

Strengthening and Amplifying Resilience Through Innovation 'SARTHI Initiative': Building Resilience in the New Normal



Background

Disaster Risk Management operations are becoming complex and require changing technologies, approaches, tools, and more efficient and cost-effective solutions that are easily accessible and adaptable across the spectrum of the disaster management cycle.

Furthermore, disasters such as floods, cyclones, wildfires, droughts, storms etc. which directly affect human health in terms of loss of life and injury and have further impacts through loss of houses, population displacement, contamination of water supplies, loss of food production and increased risk of epidemics of infectious diseases. Notably, climate change has been a key factor in the rapid surge of health emergencies that arise out of such disaster events. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic posed an additional burden on already strained health infrastructure.

These trends necessitate 'new ways of thinking and approaches' for both disaster risk management (DRM) and health emergencies, which can take many 'innovative' forms such as new knowledge, changes in behavior, and improved processes for finding solutions. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 emphasizes the "use and expansion of thematic platforms of cooperation, such as global technology pools and global systems to share know-how, innovation... and ensure access to technology and information on DRR". For overall improvement in healthcare system functioning and building resilience it is also essential to adopt and deploy progressive simple modifications, replicable, innovative and affordable solutions and practices, implementation of SOPs and adequately trained medical/non-medical staff for handling disasters.

Acknowledging these challenges, the Government of India has become 'Vocal for Local' and announced an economic package under "Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" (self-reliance mission). The initiative endeavors to unlock opportunities to revitalize the post pandemic economy for sustainable development around key pillars of Economy, Infrastructure, Technology Driven system, Vibrant Demography & Demand. In this context, effective strategies and solutions must be identified to create technology driven business models at small and medium scale to revive different sectors of the economy, thus, improving livelihoods and socio-economic status of the most vulnerable communities.

In line with this effort to promote self-reliance, the **SARTHI Initiative for Building Resilience in the New Normal** seeks to identify, curate, nurture, and promote RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH & INNOVATIONS by State governments, academia, private entrepreneurs, and civil society for identifying relevant DRM innovations for supporting India's socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as strengthening capabilities for tackling future crises, including public health emergencies.

The SARTHI Initiative is being spearheaded by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) to amplify diverse and burgeoning innovations in India in the 'New Normal' context, with a focus on disaster and pandemic preparedness.

By establishing a SARTHI "Community of Practice" for likeminded innovators, the initiative aims to support mature innovation solutions derived from the Indian context to be given global prominence through showcasing the products, tools and approaches for tackling DRM and health emergency related challenges at regional and global platforms.



Objective and Themes of the Initiative

The main objective of the SARTHI Initiative would be **to foster and promote responsible innovative solutions for building sustainable (Environmental, Human & Economic) disaster resilience in the 'New Normal'**.

In line with the objective, the SARTHI Initiative will invite applicants to submit their profiles and details of their innovative solutions with relevance to DRM and health emergencies. These may be relevant but not limited to the following areas of concern, categorized in separate themes below:

Risk communication: Solutions for promoting risk understanding, communication, and awareness-raising

Solutions submitted under this theme may include but are not limited to: promoting risk understanding, communication, and awareness on hazards and disasters; enhanced risk information management, social behavior communication change etc.

Health systems & infrastructure strengthening (in pandemic and post pandemic context)

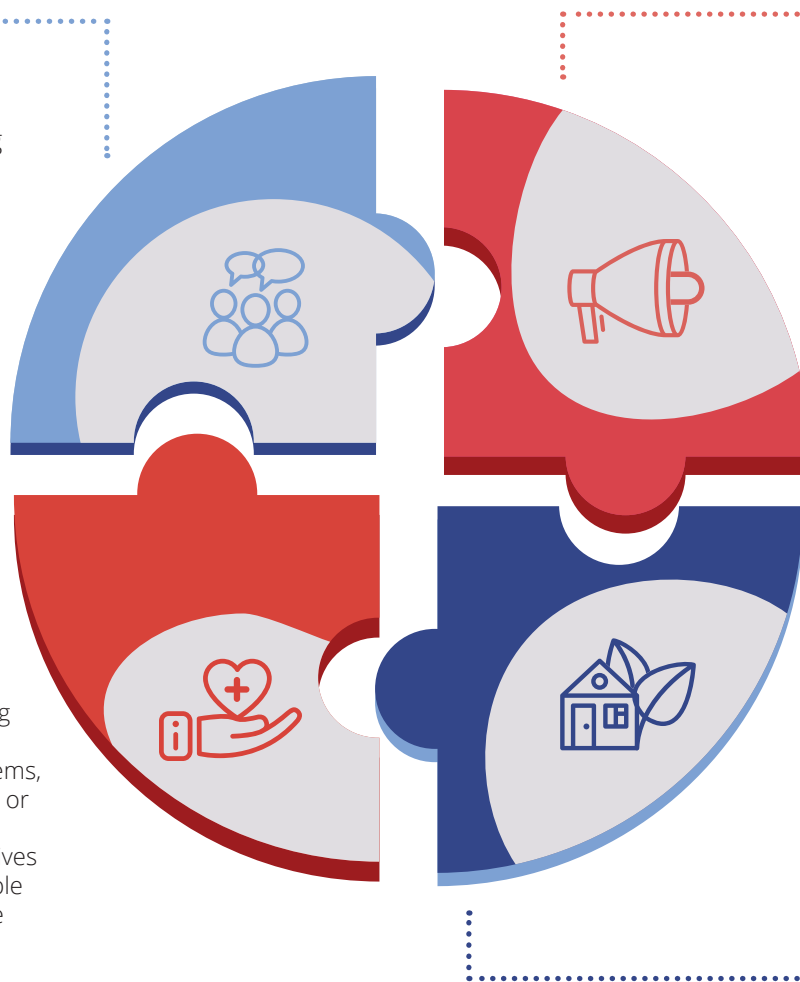
Solutions submitted under this theme may include but are not limited to: strengthening emergency operations, response systems, mechanisms e.g. Health Management Systems, diagnostic Kits, early detection; IT (Software or hardware products) based solutions for management of health emergencies; Initiatives for social and mental well-being of vulnerable populations i.e. support groups, experience sharing experiences of affected persons, strategies for well-being of front-liners etc.

Early warning: Last Mile connectivity through effective early warning and timely dissemination of information

Solutions submitted under this theme may include but are not limited to: strengthening the emergency operations, response systems, and mechanisms for emergency preparedness; Early warning and last mile connectivity or dissemination of information for various types of hazards that allows individuals to take action to avoid or reduce their risk etc.

Promotion of cleaner, climate friendly technologies and improved environmental management practices for enhanced livelihood sustainability and fostering resilience

Solutions submitted under this theme may include but are not limited to: facilitating livelihood opportunities and restoration related to increased access to hygienic food, safe and clean drinking water better living conditions and health facilities; Effective water management (e.g. rainwater harvesting, Safe & clean drinking water); Clean energy (e.g. renewable, biofuel) etc.





Qualifying Criteria for Innovative Solutions

Eligible organizations: The applicant organisation is mandatorily required to be a Not for Profit Organisation along with a valid registration under the section 12(A) of the Income Tax Act, to be eligible to apply and receive the award if selected.

Target applicants: the Initiative is open to 'Innovators' from all fields i.e. applicants may be from the private sector, academia, civil society, social innovation space, or government etc. for all Innovations conceptualized/tested/developed in India that aim to support India's socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as fostering resilience, strengthening capabilities for tackling future crises and disasters including public health

Types of innovations: solutions accepted under this Initiative may include enhanced practices, materials, products and tools, new types of software, models or methods of analysis, or novel commercial or entrepreneurial services.

Stage of innovations: solutions to be accepted under this Initiative should be **mature innovations** i.e. solutions which show clear proof of having been operationalized or pilot tested, and with evidence of scalability are particularly encouraged. The current Initiative will not be able to support any innovations that are at an ideation stage. Particular emphasis will be given to those solutions which have a proven and demonstrable ability to reach a diverse range of stakeholders, benefitting a large population of end-users, and resource efficiency.

New or novel solutions: innovators must avoid plagiarizing content. Applicants should submit content that is wholly original and for which they possess the intellectual property rights or permission to utilize and / or disseminate.

Principles for innovative Solutions

Preference will be given to those innovations which demonstrate consistency with the following principles of the challenge:

Ease of replication/
adaptation



Frugality/
cost-efficiency



Gender
sensitivity



Long term
sustainability



Socially
inclusive



Women innovators
are particularly
encouraged to apply



Selected Finalists and Winners of the SARTHI Initiative

Successful applicants will be invited to join the **SARTHI 'Community of Practice'** for innovators. These selected members will receive financial and non-financial support to showcase their solutions for scale-up and wider application in other parts of India and elsewhere in the Asia region.

Through the existing platforms of FICCI, innovators will have access to exclusive networking and matchmaking opportunities at innovation marketplace events. Innovators will receive dedicated coaching and mentoring support for commercialization and wider application of their solutions. A maximum of **10 SARTHI FINALISTS** will be facilitated in

showcasing their innovations at national, regional, and global platforms for knowledge sharing and exchange.

Furthermore, from the pool of 10, the 3 most promising **SARTHI CHAMPIONS** will be awarded Sustainability Grants (up to a maximum of \$10,000 US Dollars) to support the most promising innovators to continuously develop their solutions, exchange ideas on innovation and stimulate networking between like-minded stakeholders.

Summary of the Financial and Non-financial Support Available to SARTHI FINALISTS:



Timeline for the Rollout of the Initiative

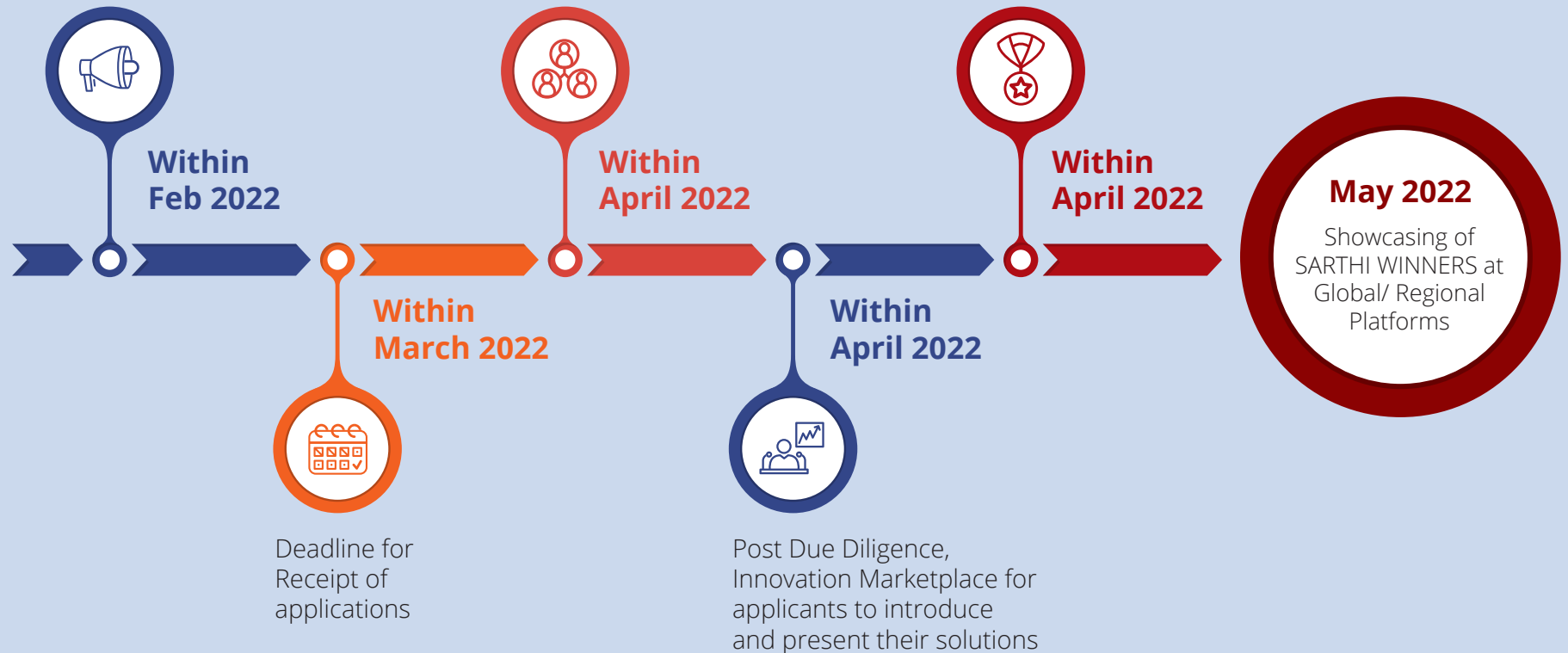


Whilst the SARTHI Initiative will be maintained as an ongoing "Community of Practice", the proposed milestones and related timelines during are as follows:

Announcement of the Expression of Interest for the SARTHI COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Evaluation and shortlisting of SARTHI MEMBERS

Announcement of SARTHI FINALISTS & WINNERS



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