

## Reviving Ponds and Preserving Biodiversity: A Collaborative Effort



Maj. Gen. Rahul Bhardwaj (Extreme left) representing DA at the felicitation event

**P**onds are essential to the sustenance of life as they not only provide water for people and other aquatic life, but also help recharge groundwater levels and ground aquifers. However, because of bad governance, a lack of attention, siltation, and encroachment all over India, these important water bodies have been neglected.

Development Alternatives and HCL Foundation teamed up to start a substantial programme focusing on the revitalisation and restoration of traditional water sources, particularly "Ponds," in the Gautam Buddha Nagar area of Uttar Pradesh in order to address this urgent problem. The goal of the project, which started in 2019, was to give the nearby communities a sense of ownership while also, increasing the water storage capacity of these ponds.

Since its inception, the project has made substantial progress. Development Alternatives successfully rejuvenated 13 ponds in eight villages of Gautam Buddha Nagar, positively impacting an impressive 518 hectares of pond catchment area and benefiting over 20,000 individuals residing in these eight villages.

Recognising the exemplary efforts and dedication put forth by various NGOs working in the water conservation domain, HCL Foundation took the opportunity to felicitate them on 13th July 2023. During the ceremony, Major General Rahul Bhardwaj received the Appreciation Award on behalf of Development Alternatives from Ms. Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of HCL Tech and CSR Board Committee, along with Dr Nidhi Punthir, Vice President of Global CSR at HCL Foundation. Such acknowledgments serve as tremendous motivation for our organisation to strive for even greater heights each day.

Pond revitalisation and biodiversity preservation can become realities via coordinated initiatives and partnerships like these, taking us closer to a sustainable and prosperous environment for all. The restoration of these vital water bodies is an evidence of the positive change that can be brought about by banding together and practicing prudent resource management.