



# Happy New Year 2025

Together, let's make 2025 a year of impactful partnerships and transformative change for communities across India.

## Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

As 2024 draws to a close, it's a moment to reflect on a year shaped by an evolving disaster landscape and unwavering efforts to build resilience. From severe heatwaves to devastating cyclones, floods and landslides, the challenges were both diverse and complex. Sphere India, along with its members, responded to these crises with a collective spirit, advancing localized solutions, inclusive recovery, and sustainable resilience. This year reinforced the importance of community-centric approaches and the integration of modern technologies with traditional wisdom to meet emerging challenges effectively.

August and September were pivotal months for Sphere India's response and coordination efforts. In the aftermath of the Wayanad Landslides, we conducted an Initial Rapid Needs Assessment and convened a Multistakeholder Consultation, strengthening coordination between government and non-government actors. Similarly, during the Tripura floods, our Unified Response Strategy (URS) facilitated effective relief operations through Emergency Coordination Meetings and a Joint Rapid Needs Assessment. These efforts underscored the value of collaboration and evidence-based action in disaster management.

Throughout the year, Sphere India made significant strides in capacity building, knowledge sharing, and advocacy. Highlights included responses to Cyclone Remal and the Tripura floods, stakeholder consultations on monsoon preparedness, and readiness for heatwaves and cold waves. Through the Sphere India Academy, we conducted impactful sessions such as LEGS Training, Psychosocial Support during Emergencies, and a Roundtable Consultation on Climate Change and Public Health. We also organized consultations on the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2024 and informal workers' inclusion in disaster risk reduction frameworks.

Internationally, Sphere India actively participated in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024 in Manila and the ICVA Regional Partnership Week in Bangkok, strengthening regional collaborations. Domestically, we hosted a Brainstorming Workshop on Strengthening Disaster Relief and Resilience Systems and the Annual Learning and Planning Workshop in December 2024. This workshop provided a platform for reviewing past experiences, discussing adaptive disaster management strategies, and exploring innovative, inclusive solutions.

Another milestone this year was the release of the Sphere India Assessment Report, a comprehensive analysis of the organization's impact over the past two decades. This report reflects on our journey and offers a roadmap for future actions, reaffirming our commitment to inclusive and sustainable disaster management.

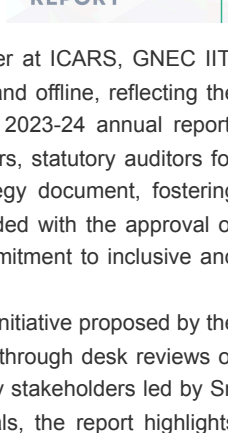
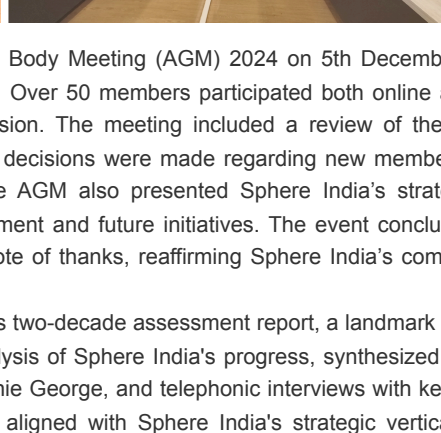
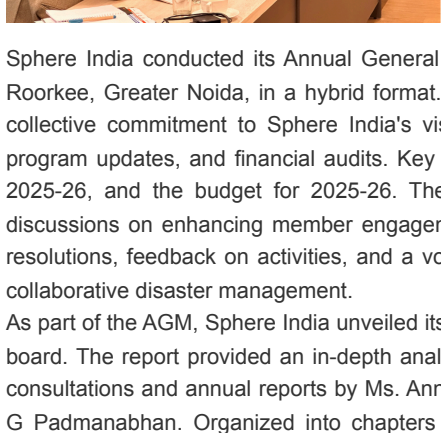
Looking forward to 2025, Sphere India is committed to strengthening grassroots capacities, embedding climate adaptation strategies in local development, and enhancing data-driven decision-making. Together with our members and partners, we aim to foster a more inclusive and sustainable disaster management framework that ensures no one is left behind.

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

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## Governance Updates



Sphere India conducted its Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) 2024 on 5th December at ICARS, GNEC IIT-Roorkee, Greater Noida, in a hybrid format. Over 50 members participated both online and offline, reflecting the collective commitment to Sphere India's vision. The meeting included a review of the 2023-24 annual report, program updates, and financial audits. Key decisions were made regarding new members, statutory auditors for 2025-26, and the budget for 2025-26. The AGM also presented Sphere India's strategy document, fostering discussions on enhancing member engagement and future initiatives. The event concluded with the approval of resolutions, feedback on activities, and a vote of thanks, reaffirming Sphere India's commitment to inclusive and collaborative disaster management.

As part of the AGM, Sphere India unveiled its two-decade assessment report, a landmark initiative proposed by the board. The report provided an in-depth analysis of Sphere India's progress, synthesized through desk reviews of consultations and annual reports by Ms. Annie George, and telephonic interviews with key stakeholders led by Sri G Padmanabhan. Organized into chapters aligned with Sphere India's strategic verticals, the report highlights achievements, challenges, and pathways for future growth, serving as a guiding document for enhancing accountability, coordination, advocacy, and capacity-sharing efforts.

## Annual Learning and Planning Workshop 2024



Sphere India successfully hosted its Annual Learning & Planning Workshop 2024 on December 3-4 at the GNEC, IIT-Roorkee, Greater Noida campus. Organized in collaboration with ICARS GNEC IIT-Roorkee, and supported by HCL Foundation, ChildFund India, Amazon, and ADRA India, the workshop brought together experts, practitioners, and community leaders to review the disasters of 2024, share critical lessons learned, and strategize for a resilient future.

The two-day event focused on adaptive disaster management approaches, highlighting the dynamic and cascading nature of disasters, such as floods transitioning to droughts and intensifying cyclones. Discussions emphasized the need for climate-resilient infrastructure and innovative solutions. Special attention was given to inclusivity, advocating for disaster management strategies that prioritize women, children, disabled persons, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and migrants. Participants stressed the importance of community leadership, traditional knowledge, and disaster mapping in building local resilience.

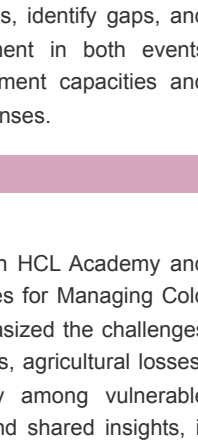
The workshop also explored nature-based strategies, such as wetlands conservation, and the use of technology like drones and adaptive logistics. The event reinforced that collaboration, inclusivity, and sustainability are central to creating a safer, adaptive future.

## Program Updates

### Inter Agency Coordination

Sphere India has been actively coordinating efforts to enhance disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. During Cyclone Fengal, two Situation Reports (Sitreps) were developed to assess impacts and document relief measures, enabling stakeholders to identify gaps and streamline response efforts.

Similarly, a cold wave preparedness session united government agencies, disaster management authorities, health organizations, and NGOs to foster collaboration. This session emphasized comprehensive mitigation strategies, focusing on early warning systems, capacity building, and public awareness.



Sphere India actively participated in the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Training of Trainers (ToT) session conducted by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), enhancing stakeholders' capacity to assess disaster impacts and develop effective recovery strategies. Additionally, Sphere India contributed to the table-top exercise organized by the Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UPSDMA) for the Kumbh Mela 2025 Preparedness Plan. This simulation-based exercise enabled participants to test response protocols, identify gaps, and improve inter-agency coordination. Sphere India's involvement in both events highlights its commitment to strengthening disaster management capacities and ensuring efficient, collaborative, and proactive emergency responses.

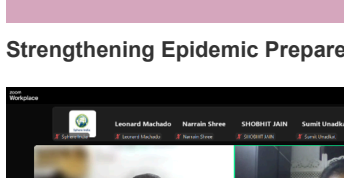
### Knowledge and Capacity Sharing

#### Strategies for Managing Cold Wave Impacts in India | 27 December 2024



Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with HCL Academy and ICARS, organized a workshop on "Strategies for Managing Cold Wave Impacts in India." The session emphasized the challenges posed by cold waves, including health crises, agricultural losses, and infrastructural disruptions, particularly among vulnerable populations. Through expert discussions and shared insights, it strengthened coordination mechanisms, enhanced early warning systems, and promoted actionable strategies to improve resilience and mitigate cold wave impacts across communities.

#### Humanitarian Logistics and Warehouse Management Report on the Wayanad Landslides



Sphere India's Humanitarian Logistics and Warehouse Management Report on the Wayanad Landslides, released in December 2024, highlights key learnings and innovative practices in disaster response. The report documents the coordinated efforts following the devastating landslides of July 30, 2024, which displaced thousands and caused widespread destruction. Despite geographical challenges, a functional coordination desk at the District Emergency Operations Centre streamlined resource mobilization and connected donors with local authorities. The report emphasizes the use of advanced tools like inventory management solutions by Faircode and the Amazon Disaster Rapid Response Team, which forecasted camp needs and improved logistics efficiency. Scientific warehouses and collaborative efforts between the government, NGOs, and private organizations ensured over 650 families received essential relief and recovery items. This report serves as a vital resource for enhancing humanitarian logistics in disaster management.

### Collaborative Advocacy

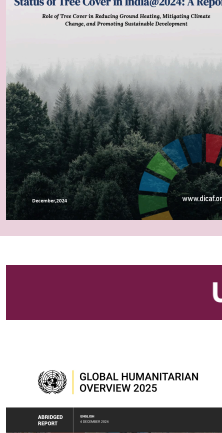
#### Strengthening Epidemic Preparedness in a Changing Climate: From Communities to Systems



Sphere India, in collaboration with IHMR, Delhi, organized a webinar on "Strengthening Epidemic Preparedness in a Changing Climate: From Communities to Systems." on 27th December 2024. The session highlighted the critical link between climate and health, emphasizing the importance of resilience in healthcare systems, institutional capacities, and community readiness. Through expert discussions and actionable insights, it empowered stakeholders to adopt proactive measures and a One Health approach to enhance epidemic preparedness and mitigate future health crises.

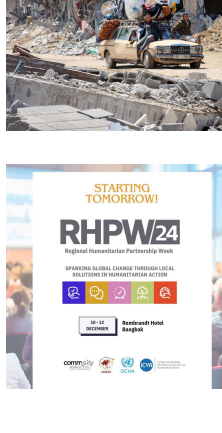
## Climate Corner

### Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2024



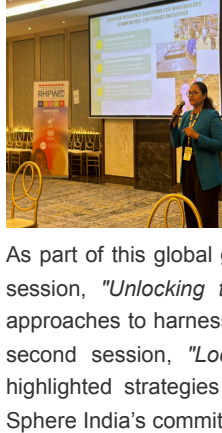
The 2024 *Yearbook of Global Climate Action* highlights significant achievements by non-party stakeholders in advancing climate resilience and achieving net zero targets. The Race to Resilience now impacts over 2 billion people globally, with plans to enhance the resilience of 3.26 billion by 2030. Meanwhile, the Race to Zero has grown by 16%, bringing together over 15,500 entities committed to halving emissions by 2030. These efforts emphasize the power of collaboration in fostering nature-based solutions, transforming energy systems, scaling renewable infrastructure, and promoting equitable financing. As COP29 approaches, these initiatives exemplify collective leadership driving a sustainable and inclusive future. [Read More >>](#)

### Status of Tree Cover in India@2024: A Report

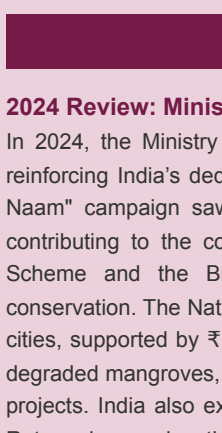


The report highlights how trees are vital for cooling the environment, mitigating climate change, and fostering sustainable development. By providing shade and facilitating evapotranspiration, trees lower temperatures—shaded areas can be up to 20°C cooler than unshaded asphalt. In urban areas, tree cover combats the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, reducing heat from concrete and human activity while improving air quality and overall urban comfort. Key recommendations include promoting reforestation, adopting urban greening, strengthening conservation policies, engaging communities, and raising awareness about the environmental benefits of tree cover. These steps are crucial for creating greener and more climate-resilient spaces in both urban and rural areas. [Read More >>](#)

## Updates from International Humanitarian Community



The United Nations and humanitarian partners launched the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) for 2025, seeking \$47 billion to assist 190 million people across 32 countries and nine refugee-hosting regions. The appeal highlights the intensifying impact of armed conflicts, climate-induced disasters, and unresolved crises, leaving vulnerable groups, especially women, children, and people with disabilities, bearing the heaviest burden. Despite ongoing generosity, funding shortfalls persist, with only 43% of the 2024 appeal met by November, underscoring the critical gap in resources. Humanitarian agencies have nevertheless reached millions, delivering essential aid, rebuilding hope in affected communities, and advocating for stronger global solidarity and adherence to international law. [Read More >>](#)



The **Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) 2024** commenced in Bangkok, Thailand, bringing together over 350 civil society members and humanitarian practitioners from 59 countries. Under the theme "Sparkling Global Change through Local Solutions in Humanitarian Action," the event emphasized addressing pressing challenges, fostering innovation, and building robust partnerships. Over three days, discussions revolved around equitable partnerships, climate action, capacity strengthening, risk management, innovative financing, and local leadership, paving the way for inclusive and sustainable humanitarian solutions. [Read More >>](#)



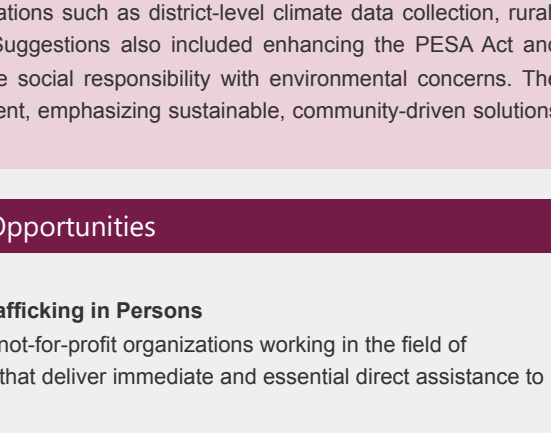
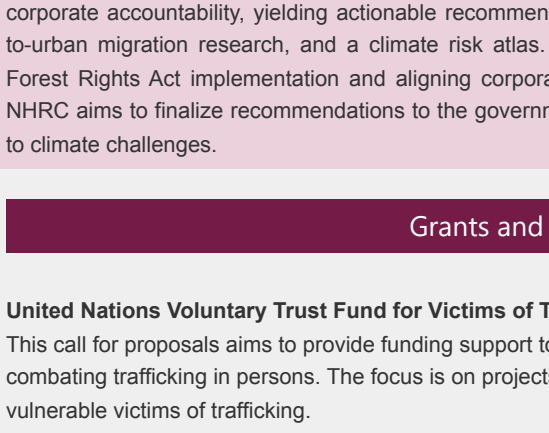
As part of this global gathering, Sphere India conducted two impactful sessions on December 12, 2024. The first session, "Unlocking the Potential of CSR for Disaster Resilience and Climate Action," explored innovative approaches to harnessing corporate social responsibility for addressing disaster risks and climate challenges. The second session, "Localising Resilience: Pathways for Empowering Local Leadership for Scalable Impact," highlighted strategies to amplify local leadership in building resilient communities. These sessions reinforced Sphere India's commitment to collaborative learning and advancing resilience-focused humanitarian action.

## Updates from Government

### 2024 Review: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

In 2024, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) achieved significant milestones, reinforcing India's dedication to environmental conservation and sustainable development. The "Ek Ped Maas Ke Naam" campaign saw the planting of over 102 crore trees, with plans to reach 140 crore by March 2025, contributing to the country's afforestation goals. New regulatory frameworks, including the updated Eco-mark Scheme and the Biological Diversity Rules, were introduced to promote sustainability and biodiversity conservation. The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) reported a 40% reduction in particulate matter across 23 cities, supported by ₹11,200 crore funding for pollution control. The MISHTI initiative restored 22,561 hectares of degraded mangroves, while urban forests thrived under the Nagar Van Yojana, with ₹106.38 crore allocated to 125 projects. India also expanded its tiger reserves to 57, including the addition of Guru Ghasidas-Tamo Pingla and Ratapani, ensuring the protection of vital wildlife habitats. Thirteen beaches earned the prestigious Blue Flag certification for adhering to eco-friendly standards, and the tagging of Ganges River Dolphins marked a major step in Project Dolphin. The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was launched to conserve seven big cat species, highlighting India's leadership in global wildlife conservation. The Mangrove Zonation Atlas and the Green Climate Fund's ECRICC project, focused on enhancing coastal resilience, reflect India's proactive role in climate adaptation. Furthermore, the 2023 ISFR revealed that India's forest and tree cover now spans 25.17% of its geographical area, showcasing significant progress in environmental management. These initiatives underscore India's unwavering commitment to addressing climate change, protecting biodiversity, and leading global sustainability efforts.

### NHRC Hosts Advisory Meeting on Climate Change and Human Rights



The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, held a core advisory group meeting on "Climate Change and Human Rights" in hybrid mode at its New Delhi premises. Acting Chairperson Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani highlighted the vulnerability of tribal communities to climate change and the importance of corporate accountability in mitigating its impact. Secretary General Shri Bharat Lal emphasized the need for strengthening monitoring systems, coordinated stakeholder action, and integrating a human rights perspective into climate solutions. Discussions addressed the impact of climate change on Indigenous populations, extreme weather events, and corporate accountability, yielding actionable recommendations such as district-level climate data collection, rural-to-urban migration research, and a climate risk atlas. Suggestions also included enhancing the PESA Act and Forest Rights Act implementation and aligning corporate social responsibility with environmental concerns. The NHRC aims to finalize recommendations to the government, emphasizing sustainable, community-driven solutions to climate challenges.

## Grants and Opportunities

### United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons

This call for proposals aims to provide funding support to not-for-profit organizations working in the field of combating trafficking in persons. The focus is on projects that deliver immediate and essential direct assistance to vulnerable victims of trafficking.

**Project Duration: 9 months**  
**Grants: Upto USD 20,000**  
**Deadline: 31st January 2025, 23:59 CEST**  
[Read More >>](#)

## Upcoming Events & Plans Ahead

### SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		01	02	03	04	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 03 Jan: Disaster Management and Inclusion: Empowering Persons with Disabilities for Resilient Communities
- 10 Jan: Recognizing Climate Change: Securing Our Future for a Sustainable Tomorrow
- 13 Jan: Youth as Catalysts for Change: Leveraging Technology in Disaster Management
- 21 Jan: Enhancing Ecosystem Services for Resilient Disaster Management: Leveraging Natural Resources to Mitigate Risks
- 28 Jan: Communication for Change: Enhancing Humanitarian Aid Through Effective Messaging

For any inquiries, please feel free to contact our Sphere India Academy team [slacademy@sphereindia.org.in](mailto:slacademy@sphereindia.org.in) or +91 9920780209

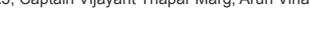
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