

**Message from CEO**

Dear Readers,

The month of May has been remarkable with significant milestones. This month Sphere India had the pleasure of collaborating with the Relief Commissioner's Office-Uttar Pradesh, UPSPDMA and Integrated Centre for Adaptation, DRR and Sustainability (ICARS), IIT-R GNEEC, in hosting a multi-stakeholder Brainstorming workshop titled "Disaster Relief and Resilience Systems Strengthening", on 06th May 2024 in New Delhi. Discussions underscored the importance of anticipatory action within a comprehensive disaster management systems. Robust policies for equitable resource allocation were advocated, and CSR engagement was encouraged for technological innovation and early recovery prioritization. Data-driven planning and the need for regional logistics hubs were highlighted for improved coordination and inclusivity in disaster response. The outcomes of this workshop will serve as a pivotal precursor to the annual learning process culminating in a national event in June 2024.

In May, we proactively monitored and disseminated alerts and situation reports on prevailing hazards, including heatwaves in the country, forest fires in Uttarakhand, Hailstorm in Manipur, Cyclone Remal in West Bengal and North East States. We also initiated a Joint Rapid Needs Assessment in West Bengal in collaboration with IAG West Bengal following Cyclone Remal. Sphere India facilitated knowledge and capacity sharing through multiple series of the Sphere India Academy. These sessions covered topics such as emergency preparedness sessions on heatwaves, safeguarding resilience to heatwaves for informal economy workers, and mitigating the impact of heatwaves through infrastructure, environment, and technological solutions. These highlights showcase our commitment to building knowledge and a prepared network for effective disaster response and recovery.

As we step into June, we acknowledge the pressing need for climate adaptation and disaster management, particularly in light of the lightning and monsoon predictions across the country. Our commitment to enhancing resilience in vulnerable regions remains steadfast, and we continue to advocate for improved preparedness and community initiatives to mitigate the impacts of such extreme weather events.

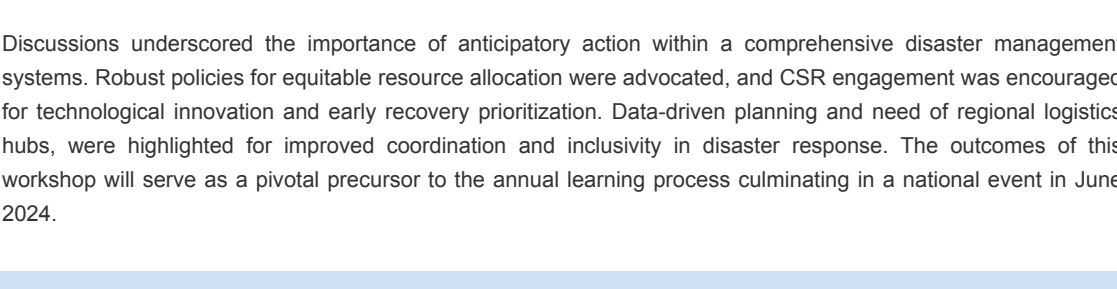
I take this opportunity to extend heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all our members and partners for their support, unwavering dedication, and commitment to humanitarian action and resilience building in India over the last two decades. We are committed to enhancing synergies among diverse stakeholders and welcome any feedback to improve our programs and monthly bulletin. Our aim is to ensure that our monthly bulletins serve as valuable sources of information. Your feedback and suggestions are invaluable as we strive to enhance the quality and relevance of our communications.

Warm Regards,  
**Vikrant Mahajan**  
CEO, Sphere India

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**Brainstorming Workshop on Disaster Relief and Resilience System Strengthening**



This month Sphere India had the pleasure of collaborating with the Relief Commissioner's Office-Uttar Pradesh, UPSPDMA and Integrated Centre for Adaptation, DRR and Sustainability (ICARS), IIT-R GNEEC, in hosting a multi-stakeholder Brainstorming workshop titled "Disaster Relief and Resilience Systems Strengthening", on 06th May 2024 in New Delhi.

The workshop aimed to bolster multi-stakeholder coordination in disaster response, optimize humanitarian logistics for efficient supply chains, and ensure quality and consistency in relief operations. It was attended by esteemed dignitaries and professionals, including Shri Krishna Vatsa, Member NDMA, Shri G.S. Naevan Kumar, Relief Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh, Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta, Head ECDRM, National Institute of Disaster Management and Ms. Kareez Fatima, Project Director Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority, along with senior leadership from UN Agencies, NGOs, CSOs, Academic Institutions, CSR Organizations and other experts.

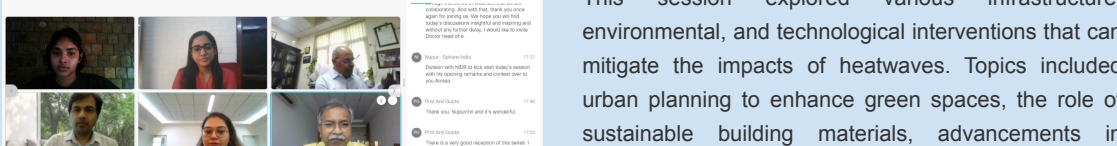
Discussions underscored the importance of anticipatory action within a comprehensive disaster management systems. Robust policies for equitable resource allocation were advocated, and CSR engagement was encouraged for technological innovation and early recovery prioritization. Data-driven planning and need of regional logistics hubs, were highlighted for improved coordination and inclusivity in disaster response. The outcomes of this workshop will serve as a pivotal precursor to the annual learning process culminating in a national event in June 2024.

**Program Update**

**Knowledge & Capacity Sharing**

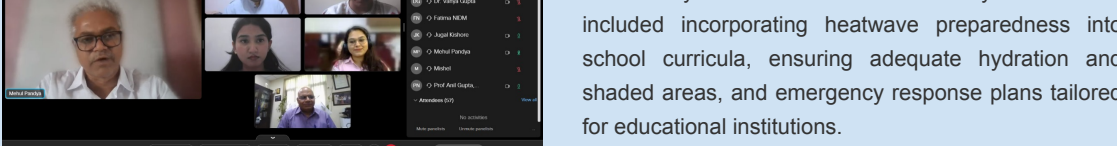
Sphere India Academy has launched an extensive series of sessions aimed at enhancing heatwave preparedness and awareness across various sectors. The initiative, held throughout May 2024, featured five core sessions, each focusing on different aspects of heatwave impact and mitigation strategies. These sessions were conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Centre for Disaster Health (CDH), All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), and Vardhaman Mahaveer Medical College (VMMC).

**Series 1: Emergency Preparedness Session on Heat Wave – 2024 | 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2024**



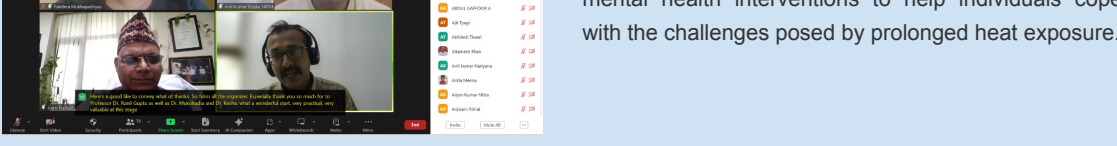
This inaugural session set the stage by addressing the critical aspects of emergency preparedness for heatwaves. It provided a comprehensive overview of the potential health risks, emergency response protocols, and community-based strategies to mitigate the immediate impacts of heatwaves. Experts shared insights on early warning systems, the importance of staying hydrated, and creating cool zones in urban areas.

**Series 2: Building Resilience to Heat Waves: Safeguarding Informal Economy Workers | 09<sup>th</sup> May 2024**



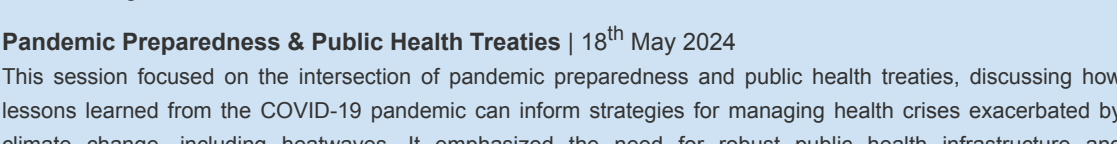
Focusing on the informal economy workers who are among the most vulnerable during heatwaves, this session highlighted strategies to safeguard their health and livelihoods. Discussions centered around implementing protective measures in workplaces, advocating for policy changes to ensure workers' rights and safety, and innovative community-driven solutions to provide relief during extreme heat conditions.

**Series 3: Mitigating Heatwave Impacts: Infrastructure, Environment, and Technological Solutions | 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**



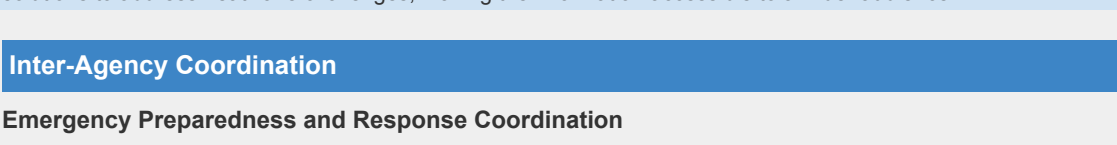
This session explored various infrastructure, environmental, and technological interventions that can mitigate the impacts of heatwaves. Topics included urban planning to enhance green spaces, the role of sustainable building materials, advancements in cooling technologies, and integrating climate resilience into public infrastructure projects.

**Series 4: Heatwave Preparedness: Education and Safety for Schools and Children | 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024**



Recognizing the vulnerability of children to heatwaves, this session emphasized the importance of education and safety measures in schools. Key discussions included incorporating heatwave preparedness into school curricula, ensuring adequate hydration and shaded areas, and emergency response plans tailored for educational institutions.

**Series 5: Heatwave Awareness: Mental and Psychosocial Impacts of Heatwaves | 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024**



This session addressed the often-overlooked mental and psychosocial impacts of heatwaves. Experts discussed the psychological stress associated with extreme heat, strategies for community support, and mental health interventions to help individuals cope with the challenges posed by prolonged heat exposure.

**Interview Series: The Role of Youths in Building a Climate-Resilient India: Strategies and Initiatives | 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Sphere India Academy in collaboration with Child Rights and You (CRY) launched an interview series aimed at identifying and promoting the efforts of young individuals in climate advocacy and resilience building. This interview highlighted the innovative strategies and initiatives undertaken by youths in India to enhance climate resilience. It showcased inspiring stories of young climate advocates who are leading projects and campaigns to combat climate change and build resilient communities.

**Pandemic Preparedness & Public Health Treaties | 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

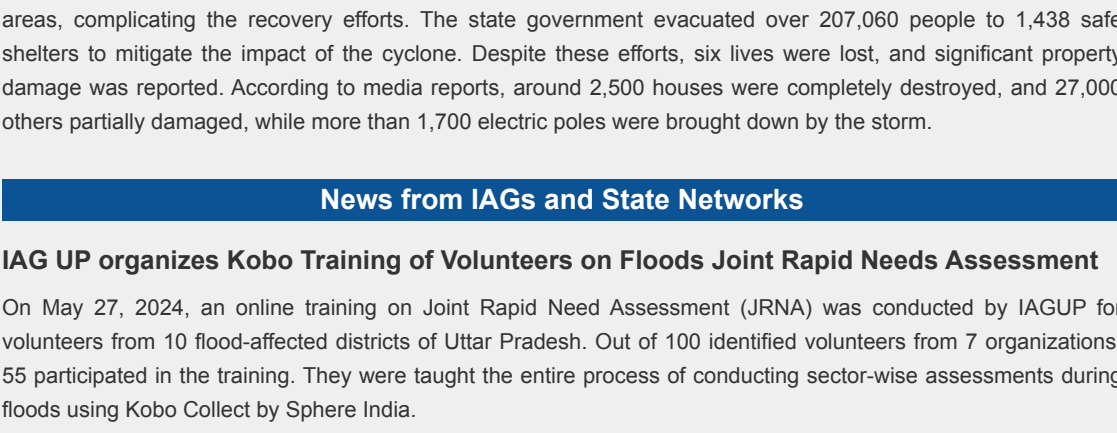
This session focused on the intersection of pandemic preparedness and public health treaties, discussing how lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic can inform strategies for managing public health crises exacerbated by climate change, including heatwaves. It emphasized the need for robust public health infrastructure and international cooperation. This session was held in collaboration with CARN AP, PRISM, and SWAH.

**Regional Language Session in Gujarat: Heatwave Awareness: Impacts, Strategies, and Solutions in Gujarati Language | 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

To ensure inclusivity and broader reach, a regional language session was conducted in Gujarat, focusing on heatwave awareness. This session covered the impacts of heatwaves, community-specific strategies, and local solutions to address heatwave challenges, making the information accessible to a wider audience.

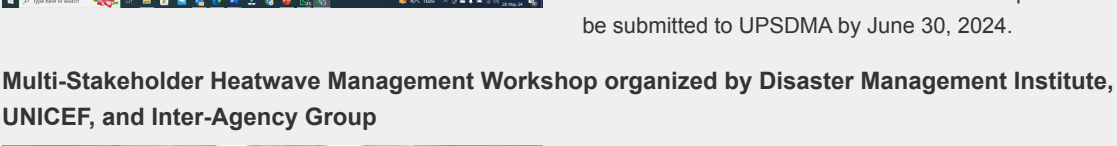
**Inter-Agency Coordination**

**Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordination**



Sphere India has been steadfastly monitoring emergency situations across the country, consistently disseminating situation reports (Sitreps) on prevailing hazards such as heatwaves in India, Cyclone Remal in West Bengal and North East India, Hailstorms in Manipur, Forest Fire in Uttarakhand. Moreover, the Sphere India team has demonstrated proactivity by distributing over 18 alerts within their network, diligently monitoring key sources like the IMD and NDMA. This ensures that pertinent stakeholders are thoroughly informed and equipped to effectively address emerging threats.

**Initiated Joint Rapid Needs Assessment for Cyclone Remal in West Bengal**



Severe Cyclonic Storm Remal was a moderately intense and deadly tropical cyclone that affected West Bengal and Bangladesh in May 2024. Cyclone Remal made landfall between Sagar Island in West Bengal and Kheupara in Bangladesh on May 26, 2024, severely impacting the coastal regions of both areas. In West Bengal, the cyclone's ferocity was particularly felt across several coastal districts, including South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Kakdwip, Namkhana.

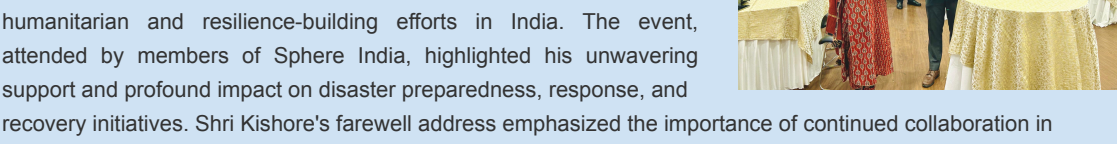
Sagar Island, Diamond Harbour, Fraserganj, Bakkhali, and Mandarmani. The cyclone's destructive force resulted in extensive damage to infrastructure and property, with power lines snapped, poles and trees uprooted, and roofs blown off thatched houses. The heavy rain and high tides led to damaged embankments and flooding in coastal areas, complicating the recovery efforts. The state government evacuated over 207,060 people to 1,438 safe shelters to mitigate the impact of the cyclone. Despite these efforts, six lives were lost, and significant property damage was reported. According to media reports, around 2,500 houses were completely destroyed, and 27,000 others partially damaged, while more than 1,700 electric poles were brought down by the storm.

**News from IAGs and State Networks**

**IAG UP organizes Kobo Training of Volunteers on Floods Joint Rapid Needs Assessment**

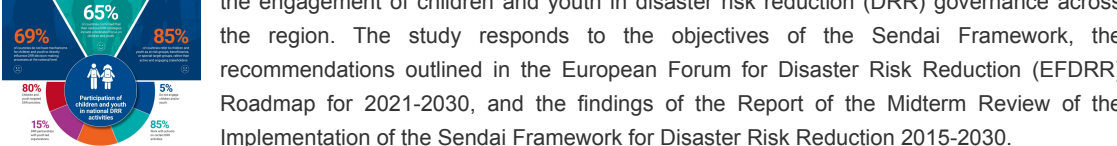
On May 27, 2024, an online training on Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA) was conducted by IAGUP for volunteers from 10 flood-affected districts of Uttar Pradesh. Out of 100 identified volunteers from 7 organizations, 55 participated in the training. They were taught the entire process of conducting sector-wise assessments during floods using Kobo Collect by Sphere India.

**Inter Agency Group, Uttar Pradesh works on State Agriculture Disaster Management Plan**



On May 28, 2024, a review meeting was organized by the Inter Agency Group Uttar Pradesh (IAGUP) under the leadership of the Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UPSPDMA). The meeting included all the group leaders of the 12 chapters tasked with reviewing the progress of the State Agriculture Disaster Management Plan formulation. During the meeting, participants shared their progress, and it was decided that the first draft of the plan would be submitted to UPSPDMA by June 30, 2024.

**Multi-Stakeholder Heatwave Management Workshop organized by Disaster Management Institute, UNICEF, and Inter-Agency Group**

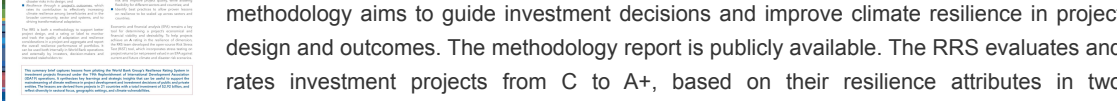


As part of response to the heatwaves currently afflicting Madhya Pradesh the Disaster Management Institute (DMI), in collaboration with UNICEF and the Inter-Agency Group of Madhya Pradesh, organized a half-day Multi-Stakeholder Heatwave Management Workshop on 22nd May 2024. Participants from various government departments, such as the Health Department, SDRF, State Disaster Management Authority, Press Information Bureau, and the Indian Meteorological Department, attended the workshop. Additionally, there was participation from various stakeholders such as Reliance Foundation, Akshvani, FHI, MHSSS, etc.

**News from Network**

**Farewell and Felicitation event for Shri Kamal Kishore**

Sphere India, AIDMI, and EFICOR jointly organized a heartfelt farewell for Shri Kamal Kishore, who is embarking on a new phase of his journey as Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction at the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva. Over the past decade, Shri Kishore has served as a Member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), strengthening humanitarian and resilience-building efforts in India. The event, attended by members of Sphere India, highlighted his unwavering support and profound impact on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives. Shri Kishore's farewell address emphasized the importance of continued collaboration in disaster risk reduction, inspiring attendees to remain committed to building a safer and more resilient world.



**Updates from International Humanitarian Community: Climate Action**

**Youth Engagement in DRR Processes and Decision-Making in Europe and Central Asia:** The UNDRR Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia has conducted a study on the engagement of children and youth in disaster risk reduction (DRR) governance across the region. The study responds to the objectives of the Sendai Framework, the recommendations outlined in the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) Roadmap for 2021-2030, and the findings of the Report of the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. [Read More>>](#)

**Enterprise Risk Management:** Entities, including businesses, governments, and non-profits, face an evolving landscape of environmental, social, and governance (ESG)-related risks that can impact their profitability, success, and even survival. Given the unique impacts and dependencies of ESG-related risks, COSO and WBCSD have partnered to develop guidance to help entities better understand the full spectrum of these risks and manage and disclose them effectively. This guidance is designed to help risk management and sustainability practitioners apply enterprise risk management (ERM) concepts and processes to ESG-related risks. [Read More>>](#)

**Resilience Rating System:** Resilience Rating in response to the growing recognition that measuring inputs, such as climate finance, is not enough to capture the impacts of investments, the World Bank Group developed the Resilience Rating System (RRS). Developed over a two-year, multi-sector consultative process through close collaboration with internal and external actors, the RRS methodology aims to guide investment decisions and improve climate resilience in project design and outcomes. The methodology report is publicly available. The RRS evaluates and rates investment projects from C to A+, based on their resilience attributes in two complementary dimensions. [Read More>>](#)

**2024 LGBTI Inclusion Index:** The 2024 LGBTI Inclusion Index serves as a global benchmark and guide for countries to assess their progress towards achieving full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people according to 51 indicators across five strategic areas. UNDP successfully rolled out the Index, engaging participants from 52 countries and involving a comprehensive training program on data collection and index calculation. This report could be useful for statisticians, national human rights institutions, policymakers, researchers and activists. It elaborates on the key findings and lessons from these pilots. [Read More>>](#)

**Compendium of Innovative and Good Practices and Lessons Learned:** The Compendium of Innovative and Good Practices and Lessons Learned presents the programmatic learning and impact generated by the implementation of Spotlight Initiative from 2018 to 2023. It documents Spotlight Initiative's unique approach in operating and delivering comprehensive and rights-based programmes on ending violence against women and girls. Presenting a suite of more than 50 case studies across six outcome areas and cross-cutting themes, the Compendium provides policymakers and practitioners with knowledge that is innovative, high-impact, sustainable and localized. [Read More>>](#)

**Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilient Cities:** Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean not only face inadequate land planning, housing deficits, and inefficient and unevenly distributed infrastructure; they also lack landscape or watershed planning that integrates ecosystem services into its sustainable development. These high levels of exposure to climate services compel us to recognize the need to change the current unsustainable model of regional urbanization. This publication aims at providing tools for those involved in urban planning to more effectively integrate climate risks and the opportunities offered by the ecosystem context of each city. This way, it seeks to contribute to Latin America and the Caribbean resilient urban development. [Read More>>](#)

**Economics for disaster prevention and preparedness: Climate adaptation costing in a changing world:** This report highlights the importance of adaptation pathways in building resilient futures in the face of evolving climate risks. The report emphasizes the need for Europe to scale up climate adaptation investments due to the devastating impacts and economic losses of climate change. This report will provide decision-makers and practitioners with evidence, data, and tools to inform policy and investment efforts in disaster risk management. [Read More>>](#)

**Good practices for increasing the application of Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction:** This Compendium of good practices complements the Working Paper: Increasing the Application of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction, which was prepared in 2023. The 16 cases presented hereafter have been collected through a call for good practice cases to G20 countries and knowledge partners. The cases cover various themes, including resilience-building, building back better, hydro-meteorological hazards, biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation, desertification, food security, urban development, human health and water availability. [Read More>>](#)

**Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities: Climate Resilience Addendum:** The Climate Resilience Addendum to the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities was originally developed in Spanish as part of the project "Analysis, planning and implementation of joint actions for enhanced disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in Latin America", a collaboration of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). This Scorecard Addendum contains questions that allow users to self-assess the interlinkage and integration of disaster and climate resilience strategies and practices at the sub-national government level. [Read More>>](#)

**Grants and Opportunities**

**Ananya Birla Foundation's grant challenge program for High-Impact Interventions 2024-2025: Catalysing Impact for a Better Future**

The initiative aims to promote sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurship for rural women, and improve access to mental healthcare for vulnerable populations, especially in the underserved regions of Karnataka, Maharashtra, and North Eastern States of India.

**Grant Amount:** Maximum grant amount: ₹ 1.2 crores or up to 25% of the organisation's last annual budget, whichever is lower.

**Organizer:** Ananya Birla Foundation

**Deadline:** 24th June 2024

[Read More>>](#)

**HCL Tech Grant Edition X**

Focused on Rural Development, the HCL Tech Grant Edition X awarded in three thematic categories, namely Environment, Health, and Education. The Grant is designed to support breakthrough award-winning projects of NGOs, that have a proven track record of evident impact, high credibility and distinct ability to deliver. NGOs that reach out to rural, geographically isolated, underserved and underdeveloped marginalized communities in India, and work jointly to achieve sustainable socio-economic development.

**Grant Amount:** INR 16.5 Crores (\$ 2.2 Million)

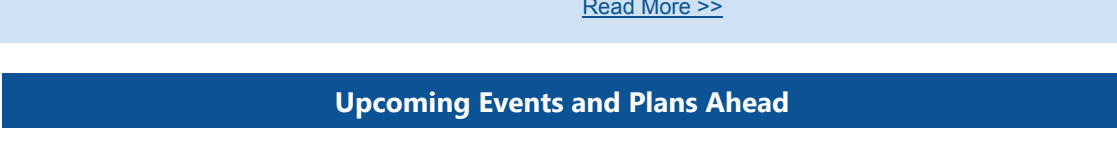
**Organization:** HCL Tech

**Deadline:** 25 June 2024

[Read More >>](#)

**Upcoming Events and Plans Ahead**

**SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR**



**Upcoming Sessions in June 2024 >>**

- 03 June: Heatwave Awareness Impacts, Strategies and Solutions in Gujarati Language. [Link: https://tiny.cc/SIA-HeatWave-Hingli](https://tiny.cc/SIA-HeatWave-Hingli)
- 05 June: Marine Conservation Efforts and Urgency in India. [Link: https://tiny.cc/SIA-Ene-Dre-2024](https://tiny.cc/SIA-Ene-Dre-2024)
- 14 June: The Role of Youths in Building a Climate-Resilient India: Strategies and Initiatives. [Link: https://www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
- 17 June: Series 2: Best Practices Education in Emergency. [Link: https://tiny.cc/SIA-ESE-2](https://tiny.cc/SIA-ESE-2)
- 24 June: From Awareness to Action: Strengthening PSEA Protocols in Humanitarian Operations. [Link: https://tiny.cc/SIA-PSEA-24](https://tiny.cc/SIA-PSEA-24)
- 25-26 June: Annual Learning and Planning Workshop. [Link: https://tiny.cc/SIA-APW-24](https://tiny.cc/SIA-APW-24)
- 28 June: Series 5: Technical Session on Education in Emergency. [Link: https://tiny.cc/SIA-ESE-2](https://tiny.cc/SIA-ESE-2)

For any inquiries, please feel free to contact our Sphere India Academy team: [siacademy@sphereindia.org.in](mailto:siacademy@sphereindia.org.in) (+91 8820702029)

More details about the Annual Lessons Learnt Workshop (scheduled in June 2024) to follow.



**Sphere India**  
National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

Sphere India Secretariat  
123, Captain Vijayaraj Thapar Marg,  
Arun Vihar, Sector 37, Noida, Uttar Pradesh  
(Near Botanical Garden Metro Station - Magenta Line)

E-mail: [info@sphereindia.org.in](mailto:info@sphereindia.org.in)  
Website: [www.sphereindia.org.in](http://www.sphereindia.org.in)

