

GREENPEACE
South Asia

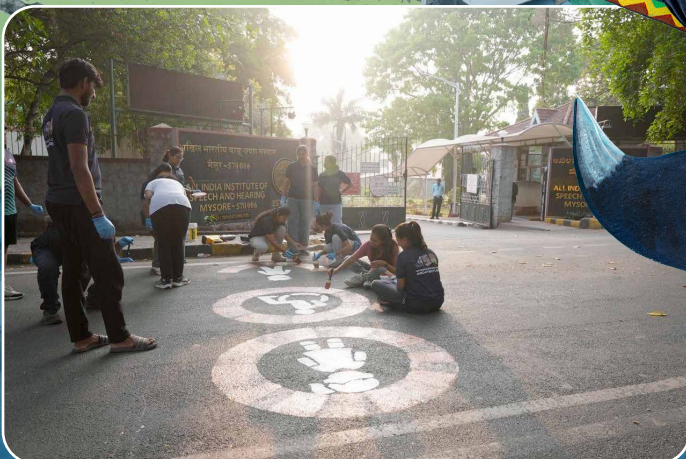
1.26

WITNESS

VOL. 06



PROTECT THE OCEANS



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Binu Jacob

*Executive Director (Honorary),
Greenpeace South Asia*

What stays with me at the beginning of this year is the stubbornness of people to keep caring for one another, even as the scale of the multiple crises our world is experiencing feels unprecedented.

Even now, amid wars, climate disasters, rising inequality, and political uncertainty, people continue to reach toward each other in deeply ordinary ways. Someone opens their home. Someone shares water. Someone documents what others are being asked to forget. Someone plants, rebuilds, cooks, listens, shelters, remembers. Again and again, communities continue to insist that another way of living together is still possible.

Perhaps this is what Mariame Kaba meant when she wrote, "Hope is a discipline."

I keep returning to that idea. Because maybe hope is not simply something we carry within us. Maybe it is something more fundamental than that, something closer to gravity, a force this world is made of. We would stop being human if we completely gave up on hope.

Yet hope should not become an excuse for avoiding difficult questions. In every armed conflict, it is ordinary people who pay the highest price. Families lose homes, livelihoods, futures, and loved ones. At the same time, there are beneficiaries. The arms industry profits from war. The fossil fuel industry continues to profit from a warming planet. As climate impacts intensify, inequality deepens, and unemployment grows, we must ask ourselves where the world's resources are being invested, and whose interests those investments ultimately serve.

Even as climate disasters continue to wreak havoc on the lives of the most marginalised communities, people continue finding ways to

care for one another, rebuild, organise, and speak. The communities most impacted by this crisis are not silent victims waiting to be rescued. They carry an extraordinary clarity about what is happening around them, and they tell their stories in ways that force the powerful to pause and listen. This is what we witnessed when our team stayed after Cyclone Ditwah wreaked havoc.

Too often, the people who raise inconvenient truths are dismissed, criminalised, or treated as obstacles to progress. Environmental defenders, journalists, community leaders, workers, and young people continue to face this reality across the world. Yet history repeatedly shows that meaningful change begins with those willing to speak uncomfortable truths long before they become widely accepted.

The people do not need saviours. What they need is for this planet to stop being treated as a waste bin, or as a site of endless extraction, greed, and power. More than ever, we need cooperation rooted in empathy, equity, accountability, and a commitment to the common good.

At Greenpeace South Asia, our work this quarter tried to stay close to these truths. Through field research, community testimonies, murals, and conversations around climate accountability, we attempted to hold space for stories that are too often reduced to statistics. Stories about memory, dignity, survival, and collective care.

Witness 1.26 brings together some of these stories from the first months of the year. Stories that remind us that even now, people continue imagining futures rooted not in fear, but in justice, dignity, and the refusal to give up on one another.

CAMPAIGNS

|| FROM CRISIS TO COLLECTIVE ||

2.3 MILLION+
PEOPLE AFFECTED

638
LIVES LOST

1 REGION
DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

After Cyclone Ditrwah, communities became first responders.

Greenpeace South Asia documented stories of loss, solidarity, and recovery while strengthening calls for climate accountability.

Communities became first responders. Neighbours opened homes, shared water, organised relief, and rebuilt together long before systems caught up.

Over the months that followed, Greenpeace South Asia documented stories of loss, solidarity, and recovery while strengthening calls for climate accountability from Big Oil and the corporations driving the crisis.

“Communities should not pay the price for a crisis they did not create.”

DOCUMENTING WHAT THE STORM TOOK

ISSUE BRIEF

Through field research, community testimonies, and mapping, Greenpeace South Asia documented how climate disasters reshape not only homes and livelihoods, but also memory, safety, belonging, and cultural life.

WHY IT MATTERS:

This documentation became part of a growing regional demand: that frontline communities must not be left to recover alone while major polluters continue to profit.

Read the Issue Brief!

ISSUE BRIEF



COMMUNITY HEROES

Who gets to tell the story?

Across Sri Lanka, Greenpeace South Asia documented stories of non-economic loss and damage, community solidarity, and lived experiences in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah. By passing the mic to those living through the crisis, these stories help ensure that recovery is shaped by lived experience, not distance.

WATCH



What began as emergency response slowly evolved into a larger public conversation about justice, memory, belonging, and who is made to carry the costs of climate breakdown.

GREENPEACE
South Asia

CITY RISING

**What if cities were
designed for people?**

Across 3 Indian cities — Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mysuru, communities are reimagining streets, parks, and public spaces around care, accessibility, and climate resilience.

3 CITIES

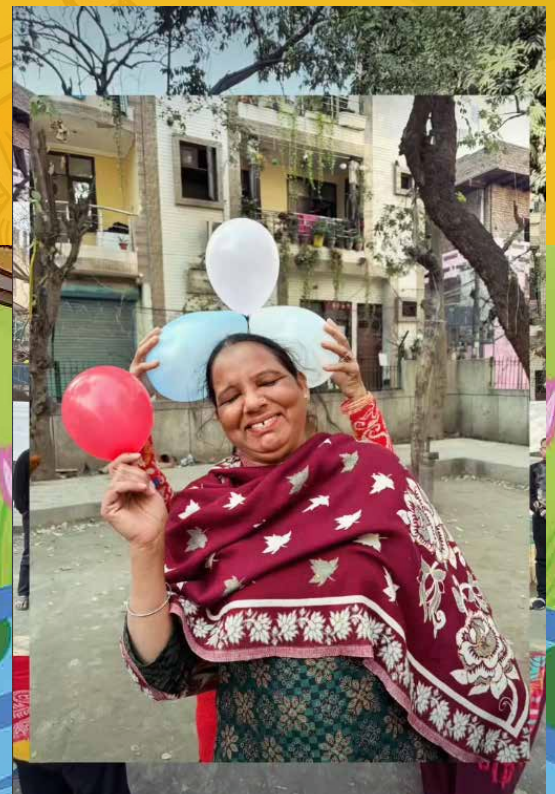
BENGALURU • DELHI • MYSURU

1 QUESTION

WHO GETS TO SHAPE THE CITY?

1 VISION

**CITIES BUILT FOR ALL PEOPLE,
NOT PROFIT FOR A FEW**





BANGALORE

A city that imagines.

Residents used humour, storytelling, and public imagination to question everyday frustrations and reimagine urban life.

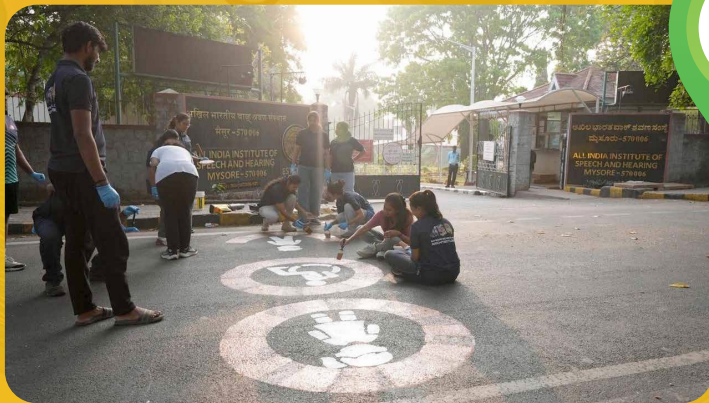
[READ MORE](#)

DELHI

Heat-resilient common spaces

In Sunder Nagri, a neglected space began transforming into a community cooling commons.

[WATCH](#)



MYSURU

A zebra crossing became a statement

People with disabilities, caregivers, students, and residents helped redesign a junction around accessibility and safety.

[WATCH IT COME ALIVE](#)



A WORD FROM ACROSS THE WORLD



THE GLOBAL OCEAN TREATY ENTERS INTO FORCE

In January 2026, the Global Ocean Treaty officially entered into force after years of campaigning, negotiations, and public pressure. The agreement creates a pathway to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030, marking a major step forward for marine conservation and global cooperation at a time when oceans face mounting threats from extraction, warming, and industrial exploitation.





THE HIDDEN COST OF FAST FASHION

A Greenpeace International story unpacked the environmental and human cost behind ultra-fast fashion giants like SHEIN and Temu. From toxic waste and rising emissions to exploitative labour systems and overproduction, the piece traced how cheap trends are built on deeply unequal global supply chains.





BILLIONAIRES, POWER, AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

This quarter also saw growing scrutiny around the influence of billionaires and corporate elites over climate policy, media systems, and democratic institutions. ItGreenpeace International's interventions highlighted how concentrated wealth continues to shape decisions around extraction, fossil fuel expansion, and public accountability, even as ordinary people bear the costs of climate breakdown.



KNOWLEDGE HUB

UNDERSTANDING LOSS AND DAMAGE

Cyclone Ditwah's aftermath reopened urgent conversations around loss and damage across South Asia. Greenpeace South Asia's latest issue brief explores how climate disasters affect not only infrastructure and livelihoods, but also memory, cultural life, safety, displacement, and community belonging. The brief argues that recovery cannot be separated from accountability, and that frontline communities deserve far more than symbolic responses while major polluters continue to profit.

[READ MORE](#)

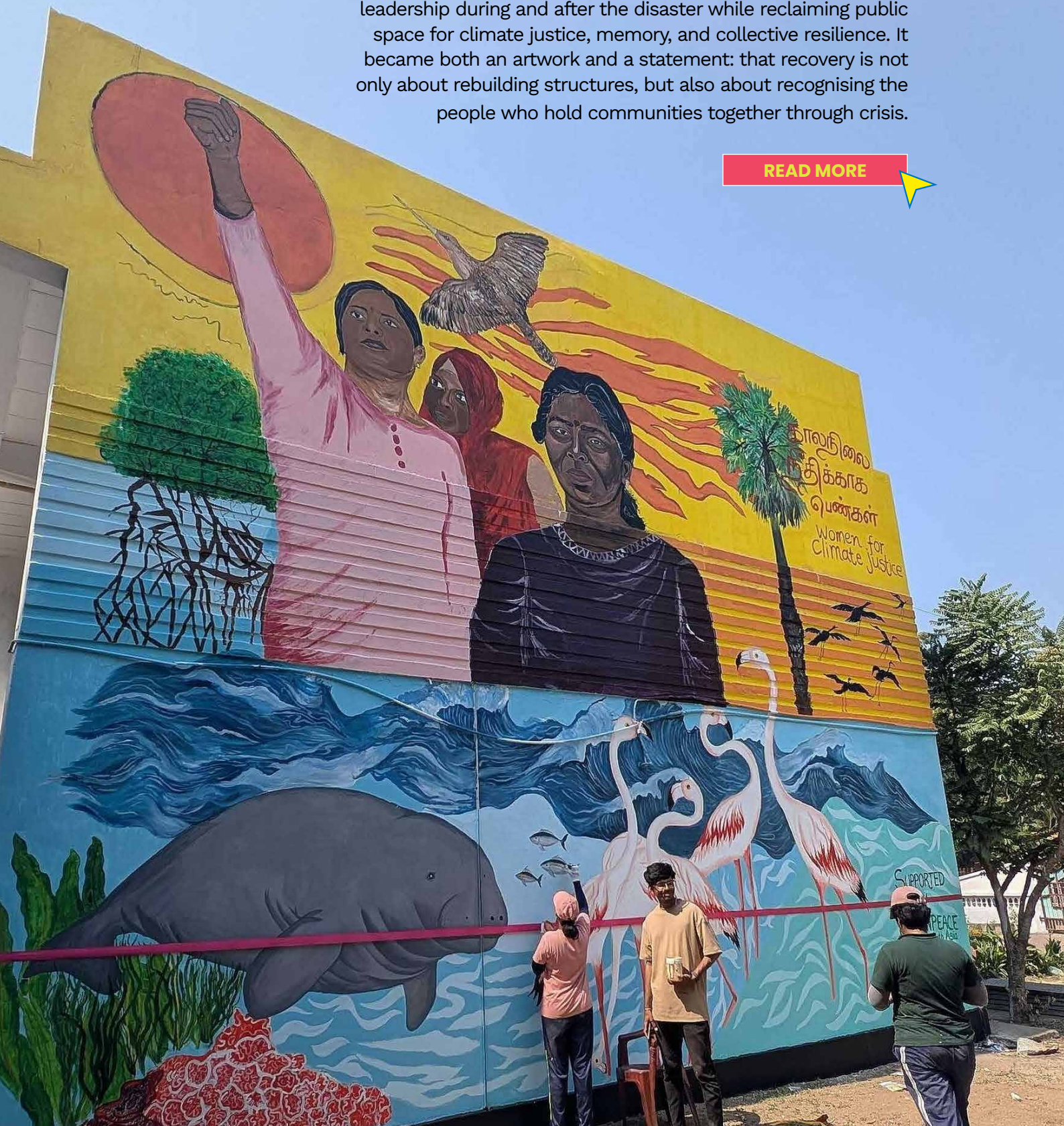


ACTION BOX

A MURAL FOR MEMORY, RESISTANCE, AND RECOVERY

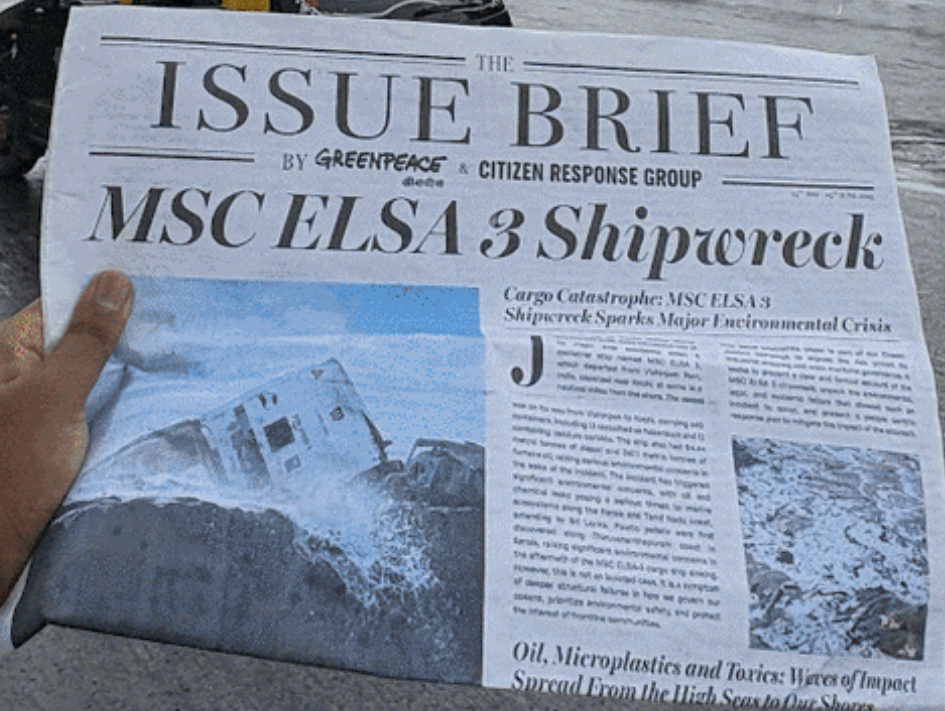
Our Crisis to Collective campaign culminated in a large community mural in Mannar, created with women and local residents whose lives were reshaped by Cyclone Ditwah. Painted on International Women's Day, the mural honoured community leadership during and after the disaster while reclaiming public space for climate justice, memory, and collective resilience. It became both an artwork and a statement: that recovery is not only about rebuilding structures, but also about recognising the people who hold communities together through crisis.

[READ MORE](#)



A STEP TOWARD ACCOUNTABILITY

Kerala High Court directed **MSC ELSA 3's** owners to deposit **₹1,227.62 crore** as security, marking an important step toward corporate accountability after the shipwreck. As nurdles from the spill travelled across regional waters into Sri Lanka, monitored by Greenpeace South Asia's Nurdle Patrol, the disaster also reopened memories of the X-Press Pearl crisis and strengthened calls for regional solidarity, long-term restoration, and justice for coastal communities.



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.

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

<https://www.greenpeace.org/southasia/jobs/> (or)
info.gpsouthasia@greenpeace.org

www.greenpeace.org/southasia/
www.instagram.com/greenpeace.southasia/
www.facebook.com/GreenpeaceSouthAsia/
x.com/sa_greenpeace

Greenpeace Office-

Colombo:
6th Floor, Access Tower, Union Place,
Colombo 02, Sri Lanka.

Edited, printed and published by
Binu Jacob, Executive Director (Honorary) for Greenpeace
South Asia.



Donate Now

GREENPEACE
South Asia

