



The Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021 awarded to SEEDS by the Prime Minister of India

New Delhi, 23 January 2022: As an acknowledgement of their exemplary work in disaster management, the Government of India has felicitated SEEDS (Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society) with the '*Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021*' in the institutional category. The announcement of this prestigious award coincided with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary on 23 January, in whose honour it has been instituted.

Talking about the evolution of disaster management, **Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** said, "Whenever calamity strikes, people do not remain victims, they fight the disaster by becoming volunteers. Disaster management is no longer just a government job, but it has become a model of 'Sabka Prayas'. Youngsters are coming forward with schemes like 'Aapda Mitra' of NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority)." He also laid emphasis is on reform along with "Relief, Rescue and Rehabilitation."

SEEDS is that gentle idea that has transformed for its nearly three decades of existence into this powerful movement, fuelled by momentum and dynamism. The endeavour to transform and positively impact the lives of the bottom one per cent populace affected adversely by the climate crisis has embraced the changing nature of disasters. SEEDS has been a part of the resilience journey of over 3 million lives through its programmes and humanitarian efforts. Having been actively engaging with the local leaders to build community resilience at large, this award is a testimonial to the fact that it is on the right path.

Dr Manu Gupta, Co-founder of SEEDS, responded to the news, "We started in 1994 while still in college before we knew it was called that, with a singular objective of building community resilience for those who were at risk to disasters. This award today, bears testimony to the fact that we are on the right path while being conscious that we have always had help along – from communities, local leaders, volunteers, community-based organisations, government officials, local partners and donor agencies.

Dr Anshu Sharma, Co-founder of SEEDS said, "SEEDS has constantly evolved to cater to the needs of communities with changing times and done it while marrying the latest advancements in technology with local wisdom. We are humbled by the vote of confidence placed in our approach through this award and are committed to being true to that in the future as well."

Their vast body of work involves projects done to aid affected communities in the aftermaths of over 35 emergencies spanning across the length and breadth of the country. From the 2001 Gujarat earthquake, the 2004 India Ocean Tsunami, the 2010 Ladakh flash flood, the 2014 Jammu and Kashmir flood, the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, the 2018 Kerala floods, the 2019 Cyclone Fani and the cyclone Amphan response in 2020 to the ongoing pandemic since 2020, besides path-breaking work in terms of use of technology and innovation to assess, manage and reduce disaster and climate risks. Their *Kavach* initiative towards the promotion of vaccine adoption amongst the marginalised communities along with other programmes undertaken during the pandemic are still operating in full swing.

Moving forward, SEEDS wants to bring onboard co-creators, partners, and people to achieve its strategic goal of impacting **300 million-plus lives by 2030 living in 200 climate hotspots across India.**

About SEEDS:

SEEDS ([Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society](#)) is a not-for-profit organisation that enables community resilience through practical solutions in the areas of disaster readiness, response and rehabilitation. Since 1994, the organisation has worked extensively on every major disaster in the Indian subcontinent – grafting innovative technology on to traditional wisdom. It has reached out to families affected by disasters and climate stresses; strengthened and rebuilt schools and homes; and has invariably put its faith in skill-building, planning and communications to foster long-term resilience.

SEEDS is also India's first agency to be verified on the parameters of the global Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) – an international certification system for quality and accountability in humanitarian response. SEEDS has been awarded with the most prestigious annual Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan 2021 by the Government of India acknowledging the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of Disaster Management. SEEDS completed 28 years of outstanding service to humanity in January 2022 and is re-anchoring its approach to building resilience through innovation. It continues to empower the most vulnerable across Asia to build a better future.



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