

# Parivartan Excellence Awards 2026

## Award Categories and Eligibility Criteria

### Category 1: Excellence Awards for Impact

Sub-Category Name	Definition
Rural Development	<p>Initiatives taken towards improving the quality of life and socio-economic conditions of vulnerable communities in rural areas through integrated interventions. This category includes projects aiming to create sustainable livelihoods and reduce disparities between rural and urban regions.</p> <p><i>(This category is divided into six regional sub-categories. Projects will be evaluated region-wise, and one winner will be awarded from each region: Central, East, North, Northeast, West, and South.)</i></p>
Agriculture and Natural Resource Management	<p>Initiatives that boost rural livelihoods through sustainable agriculture and natural resource conservation, covering climate smart farming, water management, renewable energy use, and resilient agri-value chains to strengthen ecosystems and farmer incomes.</p>
Enterprise Development	<p>Initiatives that drive inclusive economic growth by enabling entrepreneurship, strengthening micro and small enterprises, and improving access to skills, finance, and markets. The focus is on building resilient local businesses, expanding livelihoods, and fostering long-term socioeconomic stability through empowered, self-sustaining entrepreneurs.</p>

### Category 2: Rising Star Awards

Sub-Category Name	Definition
Innovation	<p>Recognizes on-going projects that rethink conventional approaches by deploying inventive methods, adaptive models, or technology-driven solutions to achieve stronger and more scalable results.</p>
Inaccessible Geographies	<p>Recognizes on-going projects that successfully operate in hard-to-reach geographies or with marginalized and vulnerable communities, overcoming access, infrastructure, or social barriers to deliver consistent and meaningful impact.</p>

Inclusion	Recognizes on-going projects that focus on prioritize vulnerable and underrepresented groups, incorporating inclusive practices in their design and implementation to improve access, participation, and outcomes.
Implementation at Scale	Recognizes partners that demonstrate strong operational performance while managing scale across multiple geographies or large beneficiary volumes.

## Eligibility Criteria

### General:

- NGOs partnered with HDFC Bank Parivartan only may apply
- An organization cannot participate on behalf of its sister units, parent organization or other organizations under the parent organization
- The key initiative applied for the Awards must benefit India, or a community in India
- The awards management shall reach out to the nominees for gathering references for verification of the initiative and Impact mentioned in the application
- An entity shall be considered an NGO if it fulfils the following conditions:
  - It has registration under any of the following acts:
    - under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 (if registered as company)
    - Indian Trust Act, 1882 (if registered as trust) or any other act for the time being in force
    - Societies Registration Act, 1860 (if registered as Society)
    - Entities should have CSR 1 form
    - Any other entity that is eligible as per the CSR Rules to implement CSR project
    - The entity should have not had any litigation/ proceedings/ investigation/ inquiry/ other regulatory action/ notice/ penalty against any member of the governing body of the entity
- Employees of HDFC Bank, sponsors and partners of the Awards are not allowed to participate in the Awards.
- Participation in the awards is completely voluntary.

### Note

- The Jury and or Awards management may modify the eligibility criteria from time to time with retrospective effect, in its sole discretion.
- The Jury holds the right to disqualify any application which does not meet the eligibility criteria without assigning any reason whatsoever.

### Eligibility Criteria for Completed Projects – Category 1

- Active NGO partners with projects supported by HDFC Bank's Parivartan program, completed by December 31, 2024.
- Projects must have the completed mandatory third-party impact assessment report by December 31, 2025.
- Projects that were nominated in the previous edition of the awards are not eligible.
- An NGO can apply for unique projects across multiple categories/ sub-categories; however, it will be recognized as a winner only in the category with highest scores.

### Eligibility Criteria for Ongoing Projects – Category 2

- Active NGO partners with ongoing projects supported by HDFC Bank Parivartan, which have been active for at least 18 months as of December 31, 2025.
- NGOs may apply only if they have been formally nominated by their respective Regional Heads and only in the specific category for which they have been nominated.