



Monthly Newsletter

July 2026



CEO'S MESSAGE

**Dear Friends, Member Organizations, Donors, and Stakeholders,
Greetings from the Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)!**

I am pleased to share with you the key highlights and achievements from July 2026, a month that reflected our continued commitment to community empowerment, capacity building, innovation, and sustainable social impact.

One of the key highlights of the month was the successful implementation of Phase II of the “**सुरक्षित घर - सुरक्षित जीवन**” HVDS Safety Awareness & Risk Reduction Campaign, in partnership with BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL).



SANTOSH GUPTA

Through intensive household and school outreach, community engagement, and the dedicated efforts of 10 Suraksha Mitras, the campaign reached 4,500 households and 11 schools across identified high-risk communities in South Delhi. The initiative focused on promoting practical electrical safety practices, identifying risks, and creating safer neighbourhoods.

We also made encouraging progress under the **HONASA Little Steps Centres and the AI Labs for Future Skills initiative** in partnership with Honasa Consumer Limited and HMD Global respectively. Equipment, learning resources, networking, and other infrastructure were installed across two little steps centers in Gurugram and the two CM SHREE Government Schools in East Delhi, transforming conventional classrooms into children focused and technology enabled spaces for hands on learning in AI, coding, robotics, data analytics, and digital innovation.

Our work towards strengthening adolescent health and wellbeing also gained momentum. Under **Project SHE**, school and community sessions continued in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, focusing on menstrual hygiene, nutrition, anemia prevention, and creating supportive environments for adolescents. At the same time, our partnership with **Girl Effect India** has enabled the launch of a school-based HPV awareness initiative across the North-East, with a focus on informed health choices, HPV vaccination, and cervical cancer prevention.

Through **Project SAKSHAM**, we continued our efforts to strengthen the capacities of Civil Society Organizations with our podcasts. The Agile Leadership and Capacity Enhancement Programme also brought together senior professionals from 16 CSOs and Local Resource Centres for two days of learning, reflection, collaboration, and adaptive leadership. Our SAKSHAM – NGO Clinic Podcast also continued to facilitate knowledge-sharing on documentation, communication, governance, and organizational development. At the grassroots level, our engagement with **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** continued to promote knowledge exchange, improved agricultural practices, and stronger market linkages, helping farmers connect with research institutions and organized markets.

These initiatives reaffirm ISRN's belief that sustainable change is built through informed communities, strong partnerships, local leadership, and continuous learning. Each programme, whether focused on safety, education, health, livelihoods, or civil society capacity building, contributes towards our larger vision of creating more resilient and empowered communities.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our partners, donors, member organizations, volunteers, community leaders, and dedicated team members for their continued trust, collaboration, and commitment. Your support enables us to take meaningful interventions to the last mile and create lasting impact. As we move forward, ISRN remains committed to building partnerships, empowering communities, and translating collective efforts into sustainable and measurable social change.

Thanks & Regards

Santosh Gupta

Chief Executive Officer

Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)



HIGH VOLTAGE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (HVDS) Safety Awareness Campaign

सुरक्षित घर - सुरक्षित जीवन

PHASE II : BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH DELHI

Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN), in partnership with **BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL)**, successfully implemented Phase II of the High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) Safety Awareness & Risk Reduction Campaign across identified high-risk communities in South Delhi.

Commencing in July 2026, Phase II focused on strengthening last-mile electrical safety awareness through intensive household outreach, school-based sensitisation, community engagement, and identification of electrical safety risks in the South Delhi areas.

Campaign Focus

- Household-level electrical safety awareness
- Community mobilisation and risk mapping
- IEC-based safety communication
- Hot-spot mapping and reporting
- School-based electrical safety sessions

JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

The HVDS safety awareness campaign was implemented through a dedicated team of 10 trained community volunteers—“**Suraksha Mitras**”, who served as the link between technical safety messaging and communities on the ground. Through door-to-door engagement and targeted awareness activities, the campaign reached:

- 4,500 Households covered during the Campaign
- 11 Schools reached through electrical safety awareness sessions
- 10 Suraksha Mitras engaged for community-level outreach
- Community-level awareness on safe practices around HVDS infrastructure
- Identification and reporting of electrical safety risks and potential hotspot

KEY IMPACT

Phase II strengthened the reach and depth of the HVDS safety campaign by taking preventive electrical safety messages directly to 4,500 households and 11 schools across identified communities. The engagement of 10 Suraksha Mitras further strengthened the community-based approach, enabling consistent communication, local-level mobilisation, and greater ownership of electrical safety practices.

Through Phase II, ISRN and BSES continued their commitment to building informed, vigilant, & safer communities by promoting electrical safety awareness at the last mile.



PROJECT KICK-OFF: A GLIMPSE INTO THE JOURNEY AHEAD



BSES-ISRN Volunteer Orientation at ISRN HQ



BSES & ISRN Team Assembly at Sub Division

ISRN PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS | FEATURED IN THE BSES NEWSLETTER

4,500 HOMES. COUNTLESS SAFER TOMORROWS

Door-to-door awareness that turns electrical safety knowledge into everyday action

Electrical safety begins with awareness—and sometimes, the most effective way to spread it is one doorstep at a time.

To strengthen electrical safety awareness among consumers living in High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) areas, BRPL's Safety Department conceptualised and led an extensive door-to-door campaign in collaboration with the Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN).

Covering 4,500 households across 13 locations in the Khanpur and Sarita Vihar divisions, the campaign focused particularly on homes located near HVDS poles and other electrical infrastructure.

Through direct, one-on-one interactions, consumers were sensitised about:

Installing RCCBs to protect against electric shocks and leakage currents

Maintaining a safe distance from HVDS poles and electrical infrastructure

Following safe electrical practices at home

Taking additional precautions during the monsoon season

Promptly reporting damaged or unsafe electrical infrastructure to BRPL

The campaign received an encouraging response from the community. Women, senior citizens and other residents welcomed the initiative and appreciated the practical guidance provided at their doorsteps.

CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE

4,500
Households

13
Locations

2
Divisions

One
Commitment to Safety

Date	Division	Area Covered	HH Covered
01 Jul 2026	Khanpur	Jawahar Park	200
02-03 Jul 2026	Khanpur	Sangam Vihar	744
04 Jul 2026	Khanpur	Krishna Park	430
06-07 Jul 2026	Khanpur	Pul Prahladpur	842
08 Jul 2026	Khanpur	Durga Vihar	200
10 Jul 2026	Sarita Vihar	Ali Vihar & Bheem Colony	345
11 Jul 2026	Sarita Vihar	Ali Extn. & Ali Gaon	200
13 Jul 2026	Sarita Vihar	Kanchan Kunj, Samosha Chowk & Phase-3 JJ Colony	300
14 Jul 2026	Sarita Vihar	Kanchan Kunj & Sourabh Vihar	396
15 Jul 2026	Sarita Vihar	Sourabh Vihar	428
16 Jul 2026	Sarita Vihar	Badarpur	415
Grand Total		2 Divisions 13 Locations	4,500

PROJECT GLIMPSES (Household Visits and Awareness Campaign)



PROJECT GLIMPSES (Awareness Campaign in Schools)



AI LABS FOR FUTURE SKILLS

The **AI Labs for Future Skills initiative**, implemented by **ISRN** in partnership with **HMD Global**, made significant progress during July 2026, transitioning from preparatory activities to on-ground implementation.

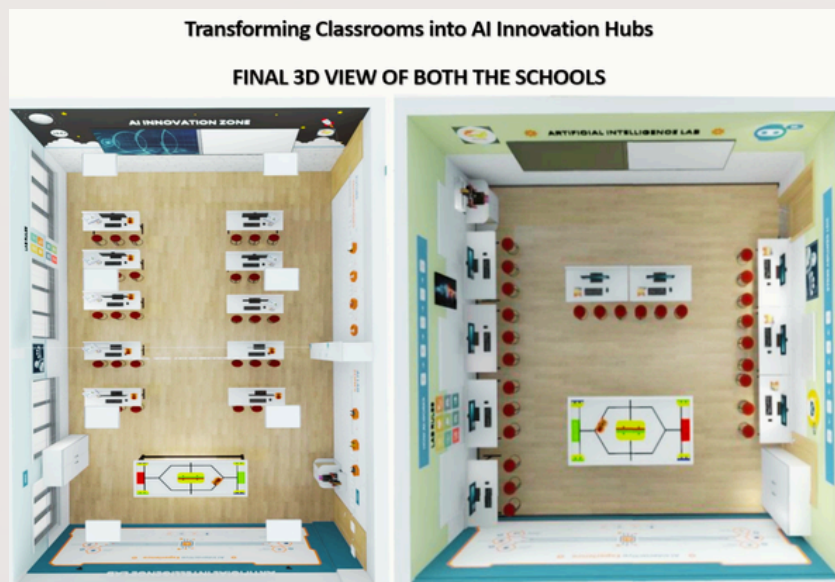
During the month, AI Lab equipment, modular furniture, networking and electrical infrastructure, learning resources, and branding elements were delivered and installed across the **two finalized CM SHRI Schools in East Delhi**. This has transformed conventional classrooms into modern, technology-enabled learning spaces designed to support experiential, hands-on, and project-based learning.



With the physical infrastructure now substantially in place, the initiative is progressing towards its final stage of operational readiness, including equipment configuration, software deployment, testing and quality assurance, deployment of curriculum and learning resources, and orientation and capacity building of teachers and students. Preparations for the formal inauguration and launch of the AI Labs are also underway, with the launch planned for the coming month.

The AI Labs are being developed to provide students with hands-on exposure to AI, coding, robotics, data analytics, digital innovation, and collaborative problem-solving, while fostering creativity, critical thinking, digital literacy, and other future-ready skills.

From conventional classrooms to innovation hubs, the transformation is taking shape—bringing AI-enabled learning closer to students and creating dynamic spaces where curiosity, creativity, and future-ready skills can thrive.



LITTLE STEPS PROJECT

Every Little Steps Today, Builds A Brighter Tomorrow

The Little Steps Project, implemented by Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN) with the support of Honasa Consumer Limited, is an Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) initiative for 60 children aged 2–6 years across two centres in Kadarapur and Ghata, Gurugram, Haryana. The project brings together play-based learning, nutrition, health, hygiene, safety and holistic child development in a safe and nurturing environment. The project has successfully progressed from planning and preparation to readiness, with key milestones achieved.

From Planning to Readiness

Building a Skilled Little Steps Team: The team underwent a structured induction and orientation programme at the ISRN HQ, Delhi, with guidance from a technical expert. The training focused on ECD, experiential and play-based ECCE, classroom management, child safeguarding, daily centre operations, professional responsibilities, communication and documentation, parent engagement, and age-appropriate activity planning, aligned with the principles of the National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCF-ECCE).



Admissions Drive Underway: Following the baseline assessment of 107 households across Kadarapur and Ghata, the community outreach and admissions drive has been initiated to connect eligible children and families with The Little Steps centres.

Infrastructure Ready: Both centres have been developed as safe, child-friendly and stimulating spaces, with age-appropriate furniture, learning and play materials, safety provisions.



Curriculum Ready: A customized **play-based ECCE curriculum aligned with NCF-ECCE** has been developed for children aged 2–6 years, incorporating storytelling, music, art, sensory exploration, motor development, pre-literacy, pre-numeracy and socio-emotional learning.

Customized Essentials Ready: Customized **uniforms, bags, shoes, socks, ID cards and water bottles** have been prepared for the children, reinforcing a sense of identity, belonging and equality.

Inauguration Planned in August: The inaugural event is planned in **August alongside the Independence Day celebrations**, marking a special beginning for The Little Steps and its young learners.

The centres are ready. The curriculum is ready. The children are ready.

PROJECT GLIMPSES



The Little Steps is ready to begin a journey of learning, care, play and growth.

Project SHE (Sanitation, Health and Empowerment)

ISRN, with the support of **John Snow India Private Limited (JSIPL)**, continued its community and school-level engagement under Project SHE during July 2026 across project villages and schools in Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh. During the month, the project conducted four school awareness sessions under the **"Suno, Samjho, Seekho"** initiative including **male engagement sessions**, strengthening engagement with adolescents, parents, caregivers, School Management Committee members, and other community stakeholders.

The July sessions focused on reinforcing positive practices related to menstrual hygiene management, nutrition, and anaemia prevention, particularly among school-going adolescents. Facilitators encouraged open and informed conversations around menstruation, addressing prevalent myths, misconceptions, and social norms while highlighting the importance of supportive family and community environments for adolescent girls.

The community sessions witnessed active participation from parents and caregivers, providing a platform to discuss MHM and nutrition more openly at the household level. Discussions also highlighted the importance of access to hygienic menstrual products, safe menstrual waste disposal, nutritious diets, and timely support for adolescent health.

Through continued school and community engagement, Project SHE is strengthening an enabling ecosystem where adolescents are better informed, families are more supportive, and communities are increasingly empowered to promote menstrual health, nutrition, and adolescent well-being.





ISRN LAUNCHES SCHOOL-BASED HPV AWARENESS INITIATIVE ACROSS NORTH-EAST INDIA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GIRL EFFECT INDIA

The **Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)** is delighted to announce the launch of a transformative school-based initiative aimed at strengthening awareness of **Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)** vaccination and cervical cancer prevention among adolescents in North-East India. Implemented in partnership with **Girl Effect India**, the programme represents a significant step towards empowering young people, families, educators, and communities with the knowledge needed to make informed health decisions.

The initiative will be implemented across Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh, with intensive interventions in Meghalaya and Nagaland and focused outreach activities in selected districts of Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.

Drawing upon ISRN's extensive experience in adolescent health, immunization, education, and community engagement, the programme will create an enabling ecosystem where schools become centres for awareness, dialogue, and positive health action. Cervical cancer remains one of the most preventable forms of cancer, and HPV vaccination is a proven tool in reducing its burden. Through this programme, ISRN and Girl Effect India aim to support the Government of India's HPV vaccination campaign by increasing awareness, addressing myths and misconceptions, promoting informed decision-making, and encouraging positive vaccination behaviours among eligible adolescent girls and their families.

The programme will engage more than 32,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries through a comprehensive school-community model. Activities will include teacher capacity-building workshops, principal and school leadership orientations, parent sensitization sessions, expert interactions with healthcare professionals, youth-led awareness campaigns, and community mobilization initiatives. By actively involving teachers, parents, community leaders, and health institutions, the initiative seeks to create a sustainable support system that extends well beyond the classroom.

A unique feature of the initiative is the establishment of Youth Health Innovation Labs, also known as Gully Youth Labs, where trained adolescent leaders will facilitate peer learning, promote healthy conversations, and serve as ambassadors for cervical cancer prevention and HPV vaccination within their communities. These youth-led platforms will encourage confidence, leadership, and informed decision-making while fostering a culture of health advocacy among young people.

Recognising that adolescent wellbeing extends beyond immunization, the programme will also introduce complementary learning modules on nutrition, menstrual hygiene management, and responsible digital engagement.



These sessions will equip adolescents with practical life skills, strengthen their ability to identify misinformation, and encourage respectful, informed participation in the digital world. Speaking on the launch, ISRN reaffirmed its commitment to building healthier and more informed communities by working collaboratively with governments, schools, civil society, healthcare professionals, and young people themselves.



Through evidence-based social and behaviour change communication, community partnerships, and youth leadership, the initiative seeks to contribute towards a future where every adolescent has access to accurate health information and the confidence to make informed choices. ISRN is proud to partner with Girl Effect India in advancing adolescent health and wellbeing and looks forward to working alongside schools, educators, parents, and local communities to create lasting impact across the North-East. Together, we can build informed, resilient, and healthier generations while contributing to India's vision of eliminating preventable cervical cancer through awareness, education, and equitable access to HPV vaccination.



AGILE LEADERSHIP & CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

→ A Meaningful Learning Journey ←

Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra (SSK), Lucknow
1st – 2nd July 2026 | Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK), New Delhi

Under Project SAKSHAM | Supported by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) India
and the EU in India

Introduction

A Space to Pause, Reflect, and Lead

Leadership in the development sector rarely follows a script. It demands the ability to read a room, adapt to shifting ground, and bring people together around a shared purpose, even when the path forward is not fully clear. That spirit sat at the heart of the 2-day Agile Leadership and Capacity Enhancement Programme, held on 1st and 2nd July 2026 at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK), New Delhi. Organized under the SAKSHAM Project and hosted by Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra (SSK), Lucknow, the programme created space for civil society leaders to pause, reflect, and sharpen the skills that hold resilient organizations together. Participants came with experience, questions, and a genuine desire to grow, and the programme met them there.

30
Senior Professionals

16
CSOs and LRCs

2 Days of Intensive
Learning



ISRN Participants at the Agile Leadership and Capacity Enhancement Programme,
New Delhi, July 2026

Programme Highlights

Thirty senior professionals from 16 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Local Resource Centres (LRCs) came together for two intensive days of learning and exchange. The sessions focused on building agile leadership, strengthening adaptive thinking, improving stakeholder engagement, deepening collaboration, and enhancing organizational effectiveness, with a specific lens on climate adaptability as an emerging priority for the sector.

The learning design moved well beyond lectures. Participants worked through interactive discussions, experiential learning exercises, case-based problem solving, and hands-on action planning, all aimed at translating leadership concepts into approaches they could carry back to their own organizations. A highlight of the programme was the presence of Mr. Rakesh Katal, Country Director of Welthungerhilfe (WHH) India, who shared valuable insights drawn from years of leadership in the development space.

The sessions were expertly facilitated by Mr. Anil Bahl, whose guidance kept discussions grounded and purposeful, alongside Isha from ELC, whose sessions encouraged practical reflection and thoughtful engagement throughout.

FOCUS AREAS

- Agile Leadership
- Adaptive Thinking
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Collaboration
- Organizational Effectiveness
- Climate Adaptability

Voices from the Programme

Beyond the sessions and structured exercises, it is the reflections of participants that capture what the programme truly meant.

The programme brought together 30 civil society organisation participants for meaningful discussions on stakeholder dialogue, climate adaptability, and agile leadership, reinforcing that resilient organisations are built through collaboration, continuous learning, and the ability to adapt to change.

The facilitation team shaped the depth of the experience. Anil and Isha from ELC led sessions that were thought provoking and engaging, pushing participants toward practical reflection and a more purposeful approach to leadership. It was an enriching experience made possible under Project SAKSHAM, supported by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) India and the EU in India, and hosted by Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra.



Interactive sessions and group exercises during the two-day programme, New Delhi, July 2026



Participants engaged in reflective dialogue and collaborative exercises, VYK, New Delhi

With Gratitude

ISRN extends heartfelt thanks to Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra (SSK), Lucknow and all other participants, who brought energy, honesty, and openness to the two days in New Delhi. Their willingness to engage, question, and share made the programme what it was: a genuine exchange of ideas and experience. Sincere appreciation also goes to the facilitation team, Mr. Anil Bahl and Ms. Isha Bahl from ELC, for shaping sessions that balance structure with space for real conversation, and to Mr. Rakesh Katal for generously sharing his insights as Country Director of Welthungerhilfe (WHH) India.

This programme would not have been possible without the continued support of Welthungerhilfe (WHH) India and the EU in India, whose partnership under Project SAKSHAM continues to strengthen leadership capacity across the civil society sector. Thanks as well to Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi, for hosting the sessions.



Group photograph from the Agile Leadership and Capacity Enhancement Programme,
New Delhi, July 2026

Together, we continue to strengthen leadership, foster collaboration, and build resilient civil society organizations, one conversation, one training, one shared insight at a time.

Learning . Reflecting . Adapting

ISRN'S NGO CLINIC PODCAST

SAKSHAM – Episode 3 Role of Documentation & Communication for CSOs

ISRN'S NGO CLINIC
PODCAST Episode 3
SAKSHAM
Revitalizing the Capacities of Civil Society Organizations
Role of Documentation & Communication for CSOs

HOST
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SPEAKER
MR. KARAN KAPOOR
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION & MEDIA EXPERT AND FORMER EXPERT, COMMUNICATIONS WELTHUNGERHILFE INDIA

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www.isrn.in "Relationship Building Beyond Funding" Follow us:

Speaker: Mr. Karan Kapoor, Strategic Communication & Media Expert (Former Communications Expert, Welthungerhilfe India)

In Episode of the ISRN's NGO Clinic Podcast, we explore why effective documentation and strategic communication are essential for transparency, credibility, donor engagement, and sustainable organizational growth. This episode is part of the SAKSHAM – Revitalizing the Capacities of Civil Society Organizations initiative, supported by the European Union, Welthungerhilfe India, and Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra. Watch the full episode and subscribe to the ISRN YouTube Channel for more expert insights on NGO management, governance, fundraising, and capacity building.

Watch now: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=TN14fVAdLN8>

Revitalizing the capacities of Civil Society Organizations

FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES TO CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION HOLDS THE KEY

As we celebrated immunisation week in the last week of April, there is a need to talk about the tremendous progress the country has made since the time Anna Dusthall, a three-year-old child from Mumbai became the first person in India to receive smallpox

vaccine on June 14, 1802; to post-Independence India, when in 1948, the BCG vaccine laboratory was set up at the King Institute, Guindy, Chennai and other national institutes and a number of private vaccine manufacturers came up; to 30 years later, when India launched the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) in 1978 and the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) in 1985. Since 2014, with Mission Indradhanush and Intensified Mission Indradhanush, India has demonstrated immense scale and consistency in its drive to vaccinate its population and especially children.



BY KAVITA AYYAGARI,
COUNTRY DIRECTOR –
GIRL EFFECT, INDIA

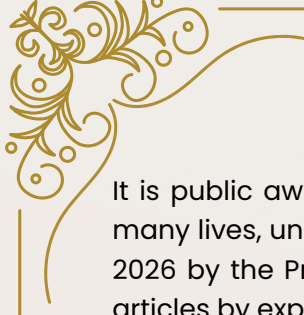
The Covid crisis tested all countries but India came through demonstrating unprecedented scale. India has built one of the world's largest vaccination initiatives, administering billions of doses, expanding digital infrastructure and leveraging its frontline workforce to reach its vast population.

India today is capable of meeting domestic demand and has also become a key supplier of vaccines to other countries. This is something we all as a nation have to celebrate and applaud. It is against this backdrop that India's rollout of the HPV vaccine marks a new and important chapter in India's quest for being disease-free. For decades, immunisation efforts have focused on controlling infectious diseases. With HPV, the shift is palpably different. We are trying to prevent a cancer before it begins. In a new cohort that is not young children below five or adults but adolescents.



This shift reflects a change, and it signifies a re-thinking of what a public health system can achieve. The State architecture that enabled large-scale campaigns for polio and Covid-19, is now being applied to a completely different disease: cervical cancer. Polio was a mission for decades and eradication was a goal every country endeavoured to deliver. Covid 19 was an urgent crisis that needed immediate action. Cervical cancer is the second most prevalent cancer in women.

The Southeast Asia region ranks second, contributing 29.59 % of global cervical cancer cases and 34.12 % of deaths, with India alone reporting 1,27,526 new cases and 79,906 deaths in 2022. But despite these heavy statistics, awareness of cervical cancer is dismally low. As a country, while we may demonstrate immense capacity to roll out a vaccination drive at scale, the challenge here is different.



It is public awareness or lack of it and perception of the disease as a serious cancer that is taking so many lives, unseen, unheard and not really talked about. Since the launch of the vaccine on February 28, 2026 by the Prime Minister, the media has been buzzing with information on the HPV vaccine. Through articles by experts, state statistics, health influencers, testimonials, the internet too has been abuzz.

While a majority of this discourse is positive, there is a small stream of information that highlights concerns. This is not loud. But it's out there. In vaccination, hesitation rarely shows up as outright refusal. More often, it appears as a delay. As a decision postponed or a session missed or a question left unresolved. For a parent, the decision to vaccinate is rarely about availability. It is about confidence. Once confidence is established, then the system delivers seamlessly

India's experience with past immunisation campaigns offers clear lessons. From polio eradication efforts to the Covid-19 vaccination drive, success has depended not only on supply chains and delivery systems, but on sustained efforts to build and maintain public trust. These don't get built immediately. They require persistent and constant effort. The HPV vaccination is now entering that same phase. The systems are in place and the scale is significant. Sustaining momentum will depend on how effectively the programme responds to the social dimensions of vaccination.

Public perception is a powerful force that shapes behavior in ways we might not even realise. It serves as the lens through which we interpret the world around us, influencing thoughts, actions, and interactions with others. This means that public health campaigns, especially new ones, need to look not only at the supply side but also how public perceptions shape demand. They require a deep understanding of factors that shape what people give salience to, who they follow and trust, how different actors in the family and their closest circles behave, their past experiences and beliefs, and how each reinforces their perceptions and drives their behaviours.

The HPV vaccine rollout represents a significant opportunity for the country to prevent cervical cancer, and in the process strengthen our broader approach to immunisation in the complex, socially connected world we live in where both information and misinformation reach fast and wide. It opens the doors to going deep and understanding the "why". Why do people do as they do or why not? It gives us an opportunity to strengthen not only delivery but also demand. It is in our ability to truly understand how the public receives, processes, understands and reacts to information and weighs the benefits of an action that programmes can deliver the health benefits they seek to at large.

This article is authored by Kavita Ayyagari, Country Director, Girl Effect India

Published on: May 5, 2026, 12:28:25 IST in Hindustan Times .



DELHI'S GROUND IS SINKING, AND URBAN PLANNING HASN'T CAUGHT UP

Land in parts of Delhi NCR is sinking fast enough to damage buildings, roads, drains and water pipelines. A study published in Scientific Reports, titled "Tracking hidden crisis in India's capital from space," examined Sentinel-1 satellite radar data from 2014 to 2020. It found that Kapashera, near Delhi's southwestern boundary, was subsiding by more than 11 centimetres a year. Faridabad recorded a rate of around 3 centimetres a year



Ashish Mansharamani
Director
(Growth & Strategic Partnerships)

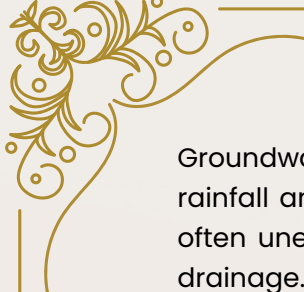
Roughly 100 square kilometres across Delhi NCR fell in the highest risk category for ground movement. A Hindustan Times report from January 2022 on the same study noted that the largest high-risk zone, spanning about 12.5 square kilometres, sat in Kapashera, barely 800 metres from Indira Gandhi International Airport. A Down To Earth report from July 2023 on ground conditions in Kapashera pointed to residential societies there relying on groundwater extraction for daily needs. That detail matters because it links a subsidence rate recorded from orbit to something as ordinary as a housing society's water arrangement on the ground.



There is a more hopeful thread to this story. The Architexturez account of a 2025 study by ISRO, IIT Kanpur, IIT Dhanbad and the University of Miami found that groundwater levels across Delhi rose by more than 1.5 metres between 2018 and 2021. In parts of Dwarka, subsidence halted around mid-2016, and land later rose by roughly 5 to 10 centimetres.

The researchers linked this to reduced withdrawal and artificial recharge structures. That is a meaningful signal that regulation and recharge can change outcomes, but it describes specific localities within a specific period, not a citywide recovery. A newer and more alarming picture comes from the Indian Express report on a 2025 Nature Sustainability study of five Indian megacities.

It found a maximum subsidence rate of about 51 millimetres a year in Delhi, roughly 1.7 million people exposed to subsidence risk, and 2,264 buildings at high structural risk. These figures come from different satellite methods, dates and geographic coverage than the earlier Delhi NCR study, so they should be read as a separate, more recent assessment rather than folded into the 2014 to 2020 findings. A CNN news report titled "New Delhi residents fight to keep India's capital from sinking" shows that this is lived experience, not only a satellite measurement. It frames subsidence as a water, housing and safety concern for people who deal with cracked walls, unreliable supply and uncertain structural safety day to day.



Groundwater sits in spaces between layers of soil, sand and rock. When pumping outpaces what rainfall and recharge structures can replace, those layers compress and the land above settles, often unevenly. That unevenness is what cracks walls, tilts structures, breaks pipes and disrupts drainage.

Delhi's dependence on groundwater is a planning failure as much as a geological one. Municipal supply remains inadequate in many colonies, pushing households and developments toward bore wells. Residents with fewer resources face greater exposure since they often rely on private or shared wells in buildings that see little structural oversight.

Every new housing proposal adds to this pressure unless it is checked against local groundwater and soil conditions. A project with weak rainwater harvesting and heavy groundwater draw adds strain to an already stressed aquifer, and standard clearances rarely account for the cumulative effect of many such projects over decades.

Delhi's recharge capacity has also shrunk due to construction on the Yamuna floodplain, disappearing wetlands, and paved surfaces that send monsoon water into drains instead of the soil. Similar patterns appear in Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Kolkata, while cities like Tehran and Jakarta show what happens when this problem is left unmanaged for decades. Tokyo, by contrast, curbed subsidence through decades of strict groundwater regulation, offering a workable model. India still does not classify subsidence as a disaster, and no standard system exists for inspecting affected buildings or supporting displaced residents. Responsibility remains scattered across agencies handling water, buildings, roads and disaster management.

Delhi needs the following measures:

Publish neighbourhood level maps combining subsidence rates, groundwater levels, extraction permits and recharge conditions, and use them in every building and infrastructure approval. Require water budgets, functioning recharge systems, wastewater reuse plans, soil and foundation studies, and post-occupancy inspections for major housing and infrastructure projects. Create one accountable authority to coordinate monitoring, enforcement, structural inspections and support for residents affected by ground movement.

Ashish Mansharamani is the Director – Growth and Strategic Partnerships at Indian Social Responsibility Network.

Views expressed are the author's own and don't necessarily reflect those of Down To Earth



Exposure Visit to ICAR–Indian Institute of Rapeseed–Mustard Research, Bharatpur

Ambaghat Fed Farmer Producer Company Limited, Godlamau, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, organized an exposure visit for its member farmers to the ICAR–Indian Institute of Rapeseed–Mustard Research (ICAR–IIRMR), Sear, Bharatpur, Rajasthan. The visit provided farmers with an opportunity to interact with agricultural experts and gain practical knowledge about scientific mustard cultivation. ICAR–IIRMR is a premier ICAR institution dedicated to research and technology development in rapeseed and mustard, with a strong focus on improving productivity, crop management and farmer adoption of improved technologies.

During the exposure visit, farmers learned about improved mustard varieties, scientific cultivation practices, disease and pest management, and modern agricultural technologies aimed at enhancing crop productivity. The direct interaction with experts helped farmers better understand how research-based practices can be adapted to their own fields.

The visit also strengthened the connection between farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and agricultural research institutions, encouraging the adoption of improved technologies at the grassroots level.

Such farmer–scientist linkages are important for promoting sustainable and profitable mustard cultivation. The participating farmers expressed their appreciation for the informative and practical learning experience and thanked the institute officials for sharing their expertise and guidance. The exposure visit was a valuable capacity-building initiative, empowering farmers with knowledge and practical insights to improve mustard cultivation, productivity and farm-level outcomes.



Seller–Buyer Agreement Strengthens Market Linkages for Farmers

A Seller–Buyer Meet held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, resulted in the signing of a business agreement between Ambaghat Fed Farmer Producer Company Limited, Godlamau, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, and M/s Vasudev Duggar & Co., Jaipur, Rajasthan.

The agreement focuses on the procurement and supply of mangoes, creating a direct market linkage for farmers associated with the FPO. Under the agreement, the FPO will facilitate the supply of quality mangoes in accordance with the buyer's requirements, while the buyer will communicate specifications related to quantity, variety, quality standards and delivery schedules.

The partnership is expected to provide farmers with improved access to organized markets and contribute towards better price realization, assured demand and sustainable income opportunities. It also promotes greater coordination between the FPO and the buyer through clearly defined quality and supply requirements.

Such seller–buyer partnerships demonstrate the important role of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in strengthening agricultural value chains, enabling farmers to move beyond traditional markets and establish direct linkages with buyers across regions.

The initiative marks a positive step towards building efficient, transparent and farmer-centric market systems while enhancing the commercial potential of farmer-owned enterprises.



KNOWLEDGE HUB

Unleash Your Creativity; Express Yourself

Introduction

The ability to express your creativity online has never been simpler than it is in the modern digital world. This chapter emphasises the value of supporting creative expression while highlighting the need to safeguard intellectual property and exercise caution while disseminating creative works online.

Encouraging Creative Expression Online

The internet offers a huge platform for people to communicate their own viewpoints and display their ingenuity. When promoting artistic expression online, it's important to underline the following:

- **Embrace the creativity side:** Explore various art forms, such as visual arts, photography, music, writing, and videography. The Internet offers opportunities to share your work and connect with like-minded individuals.
- **Provide constructive and positive feedback:** Fostering a supportive environment where you can share your creative work and receive constructive feedback from your peers and friends. Learn how to give and receive feedback respectfully, this can help you and your peers grow as artists and creators.
- **Promote collaboration:** One should collaborate with others on creative projects. Collaborative efforts can spark new ideas, enhance skills, and build a sense of community in the online creative space.

Protecting Intellectual Property

It's thrilling to share your creative work online, but you must safeguard your intellectual property. One must learn the value of protecting their original works and valuing the work of others. Some of the important things you should keep in mind are:

Copyright basics: Understand the concept of copyright and how it protects original creative works. Learn about fair use, Creative Commons licences, and the importance of seeking permission when using someone else's work.

Conclusion

When you and your friends express themselves creatively online, you have a platform to do so and interact with a bigger audience. Children can be empowered to navigate the digital world responsibly and support a vibrant and polite online creative community by highlighting the importance of protecting intellectual property and staying safe when sharing creative work.

 **In case of Cybercrime**

Report cybercrime immediately.

National Cybercrime Helpline: 1930 |  cybercrime.gov.in

CyberPeace Helpline: 9570000066 |  helpline@cyberpeace.net



Responsible Netizen, Respecting Boundaries & Privacy in Cyberspace

Introduction

It's critical to comprehend the value of appropriate netiquette and respecting others' privacy and boundaries in the digital age. This chapter will discuss the importance of preserving your own privacy online, respecting the privacy of others online, recognising cyberstalking, and encouraging appropriate netiquette.

Respecting Others' Privacy Online

Respecting others' privacy online is a fundamental aspect of being a responsible netizen. It involves understanding and following certain principles:

- Always examine the possible consequences and obtain consent before posting someone else's personal information or photographs online.
- Set privacy preferences: Respect other users' privacy settings on social networking platforms and avoid posting their stuff publicly without permission.
- Steer clear of gossip: Online chatter and disseminating inaccurate information about others can harm those people's reputations and invade their privacy.

Be Careful with Personal Information

Protecting your own privacy is equally important in cyberspace. Here are some key practices to implement:

- Use Strong Passwords:

For an additional layer of security, consider setting two-factor authentication and using strong, unique passwords for your online accounts.

- Privacy controls:

To manage who can see your personal information and posts on social media, regularly examine and modify the privacy settings on your accounts.

- Use personal information with caution:

If possible, only provide necessary information to people you can trust, such as your entire address, phone number, or bank information.

- Activate 2-Factor Authentication:

To keep personal information safe, using 2-factor authentication on your devices and the platforms is pertinent. This will also prevent unauthorised access to your accounts, and you will be notified in case of a wrongful access or breach.

- Location Sharing:

Allowing the use of location services on any device or platform should be monitored. Do not allow apps to track your location if it seems irrelevant, for example, YouTube and Facebook do not really need your location services but Uber/Zomato will need the location services to analyse the app and then grant access, following —Conditions over Convenience.





Understanding Cyberstalking

Cyberstalking is a serious issue involving persistent harassment, intimidation, or monitoring of individuals online. It's important to recognise the signs of cyberstalking and know what to do if you or someone you know becomes a victim:

- **Unwanted contact:**

Cyberstalking may occur if someone persistently contacts you without your permission, sends you threatening messages, or keeps a close eye on your online activities.

- **Document evidence:**

Keep copies of any abusive emails, messages, or other communications as proof.

- **Report and seek help:**

Inform the proper authorities about cyberstalking instances, such as your school administration, your local police enforcement, or the social networking site where the harassment is taking place. Speak with reliable adults or organisations that focus on helping victims of cyberstalking

Promoting Responsible Netism

As responsible netizens, we have a role to play in creating a positive and respectful online environment. Here are some ways to promote responsible netism:

- **Think before you post:** Before sharing content, consider if it is respectful, accurate, and contributes positively to the online community.
- **Be mindful of others' feelings:** Avoid engaging in cyberbullying or participating in online arguments that can escalate tension and negativity.
- **Encourage empathy and kindness:** Support and uplift others online by spreading positivity, offering help, and engaging in meaningful discussions.

Conclusion

Fostering a safe and courteous online environment requires practising responsible netiquette and respecting others' personal space and boundaries. You may help create a healthier and more welcoming online community by respecting the privacy of others, safeguarding your own privacy, understanding the effects of cyberstalking, and encouraging good netiquette. Remember that respect, empathy, and responsible digital citizenship should guide your online behaviour.



In case of Cybercrime

Report cybercrime immediately:

National Cybercrime Helpline: 1930 |  cybercrime.gov.in

CyberPeace Helpline: 9570000066 |  helpline@cyberpeace.net



ISRIN believes that having the right to live in equality is something each human deserves and with support from esteemed people like you, we are transforming the lives of thousands of fellow citizens. We have held workshops and training sessions for more than 840 Member Organisations, fostering a symbolic growth system

We genuinely appreciate all of your help, love, and support for ISRIN.

We humbly ask that you continue to provide us with support, advice, and invaluable assistance that will enable us to ensure that each and everyone is empowered to grow and flourish in their own unique way.

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