17TH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR, AWARD, INDIA-2026

From L to R - Simanchala Dash, Dr. François Bonnici, Vinay Kr Reddy Vadde, Shereen Bhan, Shyam S Bhartia, Chief Guest N K Singh, Nidhi Pant, Vineet Saraiwala, Nuneseno Chase, Dr. Neha Verma, Aashti Bhartia, Seema Prem, Vivek Prakash

The Jubilant Bhartia Foundation and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, the sister organization of the World Economic Forum, today honoured Ms. Nidhi Pant of Science for Society (S4S) Technologies with the esteemed Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award - India 2026. The award was presented by Chief Guest Shri N K Singh, Former Rajya Sabha Member and Former Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, in the presence of distinguished personalities from policy, business, academia, and civil society at a ceremony held in New Delhi.

In his address, Shri N K Singh said, "This is an admirable venture to award, recognise people who have made a difference in their lives, transcending barriers to make a more wholesome society. All these are celebrations of change, of innovation ushering a better future. The five people awarded today are examples of unreasonable people who have sought to change the world in multiple ways. We need to inspire trust to accept success and not stigmatise failure and enhance the capability of research and development so the five people awarded today can be multiplied. My congratulations to all the finalists and my gratitude to this foundation for nurturing this journey, which began 17 years ago and has a great, exciting future ahead."

Ms. Shereen Bhan, Managing Editor, CNBC TV18, presented the impactful stories of the five finalists and highlighted their inspiring entrepreneurial journeys.

As part of the broader Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) India Award 2026 platform, the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation convened a leadership roundtable on "Impact Enterprises: Business with Purpose in India's Growth Story." The dialogue brought together entrepreneurs, investors, incubators, corporate leaders, and ecosystem stakeholders to examine how purpose-driven enterprises are contributing to

economic growth while addressing pressing social challenges. Discussions focused on enterprise scale, leadership development, advocacy, capital access, and sustainable business models, underscoring the importance of robust founder-support ecosystems. The conversations also highlighted the role of SEOY and BHARAT IMPACT, an initiative of the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation, in enabling founders through incubation, funding, strategic networks, and long-term ecosystem support. The entrepreneurs recognised this year embody this vision, demonstrating how innovative and scalable enterprises can create lasting impact while advancing inclusive and sustainable development.

From L to R – Chintan Bakshi, Dr. Shuchin Bajaj, Seema Chaturvedi, Deepak Jain, Seema Prem, Madhura DasGupta Sinha, Saloni Malhotra

JURY MEMBERS

Ms. Shobhana Bhartia
Chairperson & Editorial Director, HT Media Ltd

Dr. François Bonnici
Director, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship; Member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum

Ms. Aashti Bhartia
Director, Jubilant Ingrevia Limited
Non Executive Director, Jubilant FoodWorks Limited

Ms. Geetanjali Kirloskar
Chairperson and Managing Director, Kirloskar Systems Limited

Mr. Harish Arnezath
Regional Director, Stanford Seed, India

Mr. Rajiv Memani
Chairman and CEO - EY India Regional Managing Partner, Africa India Region Chairman, Growth Markets Council

Mr. ***Piyush Tiwari***
SaveLIFE Foundation, Winner SEOY 2025

Mr. Girish Aivalli
CEO, Impact Investor Council (IIC)

WINNER

Nidhi Pant
Science For Society Techno Services Pvt. Ltd (S4S)
Headquartered: Maharasthra

Established: 2001
Area of Activity: Climate Technology
Website: www.s4stechnologies.com

To address India's growing problem of agricultural produce wastage, S4S has built a decentralised, climate-smart food processing ecosystem. India loses nearly 20 per cent of its agricultural produce before it reaches consumers. This results in an estimated US$14 billion worth of food being wasted annually due to inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, unreliable energy access, and limited market linkages. S4S Techno Services addresses these interconnected challenges by reducing food loss, improving farmer incomes, strengthening climate resilience, and creating sustainable rural livelihoods.

The S4S food-processing ecosystem combines renewable energy, women-led entrepreneurship, affordable finance, and assured market linkages. Its patented Solar Conduction Dryer (SCD) enables village-level processing without electricity, retaining 85–95 per cent of its nutritional value, preserving produce for up to one year at zero operating costs. By empowering rural women to run local processing enterprises, S4S enables smallholder farmers to capture greater value from their produce.

Smallholder farmers, particularly women, often lack affordable processing technologies and sell perishable produce at distressed prices. S4S addresses this through farm-gate processing enabled by its Solar Conduction Dryer, which operates without coal, wood, or electricity. The model converts surplus produce into high-value ingredients, reducing waste and generating income. To date, S4S has benefited over 7,00,000 smallholder farmers and created livelihoods for more than 5,000 women entrepreneurs.

Rather than treating food processing as a technology deployment challenge, S4S has reimagined it as a women-led entrepreneurship ecosystem. Rural women receive processing equipment, technical training,

business mentoring, and market access to operate local enterprises. This decentralised approach strengthens rural livelihoods while enabling community-led value addition and local economic participation.

S4S has integrated the entire value chain, from processing and aggregation to quality assurance, logistics, and market access, supported by continuous research and development. The model has prevented over 60,000 tonnes of food waste and 300,000 tonnes of CO_2 emissions, demonstrating a scalable and commercially sustainable blueprint for climate-smart rural development.

As India strives to strengthen food security while advancing climate and livelihood goals, S4S's decentralised food processing ecosystem offers a replicable and commercially sustainable blueprint for inclusive rural development. By embedding renewable energy, women entrepreneurship, circular value chains, and market-led value addition into the agricultural economy, S4S is not only reducing food waste but also reshaping how India approaches rural prosperity, climate resilience, and sustainable food systems.

FINALISTS

Dr. Neha Verma
Intelehealth
Headquartered in: Nashik, Maharashtra
Established in: 2016
Website: www.inteleheath.org

Area of Activity: Intelehealth expands access to quality primary healthcare for underserved populations through a scalable telemedicine platform integrated with public health systems. Its "brick-and-click" model enables frontline health workers to connect patients with remote doctors, supported by AI-enabled clinical decision tools and open-source digital infrastructure. By working closely with governments, NGOs, and global health institutions, Intelehealth strengthens healthcare delivery, particularly in resource-constrained and rural settings.

Impact: Intelehealth has enabled over 20 million teleconsultations, reaching more than 86 million people across multiple geographies. The organisation has supported 18,600+ frontline health workers and 10,000+ doctors, while generating over US$110 million in patient cost savings through reduced travel and healthcare expenses. With 80%+ reported improvement in health outcomes and operations spanning 14+ states and multiple countries, Intelehealth has demonstrated a scalable model for equitable healthcare delivery.

Nuneseno Chase
YouthNet
Headquartered in: Nagaland
Established in: 2005
Website: www.youthnet.org.in

Area of Activity: YouthNet empowers young people through education, employability, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihood programmes. Through initiatives such as the YouthNet Job Centre, YouthNet Career Development Centre, YouthNet Incubation Centre, and Made in Nagaland, the organisation provides career guidance, skills development, business incubation, market access, and enterprise support. It works closely with government, industry, educational institutions, and development partners to strengthen Nagaland's youth and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Impact: Over the past two decades, YouthNet has directly impacted more than 251,988 beneficiaries across Nagaland. Its entrepreneurship programmes have supported 19 startups and facilitated access to over ₹3.13 crore in seed funding, while employability initiatives have enabled 4,133+ youth to access career guidance and skills training. Through CareerAware and CareerReady, the organisation has reached 18,893 students across 175 government schools, strengthening pathways to employment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihoods.

Vinay Kumar Reddy Vadde
Sickle Innovations Pvt. Ltd.
Headquartered in: Telangana
Established in: 2014
Website: www.sickle.in

Area of Activity: Sickle Innovations strengthens horticulture value chains through AI-powered grading, sorting, and post-harvest management solutions. Its decentralised, farm-gate infrastructure combines computer vision, automation, and data analytics to enable scientific quality assessment, improve market transparency, and reduce post-harvest losses. Through partnerships with Farmer Producer Organisations, agribusinesses, and government agencies, the organisation makes advanced post-harvest technologies accessible and affordable for smallholder farmers.

Impact: Sickle Innovations has directly impacted over 3,00,000 farmers, generated more than ₹300 crore in additional farmer income, and deployed over 100 AI-powered grading systems that have processed 70,000+ tonnes of horticultural produce. The organisation has also distributed over 4,00,000 farm mechanisation tools through a network of 200+ channel partners, improving productivity, market access, and price realisation for farmers across multiple states.

Vineet Saraiwala
Atypical Advantage
Headquartered in: Jharkhand
Established in: 2020
Website: www.atypicaladvantage.in

Area of Activity: Atypical Advantage enables the economic inclusion of persons with disabilities by improving access to skilling, employment, entrepreneurship, and livelihood opportunities. Through its integrated ecosystem, the organisation connects persons with disabilities with employers, educational institutions, and community partners while leveraging accessible technology, inclusive hiring practices, and specialised training programmes. It also creates alternative livelihood pathways through creative arts, performances, and entrepreneurship initiatives.

Impact: Atypical Advantage has built a talent pool of over 50,000 persons with disabilities, generated more than 5,000 livelihood opportunities, and facilitated over 1,000 direct job placements across multiple sectors. The organisation supports over 350 visual artists and 500 performers with disabilities, generating earnings exceeding ₹3.5 crore, while sensitising more than 100,000 employees through 500+ workplace inclusion workshops, driving greater disability inclusion across corporate India.

***Chief Guest** Shri NK Singh*
Former Member, Rajya Sabha
Former Chairman,
15th Finance Commission of India
interacting with Mr. SS Bhartia
and Mr. Simanchala Dash

Shri NK Singh interacting with the
SEOY 2026 Finalists

GLIMPSES OF THE AWARD CEREMONY

JUBILANT BHARTIA FOUNDATION

SCHWAB FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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