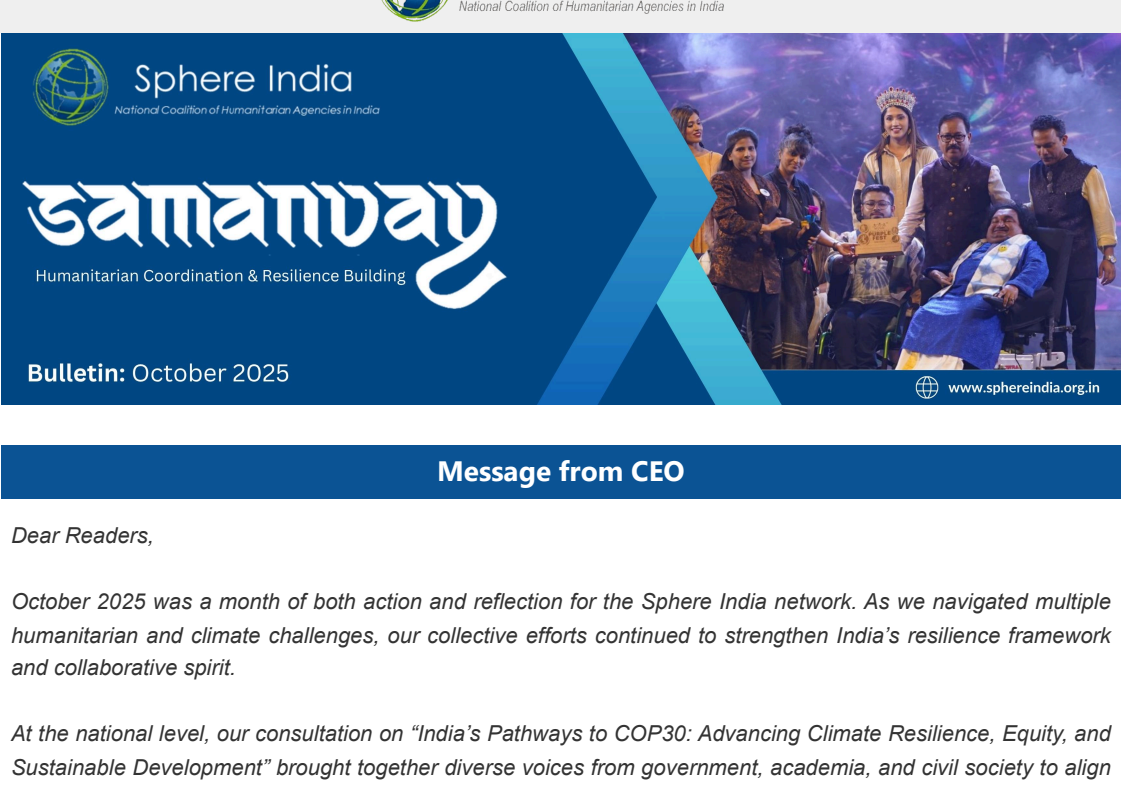




Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

October 2025 was a month of both action and reflection for the Sphere India network. As we navigated multiple humanitarian and climate challenges, our collective efforts continued to strengthen India's resilience framework and collaborative spirit.

At the national level, our consultation on "India's Pathways to COP30: Advancing Climate Resilience, Equity, and Sustainable Development" brought together diverse voices from government, academia, and civil society to align India's priorities with the global climate agenda. The discussions highlighted the urgent need to scale up adaptation, promote inclusive transitions, and integrate local knowledge and innovation in climate action.

To mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR), Sphere India organized a national consultation on "Resilient Futures: Financing Disaster Risk Reduction in India", echoing this year's global theme "Fund Resilience, Not Disasters". It was heartening to see partners like RedR India, through their launch of the DRR-CCA Clubs Network, and Chaitanya Jyothi Welfare Society (CJWS), through their coastal community celebrations in Andhra Pradesh, take forward the message of resilience at multiple levels, from national dialogues to grassroots actions.

This month also tested our coordination systems, as we closely monitored Cyclone Montha and the heavy rainfall in West Bengal and Sikkim. Our Inter-Agency Coordination (IAC) team's timely Situation Reports and alerts supported partners in preparedness and response efforts, once again underscoring the strength of collaborative action in crisis management.

As we now transition into the winter season, our focus shifts to cold wave preparedness, protecting lives and livelihoods from extreme cold events. Plans are already underway to strengthen coordination, awareness, and community-based preparedness efforts in the coming weeks.

Let us continue this momentum into November and beyond, learning from every challenge, celebrating every collaboration, and ensuring that no one is left behind in our journey towards a resilient and inclusive India.

Warm regards,
Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

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Program Updates

Inter-Agency Coordination

The Inter-Agency Coordination (IAC) Team performed exceptionally well in October 2025, demonstrating strong collaboration and effective information management throughout the month. The team released two comprehensive Situation Reports (SitReps), one on the heavy rainfall and impacts in West Bengal and Sikkim, and another focusing on Cyclone Montha, providing critical updates that guided preparedness and response actions. In addition to the SitReps, the team issued 12 weather alerts, ensuring timely dissemination of information to partners and stakeholders. An Emergency Coordination Meeting was also convened by IAG AP in response to Cyclone Montha, facilitating joint situational analysis and coordination among humanitarian partners.

Collaborative Advocacy

India's Pathways to COP30: Advancing Climate Resilience, Equity, and Sustainable Development

Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with the Integrated Centre for Adaptation to Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development (ICARCS), IIT Roorkee, organized a multi-stakeholder consultation on "India's Pathways to COP30: Advancing Climate Resilience, Equity, and Sustainable Development" on 24th October, 2025. The dialogue aimed to align national priorities with the global climate agenda and strengthen India's preparedness ahead of COP30 in Belém, Brazil. The discussions focused on advancing adaptation and resilience across key sectors such as water, urban systems, and livelihoods, while promoting social equity and inclusion in climate transitions. The session underscored the role of science, data, and local knowledge in driving climate action and highlighted community-led and nature-based solutions as vital for achieving sustainability. It concluded with a set of strategic recommendations to guide India's engagement at COP30, emphasizing inclusive governance, innovative financing, and collaboration for a climate-resilient future. [Watch here>>](#)

Knowledge and Capacity Sharing

National Consultation on Resilient Futures: Financing Disaster Risk Reduction in India

Sphere India Academy organized a national consultation on "Resilient Futures: Financing Disaster Risk Reduction in India" on 13th October, 2025, to commemorate the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) under the global theme "Fund Resilience, Not Disasters". The consultation brought together experts from government, academia, financial institutions, and civil society to deliberate on innovative mechanisms for DRR financing and strategies to integrate resilience into fiscal and policy frameworks. The discussions explored the gaps in disaster financing, the role of the 16th Finance Commission, and the need for risk-informed and climate-smart investments across sectors. Panelists highlighted the importance of local and community-based financing, participatory budgeting, and inter-agency collaboration to ensure that resilience-building is inclusive and equitable. The dialogue concluded with a roadmap to advance DRR financing at national and state levels, emphasizing multi-stakeholder partnerships and accountability frameworks that embed resilience across India's development agenda. [Watch here>>](#)

Youth Voices in Disaster Resilience – Interview series with Ms. Hina Saifi

A new and inspiring episode of the Youth Voices in Resilience series was released this month, featuring Ms. Hina Saifi, an UN-recognized climate leader and COP29 Youth Delegate. In this heartfelt conversation, Hina shares her remarkable journey from Sisola village in Meerut to representing India on global platforms, reflecting on how her roots and lived experiences shaped her passion for climate action and social change. Through her initiative Earth Buddy, Hina has been advancing climate education, women's empowerment, and community resilience, empowering youth and local communities to take meaningful climate action. Her story exemplifies the power of determination and how grassroots initiatives can influence global dialogues on climate justice and sustainable development. This episode captures the spirit of youth leadership and emphasizes the importance of inclusive participation in shaping a sustainable future. It serves as an invitation for young changemakers everywhere to engage, innovate, and lead with hope, compassion, and resilience in the face of the climate crisis. [Watch here>>](#)

Accountability to Affected Population

Revisiting Sphere Standards for Humanitarian Practitioners

An orientation session on "Revisiting Sphere Standards for Humanitarian Practitioners", held on 22nd October 2025, was a great success. Led by Mr. Subhashis, an experienced Sphere trainer, the session was engaging, insightful, and widely beneficial for the Humanitarian Network and Sphere India members. Mr. Subhashis guided participants through the key chapters and components of the Sphere Handbook, offering practical insights into the Humanitarian Charter, Protection Principles, Core Humanitarian Standard, and sectoral standards in WASH, Food Security, Shelter, and Health. He also shared valuable information on the latest updates, revisions, and resources available under the Sphere framework. The session was highly interactive, with participants actively engaging in discussions and raising thoughtful questions around inclusion, accountability, and the evolution of humanitarian standards. It successfully achieved its core objective – to orient new members and refresh the understanding of existing practitioners on the Sphere Standards, regarded as the gold standard for humanitarian response. As part of the Humanitarian Network's ongoing commitment to Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), this initiative strengthened collective understanding and commitment to quality humanitarian action. Future Direction: Based on the encouraging response, there is a possibility of organizing more such sessions in the future, potentially focusing on specific chapters or themes of the Sphere Handbook to further deepen practitioner engagement and learning. [Watch here>>](#)

News from Members

DRR-CCA Clubs initiated by RedR India

In order to promote youth-led resilience, RedR India launched Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Clubs Network – An initiative to institutionalize resilience education and action across campuses. While the University Grants Commission (UGC) had advised higher educational institutions to establish DRR Clubs; RedR India broadened the vision by integrating Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), recognizing the close linkages between disaster and climate risks. The program was launched on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, i.e., on 13th October, 2025, by Shri Krishna S. Vatsa, Hon'ble Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in the presence of experts, academicians and representatives from various humanitarian organizations. The response has been highly encouraging, with more than 150 colleges and universities already registered with RedR India to establish the DRR-CCA Clubs. These Clubs aim to foster youth engagement in awareness, preparedness, risk mapping, mock drills and local adaptation projects, besides strengthening community resilience and contributing to India's commitments under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals. To guide the implementation of these Clubs, RedR India provides a monthly toolkit offering structured activities and learning resources for participating institutions. Many Colleges and Universities that have already registered with RedR India have initiated various activities through their DRR-CCA Clubs. Other Colleges and Universities that are interested in joining the RedR India network to establish DRR-CCA Clubs in their Institutions can register [here](#) For any assistance or guidance the institutions may directly connect with Er. Aamir Ali, Member RedR India on +91-9419007285, email at aamiraliir@gmail.com Or drclub@redrindia.org

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction celebration by CJWS-AP

13th October 2025, the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR), was celebrated by the Chaitanya Jyothi Welfare Society (CJWS) along with the Fisherfolk community members, local youth, SHG groups, Panchayat representatives, and school children in Koduru, TP Guduru Coastal Village, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. Speakers including Mr I Srinivasarao, Director- CJWS,IAG President, A.P; Mr Dr.G.V. Ravikumar, Disaster Management Expert and Director JG Trust and Ms Anusha - RDO - Nellore District and Community Leaders were present. In coastal regions like Nellore District, where fishing is the main livelihood, communities are highly vulnerable to cyclones, floods, storm surges, and sea-level rise. To mark this global event, CJWS organized a community-level awareness and preparedness program with fisher folk of Koduru, located along the coast of Nellore District -AP to raise awareness among fisher folk about disaster preparedness and early warning systems; to promote safe fishing practices and sustainable livelihood options; to strengthen community-based disaster management (CBDM) at the village level and to commemorate IDRR and align local action with the Sendai Framework (2015–2030). Local experts and DRR community practitioners explained early warning systems, emergency evacuation routes, and the importance of life jackets and radio communication.

Demonstration on Safety Equipment: Practical demonstrations on using life buoys, ropes, and first-aid kits were given to the participants. Fisher folk youth discussed local hazards, coping mechanisms, and community action plans for cyclone preparedness. Increased community understanding of cyclone early warnings and evacuation planning. Strengthened linkage between fisher folk, local Govt stakeholders and duty bearers. Promoted collective responsibility for coastal ecosystem conservation by involvement of communities. Empowered women and youth to play active roles in disaster response teams. The IDRR celebration successfully highlighted the importance of community resilience and preparedness among coastal populations. The fisher folk of Koduru expressed strong interest in forming a Village Disaster Response Committee (VDR) with continued support from Chaitanya Jyothi Welfare Society (CJWS). The event concluded with a pledge to make their coastal community "Disaster-Ready and Resilient."

News from State Network / IAGs

IAG Andhra Pradesh Emergency Coordination Meeting - Cyclone Montha

During the meeting, it was noted that the government had not directly involved NGOs in the response process at that stage. Participants also highlighted that international funds might be diverted to the Caribbean region, where a more powerful cyclone had recently caused extensive damage. In Bapatla, the government system was functioning effectively, with the district administration working tirelessly to manage the situation. NGOs were actively monitoring developments in the area. Reports indicated damage to livestock, for which HSI was expected to extend support. Inland fishing activities had been disrupted, affecting local livelihoods, and the agriculture sector had suffered extensive losses. Villages along the Krishna River were impacted by continuous rainfall, and rat infestation was reported as a secondary effect of the cyclone. ActionAid reported active engagement in Nellore district, including tribal areas, focusing on four mandals where around 50–60 villages were severely affected. They were also working in Visakhapatnam, where many fishermen and their families had been directly impacted. While the government had distributed ration kits, challenges related to livelihoods and economic recovery continued to persist. In Kakinada, significant crop losses were reported, and CJWS extended support by providing ration kits to affected families and assistance to farmers who had lost their crops. A Google Form had been circulated among members to collect details of ongoing and planned interventions, with submissions requested by the following day. The next coordination meeting was scheduled for the day after to review updates and progress. Emerging needs identified during the discussion included winter clothing, non-food items, school materials, and sanitation supplies, which had become priorities in the affected communities.

Updates from the Government

Building Resilient, Inclusive and Future-Ready Cities

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) celebrated World Habitat Day 2025 on 08th October at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, under the theme "Urban Solutions to Crisis". The event focused on building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities equipped to address challenges like climate change, migration, and rapid urbanisation. Shri Toghane Sahu, Hon'ble Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, emphasised India's commitment to shaping secure, opportunity-rich, and future-ready cities through resilience building and Public-Private-People Partnerships. Shri Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary, MoHUA, highlighted the Ministry's flagship programmes—PMAY-Urban, AMRUT, PM SVANidhi, and Swachh Bharat Mission—as key drivers of integrated and climate-resilient urban development. The event also featured the release of key publications, a prize ceremony for schoolchildren, and panel discussions on urban flooding, equitable cities, and integration of urban and peri-urban areas, aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

High-Level Committee (HLC), under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation boost Disaster mitigation across states

In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for a Disaster Resilient India, the High-Level Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs, chaired by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, has approved major disaster mitigation projects across multiple states. These initiatives, supported under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund, focus on addressing droughts, lightning, and forest fires, while enhancing local capacities for prevention and preparedness. Building on earlier approvals for urban flood, glacial lake outburst, and landslide risk mitigation, the new projects strengthen an integrated framework for disaster risk reduction. Guided by Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry continues to advance evidence-based planning, capacity building, and state coordination, reaffirming the government's commitment to a safe and resilient India.

Tri-Agency MoU Strengthens Railway Disaster Response Through Joint Training and Integrated Rescue Framework

In a key step to boost national disaster preparedness, the Railway Protection Force (RPF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and Indian Railway Institute of Disaster Management (IRIDM), Bengaluru, signed a tri-party MoU at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, to strengthen coordinated disaster response in the railway sector. The partnership establishes a structured framework for integrated relief operations during the crucial Golden Hour after railway accidents, streamlining SOPs, drills, and communication systems for faster and safer rescue efforts. Senior officials, including Ms. Sonali Mishra (DG, RPF), Shri R. Rajagopal (Railway Board), and Shri Piyush Anand (DG, NDRF), emphasized collaboration, training, and preparedness for both accidents and natural hazards. The MoU introduces a three-tier training model -foundation courses at JRRPFA, field sensitization with NDRF, and advanced simulations at IRIDM, creating a scalable, interoperable, and efficient disaster response system across Indian Railways.

NIDM Organises Orientation Workshop on Two-Stage Assessments under NDRF for IMCT and MST Members

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) organised an Orientation Workshop on Two-Stage Assessments under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT) and Multi-Sectoral Teams (MST) on 24th October 2025 at NDMA Bhawan, New Delhi. The workshop aimed to strengthen understanding of data-driven disaster response, recovery, and reconstruction planning. Shri Madhup Vyas, Executive Director, NIDM, highlighted the importance of evidence-based assessments, while Shri Rajendra Singh and Shri Krishna Vatsa, Members, NDMA stressed inter-agency coordination and systematic evaluation. Technical sessions covered Rapid Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (RMSNA), Rapid Needs Assessment methodology, and data collection using GeoSpatial and AI tools, featuring insights from NDMA, ISRO, SDMA, and field experts. A panel discussion on recovery and reconstruction brought together experts from NIDM, NITI Aayog, Sphere India, and others, focusing on innovative approaches like Community Certification and Self-Reporting mechanisms. The workshop concluded with key takeaways on enhancing institutional capacities for structured, transparent, and community-centered disaster assessments across India.

CAQM Strengthens NCR's Clean Air Mission through Workshop and IEC Activities in Haryana

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, organised a two-day Training Workshop and IEC activity in Faridabad and Gurugram through its Resource Lab, in collaboration with the Raahgiri Foundation and Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB). This was the fourth in a series of nine workshops across NCR cities aimed at promoting sustainable road design and dust control practices under CAQM's Standard Framework for cleaner, healthier urban environments. The Faridabad workshop engaged officials and engineers in sessions on sustainable street design, dust abatement, and DPR preparation, while the Gurugram event featured citizen-oriented IEC activities, including a "walk-show" on Haryana's first model street with walking and cycling tracks, plantation, and bioswales. The initiative highlights CAQM's commitment to capacity building, community engagement, and scalable best practices for sustainable road development and improved air quality across NCR.

NIDM Organises Three-Day Training Programme on Flash Floods and GLOFs Risk Reduction

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) inaugurated a three-day training programme on "Flash Floods and GLOFs Risk Reduction" at Vulnerable Locations along Mountain River Basins" on 29th October 2025 in New Delhi. The programme aims to strengthen technical understanding and preparedness for flash floods and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) in fragile mountain ecosystems. Dr. Gagandeep Singh, Course Coordinator, stressed the need for scientific research and capacity building, while Shri Madhup Vyas, IAS, Executive Director NIDM, highlighted the growing threats from glacier retreat and called for early warning systems and ecosystem-based solutions. In the Keynote Address, Shri Safi Ahsan Rizvi, IPS, Advisor (Mitigation), NDMA, shared case studies on South Lhonak Lake and Shako Cho Lake, offering valuable scientific and policy insights on GLOF mitigation. The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Col. Manoran Yadav, SM, Joint Director, NIDM, marking the start of focused discussions on strengthening mountain resilience and disaster preparedness.

Climate Corner

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2025

The 2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report by UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) reveals that nearly 8 in 10 people living in multidimensional poverty –887 million out of 1.1 billion globally—are directly exposed to climate hazards such as extreme heat, flooding, drought, or air pollution. Released ahead of COP30 in Brazil, the report highlights how environmental risks intensify existing inequalities and trap millions in cycles of vulnerability. South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa emerge as global hotspots. The findings call for urgent climate-resilient poverty reduction and adaptation strategies, along with global cooperation and equitable financing to protect those most at risk. [Read here>>](#)

Nationally Determined Contributions Synthesis Report

The 2025 NDCs Synthesis Report by UN Climate Change provides an updated overview of global climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. It finds that countries are strengthening their NDCs with improved quality, credibility, and broader coverage—most now include economy-wide emission targets, and 73% incorporate adaptation and resilience measures. The report also notes growing attention to Loss and Damage, gender equality, and just transitions, reflecting a more holistic approach to climate action. However, while global emissions are projected to decline by about 10% by 2035, this progress remains insufficient to meet the 1.5°C goal. It urges nations to accelerate implementation, scale up support for vulnerable countries, and link climate action with sustainable development to achieve a faster and fairer transition. [Read here>>](#)

2025 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate change

The 2025 Lancet Countdown report highlights a sharp rise in health risks linked to climate change, warning that millions are dying unnecessarily each year due to continued dependence on fossil fuels and insufficient adaptation efforts. Heat-related deaths have surged by 63% since the 1990s, now reaching around 546,000 per year, while extreme weather, heatwaves, drought, and climate-linked food insecurity are worsening globally. The report, produced by a global team of experts, calls for urgent action: phasing out fossil fuels, investing in cleaner energy, and placing health at the core of climate policy. It also notes that strong local leadership and city-level climate action are beginning to deliver health benefits, but global progress remains too slow to meet the scale of the crisis. [Read here>>](#)

UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2025

The report warns that adaptation finance for developing countries is far below what's needed to cope with worsening climate impacts. Annual costs are estimated at US\$310–365 billion by 2035, while current flows stand at just US\$26 billion, making needs 12–14 times higher than available funds. At this rate, the goal of doubling adaptation finance by 2025 will not be met. The private sector could contribute around US\$50 billion annually if supported by stronger policies. While most countries now have national adaptation plans and projects underway, growing financial constraints threaten future progress. The report urges both public and private finance to scale up urgently without adding to vulnerable nations' debt burdens. It emphasizes that closing the adaptation gap is vital to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and economies in the Global South. [Read here>>](#)

How to Equitably Scale Up Finance for the Loss and Damage Fund

Loss and damage from climate change is causing irreversible, disproportionately affecting developing countries. While the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage was established at COP27 and operationalised at COP29, current pledges of US\$ 800 million meet only 0.2% of the estimated needs for 2030. This brief proposes a minimum allocation floor of 0.08% of GDP for developed-country contributions to the FRLD. This benchmark could generate around US\$ 60 billion annually, enhancing predictability and global trust in climate finance. By aligning contributions with responsibility, capability, and vulnerability, the approach ensures that historically high emitters and financially stronger nations provide sustained, grant-based support, while protecting vulnerable countries from further debt burdens and strengthening global climate solidarity. [Read here>>](#)

Updates from International Humanitarian Community

The International Purple Fest 2025

The Purple Fest 2025, held in Goa from October 9th to 12th, stood out as a beacon of inclusion, accessibility, and celebration for persons with disabilities. This international festival, organized by the Government of Goa and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with United Nations India, firmly placed the ideals of dignity and participation at the heart of its events. The fest welcomed over 10,000 delegates from 25 countries and drew more than 50,000 visitors, making it one of the world's largest gatherings dedicated to disability inclusion and empowerment. At its core, Purple Fest was a vibrant confluence of art, culture, and advocacy where inclusion was not just a theme but an experience lived by all attendees. Art installations, musical and dance performances by persons with disabilities, interactive workshops, and inclusive sporting events created a platform that honored diversity, accessibility, and the creative potential present in every community. The festival's highlights included the recognition of "Purple Ambassadors", inspirational figures who champion accessibility, and a strong focus on sharing best practices in inclusive education and employment. Through participatory forums, the fest facilitated dialogue on universal design and accessible public spaces, encouraging wider adoption of Goa's pioneering "Purple Movement" model by other states. The impact of this year's Purple Fest extended well beyond its four days, inspiring renewed commitments to social justice, policy action, and community-driven change in the pursuit of a more inclusive India.

UNDRR Youth Foresight Sprint: Investing in Resilient Futures

The UNDRR Youth Foresight Sprint: Investing in Resilient Futures, organized as part of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR), highlights the vital role of young researchers and students in shaping future-oriented strategies for resilience. Through this global initiative, participants developed foresight scenarios addressing interconnected risks such as sea-level rise, food insecurity and compounding disasters, while proposing innovative actions to strengthen resilience today. Drawing from the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2025's contrasting futures -"Generation Jolt" and "Generation Regeneration" - the Sprint underscores how present choices determine whether the world moves toward escalating crises or sustainable recovery. By channeling youth creativity and scientific insight, the initiative reinforces the message that investing in young people is investing in resilient futures. [Watch here>>](#)

Global Protection Update: Protection in a Prioritised Humanitarian Response, October 2025

As of October 2025, 395 million people in 23 countries face severe protection risks, including violence, coercion, and deprivation. Crises in DRC, Myanmar, Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine are among the most extreme, with escalating conflicts driving mass displacement and violations of rights. Climate shocks like floods and earthquakes further worsen vulnerabilities, while funding shortfalls severely limit response capacity. Despite a US\$3.2 billion appeal, only 23% has been met, leaving most needs unaddressed. The report urges that protection be central to humanitarian action, ensuring safety, dignity, and rights remain at the core of crisis response. Stronger international commitment and funding are vital to prevent further deterioration and safeguard the most at-risk communities. [Read here>>](#)

Recovery readiness framework and assessment tool

Developed by the UNDRR and the International Recovery Platform, this tool offers governments a structured approach to evaluate and strengthen their preparedness for post-disaster recovery. The tool assesses readiness across 4 domains - governance, finance, capacity, and data systems, through 12 areas of measurement and 65 key performance indicators. It enables countries to identify gaps before disasters strike, design actionable improvement plans, and strengthen coordination among key institutions. By demonstrating systematic recovery preparedness, the tool also helps nations access better financing, including climate and L&D funds. Additionally, it builds institutional capacity through trainings& peer learning, and supports monitoring of progress to ensure recovery systems evolve to meet future challenges. [Read here>>](#)

Integrating DRR and biodiversity into national strategies and their implementation

This UNDRR publication provides practical guidance for integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015–2030. It emphasizes risk-informed, evidence-based planning to strengthen ecosystem resilience and nature's benefits to people. Key recommendations include setting coherent national targets, adopting whole-of-government approaches, and implementing integrated prevention, climate adaptation, and DRR measures that also advance biodiversity goals. The guidance urges greater investment in nature-based solutions and improved coordination to help countries update and implement NBSAPs for resilience and sustainability. [Read here>>](#)

Grants and Opportunities

Mittal Family Climate Fellowship Program

Call for post-doctoral researchers to pursue innovative, policy-relevant research on how climate change has shaped and continues to impact South Asia's environment, societies, and economies. The selected fellow will spend the 2026–2027 academic year in residence at Harvard University, working with a faculty mentor to advance their research, engage in seminars, and contribute to regional climate solutions. The fellowship offers a stipend of \$50,885.71, travel support, and opportunities for academic collaboration and mentorship.

Organization: Mittal Institute, Harvard University
Deadline: 08 December 2025

PADI Foundation Electronic Grant Program

Call for scientists, educators, and conservationists to submit innovative and impactful project proposals that advance understanding, protection, and sustainable interaction with underwater ecosystems. The grants support research on aquatic environments, diving physics and physiology, and the impacts of climate change on marine life and coastal ecosystems, fostering both scientific advancement and long-term environmental stewardship. Funding typically ranges from \$5,000 to \$10,000, with a total annual allocation of around \$167,516.

Organization: PADI Foundation
Deadline: 15 January 2026

[More Info>>](#) [More Info>>](#)

Upcoming Events & Plans Ahead

SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR

NOV 2025

- 03: National Level Cold Wave Preparedness Workshop 2025
- 10: Early Warning and Early Action: Strengthening Coastal and Tsunami Preparedness in India
- 14: Snow and Avalanche Risk Management: Strengthening Preparedness and Resilience in Mountain Regions
- Nov: Building Resilient River Basin Communities through Effective Early Warning Systems: Lessons and Opportunities
- Nov: The Untapped Potential of Animal Welfare in Climate Action: Integrating Conservation, and Community Resilience

Sphere India Academy was launched on April 16th, 2020 as COVID-19 Academy as a collaborative initiative of IAH, UNICEF, WFP, ICJCF, Sphere India, and other organizations. The academy serves as a capacity building platform, aiming to provide training for humanitarian and humanitarian and frontline workers across India. Its primary objective is to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfill their roles in emergency preparedness and response, as well as to support local government administration and communities.

For any inquiries, please feel free to contact our Sphere India Academy team: academy@sphereindia.org.in or +91 8826916044

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