



**GNLU Centre for Environment,  
Sustainability and Climate Justice**

# CLIMATE CHANGE HACKATHON

PROBLEM STATEMENT



**Climate Change X Digital Health**  
**#DigitalHealthWeek2024**



Gujarat National Law University

# PROBLEM STATEMENT

The intersection of climate change and health in India presents an urgent challenge with wide-reaching implications. Rising temperatures, altered weather patterns, and environmental degradation are exacerbating health crises such as heat-related illnesses, vector-borne diseases, and respiratory conditions. As highlighted in the COP29 report, these impacts disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, amplifying health inequities.

Traditional healthcare systems in India struggle to adapt to the unpredictability of these climate-induced health crises. Digital health solutions offer a transformative opportunity to bridge this gap. However, significant barriers such as the digital divide, lack of infrastructure, and policy misalignment hinder the integration and accessibility of these solutions.

This hackathon invites **innovators and policy enthusiasts** alike to design impactful and culturally inclusive digital health solutions to mitigate the health impacts of climate change. Participants are encouraged to address key challenges, including:

- Predicting and preventing climate-related health risks using AI and data analytics
- Extending healthcare access to remote and disaster-affected areas via telemedicine
- Bridging the digital divide to ensure equitable health services for marginalized populations
- Integrating indigenous knowledge with digital tools for sustainable and context-specific solutions
- Building climate-resilient health systems aligned with SDG 3.8 (universal health coverage)
- Extending finance to fund the digital health initiatives through legislative steps

- Building community's trust in the digital health initiatives launched by the government
- Adapting present laws to accommodate digital health solutions (this can be done by choosing one digital health solution which you think is relevant and can be adopted by India)
- Strengthening governance for digital health at the national level
- promoting collaboration and advancing the transfer of knowledge on digital health
- or, any other problem statement of your choice.

Please note that the above are merely suggestive and you are welcome to address any other problem of your choice.

## REFERENCE READINGS TO GET YOU STARTED

- Sheetal Ranganathan, "Towards a Holistic Digital Health Ecosystem in India," ORF Issue Brief No. 351, April 2020, Observer Research Foundation <<https://www.orfonline.org/research/towards-a-holistic-digital-health-ecosystem-in-india-63993>>
- World Health Organisation, "COP29 Special Report on Climate Change and Health: Health is the Argument for Climate Action", November 2024 <[https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/environment-climate-change-and-health/58595-who-cop29-special-report\\_layout\\_9web.pdf?sfvrsn=dd2b816\\_8](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/environment-climate-change-and-health/58595-who-cop29-special-report_layout_9web.pdf?sfvrsn=dd2b816_8)>
- Angela Tarana, Imesha Ediriweera, Lois Maison, "Embracing Digital Health in the Face of Climate Crises", SDG Knowledge Hub <<https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/generation-2030/embracing-digital-health-in-the-face-of-climate-crises/>>