

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



Beyond campaigns

CREATING A RIPPLE EFFECT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A NOTE TO
OUR READER 1

YEAR IN
REVIEW 3

IMPACT
SYNOPSIS 4

OUR BIGGEST
CAMPAIGNS 5

BEYOND THE
MILESTONES 15

OUR
COMMUNITY 19

PATH
FORWARD 21

FINANCIAL
REPORT 22

OUR TEAM OF
ADVISORS 24

PARTNERS &
DONORS 25



A note to our reader...

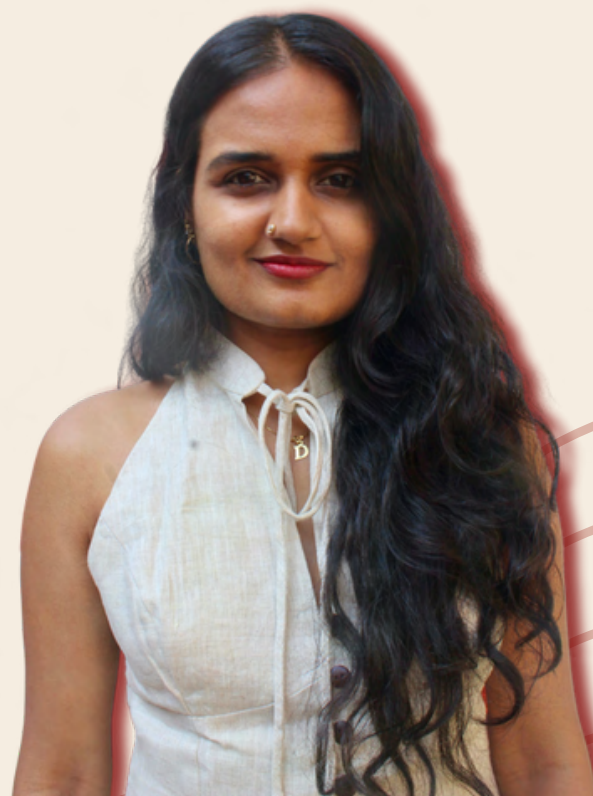
Dear friends and supporters,

As I reflect on the past year at Jhatkaa.org, I am deeply inspired by the incredible work we have done along with our partners. Throughout last year, we have seen impactful victories and nurtured lasting change.

Along with our committed communities, we protected cherished forests and grasslands, addressed critical waste management challenges in Pune and Kodaikanal, and celebrated the long-overdue victory as Mumbai's Dabbawalas won their much-needed parking spaces. Another major achievement was getting the Mula Mutha Riverfront Development Project successfully paused, reflecting our commitment to thoughtful and sustainable development.

Beyond our victories and milestones, we mobilised citizens and started critical conversations about the need to uphold values of sustainability and social justice. This formed the cornerstone of our vision for policies, and development models and projects in cities we work in.

This year has been one of profound learning and growth—a true turning point for the organisation and myself as I stepped into the role of the Executive Director. Amidst a landscape of change—both around us and within the team—we embraced new circumstances with adaptability and openness.



In the latter half of the year, we reflected deeply and thoughtfully started to shape our five-year strategy. Guided by our core values and the lessons we've gathered, we are more committed than ever to advancing our shared vision of building an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable India.

By enabling civic action, fostering collaborative governance, and anchoring movements locally, we are building a dynamic ecosystem of democratic engagement centered around shared prosperity, equity and justice.

As we look toward the year ahead, we see both challenges and incredible possibilities unfolding before us. With curiosity and an open heart, I hope to continue to learn and grow alongside my team. I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our members, partners, and donors—without whom this journey would not be possible.

*In Solidarity,
Divya Narayanan*



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year has been one of learning, growing, and scaling our impact. As an organisation with a mission to build an active movement of progressive Indians who take action to affect change, this year our focus was primarily on amplifying and strengthening people-led movements on-ground. We supplemented people's efforts through digital public mobilisation as well as advocacy support in the form of meeting key stakeholders, organising offline solidarity events, voicing concerns at public consultations, and fundraising for people's groups to run and sustain campaigns among others. Centring citizens in our campaigns helped us gain wins and make significant strides towards realising a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable Indian society.

We had the opportunity to work with incredible partners and citizens from across the country to save India's urban forests and grasslands, improve waste management systems, campaign for and achieve cycling-friendly infrastructure, and demand justice for victims and survivors of sexual violence. It has bolstered our determination to continue adopting a collaborative approach towards changemaking in the future.



IMPACT SYNOPSIS

Through the campaigns we ran, we effectively engaged with our community by building movements for causes that align most closely with their concerns. This past year we saw a growing recognition of our platform among citizens for amplifying peoples' voices to create a sustained ripple effect of change.

2,77,293 *signatures collected*

1,13,394 *citizens engaged*

56 *campaigns started*



OUR BIGGEST CAMPAIGNS



Our efforts were instrumental in preserving Bengaluru's last remaining grasslands, halting tree felling in Delhi's Dwarka forest, ensuring the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board was held accountable for failing to manage solid waste disposal in Kodaikanal, developing essential infrastructure for Mumbai's Dabbawalas, and establishing an effective system to combat open garbage dumping in Pune, among numerous other significant milestones.

SAVING DWARKA FOREST



Environmental activist Naveen Solanki observed RLDA contractors burying trees alive for construction of a rail terminal as part of the Bijwasan Railway Redevelopment Project. This prompted Solanki to start the movement to conserve the forest. In July 2024, we partnered with the Save Dwarka Forest collective and Fridays for Future to launch a campaign that received the support of **5000+ citizens** to preserve the **120-acre Dwarka forest** near the Delhi airport.

Our collective efforts resulted in a significant stride toward forest conservation. In September 2024, the Supreme Court **halted** the rampant felling of trees in the Dwarka forest. On May 8, 2025, the matter was heard by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The Court took cognizance and issued notices to the concerned departments, seeking their responses.

We restrain the respondents from felling and/or damaging in any manner the trees or otherwise causing damage to the trees on the subject land.

~ Supreme Court bench headed by Justice AS Oka

PRESERVING HESARAGHATTA

The Hesaraghatta grasslands campaign is a powerful example of the strength of citizen-led conservation movements. After more than two decades of consistent advocacy and the engagement of over **79,000 individuals** who signed the petition, a victory was achieved.

This movement was initially started by local villagers who formed a collective, the *Arkavathy Kumudvathy Nadi Punaschetana Samiti* (AKNPS). In 2004, Mr Mahesh Bhat joined them. The undeniable force of this citizen-led movement, made possible

by the collaborative efforts of numerous organisations and community groups, ultimately compelled the Karnataka government to designate Hesaraghatta as a **conservation reserve**.

In February 2025, the last remaining grassland in Bengaluru was officially notified as the 'Greater Hesaraghatta Grasslands and Conservation Reserve'. This declaration signifies a commendable step by both the state government and its citizens, reflecting a **shared commitment** to preserving and conserving Bengaluru's vital green infrastructure.

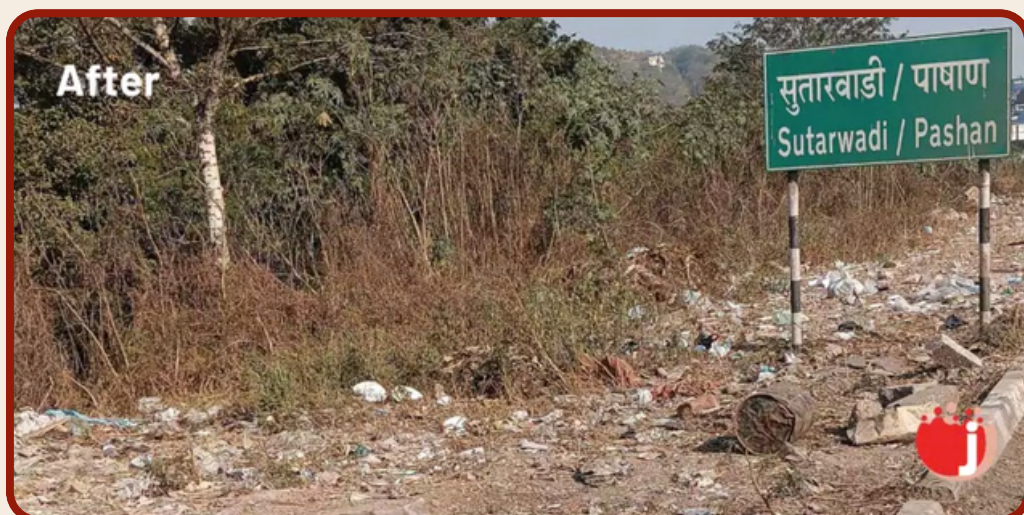


FIGHTING PUNE'S WASTE CRISIS

To address the pervasive issues of waste burning and dumping in Pune, we engaged with citizens to identify problem areas and gather insights on their experiences with the existing complaint redressal system. Leveraging this information, we launched a campaign which resulted in two significant breakthroughs:

- 1. Open garbage spots along the highway were cleared**
- 2. A dedicated WhatsApp helpline number was launched.**

This initiative empowered citizens to report garbage spots directly to the Pune Solid Waste Management department, providing a scalable, sustainable, and efficient solution to maintain Pune's cleanliness.



A 1,095-DAY BATTLE FOR KODAIKANAL'S TIGER SHOLA FOREST

Citizens observed a severe **violation** of the Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, which led to an essential water source for the village of Perumal Malai being polluted. The wall of the state allocated dump yard adjacent to the Shola Tiger Forest broke, **spilling** tonnes of mixed waste into the forest and polluting it. This prompted us to launch a campaign in 2021 to bring accountability to the Kodaikanal Municipal Commissioner and stop the overflowing of waste into forest land.



Alongside concerned citizens of Kodaikanal, we filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court. Swiftly, in July 2022, the High Court demanded reports from the municipality and other authorities, signalling the beginning of a turning point. The collective persistent efforts resulted in two significant victories:

1. **Kodaikanal Landfill was ordered to be closed**
2. **Unscientific development around the lake was halted.**

By October 2023, the process to clear the landfill spill from the forest officially began. Adding to these triumphs, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board levied a fine of **Rs 41 lakhs** on the Kodaikanal Municipality for its non-compliance in July 2024.



This penalty is a result of years of relentless work, from stakeholder meetings and legal battles to unwavering public support, all dedicated to restoring Kodaikanal's natural heritage.

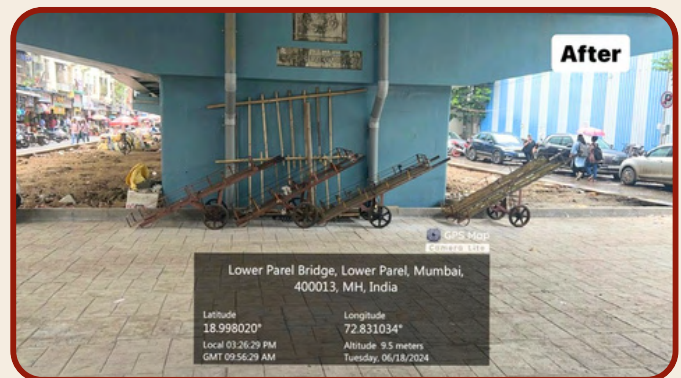
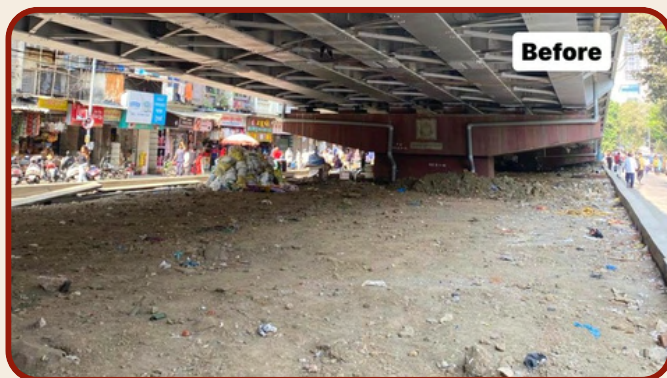
CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DABBAWALAS

Mumbai's Dabbawalas have been an integral part of the city's cultural fabric since 1890, providing home-cooked meals to nearly **200,000 Mumbaikars** daily. Their commitment to emission and pollution-free deliveries via foot, bicycles, and local trains is the cornerstone of their service. However, they face significant infrastructural challenges due to the non-availability of cycling tracks and extremely limited parking spaces for their cycles near suburban railway stations.



Jhatkaa.org, in collaboration with the Nutan Mumbai Tiffin Box Suppliers Charity Trust, and supported by the Waatavaran Foundation and the Sustainable Mobility Network, launched a campaign advocating for improved cycling infrastructure for the city's Dabbawalas. This initiative garnered support from **14,000 Mumbai citizens** and received endorsements from prominent Bollywood celebrities, musicians, documentary filmmakers, and other notable personalities.

In April 2024, Dabbawala representatives met with the Additional Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The continued discussion with BMC authorities regarding the need for cycling infrastructure, especially parking facilities near railway stations was **successful**.



Lower Parel Bridge, Mumbai

Designated spaces were cleaned for Dabbawalas in Churchgate, Lower Parel, and Andheri to ensure they have safe and secure area to park their cycles. Through this milestone, we aim to significantly reduce instances of cycle theft and damage, which have historically impacted the Dabbawala community.

STOP RFD IN PUNE

The Mula-Mutha rivers of Pune faced a significant threat from the **₹4,700 crore** Mula-Mutha Riverfront Development (RFD) Project. In response, we partnered with Jeevitnadi to launch a preservation campaign which mobilised **2000+ people**. Our team participated in the Chipko march on February 5, 2025, from Baner to the Ram-Mula confluence, where over **5,000 people**, including environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk, actor Sayaji Shinde, and MP Vandana Chavan, opposed the RFD Project.

Significant progress was made on May 15, 2025, when the Chief Engineer of the PCMC's Environmental Engineering Department ordered a **stay** on RFD work from Wakad Bypass to Sangvi Pimple Nilakh Cemetery, pending technical advice. Work has been halted until the report is furnished.



JUSTICE FOR KOLKATA GANG-RAPE VICTIM

In August 2024, the nation was profoundly impacted by the news of the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. This tragic event underscored the critical lack of **safety** and **security** for medical professionals within healthcare institutions, and for women across India. Widespread protests erupted nationwide, demanding justice and enhanced safety measures for women doctors.

In response, we launched a campaign in partnership with the National Council for Women Leaders (NCWL). Over **84,000** citizens joined our call for justice and improved working conditions for doctors in such facilities. We **submitted letters** to the National Commission for Women, the State Commission for Women, and the Union Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, and Women and Child Development. The State Commission for Women acknowledged our concerns and promised to address them.



BEYOND THE MILESTONES

Our year also consisted of several campaigns that started conversations, shifted mindsets and created ripples of change that we believe will lead to future policy reform.

PUNEKARS DESERVE REAL TREES!

We mobilised over **7,200 citizens** to urge the PMC and the PCMC to give us real trees, in lieu of the artificial metallic trees that were set up on the Aundh Wakad road. This campaign served as an essential reminder that green cover is more than beautification. Trees have utility and are essential for our survival. We sought meetings with the Municipal bodies and are hopeful to enable change in the future.



MOBILISED CITIZENS TO SAVE 33,000 TREES IN UTTAR PRADESH

We brought **20,403 citizens** together to save 33,000 trees in Uttar Pradesh. These trees were slated to be cut to make way for the 11 km-long Kanwar route project spanning Ghaziabad, Meerut, and Muzaffarnagar. The UP government identified 222 hectares for afforestation in Lalitpur district, far from where the trees will be chopped, which is not commensurate compensation for the environmental cost of the project.

In response, we **sent letters** to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary among others.

At the moment, the case is still on-going in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Uttar Pradesh government informed the NGT that they would amend their plans for the Kanwar route corridor, which had hit a dead end because of the ecological implications of the project.



MUMBAI SAYS NO TO VANITY PROJECTS LIKE 'MUMBAI EYE'

Close to **10,000 citizens** echoed our concerns to oppose the opulent Mumbai Eye and instead, demand clean air. Letters were physically handed over to the BMC office. Our extensive outreach resulted in our work being featured in the RJ Malishka show on Red FM via a interview with the team.

CALL FOR HOLISTIC SARJAPURA METRO DEVELOPMENT

In partnership with Save Our Sarjapur, one of our demands included 'Expediting Phase 3A Metro works for Sarjapur-Hebbal line on priority basis.' Months after running this campaign and engaging with decision-makers, we had a milestone! Government of India's Urban Development Department **approved** the Namma Metro Phase 3A project, aiming to connect Hebbal to Sarjapur over a 37-kilometer stretch.



SANDUR TREES SAVED FROM FACING THE AXE

Over 99,000 trees in Sandur, Karnataka's Ballari district were to face the axe for a mining project that was proposed by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant Limited (VISL). This prompted us to start a campaign to save trees which brought together **5,500+ citizens**.

We achieved a milestone on June 23, 2024, when the Karnataka Government halted the transfer of Sandur land for mining to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL).

Minister Eshwara Khandre highlighted that KIOCL has **failed** to comply with previous directives from the centrally empowered committee (CEC), established following a Supreme Court case alleging that KIOCL's operations had polluted the Bhadra river. Addressing the environmental concerns raised by the public, Khandre highlighted that **if the 99,300 trees are cut down, problems of soil erosion and flooding would arise.**



OUR COMMUNITY

(Testimonials from our partners and members)



“It has been a truly meaningful and impactful collaboration with Jhatkaa.org over the past many years. Together, we have worked on several critical campaigns focused on protecting our urban forests, safeguarding tree cover, and conserving lakes recognizing how precious water is for our cities.”

~Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

Jhatkaa’s commitment, clarity of purpose, and powerful citizen engagement strategies have been instrumental in amplifying our shared efforts.

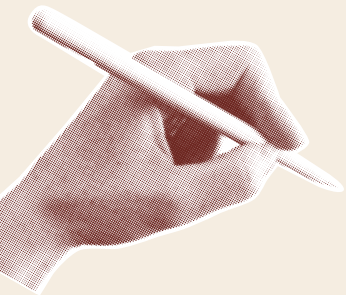
~Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

I extend my heartfelt wishes to the entire team at Jhatkaa.org for continued success in their mission to protect the environment, drive climate action, and build more sustainable and resilient cities across India.

~Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

“I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for your efforts and perseverance in posting updates and constantly following up to dispense justice to those suffering silently. ”

~ Jhatkaa.org member



“I have been reaching out to Jhatkaa.org on various environmental issues. They have always supported our online petitions from Rock Garden to Chalo Amritsar.”

~ Samita Kaur, Environmentalist



PATH FORWARD

Over the next year, our primary focus is to strengthen and expand our community, which is central to all our efforts. We believe that impactful, citizen-led movements are born from conversation, mutual support, and a shared sense of community. Our goal is to become the central space where citizens can connect, recharge, and develop the strategies and networks needed for people's movements to thrive. We aim to create a community dedicated to building an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable India.

In addition, we will dedicate our efforts to supporting and amplifying hyper-local and grassroots movements. By strengthening such local initiatives, we believe we can uphold the spirit of democracy in India through increased civic participation. We intend to do so by increasing our presence offline to support on-ground movements as well as utilizing digital tools to help citizen-led movements gain visibility and reach local authorities.

Ultimately, our work will be centered on advocating for change, raising awareness about critical issues, and translating that awareness into tangible, citizen-led action. As we navigate issues like an evolving socio-political landscape and resource limitations, we will prioritize building strong partnerships and enabling citizens to be the architects of change.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

*This section outlines Jhatkaa.org's financial performance for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, including income, expenses, and funding sources. By highlighting key metrics, we aim to demonstrate our effective **resource utilization** and **accountability**, ensuring our financial decisions align with our mission and community impact.*

Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2025 (FCRA and Non FCRA)

	Statement as on	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
I.	Funds & Liabilities		
1.	Trust Fund	-	-
	Corpus Fund	10,000	10,000
	General Fund	36,70,841	73,01,014
	Capital Grants	11,30,264	11,30,264
	FCRA Blocked Fund	1,18,03,502	1,18,03,502
2.	Current Liabilities		
	Current Provisions	82,908	6,13,548
	Other Current Liabilities	48,600	-
	Branch account	2,84,983	-
	TOTAL FUNDS & LIABILITIES	1,70,31,098	2,08,58,328
II.	Assets		
1.	Non Current Assets		
	Non Current Assets	-	-
	Fixed assets	8,94,495	10,34,382
2.	Current Assets		
	Cash and Cash Equivalent	1,58,16,709	1,91,20,694
	Other current Assets	34,911	4,72,571
	Branch Account	2,84,983	2,30,681
	TOTAL ASSETS	1,70,31,098	2,08,58,328

Combined Income and Expenditure for FY 2023-24 (FCRA and Non-FCRA)

For the Financial Year Ending	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
INCOME		
Foreign Contributions	-	2,65,57,596
Corporate Contributions	2,03,000	40,000
Individual Contributions	35,18,410	19,65,755
Local Contributions-Foundations	1,31,73,100	1,00,00,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,68,94,510	3,85,63,351
EXPENDITURE		
Contract Services	-	3,63,255
Grants & Donations	-	66,617
Loss on sale of asset	4,500	-
Depreciation	96,661	1,00,070
Personnel Expenses	70,83,860	1,14,63,215
Technology Expenses	28,18,500	5,84,722
Administrative Expenses	1,05,21,163	18,32,221
Program Expenses	-	2,41,57,920
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,05,24,684	3,85,68,019
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	36,30,174	4,668

OUR TEAM OF ADVISORS



Avijit Michael

Managing Trustee, Jhatkaa.org



Devyani Kacker

Trustee, Development Law/ Social Sector Lawyer



Vinuta Gopal

Trustee, Founder & CEO of Asar Social Impact Advisors



Aarti Mohan

Trustee, Co-founder & Head of Research, Sattva Consulting



Nooruddin Patloor

Trustee, Associate Director – Finance & Accounts, Jhatkaa.org

OUR PARTNERS & DONORS



“This movement for change is powered by our partners, volunteers, supporters, and every citizen who makes our work possible. Thank you.”

***As we continue our journey of citizen-driven change,
propelled by the voices, courage and resilience of
communities across India, we would like to thank you for
your invaluable support.***



CONTACT US

✉ info@jhatkaas.org  www.jhatkaa.org

 [@jhatkaadotorg](https://www.instagram.com/jhatkaadotorg)

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