

GREENPEACE
ग्रीनपीस

WITNESS

1.26

VOL. 93



**25 YEARS OF GREENPEACE INDIA:
A CONVERSATION ACROSS TIME**

FROM THE ARCHIVES'



In 2007, Greenpeace India published one of its first editions of Witness. These words from then Executive Director G. Ananthapadmanabhan continue to shape how we understand our role today.

Quarterly Newsletter of Greenpeace India. Q1.2007

IT industry filthy to the bone.
GE meets God.
Blair breaks international law Again.
And Greenpeace shows you how to fight climate change.

“For us to maintain our way of living, we must tell lies to each other and especially to ourselves. The lies are necessary because, without them, many deplorable acts would become impossibilities.”
– Derrick Jensen

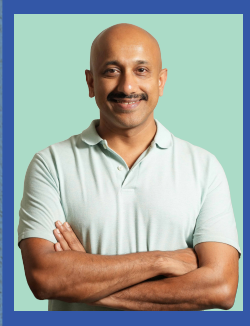
What are these lies we must tell each other and ourselves? If we have elections, we’re a democracy. Nuclear weapons are essential for our security. More surveillance will make us safer. The poor are poor because it’s their karma. Big dams are good for everyone. Economic growth should come at any cost.

Greenpeace today is poised at the cusp of many of these debates. Our aim as an environmental pressure group backed by a growing community of 40,000 supporters – people just like you – is to be integral to these debates. And constantly, persistently question the lies, while countering them with the truth and using creative means to bring about change.

In the months ahead, you will see Greenpeace working hard at achieving our stated aim. I’d like to think it’s the logical next step for an organisation that has clocked six years here – Indian in every sense, yet global in spirit – and has quite a lot to show for its relative infancy. On the back pages of this newsletter you’ll find an annual report card showing the progress of our campaigns, as well as an accounting of how Greenpeace has invested the financial support that you entrust in us. What you will not find in print, however, is the strength, credibility and legitimacy you give us, and that in turn help us make deplorable acts difficult, if not entirely impossible.

G Ananthapadmanabhan
Executive Director
Greenpeace India

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Ananth used to begin with a question.

Not a rhetorical one. A real one. The kind that opens up discomfort, one which doesn't let you go until you answer it honestly. In the first edition of 'Witness', he asked: what are the lies we tell each other and ourselves? And then he named them, one by one, without flinching.

I've been sitting with that question since we lost him. Because the lies have not gone away. They have simply been updated. Given new names, new spokespeople, new infrastructure. So let me try to name a few. The way he would have.

If our cities are burning, it is only because of bad urban planning. Not because of a twenty-year policy of treating coal as destiny and forests as obstacle. Planning is the lie that lets the planner off the hook.

If communities are displaced, it is for the national interest. The nation, it turns out, has an interest in almost everything except the people living in it. Adivasi land. Coastal wetlands. River corridors. All available.

You are funded by foreign interests. This lie was built carefully, with legislation and the bureaucratic science of making dissent expensive. It has been used most aggressively against the people asking the most inconvenient questions. We know this because it was used against us.

If temperatures are rising, we will adapt. Forty-eight degrees in April is not a policy problem. It is a civilisational one. The people told to adapt are the ones who built the least of what caused it.

Look at the map of heat deaths. Look at the map of flood displacement. Look at rooms with air purifiers and ACs and then step outside. Now look at the map of who owns what, who decides what gets built where, whose land is available and whose is protected. These are not separate maps. They are the same map, drawn by the same hands.

This is the moment Greenpeace India turns twenty-five. It is not a simple anniversary to hold.

Twenty-five years is long enough to have won things that matter. Forests that still stand, policies rewritten under pressure, communities who kept their land, rivers that now have a legal voice. It is also long enough to know that every gain requires defending again. That you can spend a decade protecting something and watch it undone in a season.

Sisyphus knew the boulder would come back down. He pushed it anyway. There is a kind of clarity in that. Not naivety, never despair, but the deliberate choice to keep going with full knowledge of the difficulty. That is what twenty-five years actually looks like from the inside. And it is worth saying plainly: without this work, the damage would be deeper. We are, in part, measuring what we

prevented. That is a strange accounting. But it is the honest one.

We are also marking this moment without Ananth, which is its own kind of reckoning. He wasn't simply someone who led this organisation. He was someone who held a tightrope that most people in this work struggle to even find. He waltzed between political clarity and genuine hope, between naming the harm precisely and refusing to let the harm be the whole story. He could see beneath the lies with surgical calm and then, in the same breath, describe what remained possible. He never let urgency become panic. He never let anger become the only register.

That is rarer than it sounds. Most of us, under enough pressure, tend toward one end or the other: the careful technocrat who won't name who is causing the harm, or the exhausted activist for whom everything is already burning and nothing can be saved. Ananth moved between these not because he was unaffected, but because he understood that both were true simultaneously; and that holding both, without flinching from either, was precisely the work.

That clarity is not a legacy to preserve behind glass. It is a set of demands. On us. Right now.

So this edition is not a memorial. It is an attempt to answer his question, honestly, in 2026, with our eyes open. The lies are louder. The consequences are more visible. The people pushing back are doing so at greater cost.

What Ananth left us is not comfort. It is company. The knowledge that this work has been done before, in harder conditions, with less, by people who stayed anyway.

We are still here. So are the questions.

Binu Jacob

Honorary Executive Director
Greenpeace India



GREENPEACE
ग्रीनपीस

CITY RISING

What began in the final quarter of 2025 as a people-led invitation to reimagine our cities is now taking root across Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mysuru. Through City Rising, residents, students, caregivers, and communities are moving beyond imagination to shape streets, public spaces, and neighbourhood systems grounded in care, accessibility, and climate resilience. In 2026, that collective vision is becoming harder to ignore: cities designed not for speed or profit, but for dignity, safety, and everyday life.

[READ MORE](#)



This campaign is Globally under Greenpeace's Green Social Contract Pillar

GREENPEACE
श्रीमतीस

BANGALORE RISING

**BLR
RISING**

Under City Rising, Bengaluru Rising spent the quarter listening closely to how the city feels. Through imaginariums, Do the Loop, college outreach, street walks, and experiments around the Living Bus Stop, residents, commuters, students, and workers named a shared frustration: a city shaped by congestion, disruption, and infrastructure that often feels disconnected from everyday life.

As these stories travelled across bus stops, campuses, lakes, and corporate corridors, they began taking on a sharper public language — one that questioned the city's "stupid projects" through humour, satire, and collective expression. By the end of the quarter, that energy was building toward a citywide storytelling moment that would soon spill across streets, media, and social feeds.

Sneak Peek:

Check out our socials to see what Bengaluru screamed!





DELHI RISING 2.0: HAPPY GARDEN TAKES ROOT



DELHI RISING

As Delhi moves toward another intense summer, the Delhi chapter of City Rising began in Sunder Nagri with a simple climate justice truth: not all neighbourhoods heat the same way. In dense resettlement colonies where shade, open space, and cooling infrastructure are scarce, extreme heat is felt harder and survived with fewer resources.

Happy Garden emerged as an early response to this unequal heat burden — reclaiming a neglected common space as a community-led cooling commons with shade, rest, and shared care at its centre. It offers a first glimpse of how neighbourhood design can become a frontline response to climate injustice.



WATCH



दिल्ली में महिलाओं ने पब्लिक पार्क में बसाया 'हैप्पी गार्डन'

शिवांगी सबसेना
16.03.2026

दिल्ली नगर निगम के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, राजधानी में 18 नगर निगम वार्डों में 23 महिला-विशेष पार्क हैं। फिर भी वंचित वर्ग की महिलाओं की इन तक पहुंच सीमित है। असुरक्षित माहौल और खस्ताहाल होने के कारण उन्हें परेशानी होती है।



MYSORE RISING

Mysuru's Bogadi-AIISH (All India Institute of Speech and Hearing) Road junction became a living example of what people-led urban change can look like. What started as street audits and public consultations with the Mysuru School of Architecture evolved into empathy drives, redesign workshops, citizen feedback boards, and on-ground collaboration with caregivers, people with disabilities, students, and local authorities. As the quarter unfolded, that shared vision moved from paper to street: a redesigned zebra crossing, empathy drives, and accessibility features transformed the junction into a visible claim for safer, more inclusive public space.

Mysuru Rising became a reminder that when streets are shaped by lived experience, they begin to hold dignity, slowness, and care. This is a powerful marker of how City Rising is defending the right to people-first cities in 2026.

READ THE PROPOSAL:

GREENPEACE INDIA X
MYSURU SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



WATCH IT COME ALIVE



CYCLONE DITWAH: SOLIDARITY BEYOND BORDERS

After Cyclone Ditwah devastated communities in Sri Lanka, neighbours, teachers, and local leaders became the first responders — turning homes into shelters, sharing water, and rebuilding through collective care. As part of Greenpeace South Asia's solidarity response, the team in Sri Lanka went on the ground to bear witness to the impacts, document lived experiences, and release an issue brief highlighting non-economic loss and damage. Greenpeace India stands in solidarity with all the communities affected in this disaster. This work, centred in Mannar, strengthens a shared climate justice demand across borders: those driving the crisis must be held accountable for loss and damage.

MAKE POLLUTERS PAY



THE CLIMATE WARNING GOT SHARPER

India's environmental alarm bells rang louder this quarter with the State of India's Environment 2026 report revealing that extreme weather events occurred on 99% of days in 2025. From heatwaves and floods to crop loss and rising fatalities, the report sharpened a national truth already visible on the ground: climate extremes are no longer episodic, but structural.

WHAT THE BUDGET REVEALS

The Union's 2026–27 environment ministry allocation allocation rose to ₹3,759 crore, a 7% increase over revised estimates. Yet even as climate impacts intensify, the budget once again raised deeper questions around utilisation, long-term adaptation financing, and whether public spending is truly aligned with the scale of ecological crisis unfolding across the country.

THE ARAVALLIS HOLD THEIR GROUND

In an important ecological governance intervention, the Supreme Court kept in abeyance its earlier “100-metre rule” definition of the Aravalli range after widespread environmental concern. The pause reopened critical questions around mining, legal definitions, and the future protection of one of India's oldest and most fragile mountain systems.



NATIONAL NEWS

BANNERGHATTA'S ECOLOGICAL EDGE

Bengaluru's ecological backyard returned to national attention as the Supreme Court-appointed committee reviewed the dilution of the eco-sensitive zone around Bannerghatta National Park. At stake are elephant corridors, biodiversity buffers, and the future of how expanding cities negotiate with the landscapes that keep them alive.

INDIA UPDATES ITS CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

India announced updates to its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), outlining its climate targets under the Paris Agreement. While the commitments reaffirm progress on emissions intensity reduction and renewable energy expansion, they also bring renewed focus to how climate action will be implemented on the ground especially in a context where communities are already facing intensifying heat, floods, and environmental stress. The moment underscores a larger question for us: how national climate ambition translates into equitable, people-centred action.

A WORD FROM ACROSS THE WORLD



GLOBAL OCEAN TREATY: DECADES OF HISTORY COME OF AGE

On 17 January 2026, the Global Ocean Treaty officially entered into force, turning more than two decades of campaigning, diplomacy, and international cooperation into binding global law. A milestone made possible by millions of people, Greenpeace has been central to this journey by leading scientific expeditions and public mobilisations to global ratification pressure and creative actions that kept ocean protection in the public imagination.

Now, the race begins to protect **30% of the world's oceans by 2030**, proving that sustained people power and multilateral action can still deliver historic change for our shared future.

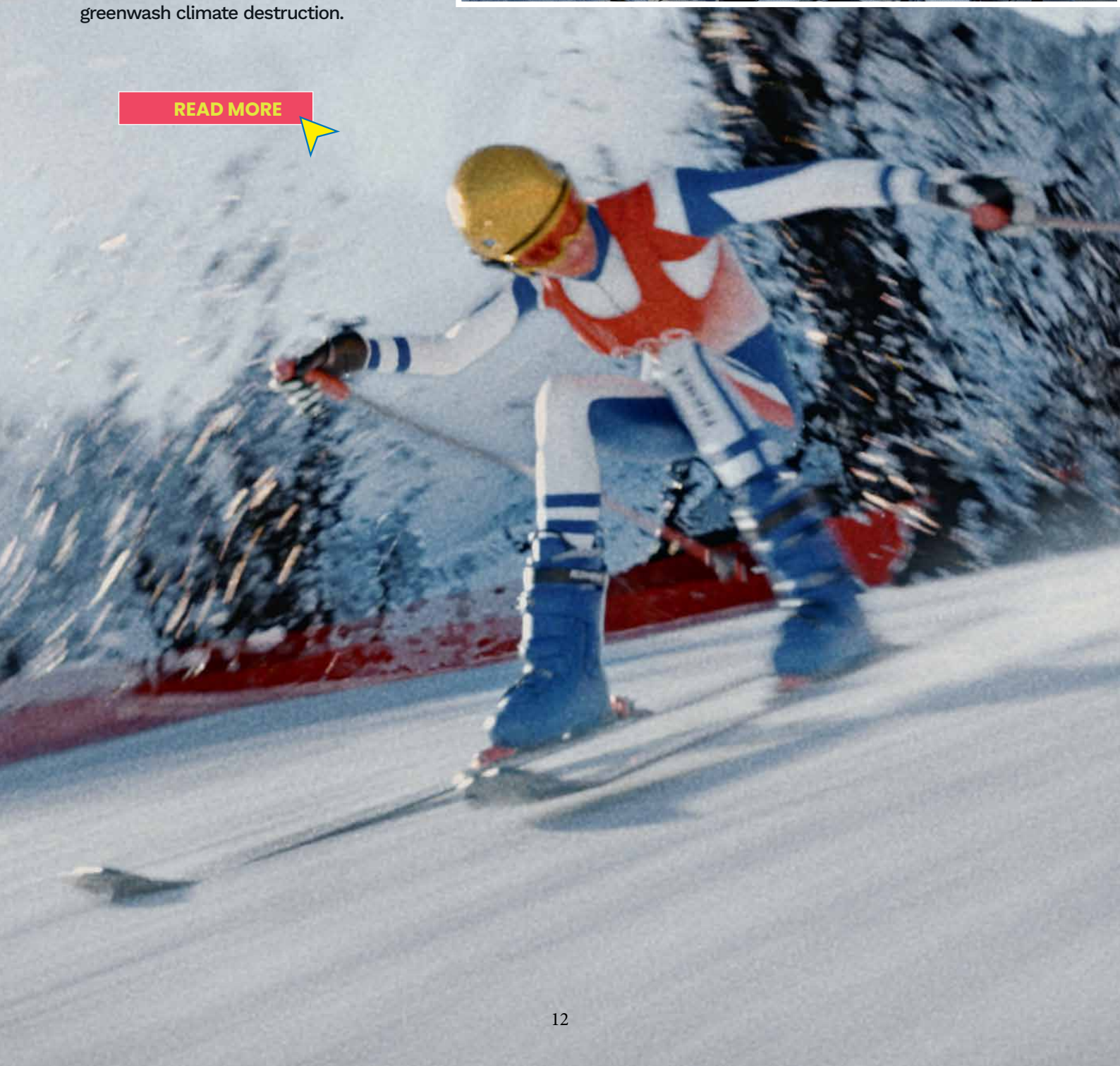
[READ MORE](#)

“OILYMPICS”: WHEN POLLUTERS SPONSOR WINTER OLYMPICS

Ahead of the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics, Greenpeace Italy launched a satirical intervention calling out fossil fuel giant Eni for sponsoring the very Games its emissions are helping endanger. With more than half of future Winter Olympic host cities projected to become climate-unreliable by the 2080s, the campaign urges the International Olympic Committee to end fossil fuel sponsorship and stop polluters from using sport to greenwash climate destruction.



[READ MORE](#)





WHEN WAR DESTROYS THE CONDITIONS FOR LIFE

A new Greenpeace International story traces how the war on Iran and Lebanon is leaving damage far beyond the frontlines — contaminating air and water, threatening marine ecosystems in the Gulf, trapping oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, and deepening climate breakdown through fossil fuel infrastructure attacks. The piece reminds us that war is not only a humanitarian crisis, but also an environmental one, poisoning the systems that make everyday life possible for generations

[READ MORE](#)





THE HIDDEN COST OF FAST FASHION

A new Greenpeace International story unpacks the real cost behind fast fashion's low price tags. From hazardous chemicals and rising emissions to exploitative labour and textile waste dumped across the Global South. Grounded in Greenpeace Germany's investigation into SHEIN, the piece reveals how brands built on overproduction and disposability are externalising the true cost onto workers, ecosystems, and future generations.

[READ MORE](#)



IMPACT BOX

RECLAIMING STREETS IN MYSURU

At the Bogadi–AIIISH junction in Mysuru, a community-led process moved from consultation to action with the painting of a redesigned zebra crossing and accessibility features. What began as audits and co-design with caregivers, people with disabilities, and local stakeholders became a visible shift in how public space can be shaped — safer, slower, and more responsive to those who use it every day.

[SEE THE IMPACT](#)





A GLOBAL STEP FOR OCEAN PROTECTION

In January 2026, the Global Ocean Treaty officially entered into force. A milestone years in the making by coordinated global campaigning by greenpeace, the agreement creates a pathway to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030, marking an important step toward safeguarding marine ecosystems and holding governments accountable to collective ocean protection goals.



DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO SPEAK OUT

Amid ongoing legal challenges in the United States, Greenpeace International and Greenpeace USA filed a motion for a new trial in North Dakota, pushing back against a lawsuit widely seen as an attempt to silence environmental advocacy. The case underscores the growing pressure on civic space, and the continued need to defend the right to protest, organise, and hold powerful industries to account.

Greenpeace does not solicit or accept funding from government, corporations or political parties.

Greenpeace is fiercely independent and survives on donation solely from individuals like you.

Supporter Services

Email: supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org

Phone: 1800 425 0374 | 1800 425 4594

(Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 06:00pm)

To get in touch, email your current contact information to

supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org

New address | Email | Phone Number

If working for a cause and increasing awareness is what you are looking for, then write to us:

careers.india@greenpeace.org

www.greenpeace.org/india

www.instagram.com/greenpeaceindia

www.facebook.com/greenpeaceindia

www.twitter.com/greenpeaceindia

Greenpeace Office-

Bangalore:

Greenpeace Environment Trust

#142, First Floor, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Domlur 2nd stage Bangalore Karnataka - 560038

Chennai:

No. 49/23, 2nd Cross Street, Ellaiamman Colony, Gopalapuram, Chennai - 600 086

T: 1800 425 4594

(Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 06:00pm)

Edited, printed, and published by

Binu Jacob

Honorary Executive Director for Greenpeace Environment Trust

Donate Now

