 domesticated livestock

**Location:** 13 villages in Kangra and Mandi districts of Himachal Pradesh, 7 villages in West Khasi Hills and West Jaintia Hills districts of Meghalaya, and 10 villages in Almora and Tehri Garhwal districts of Uttarakhand





## Professional Assistance for Development Action



Founded by Deep Joshi and Vijay Mahajan in 1983

Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) envisions a just and equitable society where everyone lives and works with dignity. It believes that all people, no matter how poor, are capable of driving the change they desire. To this end, it helps the most marginalized people, especially rural women, articulate their aspirations and work towards achieving them. It has established a number of robust initiatives on sustainable livelihood and poverty alleviation, and has an outreach of over 4 million individuals belonging to 8,62,360 households. Its community development and livelihood projects are spread across thirty-six districts in seven central-Indian states.

*A shower of riches, the fruits of our fertile land*

**THE HILLY, UNDULATING TERRAINS** of Central India are home to endemically poor and marginalized communities who depend largely on rainfed agriculture for their subsistence. They have very little access to markets, technology or entitlements from the government. Besides, the chemical-based agriculture they adopted over hardier traditional practices has taken its toll on the ecosystem. PRADAN works in these regions to develop and promote sustainable farming systems that build on the agro-ecological diversity of the land. It brings in change through reaching out to the poorest communities, particularly women, and building their capacity and self-reliance. Through natural resource rejuvenation, it helps communities revive their land and harvests. It promotes livelihoods like livestock rearing, sericulture, poultry rearing and micro enterprises by building skills as well as harking back to traditional knowledge. It also establishes linkages for the rural poor with markets, governments,



*Transforming and sustaining the land with our own hands*



*Gentle, organic ways to coax mother earth's bounties*

financial institutions and other community organizations.

PRADAN's founding belief is that rather than material resources, capable and caring people, who work with the community to build capabilities and agency, are the key to sustainable and transformative change. In its early phase, the organization sent its professionals on secondments to other NGOs. Later, it set up a number of direct projects, generating a variety of socio-technical prototypes, which are being employed in development programming by the state and NGOs. PRADAN was one of the progenitors of the women's self-help group movement and has played an important role in the design of flagship programmes like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National

Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and MGNREGA.

PRADAN's hallmark is its relationship and trust established with communities; so that even while the COVID-19 pandemic was raging, it continued its efforts to ensure relief, awareness and income support for its beneficiaries.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Sustainable Agriculture in Central Indian Plateau  
**Beneficiaries:** 48,000 women farmers, SHG members, FPO members and village organization members  
**Location:** 10 villages in Gumla district of Jharkhand, and 190 villages in Dindori, Mandla, Sidhi, Balaghat, Singrauli and Shahdol districts of Madhya Pradesh



## Seven Sisters Development Assistance



Founded by Ashwin Bhattacharjee and Parag Barua in 2011

Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA) was conceived for the socio-economic and sustainable development of the north east of India by building capabilities of poor communities, and promoting and strengthening their institutions. With a mission to catalyse development in societies in the region fractured on ethnic and social lines, SeSTA envisages vibrant villages and communities where every citizen is empowered and lives a dignified life. Today, the organization works with more than 40,000 rural women from households spread across sixteen districts in remote locations of north east India.

*Floating gardens of fecundity*

**ACCESSING THE BOON OF SOLAR ENERGY.** Conserving water resources. Mitigating climate change. Engendering economic prosperity. Forming micro-enterprises. All with a core component of gender justice, and all managed by women's collectives. These remarkable changes in the lives and goals of historically marginalized communities in the north east of India have been wrought by the young organization, SeSTA. Initially involved only with livelihood-enhancing activities, the NGO soon realized the impact a different approach could have – an approach where women were given the agency through community-based collectives to ensure 'holistic community development'.

Besides making women's lives safer and their voices heard better, the awareness of and access to basic services in health, education and more by government agencies has increased manifold. Families have raised their incomes through the market linkages established, and improved their lands through sustainable agriculture. Collaborations with State Rural Livelihood



*Innovative farming that bears abundant fruit*



*Priming resources for future generations*

Missions across the North East are active and productive. SeSTA's grassroots professional workers are spread throughout the region – over eighty of them with advanced university degrees work directly with communities in villages. Says Pradyut Bhattacharjee, Executive Director of SeSTA, 'The community is involved at every step of engagement right from planning, implementation and monitoring to ensure sustainability. Given the diverse groups present in villages where SeSTA operates and because of the past history of ethnic clashes in some of the operational areas, the organization makes it a point to build solidarity among women of different ethnicities.'

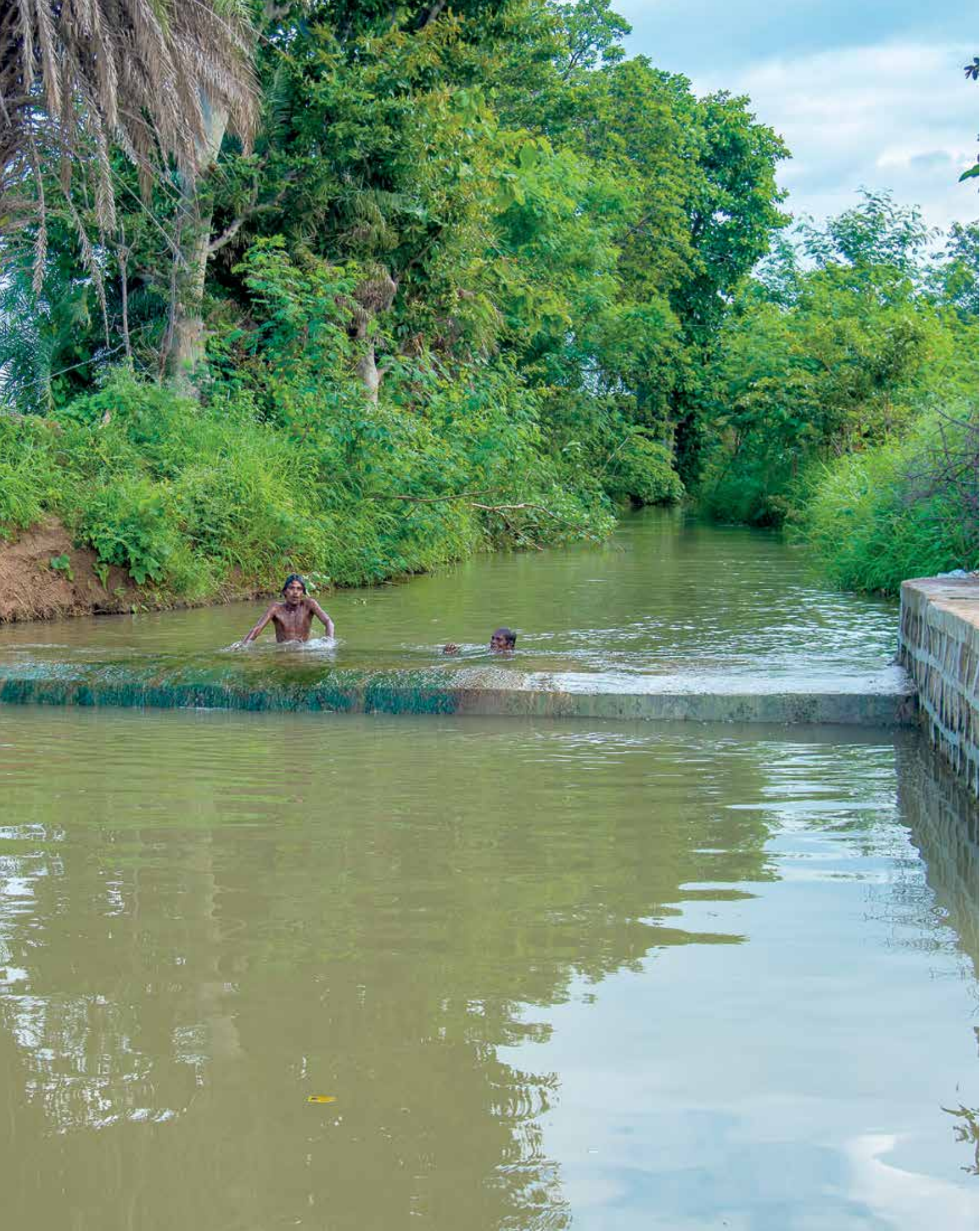
In the remote hamlets of the north eastern states, COVID-19 has not made a significant

impact, but the lockdown compromised the movement of SeSTA's ground-level workers to its rural outposts. However, with mobiles, support, training, and monitoring and handholding of communities, various facets of projects were managed successfully during the pandemic.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Strengthening Ecology by Revitalizing Natural Resources, Augmenting Climate Change Resilient Livelihoods Including Floating Vegetable Garden and Promoting Clean Energy in India's Largest River Island

**Beneficiaries:** 15,000 members of producer groups

**Location:** 30 villages in Majuli district of Assam



## Society for Development Alternatives



Founded by Dr. Ashok Khosla in 1982

Society for Development Alternatives (DA) strives to create a world where every citizen has a secure, healthy and fulfilling life, and lives in harmony with nature by creating models that generate sustainable livelihoods in large numbers. It aims to eliminate poverty and regenerate the environmental resource base through highly scalable methods. DA's focus areas include green economic development, social empowerment and environmental management. It has successfully created over 1000 green enterprises, strengthened 50,000 SHGs, constructed over 350 water harvesting structures, and rejuvenated 25,000 hectares of land in Bundelkhand alone.

*Harvesting water for happiness and security*

**NEARLY 1 MILLION RURAL POOR** in India have undergone a transformation in their lives. Barren lands, denuded by years of deforestation, soil erosion and poor management, have turned green with promise. Eco-solutions have been designed and delivered across India, South Asia as well as Afghanistan, Philippines and Africa. Having implemented around 1200 projects – over 700 of them in rural India – all with a dedicated focus on the three pillars of sustainability, i.e., the social, the environmental and the economic, DA has created viable livelihoods for some of the most underserved communities in the country. Its programmes are based on empowering communities and households. DA works to enhance local skills for green jobs, demonstrate models for rejuvenating and sustaining natural resource productivity, and introduce clean technology solutions.

‘DA was the first “social enterprise”, a not-for-profit using a business model to address the problems of sustainable development. In



*We nurture our crops like we do our children*



*Lush farmlands igniting bright futures*

the existing scenario, the business sector, government and NGOs all have their own strengths, but they could not solve the problems that DA wanted to solve. These related to innovation, scaling up and sustainability,' explains Dr. Ashok Khosla, Founder and Chairman of DA. Its solutions help poor people build affordable houses, solve their water, sanitation and energy needs, and generate work using local resources. It partners with the government, civil society and local entrepreneurs to market the solutions commercially. Scaling up the idea through partnerships and networks, DA has achieved significant impact.

Along with relief measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, DA created widespread awareness through its broadcast

wing, Radio Bundelkhand. It trained many local workers and built their capacity through social media and webinars for generating income. It also leveraged digital platforms to continue its programmes and interventions. DA's work has been supported by the Government of India, corporates, foundations, bilateral donors and international agencies.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Building Ecological Resilience – Rejuvenating Pathrai River Ecosystem to Conserve Biodiversity and Strengthen Farm-Based Local Economy  
**Beneficiaries:** 1800 small and marginal farmers  
**Location:** 13 villages in Niwari district of Madhya Pradesh



# The Corbett Foundation



Founded by Dilip D. Khatau in 1994

The Corbett Foundation (TCF) works towards conservation and protection of wildlife and nature with the involvement of local communities, and finding solutions to conservation challenges with lasting benefits for animals and communities living within and around India's wildlife protected areas. It works in six states covering over 650 villages in twenty-two districts and provides over 40,000 medical check-ups annually for people living in about 300 remote, forest-fringe villages. TCF has received many awards including the WWF-PATA Conservation Award 2000, Kirloskar Vasundhara Mitra Award 2015 and Silver Award in the Best Wildlife Conservation Project category at the Outlook India Responsible Tourism Award 2020.

*Humans and nature cheek-by-jowl*

**INDIA POSSESSES** 7 per cent of the world's flora and 6.5 per cent of the world's fauna – a substantial percentage. It is essential, therefore, to find sustainable ways of maintaining a harmonious balance between humans and nature, with the least cost to both. TCF employs a multidimensional approach including providing interim relief to villagers who have lost livestock to tigers and leopards to discourage retaliatory killings, a rural medical outreach programme for people living in remote forest-fringe areas, research, conservation action and awareness, fostering sustainable livelihoods and policy interventions. Advocacy and awareness programmes for schools are an integral part of its strategy.

TCF's conservation programmes are directed towards tigers, elephants, rhinos, Great Indian Bustards as well as other endangered species. Catalysing active community participation in conserving wildlife is another core thrust. This is facilitated by empowering communities and improving their livelihoods to give them alternatives to forest-based livelihood options and traditional hunting practices, which



*Alternative livelihoods and methods to conserve forests and uplift communities*



*Keeping crops safe and animals safer with fences and lights*

are not viable today. TCF provides solar-powered fencing, solar lighting, biogas, and more.

‘In the name of tiger conservation, much has been achieved even for many other species, but there are still so many more species that occupy habitats which are different or outside the tiger’s forests such as the Gangetic dolphin, dugong, brow-antlered deer, blackbuck, different bear species and countless more that still suffer severely from habitat loss and fragmentation, rampant poaching and illegal wildlife trade activities: coral reefs, sea turtles, salamanders, pangolins, mongooses and lorises, to name a few,’ says Dr. Harendra Singh Bargali, Deputy Director, TCF – Corbett Division.

The COVID-19 pandemic saw TCF undertake mask-making for distribution in

forest-fringe areas, food relief and spreading awareness, as well as plantation of fuelwood and fodder species in weed infested areas to minimize chances of human-wildlife conflict and bolster agriculture in affected areas.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Adopting Multidimensional Approach to Ensure Long-Term Conservation of Tigers, Elephants and Other Wildlife Species in Human-Dominated Landscapes around Corbett Tiger Reserve  
**Beneficiaries:** 13,998 villagers  
**Location:** 142 villages in Nainital and Pauri districts of Uttarakhand



# HEALTH



## *Finalists 2021*

Christian Medical College Vellore Association **102**

*Opening up access to quality, affordable healthcare for the marginalized*

India Health Action Trust **110**

*Reducing inequality in healthcare through sustainable programmes*

Karnataka Health Promotion Trust **118**

*Transformative interventions in health, education and community building*

## *Shortlisted 2021*

Association for the Prevention of Blindness, UP **126**

*Quality healthcare services to the community*

Centre for Catalyzing Change **130**

*Striving for equal participation, rights and equality for women*

Healing Fields Foundation **134**

*Catalysing affordable healthcare and better livelihoods*

Jan Swasthya Sahyog **138**

*Ensuring affordable, preventive and curative health services*

SATHEE **142**

*Innovating strategies for child rights, child protection, reproductive health and education*

SEWA Rural **146**

*Robust health and development programmes for the underserved*

The Energy and Resources Institute **150**

*Innovative solutions for a sustainable future*

This category recognizes projects that enable transformative work in the areas of equitable and universal access to health for all; equal access to clean drinking water; sanitation and hygiene facilities for all; prevention and elimination of water borne diseases; maternal, adolescent, child health and nutrition; and eradication of communicable diseases. To qualify for the HCL Grant, the project should complement state efforts towards achievement of the goals of the National Health Mission and support innovative, scalable models that will help the nation meet its targets in rural India.



Quality healthcare for India's forgotten villages; sexual and reproductive health training; promoting healthy lifestyles to prevent non-communicable diseases; eyecare at rural peoples' doorsteps; technology that transmits affordable health and life skills to adolescents in tribal communities, and so much more. Spanning diverse geographies, the shortlisted NGOs in our HEALTH category are making sweeping inroads into some of the most integral health issues facing rural India today.







## Christian Medical College Vellore Association – Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs



Founded by Dr. Ida Scudder in 1900

The Christian Medical College Vellore Association (CMC Vellore) is a highly respected tertiary-level, multispecialty hospital. The Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs (RUHSA) project, one of CMC's main primary health outreach programmes, manifests CMC's commitment to quality healthcare for the community. It boosts access to healthcare for the disabled, disadvantaged and marginalized at affordable cost, and creates better livelihood opportunities for them. RUHSA implements its community development and vocational programmes in a block with 1,30,000 beneficiaries.

*Opening our eyes to health*  
Following pages (104–105): *Together, armed with knowledge, we can combat any illness*

FROM A SINGLE BED CLINIC-CUM-DISPENSARY to a 3000-bed hospital, CMC has been at the forefront of healthcare in Vellore. It has been a beacon of women's medical training, both as nurses and medical practitioners, despite stiff opposition from critics. It is also much-lauded for its 'roadside clinics' that took health services to villages as early as the 1900s. Continuing this pioneering journey, in the late 1970s, RUHSA was started, with a then-unique approach to public health and development thinking – through spurring socio-economic change at the grassroots level.

Thus, in the agricultural community of KV Kuppam Block, along with primary health outreach, the determinants of health were also addressed. Income generation through milk production, poultry rearing or fruit production was initiated. Training in water management, forming cooperatives, health education, women's empowerment and vocational training were all part of the overall strategy. Functional literacy for the





*Miracle workers bring health to our doorstep*



*Breathing right while exercising in our community gymnasium!*  
 Following pages (108–109): *Safe distance and wearing a mask gives patients confidence about this clean OPD*

community became important because now planning and investing were in their own hands. ‘Village level committees of men and women participated with the project personnel as they dreamed dreams and made them work together,’ says Shantidani Minz, representing the NGO.

The engagement with the community grew deeper, from working with farmers and later with women’s SHGs, which form the backbone of the programmes, as well as youth and elderly members of the community. Collaboration with the government, research and development, and a community college for low income youth – all these are part of the everyday working of this committed organization. Through the ravages of COVID-19, although community outreach clinics had to shut down, its

grassroots workers delivered medicines to people’s homes, keeping the channels of healthcare alive.

**HCL Grant Project Approach:** An integrated approach towards promotion of healthy lifestyles to decrease the incidence of Non-Communicable Diseases  
**HCL Grant Project Title:** Investing Today for a Healthy Community Tomorrow: Strengthening Communities and Health System for Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)  
**Beneficiaries:** 23,600 people at risk, 39,000 children and youth, and 10,000 people with diabetes and hypertension  
**Location:** 657 villages in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu





## India Health Action Trust



Founded by a group of public health professionals in 2003

India Health Action Trust (IHAT) aims for meaningful impact on the lives of vulnerable and marginalized people by reducing inequity in access to health, and improving the availability, quality and utilization of public health services. Working closely with national and state governments, IHAT provides technical support to projects in HIV prevention and care. It also drives sustainable change in thematic areas like maternal and child health, tuberculosis treatment, family planning, nutrition, and strengthening health systems. Since 2007, it has implemented several projects and impacted over 91,539 villages with state-level technical assistance and support.

*A continuum of care that begins at birth*  
Following pages (112–113): *Fortifying the health infrastructure*

IN A COUNTRY LIKE INDIA with its manifold challenges, perhaps the most grave one is the health of the poor. IHAT uses out-of-the-box strategies, and comprehensive and sustainable programmes to attempt to diminish the inequality in the distribution of health services in the country. Its interventions are based on innovative solutions, always keeping the community and healthcare providers in mind and with the goal of fortifying the health system. As a result, several IHAT-led interventions have been recognized as best practices across its core areas of work.

‘IHAT’s first project as technical support unit (TSU) to Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society was one of the first TSUs to be set up in the country. The project’s success was testimonial to IHAT’s approach in using an evidence-based approach, embedding within the government and provision of comprehensive care,’ says Shajy Isac, Managing Trustee, IHAT. This excellent model has been replicated for HIV with the Delhi States AIDS Control Society, and to establish an RMNCH+A (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child







*Community healthcare emerging from within*



*Technology is our magic wand of good health*  
 Following pages (116–117): *Care, compassion and awareness for the underserved*

and Adolescent Health) technical support unit in Uttar Pradesh.

A novel approach which includes on-ground application of research, strategic collaborations and a continuum of care approach has stood IHAT in good stead. Its teams emerge from the community itself and there is constant engagement with local government, NGOs and academic institutions, bolstering their capacity and leading to powerful impact. Shajy Isac says, ‘The Madhya Pradesh Innovation Hub established in partnership with National Health Mission, Government of Madhya Pradesh aims to translate the learnings from our work into practice.’

During the COVID-19 pandemic, IHAT leveraged its strengths to support all ongoing

government responses to the situation, and helped the government to rapidly resume critical services with all safety protocols in place.

**HCL Grant Project Approach:** To ensure availability, quality and utilization of critical MNCH services

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Outcomes

**Beneficiaries:** 500 ASHA, 200 ANM, 35 staff nurse, 20 doctors

**Location:** 478 villages in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh





## Karnataka Health Promotion Trust



KHPT was founded by a group of experts from the fields of public health, research, civil society and government in 2003

Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) envisions empowered communities leading a life of quality health and well-being. It aims to reduce health inequalities through evidence-driven approaches and strengthen health systems to achieve population-level impact across its thematic areas. It began its projects in HIV prevention and care, and has implemented projects across twenty states to improve overall health amongst the most vulnerable and socially excluded communities. KHPT was the recipient of the IMPACT award for ‘deeply impacting communities through innovation in programs’ for maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) initiatives in 2017.

*Our babies will thrive, as we are capable and we can learn  
Following pages (120–121): United, we discuss the way  
forward for our people*

IN 2011, 70 per cent of Karnataka government’s HIV targeted interventions were transitioned to community-based organizations – of sex workers. This remarkable event was the brainchild of KHPT, a young NGO born with the goal of combatting HIV in the state. This powerful initiative emerged from a three-pronged approach: firstly, empowering the most stigmatized communities to access their health rights and entitlements; secondly, a scientific aspect, innovation and technical expertise; and thirdly, solid government partnerships. ‘We won the support of the government due to our sharp focus on scientifically filling gaps within the existing systems by embedding our solutions within the broad health systems framework,’ says Mohan H.L., Chief Executive Officer, KHPT.

KHPT’s focus on innovating, testing and scaling high impact communities and system strengthening models helped significantly lower the prevalence of HIV in Karnataka. It continues to adopt this approach across its five themes and geographies. Its mandate is to confront ‘deep-rooted imbalances’ faced by vulnerable community groups, such





*I am the symbol of care and the hope for the future in my community*  
 Following pages (124–125): *Working within government frameworks to reach the unreached*



*New ways to care, new ways to grow*

as migrants, tribal people, women from backward castes, adolescent girls, female sex workers and transgenders, in achieving better healthcare. This perspective has made their work with government programmes in the areas of maternal and child health, adolescent health, tuberculosis and HIV much more impactful. ‘We are working to build a robust urban primary health system under our Healthy City model ... We are one of the few organizations that was invited by the Niti Ayog to understand potential solutions to the urban health care problem,’ explains Mohan H.L.

KHPT has offered technical support to the government in view of the COVID-19 pandemic to build awareness, develop capacity building tools for the frontline

workers, analyse data and provide humanitarian aid for affected communities including supply of ration kits, cooked meals, medicines to tuberculosis and HIV patients, and much more, all through its existing community structures.

**HCL Grant Project Approach:** Improving maternal health through a focus on nutrition status before and during the preconception period

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Prioritizing Preconception Nutrition: A Strategy for Improved Maternal and Neonatal Health

**Beneficiaries:** 17,600 newly married preconceptual women

**Location:** 188 villages in Raichur district and 201 villages in Yadgir district, Karnataka





## Association for the Prevention of Blindness, Uttar Pradesh



Founded by Dr. Rajendra Rohatgi in 1946

Association for the Prevention of Blindness (APB) strives to provide affordable, accessible, equitable and cutting-edge comprehensive healthcare services to the community with a special focus on women, children and the elderly in rural areas. So far, APB has conducted more than 3,00,000 cataract surgeries in fourteen districts of Uttar Pradesh. It also successfully implemented projects on the eradication of preventable blindness in twenty-four villages in Uttar Pradesh, which were declared 'Avoidable Blindness Free Villages' after approximately 1000 cataract surgeries.

*They came to my village so that I could see again*

**PEOPLE BELIEVE** that home remedies can restore eyesight; that cataract surgeries cannot happen in summer; or that coal or *surma* is good for the eyes. For APB, countering such myths is all part of a day's work. So is educating people that avoidable blindness can be averted by a simple cataract surgery, and taking eye care to people's doorsteps in rural north India. Through its widespread vision centres and network of link workers trained in community ophthalmology, this organization has created a remarkable web of quality eye care services that reach the 'last mile' population.

Started by a dedicated eye doctor who gave up a lucrative practice to take eye care to the remotest villages in Uttar Pradesh, APB set up a hospital in the 1950s and has been conducting field-based eye camps for decades. But the wait for camps was long and many patients suffered permanent damage to their vision in the interim. The rural vision





*Cutting-edge eye care for all*



*I see, once again, my love reflected in my grandchildren's eyes*

centres emerged as an exceptional initiative, where patients were screened on site and then referred for treatment to the base hospital. This opened up access to equitable and specialized eye care for underserved communities and increased APB's footprint dramatically.

APB's programmes aim towards a sustainable ecosystem and self-reliance of the community. 'The community outreach programme is primarily focussed on eye care, but our link workers are trained in maternal and child health, and nutrition. We support the government's system and other NGOs' initiatives. We work closely with ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, teachers at government schools, and self-help groups to mobilize the community,' says Vijay Tandon, Secretary and Administrator of

APB. During the COVID-19 pandemic, APB implemented the 'mobile application-based syndromic surveillance of COVID-19 and community awareness project', which ensured uninterrupted health services for the community with the help of technology.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Ensuring Uninterrupted Eye Care Services to the Last Mile Population  
**Beneficiaries:** 10,36,687 people screened for visual impairment, diabetic retinopathy, cataract and refractive error  
**Location:** 600 villages in 7 districts of Uttar Pradesh



## Centre for Catalyzing Change



Founded by a group of development professionals led by Dr. Kaval Gulati

At the core of Center for Catalyzing Change (C3) lies the belief that achieving gender equality is essential to development, democracy and global progress. It envisions a future where women and girls are fully empowered and equipped to realize their rights, access opportunities and achieve gender equality. C3's interventions in maternal and adolescent health in rural and tribal areas as well as awareness campaigns on sexual and reproductive health among adolescents are spread across five states including Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. Its youth programmes have reached over 2 million girls and boys across India.

*The confidence of empowerment*

ACCORDING TO THE 2020 GLOBAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT, India ranked 112 out of 153 countries on the Gender Equality Index. C3 works relentlessly on correcting this unfortunate statistic, aiding girls and women in India to gain access to opportunities and skills to fulfil their potential, away from the disadvantages of poverty, violence and inequality. Its programmes give girls – and boys – confidence in their own abilities, and alter mindsets and behaviours around early marriage, gender-based violence, health, education and more. Along with engaging young people, it works with parents, teachers and school management committees. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, elected representatives and government officials are also engaged with to generate an ecosystem that is positive and thriving.

C3, earlier known as Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), pioneered innovative adolescent life skills projects in India as early as 1987. In 2001, C3 registered itself as an independent Indian entity and began scaling up its initiatives, making them more sustainable by



*Digital literacy for adolescents is a sure harbinger of change*



*The sheer exhilaration of sports drives away gender differences*

working within government frameworks to bring about systemic change. *Udaan*, C3's adolescent education project in Jharkhand, was recognized as a 'Good and Replicable Practice and Innovation in Public Healthcare System in India' by the Government of India.

C3 has a strong stake in women being involved in governance and policy-making. 'We do this by partnering with communities to amplify women's voices, mobilizing elected women representatives at the panchayat level to advocate for better public policies and programs and empower and encourage women's political participation at the grassroots level,' explains Dr. Aparajita Gogoi, Executive Director, C3.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, C3 rose to the occasion by providing aid and

relief to adolescent beneficiaries stuck at home as well as their families. It distributed food, rations and essential health supplies to the impoverished communities and marginalized people it works with. C3 also delivered personal protective equipment (PPE) kits to frontline workers, and worked with government machinery to deliver essential products like sanitary napkins to remote rural areas.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Samarth  
**Beneficiaries:** 1428 teachers and principals, 3096 health workers, 24 counsellors, 19,440 adolescents and 42,280 government school children

**Location:** 696 villages in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh



## Healing Fields Foundation



Founded by Mukteshwari K. Bosco in 2000

Healing Fields Foundation (HFF) aims to create an ecosystem with access to quality healthcare at affordable cost, and increased livelihood opportunities for the poor, especially women and girls. It drives change through scalable health education, technology-driven health access, economic empowerment and community health infrastructure development. It has trained about 5000 women as community health facilitators in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, who are taking health awareness, affordable products and critical health services to nearly 6.25 million people. Communities served by these empowered health agents of change have reported a 90 per cent improvement in their hygiene and nutrition practices.

*Expanding our learning, expanding our minds*

**RANJANA IS FROM RURAL BIHAR.**

Breaking from tradition, she came out of her home to get trained in HFF's Basic Care Provider programme. Empowered with the training she received, she now disseminates health education in her community about preventive health, hygiene and nutrition, and the benefits of sanitary napkins, immunizations and institutional deliveries. She also earns money through this programme, adding to her family's income.

HFF began its interventions in community health through a micro-health insurance programme to provide poor and marginalized communities access to quality healthcare. On the heels of this initiative rose the need to create awareness and education regarding preventive health, leading to the training of thousands of women like Ranjana to become Community Health Facilitators (CFHs), and get some entrepreneurial training too. The third of its initiatives was the School Health Education programme with government schools. These health leaders became instrumental in taking



*Clean and aware, a community can prosper and bloom*



*Pandemic lessons, applicable for life*

healthcare and education to the grassroots. With health as the entry point, livelihoods and gender issues were impacted positively as well.

‘HFF trains women, unlocks their potential, and pivots them into roles of health educators, health influencers and health entrepreneurs,’ says Mukteshwari K. Bosco, Founder and CEO, HFF. Like Ranjana, who started a village health group known as Ambedkar *Vevasahi*. During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, this group was responsible for distribution of dry ration to her entire community. And she went beyond the call of duty: she also began teaching children in her community during the lockdown. She now tutors forty children regularly. Other CHFs from HFF set up 108

quarantine centres for returning migrants, dispelled COVID-19 stigma, and educated families on COVID-19 best practices during the pandemic.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Healthcare to India’s Forgotten Villages through Community Health and Wellness Outlets  
**Beneficiaries:** 250 rural women entrepreneurs and 1000 families of women entrepreneurs  
**Location:** 100 villages in 3 districts of Bihar, and 150 villages in 5 districts of Uttar Pradesh



## Jan Swasthya Sahyog



Founded by Dr. B.R. Chatterjee, Dr. C. Sathyamala, Dr. Yogesh Jain, Dr. Anurag Bhargava, Dr. Raman Kataria, Dr. Biswaroop Chatterjee, Dr. Rachna Jain, Dr. Madhavi Bhargava, Dr. Anju Kataria, Dr. Madhuri Chatterjee and Dr. Pramod Upadhyaya in 1996

Jan Swasthya Sahyog (JSS) firmly believes that access to healthcare should not be denied to anyone due to lack of money or discrimination on account of caste, sex, religion and social class. With a goal to address inequity in healthcare, JSS began a community health programme and a referral centre that delivered low cost, high quality preventive and curative health services to rural and tribal communities. Today, with a workforce of 500, it engages with communities in the areas of maternal and child health, livelihood, undernutrition, tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, and more, and applies its learnings to strengthen the public health system in the states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

*Comprehensive healthcare by trained workers from within the community*

**‘TO TREAT A 26 KG YOUNG ADULT** in extreme poverty for tuberculosis that has ravaged both her lungs is something that medical schools do not equip you with. The shared joy of seeing her recover after months of intensive treatment and care is unmatched.’ These words from Dr. Raman Kataria, one of the co-founders and Secretary of JSS, depict the empathy and commitment inherent in the work of this organization. JSS was formed by a group of doctors who saw the urgent need to create an effective, affordable and quality community-based comprehensive healthcare system with people’s participation for the marginalized rural and tribal communities of Central India. Since then, besides providing treatment for illnesses and preventive medicines, they offer training of medical professionals (from village health workers to postgraduate doctors), conduct programmes with public sector employees, build capacity of the community and facilitate social change through advocacy, education and more. JSS has a strong leaning towards research and academic rigour, as well as direct, hands-on work with the community.



*Awareness and mentoring to form a cadre of caring health providers*



*Full stomachs and happy hearts at rural creches*

Drawing lessons from this work, JSS lobbies to influence policy making at the national level and engages with government community health initiatives as a technical partner in areas ranging from improvement of maternal and child healthcare, primary healthcare and under-3 nutrition to screening, diagnosis and management of Sickle Cell Anaemia. Explains Dr. Kataria, 'This is a work in progress, requiring dedicated efforts to strengthen comprehensive care whether for the mother and child or for the elderly. And therefore, our focus has been from the labour room and maternity wing to the operating room, laboratory, and autoclaving and sterilization and beyond.'

The COVID-19 pandemic saw JSS

provide uninterrupted services for its beneficiaries using its network of health workers by attempting to contain the virus, stabilizing patients who were infected, offering non-COVID-19 care as per usual and training a national network of volunteers in management of the virus.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Strengthening Public Healthcare Services

**Beneficiaries:** 5,96,000 pregnant women,

5,36,400 new-born children, 41 BMO

**Location:** : 5268 villages in Shahdol,

Dindori, Mandla, Umaria, Sidhi and

Anuppur districts of Madhya Pradesh



## SATHEE



Founded by Dr. Niraj Kumar in 1996

SATHEE envisions a hunger-free and just society where governance is transparent and with equitable sharing among people. Its focus is on socio-economic empowerment of tribes, other backward classes (OBCs), and other underserved communities and disadvantaged groups. Since 2008, SATHEE has implemented various nutrition-based projects and impacted over twenty-two tribal villages. Its work on child rights, child protection, reproductive health and education in Jharkhand and Bihar has been very impactful. Improving community outreach, catalysing participative democracy and strengthening the public healthcare system are among its chief goals.

*A circle of strength for building community health*

**IN THE LATE EIGHTIES**, a group of researchers visited the Paharia tribe in Jharkhand to study ecological issues in the region. However, the poverty, ill-health and exploitation they discovered there led them to form SATHEE, with a determination to make a difference to the lives of those forgotten communities. Imparting life skills, making innovative interventions, partnering with government and non-governmental agencies, and engaging in advocacy, SATHEE has made a significant impact in education, children's rights, reproductive health and nutrition.

A major thrust of SATHEE's programmes is the restoration of peoples' entitlements and building capacity for self-reliance, facilitating participative democracy in the real sense while revitalizing the traditional tribal culture of self-governance. 'The organization's approach is to foster understanding and detailed studies of the issues and problems with the support of local community and institutional champions. Model building and replication





*Health and fun are ours by right*



*Charting our own health trajectory*

with the support of local governance and the community through a convergence process is another major approach. These models are participatory and community owned in all respects. Participatory planning, organizational transparency exercises at all levels, along with technical support to the local governance are key to our strategy,' says Dr. Niraj Kumar, founder of SATHEE. These values are clear in its programme to address the serious issues of Sickle Cell Anaemia and malnutrition, which are rife in the Paharia community.

SATHEE's combination of healthcare and humanitarian services has enabled it to be very effective even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides immediate assistance in the form of food, dry rations and personal hygiene kits, the organization

has ramped up its integrated healthcare response systems with a special focus on strengthening frontline services, creating awareness and capacity building. It is also working on livelihood regeneration and access to government welfare schemes for the vulnerable population it serves.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Prevention of Sickle Cell Anaemia in Pregnant Women, Neo-natal and Adolescents Among the Primitive Paharia Tribes

**Beneficiaries:** 23,711 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) population and 500 frontline service providers

**Location:** 165 villages in Sahibganj, Pakur and Godda districts of Jharkhand



## SEWA Rural



Founded by Dr. Anil Desai, Dr. Lata Desai, Dr. Dilip Desai, Dr. Pratima Desai and a group of like-minded friends in 1980

Inspired by the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi, SEWA Rural, or the Society for Education Welfare and Action Rural, is committed to working for the last human being, i.e., the poorest of the poor in society. Its activities are characterized by social service, a scientific approach and a spiritual outlook. With programmes spanning health, education and development, SEWA Rural has forged a veritable transformation for underserved communities in Gujarat. It has received many honours like the inaugural WHO SASAKAVA Award, the Mac Arthur Award, the SKOCH Digital Inclusion Award and the Public Health Champion Award.

*My body is no longer a mystery to me*

**JINAL, A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD TRIBAL GIRL** from a remote village in Bharuch district, Gujarat, missed school every other day because she often felt giddy and had severe bleeding during her period. Using an algorithm-based digital application, health workers attached to SEWA Rural's Adolescent Health Project found that Jinal was severely anaemic. The field supervisor referred her to the SEWA Rural Hospital where she was immediately attended to by a group of specialists and received a blood transfusion. Jinal didn't have to pay for any of this, and is now happily back to attending school. Such stories are evidence of how SEWA Rural has measurably transformed thousands of lives in tribal villages, integrating seamlessly over the last several decades with the Gujarat government's healthcare framework.

Started by a group of committed doctors who faced the challenges of remote geographies, initial mistrust from communities and a profound lack of resources with determination, SEWA Rural is now a force to be reckoned with



*Growing up informed about puberty, nutrition and health*



*Testing and treating gives a new chance at a robust life*

in the development field. The original aim of the NGO was low-cost or free medical services, so a maternity home gifted by a local society was converted into a small 30-bed general hospital (now expanded to 250 beds) complemented by the community-based health services and preventive health programmes at people's doorsteps. A remarkable fifteen-year collaboration with the state government in the running of a Primary Health Centre, and widespread eyecare programmes were other core initiatives. Thereafter, initiatives for vocational training, livelihood generation, women's empowerment and more were started in the region. SEWA Rural's digital application, 'TeCHO', for maternal child health has now been rolled out throughout Gujarat.

*Health*

The community itself is a major part of SEWA Rural's projects. 'Our starting premise was that comprehensive development would occur largely through community participation and that a participative ethos could be inculcated through the community's involvement, motivation and consciousness,' says Dr. Lata Desai, co-founder of the NGO.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Reaching the Unreached: Integration of m-Health Technology and Life Skill Education to Empower Adolescents  
**Beneficiaries:** 20,000 adolescents  
**Location:** 125 villages in Bharuch and Narmada districts of Gujarat



# TERI



Founded by Darbari S. Seth in 1974

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) seeks to create innovative solutions for a sustainable future through conservation and the efficient use of energy and resources, and minimizing and reusing waste. These solutions, in the form of research, policy, advocacy and technology have had significant impact at both grassroots and macro levels. By facilitating access to clean energy, TERI has impacted over 5 million people in India and Africa. It has also reached out to more than 3000 villages in Maharashtra through SHGs, where it set up food processing units to improve the nutritional health of communities.

*Sustainable development through productive partnerships*

**YEARS BEFORE CLIMATE CHANGE** and clean energy became the buzzwords for a sustainable world, TERI was cultivating action-oriented research in these areas. Combining interdisciplinary and integrated research with practice and policy, working with all levels of governments, the private sector and at the grassroots, this remarkable organization has had considerable success in its endeavours. Its interventions in the areas of climate change, nutrition security, and sustainable food production have had impactful outcomes. It has helped small and medium businesses develop energy efficient solutions and its projects and research in water conservation, fighting pollution and planning environmentally sustainable cities have benefitted communities across the country.

‘TERI’s impact research has created green jobs; it has cut carbon emissions and reduced health risks by facilitating access to clean energy to the poor. It has pioneered the use of biotechnology in the petroleum and agriculture sectors in India,’ says Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director-General, TERI.



*Innovative interventions to enhance lives and livelihoods*



*Clean energy meets clean living for a lifetime of health*

TERI's work feeds into government programmes and policies deeply. A few years ago, its research-based evidence contributed significantly to the National Green Tribunal's work. Currently, its engagement with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has led to an innovative system for detecting morbidity due to air pollution, and it is designing tools to determine how vulnerable populations are to health issues generated by climate change. Building the resilience of community health systems to the adverse impacts of our altered environment is a goal TERI consistently strives towards.

With a bottom-up approach that encompasses all sections of society and capacity building of stakeholders, such

as governments, NGOs, institutions, corporates, academia, students and the community at large, TERI has gone a long way towards achieving its goals of global sustainable development.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** SAHeLEE: Striving for Advancement in Health and Improved Quality of Life through Entrepreneurship and Education  
**Beneficiaries:** 1500 children under 5 years, 40 individuals, 500 educators, 1000 women, 100 primary schools, Anganwadi workers and schools, and 600 SHGs and FPOs  
**Location:** 100 villages in Nainital district of Uttarakhand

# EDUCATION



## *Finalists 2021*

**Child Rights and You 160**

*Empowering children with education, nutrition, health and protection*

**Jnana Prabodhini Samshodhan Sanstha 168**

*Research and development in psychology, gender and education*

**Krida Vikas Sanstha – Slumsoccer 176**

*Fostering development, growth and learning through sports*

## *Shortlisted 2021*

**ACCESS Development Services 184**

*Enabling empowerment and increasing community capacity*

**Collectives For Integrated Livelihood Initiatives 188**

*Improving lives of rural tribal communities in Central India*

**India Literacy Project 192**

*Creating pathways to quality education in government schools*

**Nirmaan Organization 196**

*Driving change through education, skill development and career guidance*

**North East Network 200**

*Empowering women with access, rights and development*

**TATA Institute of Social Sciences 204**

*Leveraging technology for research, training and knowledge dissemination*

**Youth Council for Development Alternatives 208**

*Uplifting vulnerable populations through education and capacity building*

This category covers projects which support the Right to Education and strengthen primary, secondary and higher education; promote lifelong learning opportunities through skill development; work with adult literacy; advance girl children's and women's education and empowerment; and ensure digital literacy for all. To qualify for the HCL Grant, projects should be designed around equitable, inclusive and quality education, thereby strengthening state systems and attaining sustainability in rural development.



The NGOs shortlisted in the EDUCATION category of the HCL Grant work through exciting new methodologies that impact people and policy. Skill-based and financial empowerment for rural farmers; re-orienting tribal girls from sex work to education; transforming government schools into stimulating learning spaces and introducing physical education; gender sensitization, positive sexual behaviour and mental well-being in adolescents; engaging young people in conservation – these are only some of the out-of-the-box projects spearheading sustainable, holistic learning for the underserved.









# CRY



Founded by Rippan Kapur in 1979

Awarded the most trusted NGO in India in 2018, Child Rights and You (CRY) believes that children should be happy, healthy and creative, and their rights should be protected and honoured in a society built on respect for dignity, justice and equity for all. Its projects have been implemented in the areas of education, health, nutrition, participation and protection of children in nineteen states, and have benefitted at least 3 million children.

*Peering at a splendid tomorrow*  
Following pages (162–163): *The pandemic cannot pause our passion for learning*

**STARTED BY AN AIRLINE PURSER** and a few friends with Rs. 50, this stellar NGO has grown into one of the most reputed and committed organizations in its field. Determined that no Indian child should be deprived of basic rights, CRY believes in empowering children through education, nutrition, health and protection. The founders chose to function as a link between millions of Indian donors and the grassroots organizations that work to ameliorate the lives of the most marginalized children in India. Down the line, CRY changed its name from Child Relief and You to Child Rights and You, with the belief that charity alone is not enough to provide succour for these children and that a rights-based approach is the only sustainable solution. ‘Irreversible change is only possible when children, parents, community groups and local governments come together to identify, address and resolve the issues that constrain children,’ Puja Marwaha, CEO, CRY, explains.





*Holistic learning for vulnerable populations*



*Building skills, creating ambitions*  
Following pages (166–167): *Education will give us wings*

CRY has a holistic approach with the child firmly at its centre. Its core endeavours include building the capacity of a community and advocating policy change. Says Puja Marwaha, ‘ensuring the rights of children at a young age will address the overall underlying causes of social issues in the country, like poverty and injustice, mortality and morbidity, malnutrition, illiteracy, livelihood and skilling, gender-based discrimination and exclusion.’ CRY was at the forefront of the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, as well as the campaign to make education a fundamental right for children.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CRY segued into providing safety and hygiene kits, and easing access to government schemes and relief packages to underserved

communities, while training ground level workers, ensuring access to online classes for children, and much more.

**HCL Grant Project Approach:** Re-orienting tribal girls from sex work to education and literacy through self, society and a system-oriented approach

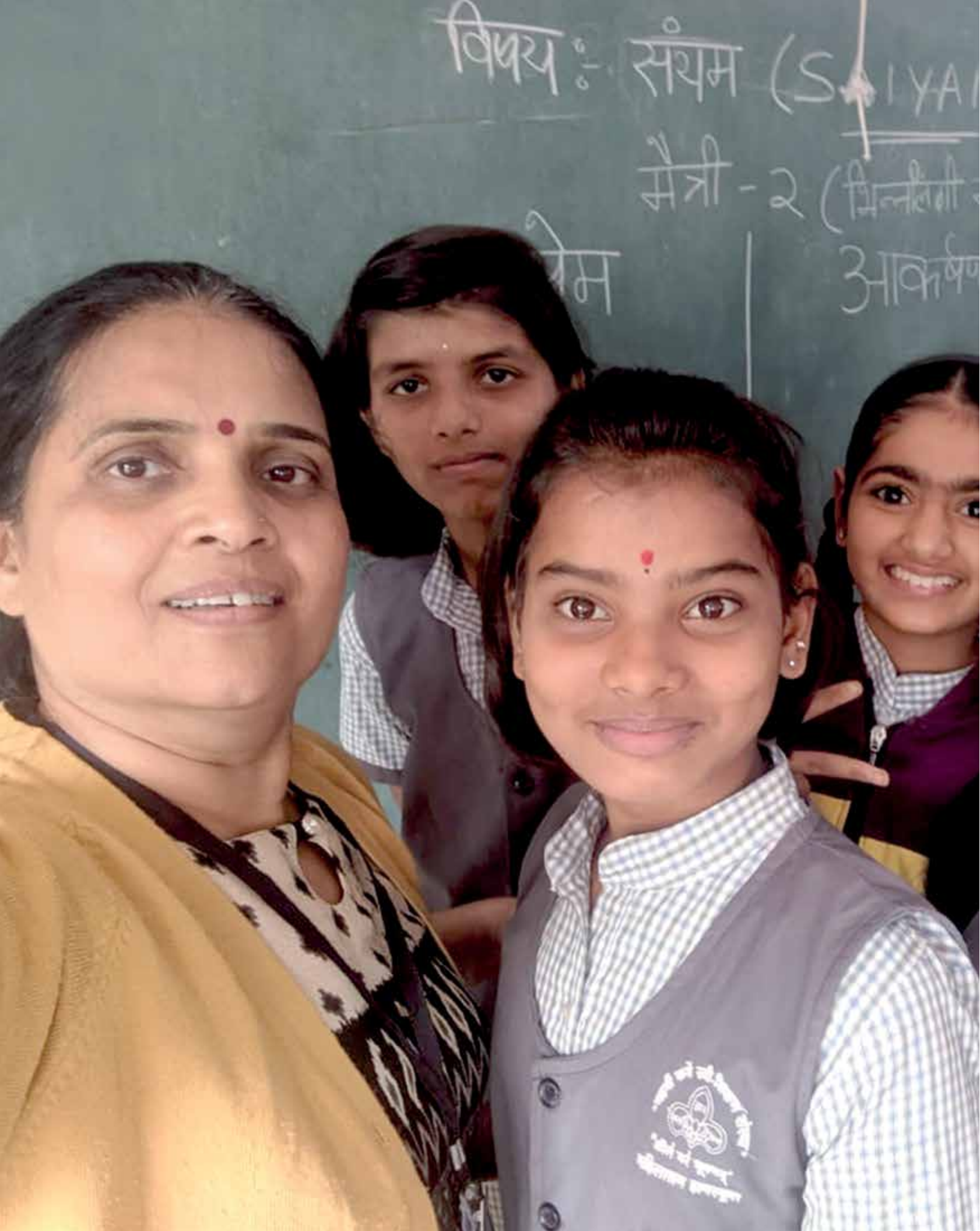
**HCL Grant Project Title:** UDAAN – Breaking Barriers and Rebuilding the Lives of Bedia Girls

**Beneficiaries:** 760 children (6–10 years), 526 adolescents (10–14 years), 714 adolescents (15–18 years), 1145 community members, 210 school management committee members,

70 school teachers, 200 village protection committees and 60 panchayati raj institutions

**Location:** 20 villages in Guna and Sagar districts of Madhya Pradesh





## Jnana Prabodhini Samshodhan Sanstha



Founded by Late V.S. Tamhankar and Dr. Usha Khire in 1985

Inspired by Late Dr. V.V. alias Appasaheb Pendse, Jnana Prabodhini Samshodhan Sanstha (JPSS), the research arm of Jnana Prabodhini, focuses on education and social sciences to identify and nurture human potential and leadership qualities in the context of contemporary social conditions. In the last thirty years, JPSS has organized conferences and published over a 100 papers. It has 60+ major and 50+ minor projects, and 200+ standardized tests to its credit. JPSS reaches close to 12,000 people every year through its research and extension activities.

*Our trainers broaden our perspectives*  
Following pages (170–171): *Participatory methods for mentoring and training*

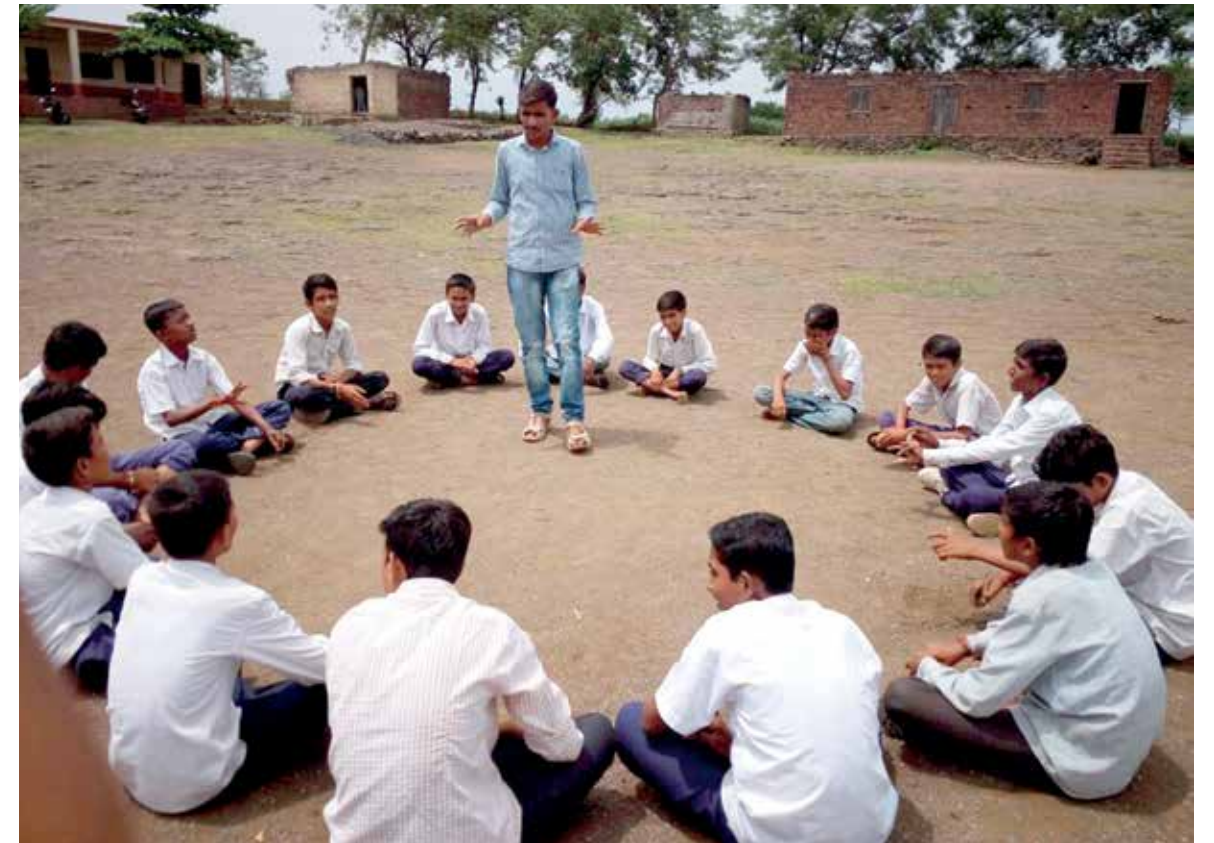
**JPSS WAS BORN** to strengthen the research component of its parent organization, Jnana Prabodhini. It acquired a separate entity in the eighties to focus on conceptual and applied research towards 'identifying and nurturing human potential for positive social change'. Engaged with intellectual giftedness, leadership capacity and emotional and psycho-social well-being of people, this organization implements scientifically determined models of intelligence, attitude and change through the inculcation of values. JPSS has conducted studies on rural and tribal populations, gender issues and deprived sections of society. 'Through its outreach activities, it has catered to the needs of populations from slum areas and rural interiors in different Indian states as well,' says Dr. Anagha Lavalekar, Trustee and Director.

Founded by a psychologist and an educationist, JPSS is recognized by bodies like the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and University Grants Commission (UGC). It works with a cross-section of society including children, parents, teachers, school establishments, human resource personnel from industries and





*Programmes that map intelligence and aptitude*



*Guiding young people towards their destinies*  
 Following pages (174–175): *Training for the giant leap of life*

government departments. Its programmes include postgraduate teaching, training for professionals, guidance and counselling (both educational and psychological), corporate training and assessments, and more. It runs a research consultancy and organizes conferences, and besides its own independent research, it also provides research support to other organizations for impact assessments.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, JPSS, in collaboration with the Pune Police, reached out to COVID positive police personnel and civilians through telephonic counselling to help them cope emotionally with the situation. It also trained trainers and began two research projects on the impact of the pandemic on mental health.

**HCL Grant Project Approach:** Building intervention frameworks for gender sensitization, positive sexual behaviour and mental wellbeing in adolescents

**HCL Grant Project Title:** YUVA-SATHI (Youth for Mentoring of Adolescents)

**Beneficiaries:** 100 master trainers, 196 teacher field trainers, 300 youth field trainers, 4 teachers in blind schools, 44,900 adolescents, 100 visually impaired adolescents

**Location:** 200 villages in Pune, Osmanabad, Ahmednagar, Satara, Raigad, Latur, Beed, Aurangabad, Ratnagiri, Nashik, Solapur and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra







## Krida Vikas Sanstha – Slumsoccer



Founded by Vijay Barse in 2001

Krida Vikas Sanstha – Slumsoccer believes that football can be an effective tool in reaching out and engaging with people from disadvantaged areas. Through this, it aims to improve society whilst empowering individuals. Winner of the FIFA Diversity Award in 2016, and the FICCI Gender Diversity Award and Nagbhushan Award in 2018, it has implemented projects in physical education and sports, covering 51,052 beneficiaries including 20,421 girls across India. Its programme EduKick is being implemented in government/zilla primary schools.

*Sowing the seeds of equal opportunity*  
Following pages (178–179): *Sports for development,*  
*sports for life*

**PANKAJ MAHAJAN HAS A DEGREE** in Physical Education. Once, Pankaj roamed the streets to avoid going home to extreme poverty and an alcoholic and abusive father. His life transformed after he participated in the Slumsoccer Community Impact Program, and since then, he has never looked back. Today, he is a coach, a player and the Project Manager of the Shakti Girls Program begun by Krida Vikas Sanstha – Slumsoccer, in which girls from underprivileged background get an opportunity to play football in a safe and friendly space, boosting their self-esteem exponentially. Besides the learnings of teamwork, leadership and communication, the girls receive knowledge on menstruation health management, nutrition and basic life skills.

Using football as a pathway to engage with youth and children irrespective of 'caste, culture, community, gender, religion or any other social construct', Slumsoccer gives them an alternative to a life which might otherwise include drug use, poverty and social alienation. 'We have also designed





*Passing on aspirations and dreams to each other*



*Teachers imbining techniques of coaching*

Following pages (182–183): *Competition, teamwork and victory fill our hearts with joy*

games based on health and wellness ... and football based games to generate greater interest among primary grade students in subjects such as English and Mathematics,' explains Dr. Abhijeet Barse, CEO, Slumsoccer. Participants also learn about gender equality, inclusion, values and ethics during cool down sessions after matches. The organization works with LGBTQ+ and deaf children as well.

In 2007, Slumsoccer represented India for the first time in the Homeless World Cup in Denmark. This helped generate partnerships with international organizations doing similar work and fed into the design and implementation of Slumsoccer's programmes in India. Slumsoccer rose to the occasion during the COVID-19 pandemic by first

imparting awareness on safety and hygiene, and then distributing rations, medical aid and tarpaulins for relief against harsh weather to their beneficiaries. It also set up channels for communication about mental health issues. Other initiatives included online capacity building and training of coaches and managers.

**HCL Grant Project Approach:** Holistic development and leadership training through physical education

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Khelo Padho Badho  
**Beneficiaries:** 1500 teachers and 37,500 children

**Location:** 750 villages in Nagpur district of Maharashtra





## ACCESS Development Services



Founded by Vipin Sharma in 2006

ACCESS provides inclusive and innovative livelihood solutions to the poor, enabling them to overcome poverty and live with dignity. It aims to build capacity of community-based institutions that deliver relevant financial and livelihood services to the poor and unreached communities. It has promoted 165 community-based institutions across the country over the last fourteen years, including over 153 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) during the last decade. It has robust projects in place in twelve states to enable access and socio-economic independence to underserved communities. In 2014, ACCESS won the Development Marketplace Award for Supporting Innovative Solutions to Deliver Services to the Poor by the World Bank.

*Sustainable livelihoods for women farmers*

‘FOR MANY GENERATIONS, we’ve been scared of the hungry season. We grow food, but we’re the ones who also starve ... never thought our small dry lands will ever give us security of food ... Now, we are not only able to produce enough for the family, but also sell a small surplus of our crop. We feel empowered, and there is new hope,’ says Rukmini, a beneficiary of a programme for farmers in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan, engineered by ACCESS. Using a three-tier strategy, this organization has catalysed impactful outcomes in agriculture and also in the non-farm sector among underserved communities. Tier one is empowering the community and organizing it into formal institutions to ensure long-term sustainability; tier two is the offering of ‘techno-managerial support’ to government and non-government agencies to strengthen their interventions; and tier three involves acting as a think tank to influence and support policy.

ACCESS was the brainchild of a bureaucrat who quit to join the development



*The strength of the collective brings wealth to all*



*Empowered communities, leaders of change*

sector, gaining tremendous experience working at RBI, NABARD and later with the Rural Non-Farm Development Agency, Government of Rajasthan. He pioneered and led several programmes for rural development, formation of community-based organizations like women's SHGs, and also in microfinance. ACCESS strives to enable economic empowerment of women, tribal people, scheduled castes, small and marginal farmers, and other excluded communities so that they can increase their income and access markets, resources and entitlements. 'Organizing primary producers into formal institutions is a critical strategy of ACCESS. When small producers come together, they feel more empowered, apply the power of aggregation of their small marketable lots and are better equipped to

*Education*

negotiate in the marketplace,' explains Vipin Sharma, CEO of ACCESS.

The HCL Grant project applied for is a collaboration with the Government of Rajasthan and aims to benefit 10,000 women farmers by training and capacitating them, as well as plugging the gaps in government schemes.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** SwaNirbhar – Agri-Business and Financial Education for Self-Reliance

**Beneficiaries:** 10,000 farmers, 10 FPOs

**Location:** 211 villages in Chittorgarh, Rajsamand, Sirohi, Pratapgarh, Bikaner, Barmer and Ajmer districts of Rajasthan



## Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives



Founded by a group of individuals and institutions in 2007

Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CInI), an associate organization of the Tata Trusts, endeavours to sustainably improve the quality of life of tribal and rural communities in the tribal belt of Central India. Since its inception, it has built knowledge and scalable initiatives in the areas of agriculture, forest-based livelihoods, water, sanitation, resource development, education and digital literacy across four states, covering over 91,000 children in Jharkhand itself. In 2019, the 'Lakhpati Kisan-Smart Villages' programme of CInI and Tata Trusts was counted amongst the Global Top 100 at MacArthur Foundation's 100&change challenge.

*Nurturing students and strengthening schools in tribal belts*

**BATTLING MULTIPLE OBSTACLES**, including poverty, extremism, missing teachers, general disinterest and more, CInI has been conducting programmes to strengthen education in government schools in the tribal and rural belts of Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha and Gujarat for several years. When it started its first intervention with a Reading Improvement Programme, the successful outcomes spurred on this dedicated organization to create a more holistic school improvement programme. The objectives they set their sights on were threefold – enhancing the students' learning by training teachers and providing better teaching materials and technology in the classroom; mobilizing the community including parents and school management committees; and developing models and resources, and building capacity of local organizations and institutions.

The programme has resulted in several positive consequences besides just academic improvement and a richer learning



*integrating technology into the classroom*



*The wonder of books within our reach*

experience. 'It has helped the children in making a speedy transition from their home languages (Mundari and Sadri) to the school language (Hindi) and making them more articulate, bold and confident. Non-cognitive skills such as punctuality, discipline, love for learning, regularity, respect for elders and leadership have also been developed as part of the education program. The focus is on overall school environment building,' says Ganesh Neelam, Executive Director, CInI.

In a population which has very little access to technology, the COVID-19 pandemic could have been disastrous for the children's education, but CInI found alternate ways to engage with their beneficiaries both online and offline. Children wrote stories which were put up on YouTube; they were sent

comprehension exercises and quizzes; teachers were trained online. The importance of technology was realized and future online inputs planned, and challenges were transformed into opportunities.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** School and Community Based Quality Improvement (SCQuIP)

**Beneficiaries:** 35,945 children, 689 government teachers, 2640 SMC members, 30,000 parents, 230 PRI members, 20 block resource persons and cluster resource persons

**Location:** 354 villages in Lohardaga district of Jharkhand





## India Literacy Project



Founded by Venki Venkatesh and a group of Indians in 1990

India Literacy Project (ILP) envisions a 100 per cent literate and educated India. It aims to transform government preschools and schools into multidimensional learning centres providing quality education that equips children with the skills, competencies, inquisitiveness and confidence to become lifelong learners. ILP is engaged with school enrollment, teacher development, capacity building and career counselling in 8800 schools in 5000 villages, covering 8,70,000+ children across India. Its programme, Multi-Dimensional Learning Space, has been implemented by the Department of Education in over 2200+ schools in seven states.

*Inquiring young minds grow into productive adults*

**‘I LIKE ATTENDING SCHOOL.** I wonder what experiment they will teach today and what I would miss if I skipped school. I look forward to coming to school from Sunday evening!’ These words from a child in a government school in rural Karnataka are a small miracle in themselves, given the alarming numbers of children in India who do not go to school or drop out, the poor quality of education received by those who do attend, and the lack of resources and skills teachers have to work with. ILP was born to address these concerns – to enable children from underprivileged communities to enroll and stay in schools, have access to quality education, and create pathways to their employability.

Beginning by partnering with the government to open schools in remote areas and convince the community to send children there rather than to work or marry them off, ILP next moved its focus to improve classroom engagement through unconventional strategies. Its flagship programme, Multi-Dimensional



*Multidimensional approaches redefine learning*



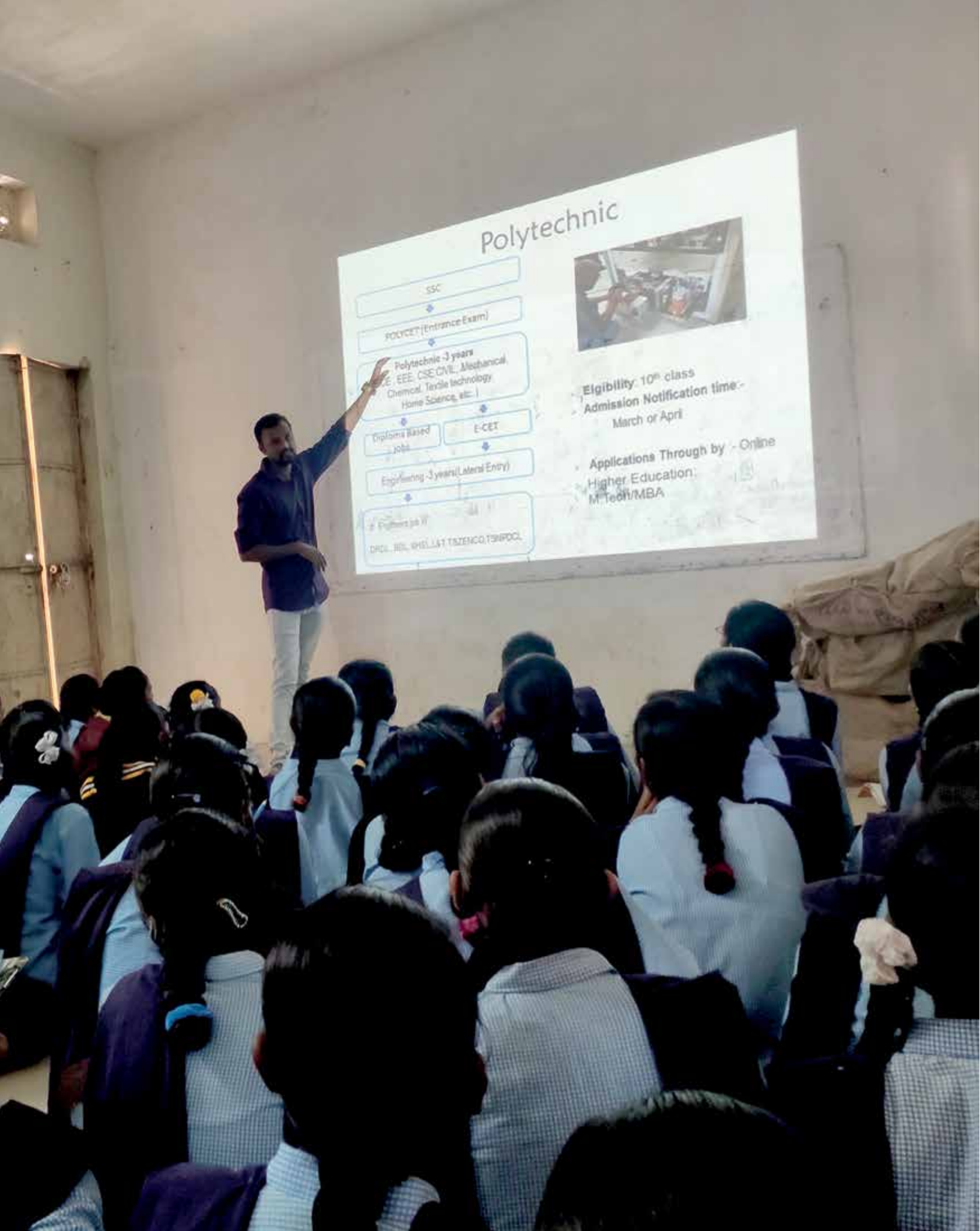
*Igniting the sparks of discovery*

Learning Space, uses auditory, visual and experiential learning and digital content, and innovative, customizable tools and approaches developed with teachers and parents to transform learning spaces in the communities they work with. The government has adopted and scaled ILP's models across geographies. To ensure sustainability of its initiatives, ILP involves the community, school administration, parents and students at every stage.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ILP and its partner NGOs facilitated safe passage for stranded migrant workers to their native villages, and distributed dry ration kits, medicines and sanitation items. It also conducted a mobile app-based survey

between August and October in 2020, covering 16,000 households, to measure the impact of COVID-19 on family incomes, health and children's education.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Schools as Multi-Dimensional Learning Spaces  
**Beneficiaries:** 153 villages with 459 preschools and schools covering 35,000+ children, 222 Anganwadi workers, 235 SMCs, 235 teachers and school administrations  
**Location:** 208 villages in Kolar District of Karnataka and Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh



# Nirmaan Organization



Founded by Mayur Patnala in 2005

Nirmaan Organization seeks to achieve a knowledge driven, economically empowered society through the promotion of grassroots social innovations, volunteering spirit, active citizenship and social leadership amongst the youth of the nation. It drives change in the fields of education, skill development and entrepreneurship, and social leadership. It has impacted 1.5 million lives of underprivileged children, youth, women and farmers across Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Chhattisgarh.

*Helping me determine my future prospects*

**ONCE FIRST-GENERATION LEARNERS** in rural India cross the hurdle of acquiring an education, they must face their next obstacle: which career should they pursue? They have no guidance, no inkling of their own potential or of the opportunities available, and if they do have a dream, they have no opportunity to find the resources to upskill themselves or follow that dream. Nirmaan Organization addresses this lacuna in India's education paradigm, helping multitudes of students make appropriate career choices. It has twelve flagship programmes for underserved communities and scalable interventions at the grassroots level. Its goals are furthered by collaborating with other NGOs, the government, over forty corporates and the communities themselves, and leveraging technology to create sustainable and far reaching impact. These programmes fall into the broader buckets of education, skill development and entrepreneurship, and social leadership.

Started by a group of students in BITS, Pilani, initially Nirmaan Organization consisted of ten volunteers educating



*Career guidance is just a call or tap away*



*Building capacity of rural trainers who give back to their community*

the children of their campus staff. From these small beginnings, the NGO has grown exponentially. With a special focus on inclusion, it has career counselling programmes for visually impaired students, skill enhancement workshops with prisoners of Chanchalguda Jail, and many initiatives for students from tribal and marginalized communities. Its programmes are designed to be sustainable, making beneficiaries a key part of the planning and implementation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only made this organization more determined. They have moved their career counselling programme online, and are working to bridge the gaps in online education in government schools. ‘We have converted our vocational training centre where women

are taught tailoring into a production unit making good quality masks. We have further partnered with the Government of Telangana to deliver these masks to the interiors and to front-end workers in Anganwadis, health workers, etc.’, says Chandra Sekhar Putchakayala, CEO, Nirmaan Vidya HelpLine.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Comprehensive Career Counselling  
**Beneficiaries:** 8,00,000 children and 2,00,000 youth/dropouts  
**Location:** 5000 villages in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh



## North East Network



Founded by Monisha Behal in 1995

Based on the ideology of a strong feminist approach towards gender justice and equality, North East Network (NEN) aspires to build a society that upholds gender justice, equality and respect for human rights by strengthening women's collectives and their leadership in communities and public domains. It works to arrest discrimination and violence against women, ensuring safer spaces for them. It has always focussed on protecting the environment and biodiversity through innovative initiatives with communities. NEN reaches 264 villages in Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya.

*A new lens to view conservation*

**GREEN HUB** is a remarkable initiative that gives young people from rural communities in the north east of India a camera and encourages them to document their environment. This provokes questions in the young people's minds and generates intense engagement with conservation, wildlife, indigenous knowledge and social change. One of the several programmes started by NEN, the Green Hub, a project conceived in collaboration with Dusty Foot, has transformed lives of these young people who are growing up amidst poverty, insurgency and the ravaging of their natural resources and traditional practices.

NEN began as a platform to build alliances between women's groups in the north east with the aim of promoting gender equality. Subsequently, the NGO began its grassroots activism with women weavers and farmers, enhancing their skills, building market linkages and empowering women to take the reins of their lives firmly in their own hands. Capacity building, community mobilization, research and advocacy add



*The spirit of discovery channelled into protecting natural resources*



*Documenting tradition for a more positive future*

strength to its programmes. Today, it has extended its work to the sustainable and progressive idea of creating livelihoods by protection of natural resources, particularly by engaging the youth in the region.

The COVID-19 pandemic saw NEN undertaking relief work, creating support systems for domestic abuse victims, engaging weavers to make masks, as well as helping with disaster relief during the Assam floods. But there were some strategic insights gained due to the pandemic, too. Monisha Behal, founder of NEN says, 'Using the existing fraternity of women and communities it has become our resolve to invest more on food security, nutrition, fodder and livelihood in the post-lockdown period. Apart from promoting food sovereignty our ideas,

though nascent, are in the possibilities of creating a barrier free learning initiative, using collaborative processes with young professionals who have expertise in environment film making, multimedia design, traditional architecture and the use of digital medium at every step.'

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Green Hub  
**Beneficiaries:** 188 Green Hub fellows, 4000 conservation education teachers, 1,60,000 children and youth (Eco Club)  
**Location:** 327 villages in 32 districts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim



# TATA Institute of Social Sciences



Founded by the Sir Dorabji Trust in 1936

The vision of TATA Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) is to create a people-centred, ecologically sustainable and just society that promotes and protects dignity, equality, social justice and human rights for all. TISS has built a legacy of academic excellence by teaching social work, development and management, and producing committed young professionals. Besides education, TISS responds to changing social realities through research, policy support, and field action programmes as well as strategic engagement with government institutions through capacity building, designing and implementing initiatives, knowledge generation, evaluation and much more.

*Enhancing the quality of curricula and teaching*

**THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION INNOVATION AND ACTION RESEARCH (CEIAR)** is an independent centre at TISS, Mumbai. Its central focus is improvement and innovation of school curricula, continuing teacher education, and designing curricula for higher education and pedagogy. Using technology and new media, CEIAR strives to enhance the quality of teaching-learning processes and benefit underserved communities by minimizing the digital divide. 'Its programmes are designed to give students the agency to construct their own learning, with relevance to their particular context and connected to their real lives,' explains Dr. Amina Charania, from TISS. Offering degree courses in education as well as short term blended and online courses, it empowers new, as well as in-service teachers to use technology creatively in their classrooms.

CEIAR's two flagship programmes have won awards and accolades in India and globally. The Connected Learning Initiative (CLIX) and the Integrated Approach to



*Minimizing the digital divide for learners*



*Enhancing teaching/learning experiences with technology*

Technology in Education (ITE), an initiative of Tata Trusts, offer a constructive learning approach to use technology in curriculum and pedagogy. These ICT-based programmes are for adolescent students from government schools and madrasas in Assam, Chattisgarh, West Bengal, Mizoram and Uttar Pradesh.

The impact of these robust projects is evident from stories like this one about Moumita Dutta, who teaches at the Giribala Sirkar Balika Vidyalaya in Kolkata. For the last three years, she has been using the learnings from the ICT and Education course she did with TISS in her Mathematics classroom. The dislike and fear her students had for Maths has now been dispelled by the strategies she uses, going beyond the textbook to integrate their learning with

real-life scenarios and technology. She has been instrumental in planning and running online classes for her school as well as children from other schools during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring continuity in their learning.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** Preparing Adolescents from the Marginalized Sections and Their Teachers for the 21st Century Society  
**Beneficiaries:** 2200 teachers, 3,30,000 students and 10,000 outreach teachers  
**Location:** 2735 villages across 5 districts of Assam, 6 districts of Chhattisgarh and 5 districts of West Bengal





## Youth Council for Development Alternatives



Founded by Rajendra Meher in 1993

Youth Council for Development Alternatives (YCDA) aims to improve the socio-economic status and self-reliance of disadvantaged communities in sustainable ways. To achieve this, it attempts to address causes and symptoms of deprivation through community mobilization and expansion of the livelihood base. Over three decades, it has covered 2050 villages in seventeen blocks of five districts of Odisha. Winner of the Best Voluntary Organization Award in 2020, YCDA is presently working on child protection and adolescent issues, livelihood and family strengthening programmes, as well as helping children get access to meaningful, quality and monitored education.

*Education includes life skills, safety and health*

**EVERY YEAR**, thousands of landless labourers from Odisha migrate to the brick kilns of Andhra Pradesh. Their children's education is the first casualty of their itinerant lifestyle. Among other poor communities, children's value as economic assets is in constant conflict with their schooling. The huge gender-gap, non-inclusive and child-unfriendly environments make acquiring an education even more precarious. YCDA addresses the unfinished agenda of making education holistic, where every child feels welcome and learning becomes joyful. Through its programmes, it enables children to have quality primary education and livelihood skills; empowers them to feel safe from discrimination, maltreatment, neglect and abuse; strengthens families so that children can grow in a safe and economically stable community.

Besides engaging directly with families, YCDA works to fortify community-based organizations, build their capacity and help



*Making classes engaging for first-generation learners*



*Improving learning outcomes and retention for the poorest children*

them participate in the development process. It links the YCDA Remedial Classes for Slow learners in community government's policies for the poor and their beneficiaries through advocacy and lobbying.

At its heart, YCDA believes change stems from within the community. 'We start our interventions with a baseline survey at the proposed area with all the direct and indirect stakeholders. YCDA strongly believes that for every project to be sustainable, the role of government and community partnership is pivotal; hence we ensure it from the beginning of our programmes. We do not do things in isolation,' says Rajendra Meher, Secretary and CEO, YCDA.

YCDA recovered quickly from the initial setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic. It sourced laptops from sponsors, trained

local educated youth in online e-learning, and trained teachers in the use of online platforms. It then connected the youth and teachers' groups to take learning to children at the grassroots.

**HCL Grant Project Title:** STAR School... A Journey Making Schools a Center of Excellence

**Beneficiaries:** 10,000 students, 1000 members of SMC and 500 head teachers and teachers

**Location:** 200 villages in Boudh, Boangir and Khordha in Odisha

# BEHIND THE SCENES



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“The past year was a unique year of resilience and transformation that taught us how to transcend barriers and keep going even in the face of adversity. Despite the pandemic, the robustness demonstrated by our NGO partners, experts, jury members and the entire team is commendable. The passion and zeal of our NGO partners to bring in scalable and replicable solutions have created systemic shifts across geographies, lending velocity to the sustainable development agenda. The winners and finalists of this year’s Grant also have significant stories to tell, with visible on-the-ground impact. My best wishes to these NGOs, who are addressing some of the most pressing issues in the key development categories of environment, health, and education in the most remote corners of the country.”

– Ms. Robin Abrams, Director – HCL Technologies Board of Directors, Chairperson – HCL Grant Jury



# CREDITS



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