

Message from CEO

Dear Readers,
The month of February has been remarkable with significant milestones. Reflecting on the two decades of Sphere India's dedicated work in impactful humanitarian action and disaster management, we celebrated the 21st Sphere India Day on February 21st, 2024.

In addition to this milestone, we are proud to announce the launch of 'Stronger Together: A Compendium of Stories of Courage and Resilience During Disasters' developed in collaboration with Resilience Foundation.

As we step into March, we acknowledge the pressing need for climate adaptation and disaster management, particularly in light of the heatwave predictions across the country.

I take this opportunity to extend heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all our members and partners for their support, unwavering dedication, and commitment to humanitarian action and resilience building in India in the last two decades.

Warm Regards,
Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

In this Issue

- Program Updates for February
News from Members & Networks
Global Updates
Grants and Opportunities
Plans Ahead
Updates from the Government

21st Sphere India Day: Reflecting on the Achievements and Navigating the Way Ahead

Reflecting on the two decades of Sphere India's work on impactful humanitarian action and disaster management, we celebrated 21st Sphere India Day on February 21st, 2024.

We were honored to host distinguished speakers including Shri. Prof. Vinod Sharma, Shri. N M Prusty, Shri Anil Kumar Sinha, IAS (retd.)., Mr. Subir Kumar, Dr. Aniruddha Dey, Mr. Tushar Kanti Das, Ms. Meghana Vaidya, and Ms. Debdrita Sengupta, alongside participating member organizations.

Program Update

Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

Regional Training on Psychosocial Support in Emergencies - West Region

The Regional Training on Psychosocial Support in Emergencies - West Region, held in Mumbai was organized by NIDM, Sphere India, Americas India Foundation NIDM and convened 25 participants from diverse organizations across Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, & Rajasthan.

Session on Navigating Civil Society Landscape in India

As part of the Sphere India Day celebrations, a session was organised on Navigating Civil Society Landscape in India. The session emphasized the critical role of CSOs in driving positive change and addressing societal challenges.

Launch of the Compendium of Stories of Courage & Resilience During Disasters

Sphere India jointly developed a publication titled 'Stronger Together: A Compendium of stories of courage & resilience during disasters' with Resilience Foundation, which was launched during a panel at Raisina 2024 on 22nd February 2024.

Inter-Agency Coordination

Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordination

Sphere India has been monitoring various types of hazards throughout the entire month, including overseeing the trends of cold wave and increasing risks of heatwave.

Consultation of National NGOs in India: A Precursor to Lessons Learnt Workshop

In preparation for the upcoming Annual Lessons Learnt Workshop scheduled for April 2024, Sphere India organized a virtual consultation with National NGOs on February 02nd, 2024.

Collaborative Advocacy

Roundtable Consultation on Strengthening Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Emergency Preparedness Response and Resilience Building

The Multistakeholder Consultation on WASH in emergencies convened by Sphere India aimed to enhance coordination and collaboration in addressing India's water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges.

News from IAGs and State Networks

Inter Agency Group, Gujarat convenes to formalise CBRA Activities

IAG Gujarat and UNNATI, with the support of UNICEF Gandhinagar, organized a 3-day residential training on Community-Based Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA).

Strengthening Inter-Agency Planning and Coordination in Madhya Pradesh

On February 28th, 2024, the Inter-Agency Group (IAG) MP convened at the Disaster Management Institute in Bhopal to address the looming threat of heatwaves in Madhya Pradesh.

Engaging Inter-Agency Members to Plan effective Coordination in Jharkhand

A field visit to the office of LGSS at Lohardaga was organized according to the plan, with Mr. Ajay Kumar Sinha, GS of BPYP invited to participate from Palamu for sensitization and information dissemination purposes.

News from Members

Stronger Together: A Compendium of Stories of Courage and Resilience During Disasters

Reliance Foundation in association with Sphere India launched a publication - 'Stronger Together: A Compendium of stories of courage & resilience during disasters' at Raisina 2024.

Climate Resilient Hospitals and Concept of Green Building: RAWs India Training

Mr. Amit Kumar Dadich, Executive Director of RAWs India based in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh facilitated a session on Climate Resilient Hospitals and the Concept of Green Building.

Caritas India's: She Leads Study in Collaboration with Change Alliance & Start Network

'SheLeads' a study on Women's Leadership in DRR by Caritas India was launched on Feb 28, during a pivotal event which focused on strengthening women's leadership and participation in humanitarian action and DRR governance.

Updates from the Government

Schemes for Restoration of Mangrove Forests

The Government promotes forest conservation through the 'Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs' scheme. Regulatory measures are enforced via various acts including the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (2019).

Shri Bhupender Yadav emphasises inclusive development of entire landscape connecting Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan making it a world class eco-tourism centre

A national exhibition at India Gate, Delhi, focused on LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) themes, was inaugurated by Ms Leena Nandan, Secretary, MoEF&CC, with other dignitaries present.

Environment Secretary Emphasizes sensitizing Youth on an Environmentally Conscious Behaviour

In the inaugural address, Ms Leena Nandan, Secretary, MoEF&CC, emphasized that the youth have a lot of energy, sensitizing them on environmentally conscious behaviour will promote the focus India has placed on economic development and ecological balance.

Raisina Dialogue 2024

The 9th edition of the Raisina Dialogue took place from February 21-23, 2024. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Dialogue, with H.E. Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece, as the Chief Guest.

Updates from International Humanitarian Community: Climate Action

Global Summit for DRR held by Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) in Nairobi

The 2024 Global Summit for Disaster Risk Reduction concluded after three days from 20th-22nd February 2024 with a set of insightful sessions, with over 25 discussions covering data sharing, funding, and capacity building.

Trilateral Best Practices Report, UNDRR: In August 2023, the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, along with disaster management institutes from China, Japan, and Korea, organized an online workshop on earthquake risk management.

State Disaster Mitigation Plan (2024-2026): NSW's diverse landscape exposes it to natural hazards like bushfires, floods, storms, and coastal erosion.

Global Waste Management Outlook (2024) The jointly published report with ISSA updates global waste generation and management costs since 2018, using life cycle assessments.

Promoting Circularity in the Value Chain of Plastics in India: The plastics industry in India faces significant social costs, estimated at US\$62-96 billion in 2023.

Digital Progress and Trends Report, World Bank: The Digital Progress and Trends Report adopts a comprehensive approach to digitalization, examining both production and adoption aspects of digital technologies and their interactions.

Greening Public Administration with GoVTech, World Bank: Governments are increasingly seeking opportunities to leverage digital technologies to build a greener future.

Women, Business and the Law, 2024, World Bank: Women, Business and the Law 2024 advances metrics to assess global differences in legal gender equality across 190 economies.

Grants and Opportunities

Breakthrough Research Grants Program

The JHC - Kinrky India Institute mission aims to improve society through research, education, policy, & practice to work with partners in India. Its two-fold strategic priorities include enhancing opportunities by networking in priority core areas including infectious diseases, maternal, child & adolescent health, Health systems strengthening, Climate change & environmental security, NCDs.

UNESCO World Heritage Convention

Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration.

Upcoming Events and Plans Ahead

Sphere India Academy Calendar

Table with columns for days of the month (Sun-Sat) and dates (1-31). Includes dates for 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

UPCOMING SESSIONS FOR MARCH 2024

- 12 Mar Inaugural Session, handholding training program on Localisation in Empowering Communities towards Resilience
15 Mar Role of HbCOP in Post-Disaster Resilience - IAC Rajasthan
18 Mar Global Recycling Day - #RecyclingHeroes - Interview Series
22 Mar Heatwaves, Floods, and Vector-borne Diseases: Understanding Climate-related Health Risks
25 Mar Education in Emergencies and Cash Assistance: Practical Strategies for Crisis Response
27 Mar Panel Discussion - Indigenous Wisdom and Approaches to Disaster Preparedness- Bihar
28 Mar Panel Discussion - Indigenous Wisdom and Approaches to Disaster Preparedness- Bihar

For more details, contact Ms. Hannah Kezise at hannah@sphereindia.org or More details about the Annual Lessons Learnt Workshop (scheduled in April 2024) to follow.