

**Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)
receives the HCL grant 2017 in the Environment Category
at a ceremony presided over by Shri. Arun Jaitley,
Union Finance Minister, Government of India,
on 21st Feb 2017.**



Finance Minister, Shri. Arun Jaitley felicitating representatives from FES

The HCL Grant aims to achieve sustainable development of rural communities by supporting NGOs that are doing path-breaking work towards the transformation of rural India. Initiated in 2015 by the HCL Foundation, the HCL Grant is an effort to support the institutionalisation of the Fifth Estate (NGOs) through the creation of strong governance frameworks and management capabilities. This year, the Grant is meant to support NGOs that reach out to marginalised, isolated and underdeveloped rural communities, and achieve sustainable socio-economic development in the areas of Education, Health and Environment.

Following a robust and multi-level evaluation process that involved screening of over 3000+ applications, three NGOs were selected by an independent jury as the recipients of the HCL Grant 2017 (in the field of Health, Education and Environment), with FES bagging the award in the Environment category (<http://hclgrant.hcltech.com/>).

With this prestigious 5 Crore Grant (about 0.75 Million USD), FES will step up efforts aimed at 'Informed Collaborative Action for Resilience of Ecosystems(iCARE)' which will contribute to widespread recognition of Common property regimes and Socio-ecological thinking in ecological governance. The initiative will strengthen decentralised institutional arrangements and stewardship at Block/landscape level by bringing together village communities, decision makers, academia and civil society organisations, and the innovative use of spatial information systems and technology for improved planning of conservation action and rural development, especially focusing on 6 blocks of 5 states of India.