supported coordination across multiple disasters - including floods in the Northeast and Odisha, landslides and cloudbursts in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand by facilitating alerts, SitReps, and collaborative planning and

Sphere India

collaboration with State IAGs. June also marked the conclusion of our Heatwave Preparedness Webinar Series, which convened experts and communities over five rich sessions. Our continued partnership with NDMA, including on the Delhi Heat Action Plan consultation and the Disability-Inclusive Disaster Preparedness Workshop, reflects our commitment to aligning local action with national priorities. We were honoured to co-host regional humanitarian leadership round tables with Deakin University, bringing together voices from across Central, Eastern, and Southern India to explore evolving leadership needs and

strengthen collective action. As we look to July, we remain focused on strengthening monsoon preparedness and coordination, amplifying local voices, and driving collaborative responses that leave no one behind. Warm regards, Vikrant Mahajan CEO, Sphere India

In this Issue Honouring the Legacy of Late Shri JC Sphere India's partnership with the Government 2025 Sasakawa Award Winners **Updates from the International**

Humanitarian community **Program Updates** Climate corner **News from IAG/State Networks Grants and Opportunities News from Members** Upcoming events and Plans ahead Updates from the Government

Honouring the Legacy of Shri J.C. Pant With deep respect and admiration, we remember Shri Jagdish Chandra Pant, a distinguis hed public servant, visionary policymaker, and

compassionate leader, who passed away recently. Over a remarkable 34year career in government service, Late Shri Pant served with distinction in SHRI JAGDISH CHANDRA PANT roles that profoundly shaped national governance, rural development, and ್ಟ್ಟಾ 04.12.1938 - 13.06.2025 disaster preparedness. He began his career in rural development in Gujarat, later working closely with the Chief Minister before transitioning to the Cabinet Secretariat, where he served for 23 years in key roles including

Deputy Secretary, Joint Secretary, and Additional Secretary. His tenure was marked by contributions to high-level policy and administrative reforms. Shri Pant also represented India in Dhaka, Norway, and Egypt, strengthening diplomatic ties and international collaboration. He later held senior positions as Secretary in the Ministries of Agriculture and Health & Family Welfare,

- where he led transformative work in sustainable agriculture and public health.
- As Chairman of the High-Powered Committee on Disaster Management, he played a foundational role in shaping what would become India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). In his post-retirement years, Shri Pant remained an active mentor and institution-builder, where he championed education, community resilience, and ethical governance. Residing in Pant Kotuli, Almora, he spent his later years surrounded by nature, wisdom, and guiet purpose.

Celebrating Champions of Resilience: 2025 Sasakawa Award Winners

To honour his legacy, a prayer meeting was held by Sphere India in collaboration with CROPC and his family, bringing together colleagues, family, friends, and members of the humanitarian and development community. As we reflect on his enduring contributions, we commit to upholding the values he lived by - humility, service, and an unwavering commitment to the greater good. Watch here>>

The UNDRR SASAK*AWA* AWARD **WUNDRR**

The 2025 Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction, supported by the Nippon Foundation and organized by UNDRR, celebrated exceptional contributions to inclusive and community-centered resilience under the theme "Connecting science to people: democratizing access to innovation and technology for disaster-resilient communities" This year's award recognized Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra (India Meteorological Department) and Dr. Harkunti Rahayu (Indonesian Disaster Expert Association) in the individual category, and the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) in the organizational category. From advancing cyclone forecasting in India to strengthening people-centred early warning systems in Indonesia, and fostering inclusive risk governance globally, the awardees embody innovation that empowers the most vulnerable.

With over 200 nominations from around the world, the awards were announced at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in a vibrant and inspiring ceremony moderated by Ghanaian sustainability advocate Anita Erskine. The event also recognized highly commended individuals and organizations whose work is shaping the future of

Program Updates

Knowledge and Capacity Sharing

Heatwave Preparedness: Multi-Sectoral Approaches for Resilience Sphere India, in collaboration with Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital (VMMC & SJH) and the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), launched a webinar series in May 2025 titled "Heatwave

disaster resilience.

Cities and Settlements

on Strengthening

together experts,

representatives to share practical solutions, innovative approaches, and governance reforms aimed at enhancing the safe and inclusive management of large gatherings. The discussion emphasized the urgent need for cross-sector collaboration, use of technology, capacity building, and policy-level interventions to address recurring

brought

and Southern India

Preparedness: Multi-Sectoral Approaches for Resilience." With two sessions held in May and the remaining three conducted in June 2025, the series focuses on the growing threat of heatwaves in the context of climate change and emphasizes the urgent need for inclusive, evidence-based strategies—particularly for vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, persons with disabilities, infants, and children, who are at increased health risk during extreme heat events. Protecting the Most Vulnerable: Heatwave Risks for Pregnant Women, Infants, and Children The third session of the series, titled focused on the unique health risks faced by these groups during extreme heat events. Experts discussed the physiological vulnerabilities of pregnant women and young children, shared practical measures for prevention and care, and emphasized the need for targeted awareness,

responses. Watch here>>

community-level interventions, and strengthened healthcare

The fifth session focused on inclusive early warning systems, community-based communication, and coordinated governance.

The fourth session focused on green infrastructure, inclusive planning, and adaptive shelter models. Experts and community leaders discussed ways to promote equity, resilience, and climate justice in urban areas. The session highlighted the importance of integrating heat mitigation into urban design through tree cover, reflective materials, and nature-based solutions, while also addressing the needs of informal settlements and low-income communities. Watch here>> Policy, Forecasting, and Early Action: Strengthening **Heatwave Governance and Preparedness**

Urban Heat Risks and Infrastructure: Building Heat-Resilient

Experts and community voices discussed strategies for early action and localized heat-health plans to reduce heatwave impacts. Emphasis was placed on integrating scientific forecasting with grassroots outreach, ensuring warnings are accessible, actionable, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations. Watch here>> Strengthening Crowd Management in India: Lessons, Innovations, and Institutional Preparedness

India,

challenges in managing crowds during festivals, protests, political events, and disasters. Watch here>> **Collaborative Advocacy**

Strengthening Humanitarian Leadership: Regional Round Tables Held for Central-Eastern

As part of the ongoing national dialogue on humanitarian and disaster risk reduction (DRR) leadership, Sphere India and Deakin University's Centre for Humanitarian Leadership co-hosted two Regional Virtual Round Table Consultations in June 2025. These consultations are part of a series following the National Round Table held in March, aimed at capturing region-specific insights and strengthening leadership capacity in humanitarian and DRR sectors across India. The Central and Eastern Region Consultation, held on 13th June, brought together leaders and experts from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. Discussions focused on evolving leadership competencies, coordination challenges, and regional priorities to enhance future readiness. This was followed by the Southern Region Consultation on 18th June, engaging voices from states across southern India to share best practices, identify leadership gaps, and propose collective actions tailored to the region's unique climate and disaster context. Both sessions reinforced the importance of inclusive,

Crowd Management in

practitioners, and institutional

locally grounded leadership in addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change and disasters, and will contribute to shaping strategic capacity-building initiatives at both national and global levels. Youth Voices for Climate Action: In Conversation with Nitish Barole As part of Sphere India's ongoing Youth Voices for Climate Action series, we were thrilled to feature Nitish Barole, a young leader and climate advocate committed to building community resilience and promoting youth-led solutions in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. In this inspiring conversation, Nitish shared his journey into the humanitarian and climate sectors, drawing from his experience working with rural and tribal communities in central India. He emphasized the importance of youth leadership in local climate action, and the need to decentralize decision-

making, enabling youth and grassroots voices to influence policy and planning. We also explored challenges faced by young professionals in navigating the humanitarian-development space, and how inclusive platforms, mentorship, and cross-sector collaboration can empower young people to become changemakers in their own regions. Nitish's reflections offered not just insight but a strong call for intergenerational collaboration, equity, and accountability in climate resilience efforts. This is the first youth interview of 2025, and we look forward to

> As the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2025 convenes in Geneva this June, it brings together governments,

> communities, and institutions to reflect on global progress and set the

course for future action on disaster risk reduction. With themes focusing on managing evolving risks, ensuring inclusion, and

preparation for this, we developed a narrative on India's Journey Towards Resilience: Advancing DRR and Climate Action - a reflection

grounded in real-time data, community engagement, and policy

alignment. This piece was shaped through a collaborative process,

the Academy's 20 thematic sessions held between October 2024 and

Situation Report 1

Sphere India

from

between October 2024 and April 2025. These sessions engaged 1,860 participants, including 900 women and 12 representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and were designed to mirror GPDRR's core themes. The narrative synthesizes key challenges such as the devastating impacts of heatwaves, floods, and lightning in 2024 with actionable recommendations. It highlights India's progress through the Sendai Framework, PM's 10-Point Agenda, and grassroots innovations, while calling for deeper, faster, and more inclusive efforts in the

Inter Agency Coordination

accelerating sustainable solutions, the platform provides opportunity for countries to share experiences and commitments. In

spotlighting more such powerful voices throughout the year. Watch here>>

Throughout June 2025, Sphere India's Inter Agency Coordination (IAC) team led critical efforts to support timely and collaborative responses

Situation reports (SitReps) were issued for four major events, and two Unified Response Strategy (URS) mechanisms were activated for Northeast Floods and the Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand landslides and cloudbursts. Emergencies covered during this period included the

coordination and information sharing during high-risk periods.

preparedness plans for 2025. Watch here>>

systems in disaster-prone areas.

management strategy.

Monsoon Preparedness Workshop: North and West Region Sphere India, in collaboration with the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), organized an Online Regional Monsoon Preparedness Workshop for the North and West regions on June 11th, 2025, from 02:30 PM to 04:30 PM. This workshop brought together multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, national and local NGOs, community leaders, media, academic experts, and other key actors. The session facilitated knowledge-sharing on lessons learned from the 2024 monsoon and supported the development of strategic

INDIA'S JOURNEY

TOWARDS RESILIENCE

Advancing DRR and Climate Action

Key insights and Priorities for

GPDRR 2025

face of a changing climate. Read here>>

India at GPDRR 2025: Shaping a Resilient and Inclusive Future

drawing

across multiple emergencies during the South-East monsoon season. A **HP Cloudburst** total of 37 alerts were disseminated, with 4 emergency coordination Date: 27th June 2025 Time: 04:00 PM meetings convened to address preparedness and response needs for ongoing and emerging crises. These included focused meetings on monsoon preparedness in North and West India, and situation-specific responses in Manipur, the North East region, and Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand.

North East Floods; Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand Landslides and Cloudbursts; Odisha Floods; Maharashtra Rainfall and Karnataka Rainfall. These efforts reflect the IAC team's commitment to enabling multi-stakeholder

News from IAG/State Networks

Two significant Inter Agency Group (IAG) meetings were held in June 2025 to advance preparedness and anticipatory action at the regional level. In Wayanad, Kerala, Sphere India, in collaboration with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), conducted a Community Awareness Programme focused on monsoon-related

risks and response readiness. In Assam, a dedicated session on Orientation to Anticipatory Action Protocols was organised alongside a Pre-Monsoon IAG Consultation on 10th June 2025. The discussion brought together stakeholders to strengthen early warning systems, seasonal planning, and joint action ahead of forecasted hazards. These meetings are part of Sphere India's broader strategy to enhance community-level engagement and interagency coordination for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response. **News from Members** Emmanuel Hospital Association: Advancing Preparedness and Resilience in Vulnerable Communities The Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) of the Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) has been a

driving force in disaster preparedness and community resilience since its formal inception in 2006. With a legacy rooted in EHA's disaster relief work dating back to the 1990s, DMMU focuses on emergency response, training, and community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR). Over the years, it has implemented 62 disaster relief programs, trained over 55,000 individuals in life-saving skills through the Disaster Education & Emergency

Most recently, from 14th to 17th May 2025, DMMU conducted a successful four-day disaster preparedness training at Duncan Hospital, Duncan Academy, and the Government Sub-Divisional Hospital in Raxaul, Bihar. The training equipped 245 hospital staff, students, and community health workers with vital skills in First Aid, CPR, Fire Safety, and Rescue Techniques. A well-coordinated Earthquake Evacuation Drill on 16th May demonstrated the participants' readiness and teamwork in a simulated crisis. The training marked another important milestone in DMMU's mission to strengthen frontline capacity, promote a culture of preparedness, and build resilient health

Updates from the Government

Centre Approves ₹2,006 Crore for Himachal's Post-Monsoon Recovery In response to the widespread destruction caused by cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides during the 2023 monsoon, the Union government has approved ₹2,006.40 crore in financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh to support recovery and reconstruction efforts. The decision was made by a high-level committee chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, with members including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery. The funding will be provided under the 'Recovery and Reconstruction' window of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Of the total approved amount, ₹1,504.80 crore will come as the Centre's share under the NDRF. This follows an earlier allocation of ₹633.73 crore in December 2023. The approval comes after a post-disaster assessment conducted by a Central

Medicine (DEEM) program, and led hospital safety initiatives in 70 hospitals across India and Nepal.

team, following which the Himachal Pradesh government had requested ₹9,042 crore in assistance to address the extensive damages and rebuild critical infrastructure. Union Home Minister Reviews National Flood Preparedness Ahead of Monsoon On 10th June 2025, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting in New Delhi to review India's flood management preparedness ahead of the monsoon season. The meeting focused on evaluating long-term flood mitigation strategies and the implementation status of decisions made in the previous year's review. Key ministries and departments, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD),

Central Water Commission (CWC), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), presented updates on technological advancements and preparedness measures. Shri Shah emphasized the maximum use of space technology for flood control and urged for improved early warning dissemination to reach grassroots levels through coordinated efforts between NDMA, State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), and District authorities (DDMAs). The Home Minister stressed the importance of uniform road design changes by NHAI and MoRTH to address urban waterlogging, and called for enhanced flood forecasting accuracy, glacial lake monitoring, and wetland rejuvenation, particularly in the Brahmaputra basin. New technologydriven flood solutions were also encouraged for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. A proposal was made to organize a national conference involving experts on floods, space applications, and dam safety, jointly led by NDSA, IMD, and NRSC. Shri Shah also noted India's progress in meteorology since 2014 and underlined the vision of positioning India at the forefront of disaster forecasting capabilities. Senior officials from multiple ministries and departments participated in the review, which highlighted inter-agency collaboration as central to a robust, future-ready flood

NDMA Issues Landmark Advisory to Protect Informal Workers from Heatwave Risks

Workshop on Urban Flood Risk Mitigation - Collaborative Action for Resilient Cities

A two-day workshop on Urban Flood Risk Mitigation Planning was recently held in New Delhi, jointly convened by the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Institute of Disaster Management, and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). The event brought together over 65 experts from 26 global institutions, including representatives from the Delhi government, Central Water Commission, World Bank, JICA, UN-Habitat, Deltares, and academic institutions, to address the growing

Day 1 focused on the unique urban flood risks faced by megacities like Delhi, examining institutional gaps and

Day 2 highlighted ongoing and planned mitigation initiatives, followed by participatory sessions where stakeholders collaboratively identified flood hotspots and proposed blue, green, and grey infrastructure solutions tailored to local

The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to advancing urban resilience, emphasizing adaptive infrastructure, uninterrupted essential services, and empowered communities capable of coping with increasing

Maharashtra Launches India's First Al Policy for Agriculture: MahaAgri Al Policy 2025 - 29

In a landmark move for Indian agriculture, the Government of Maharashtra has officially launched the MahaAgri Al Policy 2025-2029, marking the nation's first

dedicated Artificial Intelligence policy focused on transforming the agricultural sector. This visionary policy sets the tone for a new era of tech-enabled, farmerfirst agriculture, where innovation and inclusion go hand in hand. Rooted in a

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has released a landmark advisory focused on safeguarding informal workers from the growing impacts of heatwaves in Indian cities. Recognizing that over 80% of urban workers are engaged in informal employment - with women workers being particularly vulnerable, the advisory outlines a range of inclusive and practical measures. Key recommendations include the integration of informal workers into Heat Action Plans, adjusting work hours, and ensuring access to shade, drinking water, and cooling facilities. The advisory also highlights the need for social protection mechanisms such as health insurance and income security, especially during extreme heat events. Importantly, it calls for collaboration between governments, employers, and civil society to build heat-resilient cities and safer work environments for all. This is a significant step toward inclusive urban climate adaptation and meaningful recognition of the needs and rights of informal

workers in the face of rising climate risks. Read here>>

challenges of urban flooding amidst intensifying climate extremes.

infrastructure vulnerabilities.

MahaAgri-Al Policy

practical, inclusive, and transformative. Read here>>

The Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners and State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs), organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, concluded on 17 June 2025 in New Delhi. Chaired by Dr. P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, the two-day event brought together over 1,000 delegates from across states, union territories, and central agencies to reflect on and strengthen India's disaster risk management systems. Dr. Mishra emphasized the need to shift from a relief-centric to a preparedness and mitigationoriented approach, highlighting the changing nature of disasters, the importance of early warning systems, and the

recalibrate systems to match the pace of evolving climate and disaster risks.

climate variability.

farmer-centric approach, the policy aims to empower India's agricultural workforce with real-time data, Al-powered advisories, and customized, actionable insights to address everyday on-ground challenges. From climate risks to pest management and yield optimization, the policy ensures that technology works for farmers, not the other way around by simplifying access to information, increasing decisionmaking confidence, and supporting sustainable livelihoods. The policy is underpinned by a strong implementation framework, with committed budgets, digital infrastructure, and strategic institutional partnerships. It brings together a

vibrant ecosystem of government bodies, agri-tech startups, research institutions, and rural extension systems to collaboratively drive impact at scale. Importantly, MahaAgri Al doesn't just focus on productivity - it also aims to reduce risk, enhance income opportunities, and build long-term resilience, particularly for smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities. This policy is a timely and ambitious response to the complex demands of agriculture in a changing climate and digital age. The policy drafting process itself was a result of months of collaborative effort, deep consultations, and technical rigor - bringing together cross-sector expertise to design a framework that is

Annual Relief Commissioners and SDRF Conference 2025 Concludes in New Delhi

growing risks of under-addressed hazards like droughts and lightning. He called for enhanced state-level capacity, data-driven planning, and greater community involvement, including the use of platforms like 'My Bharat' and Aapda Mitra. Key sessions explored early warning systems, urban flood management, disaster financing, technology adoption, volunteer mobilisation, and institutional readiness, underscoring the urgent need to

Sphere India's Engagement with NDMA

High-Level Stakeholder Consultation on Reimagining the Delhi Heat Action Plan 2025

Held on 20th June 2025 at NDMA Bhawan, New Delhi, the High-Level Stakeholder Consultation on Reimagining the Delhi Heat Action Plan (HAP) 2025 brought together a diverse and engaged group of stakeholders to deliberate on strengthening the capital's resilience to extreme heat. Organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Delhi Disaster Management Authority, in collaboration with UNICEF India, Envisions Institute of Development, and supported by Sphere India, the consultation created a truly inclusive and participatory platform. Participants included representatives from government departments, civil society organisations, academic institutions, urban planners, RWAs, worker unions, and youth networks. The discussions explored critical themes

A significant step was taken toward advancing Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) and accessible humanitarian action in India through a series of national engagements held between May and June 2025. Anchored by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the United Nations in India, with UNICEF

India as the technical lead, the multi-stage process reflected strong momentum for inclusive policy and systems change. The initiative began with a Pre-Workshop Dialogue on 27 May 2025, and 30 May 2025 which were co organised by Sphere India, where diverse stakeholders - including persons with disabilities, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), and humanitarian actors - provided real-time inputs on the draft National Minimum Preparedness Standards for Disability-Inclusive DRR and Humanitarian Action. The process culminated in a two-day Co-Creation Workshop at NDMA Headquarters (4-5 June 2025), where stakeholders collectively refined the standards and contributed to a comprehensive Action Plan aligned with the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) 2019. Key themes included inclusive risk assessments, accessible communication, assistive technologies, disability-disaggregated data, and systemic OPD leadership, upholding the principles of 'Nothing Without Us' and 'Leave No One Behind'. This collaborative journey signals a meaningful move toward

Updates from International Humanitarian Community

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025, Geneva (02 - 06 June 2025) The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2025, held in Geneva from 02 - 06 June, convened over 3,600 participants from 165 countries to reflect on global progress and urgent priorities for disaster resilience. Framed around the theme "Every Day Counts - Act for Resilience Today," the forum came amid record-breaking global climate events including 45.8 million displacements in 2024 and a glacier-triggered landslide near the venue, underscoring the urgent need for systemic action. Discussions focused on three key themes: First, the need to manage current and future risks in a rapidly changing climate by strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems (EW4All), embedding risk governance in national development, and prioritizing long-term resilience over short-term response. Second, the call to prioritize gender equality, accessibility, and inclusion, with strong advocacy for community-led approaches, co-design with women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities, and operationalizing the Sendai Gender Action Plan. Third, the urgency to accelerate action for a sustainable future, emphasizing integrated financing for DRR and climate adaptation, resilient recovery planning, and locally led implementation of national frameworks. The platform made clear that building resilience is not a standalone project

embedding equity, accessibility, and accountability into India's disaster governance frameworks.

but a continuous, inclusive process rooted in equity, trust, and proactive investment.

WORDS

ACTION

Hamburg Declaration on Responsible

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

INTO

Words into Action: National Disaster Risk Assessment A Guide for National Practitioners

accountability in risk governance systems. Read here>>

Reimagining Public Spaces for Healthier, Resilient Cities: UN-Habitat Releases New Guidance

Read here>>

Read more>>

From Risk to Resilience: Helping People and Firms Adapt in South Asia

GFDRR Highlights Importance of Risk Assessment in Disaster Management

Responsible Artificial Intelligence for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The updated NDRA (National Disaster Risk Assessment) guidelines offer a

comprehensive, inclusive, and adaptable framework for conducting disaster risk

assessments at national and local levels. Aligned with the Sendai Framework, these

2025 revisions build on the 2017 version by emphasizing governance, participation, and evidence-based decision-making. Structured around three stages—governance and policy foundation, data assessment, and risk analysis—the guidelines are supported by practical tools, updated annexes, and a cyclical learning approach. The focus is on tailoring risk assessments to specific country contexts, enhancing early decision-making, and integrating climate adaptation and SDG targets to build more resilient and equitable societies. They promote collaboration, data transparency, and

With rising urban temperatures and growing outdoor activity, public spaces are emerging as vital assets for urban health and resilience. In its latest guidance paper, "Healthier Cities and Communities Through Public Spaces", UN-Habitat outlines the crucial role well-designed public spaces play in supporting physical and mental wellbeing, especially for vulnerable populations. The paper highlights how green and open spaces enhance community health, reduce pollution, and foster social cohesion. Multi-functional design features such as playgrounds, exercise zones, and shaded areas are encouraged to meet diverse community needs. As cities prepare for another summer of extreme heat, this resource offers timely, practical strategies to make public spaces safer, more inclusive, and better aligned with health and climate goals.

At the Hamburg Sustainability Conference, leaders from governments, industry, and civil society endorsed the Hamburg Declaration on Responsible AI for Sustainable

Development—the first global declaration focused on aligning AI with the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs). Developed in collaboration with Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the declaration calls for inclusive access to Al's benefits, especially in developing countries. Key commitments include upholding human rights, advancing AI education for women and girls, tackling disinformation, and supporting local innovation. The declaration now calls on all sectors to work collectively to ensure AI serves as a tool for equity and sustainable progress.

A new World Bank report. From Risk to Resilience, warns that by 2030, nearly 90% of South Asia's population will face extreme heat, and over 20% will be exposed to severe flooding. While many households and firms are adapting, most rely on basic measures due to limited access to finance, information, and infrastructure. The report urges governments to remove market barriers, invest in resilient infrastructure, and support innovation so the private sector can lead adaptation efforts. Stronger institutions and inclusive development strategies are key to protecting lives and livelihoods amid rising climate risks. It notes that private adaptation could reduce up to one-third of projected damages. Examples from India and Bangladesh show how targeted investments and

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) has released a key document emphasizing that understanding disaster risk is essential in a world facing growing economic losses from disasters. The guidance outlines core components of risk assessment-hazard, exposure, and vulnerability - and reinforces that robust, context-specific assessments are foundational to effective risk reduction,

A new report by SPARC revisits public works programmes (PWPs) in Ethiopia and Kenya to assess whether the assets they create—such as soil conservation structures and water pans—actually enhance livelihoods and climate resilience. Despite billions invested globally in PWPs each year, the findings reveal a sobering reality: in many cases, asset quality is compromised, and long-term benefits remain limited. In both countries, labour absorption was prioritized over sustainable asset creation. In Kenya, earth dams failed to improve water access, while Ethiopia's visible conservation efforts delivered little livelihood impact. The report argues that when assets fail to deliver value, unconditional transfers may be a better alternative. This retrospective study is a critical reminder of the need for rigorous, context-aware evaluation to ensure PWPs deliver lasting development and resilience outcomes. Read here>>

preparedness, financial protection, and resilient recovery planning. Targeted at DRM practitioners, governments, donors, and NGOs, the document recommends improving risk assessments by clearly defining objectives, ensuring stakeholder ownership, promoting open data, and communicating findings effectively to drive timely and informed decision-making. Read here>> **Combatting Plastic pollution for Sustainable Development** A new UNDP report underscores the urgent threat plastic pollution poses to sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs. Far beyond an environmental issue, plastic waste is increasingly recognized as a barrier to equity, resilience, and long-term development. Drawing on experiences from 12 countries,

local leadership can scale resilience effectively. Read here>>

effective and lasting climate delivery. Read here>>

Investing in Climate for Growth and Development

impacts from turning into systemic failures. Read here>> Climate Resilient Infrastructure Handbook

here>>

here>>

Climate Communication Fund - Round 1 Grant

globally. Funding: £100,000 to £250,000

Advancing climate action

change.

Funding: €10,000 Deadline: 15 August 2025

Know More>>

Know More>>

such as urban heat-smart practices, resilient infrastructure, climate financing, behavioural change strategies, and the potential development of a Delhi Resilience Lab. Structured around panel dialogues and thematic group sessions, the event focused on inclusive planning, grounded solutions, and collective action - placing the needs of vulnerable communities at the centre of Delhi's heatwave preparedness efforts. The consultation set the stage for new partnerships and collaborative pathways, marking a key milestone in shaping a more climate-resilient Delhi. Towards Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Disaster Preparedness and Humanitarian **Action in India**

the report outlines six key lessons for combating plastic pollution through locally driven, systems-based approaches. It emphasizes the need for coordinated action across sectors, inclusive policymaking, and scalable innovations. This resource offers timely guidance for governments, communities, and stakeholders committed to reducing plastic waste while advancing inclusive and sustainable progress. Read here>>

SPARC Report Questions Long-Term Value of Public Works Programme Assets

CLIMATE significant need for a comprehensive guide to inform judicial decision-making in this complex and evolving field. The Cambridge Handbook on Climate Litigation fills this .ITIGATION critical gap by serving as an authoritative resource on the nuances and legal dimensions of climate-related action. It offers judges, legal professionals, and scholars a broad, comparative view of how courts across jurisdictions are addressing recurring challenges such as causation, accountability, and human rights. Drawing on the growing transnational judicial dialogue, the Handbook distills emerging best practices, case law trends, and replicable legal strategies that can shape and advance future climate available as an open access resource on Cambridge Core. Read here>> GRI 102: Climate Change 2025 Read here>> CEEW

Climate Corner Climate Change and Mental Health of Women in Developing Countries The article titled was published in Volume 178, Article Number 118 of the peer-reviewed Climatic Change journal Climate Change, under Springer Nature. It explores how climate change disproportionately impacts women in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in MICHAEL OFF relation to mental health and emotional well-being. Drawing on case studies and thematic literature, the paper highlights key stressors such as displacement, caregiving burdens, early marriage, human trafficking, and food insecurity. It also offers practical recommendations for gender-responsive policy interventions that promote psychological resilience and social protection. This study fills a critical gap at the intersection of gender, climate, and mental health, offering valuable insights for inclusive climate adaptation strategies. Read here>>

The Cambridge Handbook on Climate Litigation

environmental, and nutritional outcomes. Read here>>

jurisprudence. This important volume, offering both depth and practical value, is also GRI 102: Climate Change 2025 – Strengthening Climate Reporting Standards The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has released the new GRI 102: Climate Change 2025 standard, set to become effective from 1 January 2027. Developed through a robust multi-stakeholder process, the standard offers organizations a comprehensive

Progress in adapting to climate change

Advancing Climate-Resilient Agriculture in India: Lessons from Bihar and Odisha Agriculture in India by Strengthening Institutional Capacity Progress in Adapting to Climate Change: 2025 Report to UK Parliament

The UK Climate Change Committee's 2025 report to Parliament finds that the country is

"Advancing Climate-Resilient Agriculture in India by Strengthening Institutional Capacity: Lessons from Bihar and Odisha" explores how state-level institutions can drive the transition to climate-resilient agriculture (CRA). Using field research and the Capacity Assessment Framework, the report assesses institutional readiness in Bihar and Odish -- two climate-vulnerable states - and proposes strategies such as establishing dedicated CRA bodies, shifting from individual to household-level outreach, and improving coordination among local agencies. It also emphasizes the role of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) and advocates for a value-chain-based approach that aligns livelihood,

GCA Climate Resilient Infrastructure (CRI) Handbook for Public-Private Partnerships Resilient Infrastructure (CRI) Handbook - a practical, action-oriented guide to integrating climate resilience into infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) across the entire project lifecycle. Tailored for policymakers, investors, and infrastructure practitioners, the Handbook offers step-by-step guidance to align long-term infrastructure investments with evolving climate risks. Developed with input from Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and partner organizations, it features a dedicated Knowledge Module on PPPs for climate-resilient infrastructure. By bridging

framework to disclose their climate change-related impacts, mitigation and adaptation strategies, and progress towards just transition goals. It introduces detailed reporting requirements on transition plans, adaptation efforts, GHG emissions across all scopes, carbon credits, and climate impacts on vulnerable populations including workers and Indigenous communities. This standard aims to align corporate disclosures with the goals of the Paris Agreement, the IPCC's 1.5°C pathway, and principles of equity and inclusivity, making it a critical step forward in global sustainability and accountability. A recent study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) titled

not yet adequately prepared for current or future climate risks. Out of 46 adaptation

outcomes under the Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3), none were rated "good" for implementation, and over 60% showed limited or insufficient progress. Key gaps persist across infrastructure resilience, urban heat management, water security, agriculture, and private sector readiness. Public buildings continue to overheat, highgrade farmland remains at flood risk, and adaptation finance lacks scale and direction. The CCC urges urgent course correction with measurable targets, integrated policy action, and stronger cross-government coordination to prevent mounting climate The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) has launched the latest edition of the Climate



Climate litigation is rapidly gaining momentum across the globe, yet there remains a

technical expertise with implementation needs, the Handbook helps mainstream adaptation into infrastructure planning and finance in climate-vulnerable regions. Read **Advancing Climate Action through Laws and Regulations** A new report from UNDP's NDC Support Programme explores how countries are embedding national climate plans (NDCs) into law to strengthen implementation and accountability under the Paris Agreement. With climate ambition growing, many nations are either adopting dedicated climate legislation or integrating climate targets into existing environmental and sectoral laws to ensure alignment with development priorities. Drawing on reform experiences from Albania, Chile, Peru, and Viet Nam, the report highlights the practical steps taken to anchor climate commitments within legal frameworks. It outlines the progress made, challenges faced, and lessons learned in aligning governance systems to support long-term climate action. Ultimately, it underscores that legal reform is not just a technical necessity but a cornerstone of

A new report, launched in partnership with the OECD, shows that climate action is not only urgent - it is an economic opportunity. The findings highlight encouraging global trends: clean energy investments now outpace fossil fuels, and 90% of the global economy is covered by net zero targets. Yet, current efforts remain insufficient, and countries must raise ambition to stay on track. As global emissions hit a new peak last year, the upcoming 2025 round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) presents a critical moment for countries to renew and enhance their climate pledges. The report emphasizes that with the right policies, nations can align climate goals with growth, resilience, and inclusive development, creating a win-win pathway forward. Read

Grants and Opportunities

Organisation: The Communication Foundation This grant supports small climate CSOs and NGOs worldwide to strengthen their communication capacity through tailored support in strategy, media, storytelling, and outreach, helping them amplify impact, build trust, and drive Global Safety Evidence Centre Research Grants - 2024-2029 Organisation: Lloyd's Register Foundation The grant supports research projects that generate high-quality, open-access evidence to improve workplace Sphere India

- safety, strengthen safety science, and inform decision-making to protect people and critical infrastructure Deadline: 17 September 2025 (Expression of Interest) **Upcoming Events & Plans Ahead** Upcoming Sessions in June 2025 Landslide Risk and Preparedness in the Himalayas: Strategies for a Safer Tomorrow http://tiny.cc/Landslide Risk Preparedne Changing Disaster Risk Landscape in India 10 Jul
 - SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR JUL 2025 SUN MON TUE WED THUR FRI SAT WASH and Epidemics: Preventing Water-Borne Outbreaks During Monsoon Floods http://tinv.cc/Monsoon_Floods_Epidemics 16 Jul Building Resilient Schools and Anganwadis in Flood-Prone Zones: Lessons in Child-Centred DRR http://tiny.cc/Resilient_Schools Community-Centric Approaches and Policy Innovations http://tiny.cc/Building_Flood_Resilience 25 Jul outh Volunteer Orientation on Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction 31 Jul http://tiny.cc/Youth_Volunteer_DM_DRR Sphere India National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India
- Sphere India Academy was launched on April 10th, 2020 (as COVID-19 Academy) as a collaborative initiative of WHO, UNICEF, WFP, HCLF, Sphere India, and other organizations. The academy serves as a capacity spirate finding and other organizations. The academy serves as a capacity-building program, aiming to provide training for humanitarian aid and humanitarian and frontline workers across India Its primary objective is to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfill various 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 🔀 siacademy@sphereindia.org.in 📢 +91 84420 29439 **Sphere India Secretariat** 123, Captain Vijayant Thapar Marg, Arun Vihar, Sector 37, Noida, Uttar Pradesh (Near Botanical Garden Metro Station) E-mail: info@sphereindia.org.in Website: www.sphereindia.org.in

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