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Former Infosys CEO Nandan Nilekani and wife Rohini just pledged half of their wealth to charity

That's 50 per cent of \$1.7 billion

Nov 21, 2017



Infosys co-founder and non-executive chairman of the tech giant, Nandan Nilekani, signed the Giving Pledge with his wife, Rohini. The couple committed to giving away 50 per cent of their total wealth – which Forbes estimates to be ₹110 lakh crore (\$1.7 billion) – over the weekend. Bill and Melinda Gates, who founded the pledge along with Warren Buffett in 2010, were also present at the event. The Nilekanis' signing on makes them the fourth (and fifth) Indians to be amongst 171 unimaginably wealthy signatories from around the world, who have pledged at least half of their net worth to philanthropic causes. Other Indians who feature on the Giving Pledge's list are Biocon chairperson Kiran

Mazumdar-Shaw, Wipro chairman Azim Premji and Indian-Omani founder and chairman of Sobha Ltd, PNC Menon.

Announcing their decision, Nandan Nilekani shared this tweet with his two million plus followers:

Thanks, Bill! Our philanthropic journey of two decades has been led by Rohini's passion and commitment! <https://t.co/7dYGUB7kcY>
— Nandan Nilekani (@NandanNilekani) November 20, 2017

But though this may be one of the biggest philanthropic commitments made by an Indian couple, it certainly isn't the first one for the Nilekanis. For over 20 years, Rohini Nilekani has worked towards providing funds to organisations which strive to maintain groundwater levels and provide sanitation to communities in need across India. Called Arghyam, the public charitable foundation states on its website, 'The foundation's work rests upon a personal endowment from Rohini Nilekani'.

Both she and her husband also co-founded EkStep with Shankar Maruwada, a Bangalore-based no-for-profit organisation that's working on making education available to every child.

Bill Gates, who himself has been giving away vast portions of his wealth, took to social media share this picture of the couple and welcome them to the Giving Pledge:

I'm amazed by how @NandanNilekani has lent his entrepreneurial passion to philanthropy. I'm delighted to welcome him and his wife Rohini to the Giving Pledge. <pic.twitter.com/cvf9JHmb37>
— Bill Gates (@BillGates) November 20, 2017

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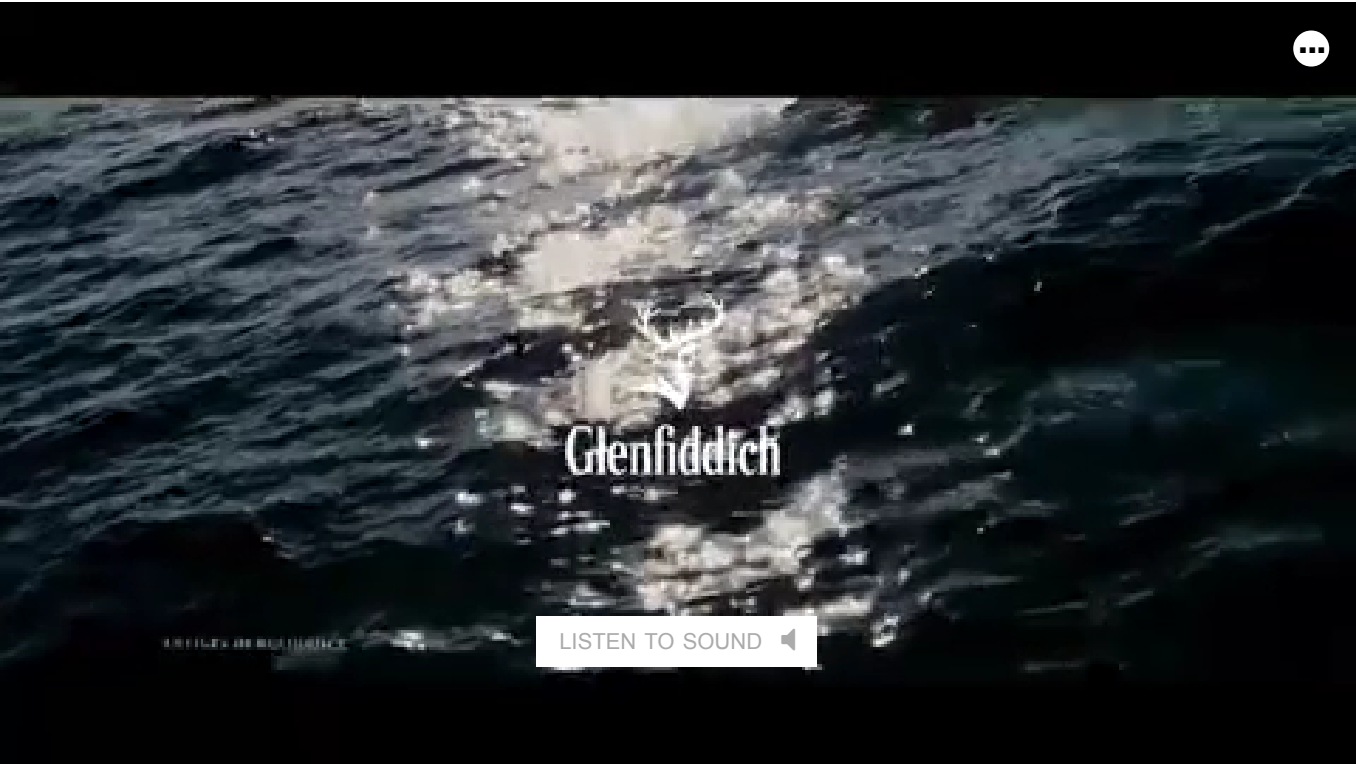
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