

GREENPEACE
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

When This summer, something remarkable emerged—not from the halls of power—but from Delhi's hottest streets. In neighbourhoods scorched by a 49°C heat index, people organised, not waiting for a promise of tomorrow, but building resilience today: locals became hydration heroes, street vendors became climate messengers, students made water available to birds and strays by mapping danger zones, shade was carried across state borders, and artists gave the crisis a voice. This was climate action born of experience, urgency, and solidarity.

From Seemapuri to Dwarka, a people-powered movement rose—grounded in lived experience and fuelled by solidarity. And it had to: even as the capital burned and heat-related deaths quietly mounted, heatwaves remained off India's officially notified disaster list. The silence around them has never been technical. It has always been political.

But on the ground, that silence cracked open. Traditional earthen pots were placed at bus stops, labour chowks, and outside homes—many tended daily by local caretakers. Students painted and placed bird baths across schools and parks. Youth volunteers used thermal cameras to audit Delhi's green cover and public water points. Doctors ran free health camps for those most at risk. Street vendors became climate messengers—displaying IMD's heat alerts in a landmark worker-led collaboration. And in a moment where silence met sound, rapper Mahi G's anthem became a rallying cry—amplifying the politics and power of those bearing the brunt of the heat.

Delhi Rising reminded us: where systems stall, people don't. Real adaptation doesn't trickle down—it rises, from the ground up. In Dwarka, youth-led birdwalks uncovered fences trapping around fifty Nilgais without water. What followed was collective resistance—mapping, petitions, meetings, and social media pressure. The Forest Department was forced to act. People showed up in the thousands to say: A just city shelters all who live in it.

While we bore witness to rising temperatures, we stood beside those who met the crisis with courage and care. Their leadership shaped this campaign. And through it all, we demanded that heatwaves be recognised for what they are: a national crisis.

This edition of Witness doesn't just track a rising temperature. It captures a rising movement—led by those who feel the heat first and longest. But resilience isn't something people should have to build alone. It must be matched with government action and systems that support local adaptation while leading on climate mitigation. Without urgent, systemic efforts to cut emissions and prepare for escalating extremes, the climate crisis will reach a point where its impacts are indiscriminate. But there is still time to act — and act decisively.

That's what climate justice demands: not just survival, but safety, for today and for generations to come. Not just action, but accountability from those who drove us here. And a future where dignity is not earned through struggle, but upheld by design.

Delhi Rising is beyond being a campaign; it's a blueprint. The people have acted. It's time for power to follow.



यह एक सामूहिक पियाऊ है। यहाँ कुछ पल रुकें, थोड़ा पानी पिएँ और आराम करें।
यह लू के महीनों में राहत के लिए एक सामुदायिक पहल है।

● दिल है तो दिल्ली है ●



THE DELHI RISING CAMPAIGN

HOPE IN ACTION IN A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

HYDRATION HEROES

We turned to the matka: a humble clay pot with natural cooling power as a dignified, low-cost solution in Delhi's heat hotspots. Placed at labour chowks, vendor stalls, and bus stops, each pot offered passersby a moment of relief. Local caretakers earned the title of 'Hydration Heroes' as they refilled them daily—turning simple water access into lifesaving climate action.



[READ MORE](#)

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● दिल्ली है ●

STORY OF SHADE

Shade is survival. But in Delhi's peak summer, it's a rare comfort. In a quiet chain of care, residents collected old woollens, which travelled from the capital to Moradabad, where artisans skilled in reviving discarded fabric transformed them into canopies. The stitched canopies returned as shelter in crowded markets and bus stops, offering not just relief from the heat, but a hand-stitched symbol of sustainability and solidarity across cities.

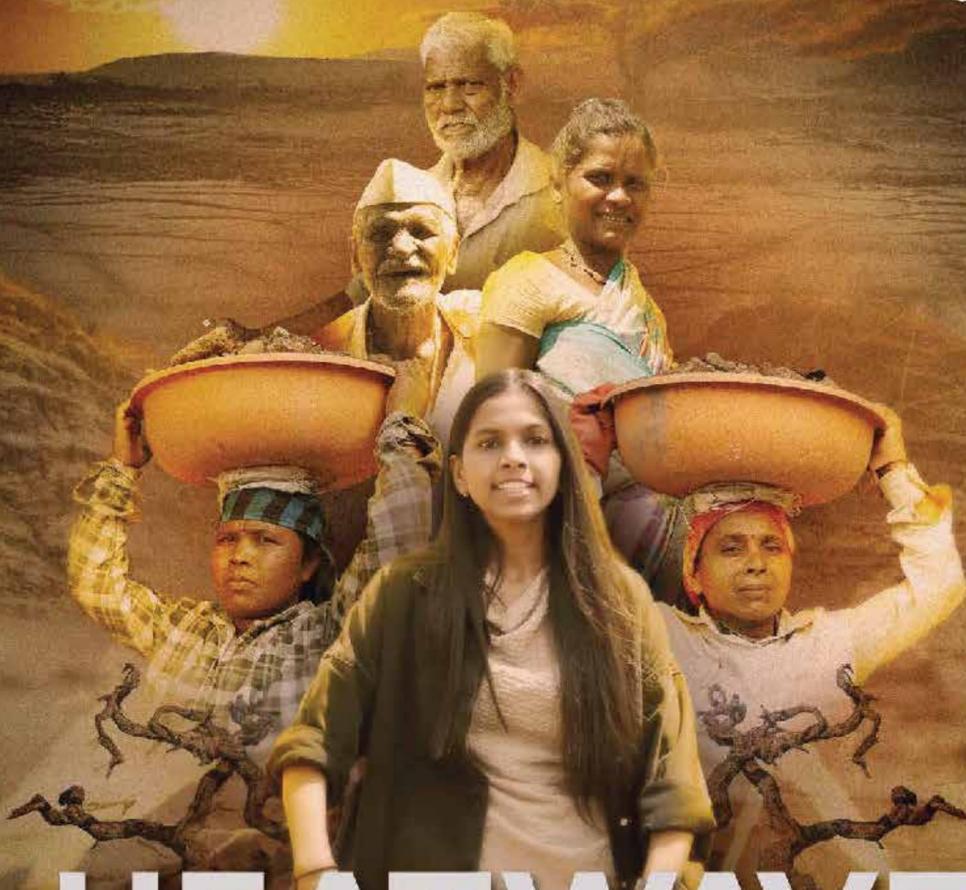
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THE DELHI RISING CAMPAIGN

HOPE IN ACTION IN A CLIMATE EMERGENCY



HEATWAVE

A SONG FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

MAHI G FOR GREENPEACE INDIA

BEATS AGAINST THE HEAT: MAHI G'S ANTHEM FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

“

For millions working under the sun, heatwaves are a daily fight for survival. This collaboration with Greenpeace India let me turn art into action. I wanted every lyric to hit hard, to reflect lived truth. I didn't just want the track to be heard; I want it to be felt. Because feeling leads to action.”

– Mahi G

Watch Mahi G's
Heatwave anthem

READ MORE

Watch Here



LABOUR JUSTICE IS CLIMATE JUSTICE

CLIMATE JUSTICE



This May Day, six labour unions representing over **220,000 workers** signed the Make Polluters Pay Pact—demanding compensation for climate-hit livelihoods. Thousands joined our Saree for Solidarity, sending personal messages that will be carried to COP30.

We also launched the Workers' Collective for Climate Justice—South Asia, a first-of-its-kind alliance from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, alongside our new report: Ground Zero: How Extreme Heat Impacts Informal Work.

Findings revealed that a **1°C** rise can slash informal earnings by up to **₹7,000/month**

A Mayday to Remember

Read the report

|| WORKERS UNITE ON MAYDAY ||

SCIENCE THAT REACHES THE PEOPLE: IMD'S FIRST WORKER-LED HEAT ALERT

For the first time in India, informal workers co-created a colour-coded heat alert system with the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Designed to serve the public at large, these alerts are now shared daily through WhatsApp, notice boards, and even street carts—using colour codes, simple icons, and regional languages for accessibility.



Read more

A CITY FOR PEOPLE, A CITY FOR ANIMALS

The #SaveDwarkaForest Movement:

In Dwarka, local climate activists discovered 30 acres of forest fenced off by private developers, **trapping nearly 50 Nilgais during the heatwave.** Through wildlife mapping, patrols, documentation, and a **petition backed by thousands of citizens,** the pressure built, and the Forest Department issued notices, removed the barriers, and installed watering holes.

WATCH

SMT. MANEKA GANDHI talks with us about the importance of green spaces in our warming cities



Right to Coexist Protest

The movement peaked with the Right to Coexist protest at Jantar Mantar—hundreds demanded a city that cares for all life, human and non-human. With support from veteran leaders like Maneka Gandhi and Ambika Shukla, the message was clear: No bird should fall from the sky for lack of water. No street dog should die of heatstroke.





ONE DISASTER . COUNTLESS AT RISK

When the MSC Elsa 3 sank off Kerala's coast, it carried 643 containers: 13 filled with hazardous materials, 12 with calcium carbide, and billions of plastic pellets (nurdles). Its fuel tanks held 84 metric tonnes of diesel and 367 metric tonnes of furnace oil. Within hours, the ocean turned dark and fishing halted, as what began as a maritime accident quickly spiralled into an environmental and human crisis. Greenpeace India's teams were on the ground within days, speaking with fishers, collecting sand and water samples, and tracing the spread of plastic pellets that later washed ashore across Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Our Science Unit confirmed nurdle contamination as far as Sri Lanka, while satellite images revealed what MSC refused to disclose: an unreported oil leak bleeding into the sea. We called for full cargo transparency, independent cleanup, and a fair, decentralised compensation plan. One truth became clear — MSC may have abandoned its ship, but we won't let it abandon responsibility.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



NATIONAL NEWS

Between April and June, India faced cascading climate shocks—and growing public defiance. A blistering 49°C heat-wave swept through North India, while Delhi’s experimental cloud seeding to tackle pollution drew sharp criticism for ignoring root causes. Uneven monsoons followed, but so did citizen action: from Dhol ka Badh in Jaipur to Kancha Gachibowli in Hyderabad to Delhi’s Dwarka Forest, communities rose to protect their last green spaces.



A national review revealed that most NCAP cities (131 non-attainment cities in India that are part of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which aims to reduce air pollution) had already breached annual PM2.5 limits by April, exposing weak air quality enforcement.





YOUTH STOP ILLEGAL OIL EXPANSION

In a landmark ruling, the Norwegian Supreme Court sided with youth and environmental activists, declaring three oil and gas field permits in the Barents Sea illegal due to a lack of proper climate impact assessment. This ruling marks the first time in Norway's history that fossil fuel projects were revoked by the courts.

[Read more](#)

**A WORD
FROM
ACROSS
THE
WORLD**



THE NICE DECLARATION: A WAKE-UP CALL FOR A STRONG GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY

**A WORD
FROM
ACROSS
THE
WORLD**



In May 2025, over 100 nations signed the Nice Declaration—an urgent call to forge an ambitious and binding Global Plastics Treaty. Spearheaded by France, Rwanda, and supported by Greenpeace, the declaration demands legally enforceable global caps on plastic production, not just better recycling.

[Read more](#)



BRING DOWN THE FENCES!

When the fences went up in Dwarka Forest, so did the outrage. Nearly fifty Nilgais were found trapped behind private builders' barricades, cut off from water in the peak of Delhi's heatwave. Citizens mapped the enclosures, filed petitions, and flooded social media with calls to the Forest Department and Bagmane Builders. Within days, the barricades came down. The trapped wildlife was freed. The city watched what collective care can do when systems fail. Dwarka reminded Delhi—and us all—that justice for nature begins with the people who refuse to look away.

**IMPACT
BOX**

WATCH HERE



*Did no one care about us,
Ma?*

*Or did they forget we
live here too?*

OCEAN JUSTICE

On June 8, to mark World Oceans Day, the call for justice echoed from coast to coast. Acts of solidarity unfolded across Odisha, Kerala, and Chennai. A turtle-shaped sand art with the words 'One Ocean, many Lives,' in Konark symbolised the ocean's resilience; in Valiyathura, a striking installation—an upturned ship head surrounded by nurdles declared 'No Time to Waste,' In the wake of the MSC Elsa 3 shipwreck. The actions were widely covered in national and regional media.



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श्री नदी संरक्षण

