

Report on
World
ENVIRONMENT WEEK
Celebrations 2026



Inspired by Nature.



For Climate.



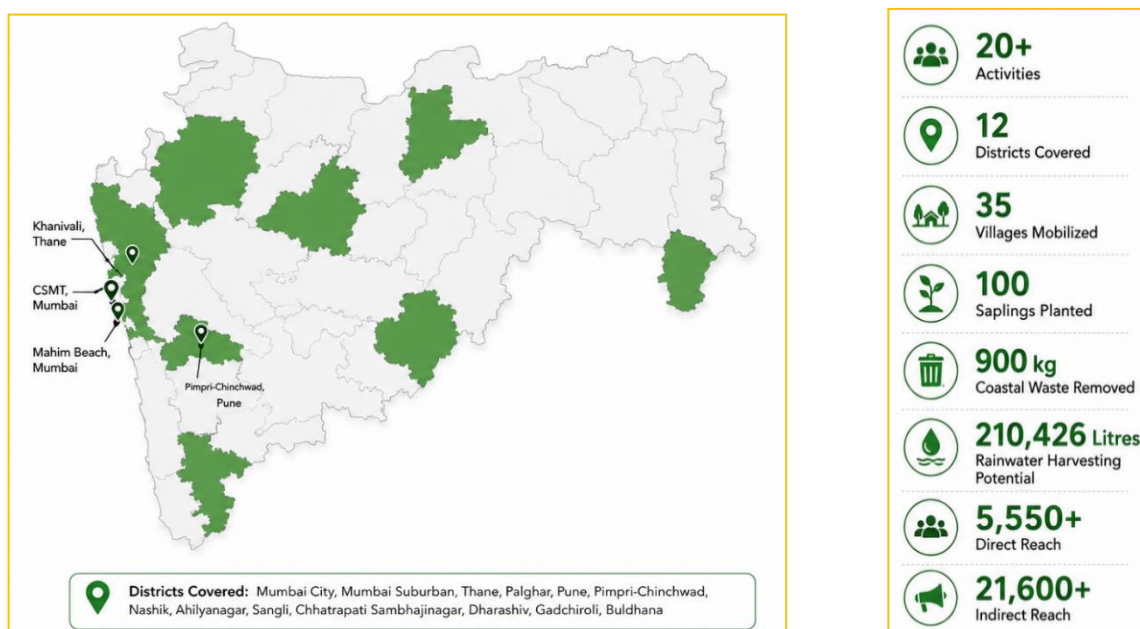
For Our Future.



Highlights- At a Glance

For many years, nature has supported human well-being through the regulation of climate, provision of biodiversity, and other ecosystem services such as air, water, food, and income. But scientific studies show that climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and pollution are now increasingly becoming a challenge for ecosystems and human development. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), human activities have unequivocally warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land, leading to widespread and rapid changes across the climate system.¹ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) further reported that 2025 was the warmest year on record, with the global mean temperature estimated at 1.55°C above the 1850–1900 average, highlighting the urgent need for accelerated climate action.² Recognizing that healthy ecosystems are central to climate resilience, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) emphasizes that protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing nature is essential to mitigating and adapting to climate change.³

The government of Maharashtra has been working hard to improve its environmental performance through such efforts as sustainable urban development, biodiversity, afforestation, waste management, and climate adaptation programs. At the same time, consistent progress can be achieved only through joint actions of governments, organizations, communities, and citizens who will be able to scale up nature-based solutions and adopt environmentally conscious behaviours. **Following the theme of World Environment Day 2026 "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future."** and the global #NowForClimate campaign, the Maharashtra WASH & ES Coalition - A joint initiative of AILSG Mumbai and UNICEF Maharashtra - was engaged in implementing their plans for climate-resilient environmental actions.



¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report*. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>

² World Meteorological Organization (WMO). *State of the Global Climate* (latest edition). <https://wmo.int/publication-series/state-of-global-climate>

³ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). *Nature-based Solutions*. <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/ecosystems-and-biodiversity/what-we-do/nature-based-solutions>



About World Environment Day

World Environment Day is observed globally on **5 June** each year to raise awareness and inspire action for environmental protection. Established by the **United Nations** in **1972** and led by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** since **1973**, it has grown into the world's largest platform for environmental outreach. The **2026** campaign, hosted by the **Republic of Azerbaijan**, is centred on the theme "**Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future.**" and the global call to action **#NowForClimate**, highlighting the urgency of climate action through nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration.



Localizing the global initiatives through Collaborations: Maha-WASH & ES Coalition's Approach

Maharashtra Urban WASH and Environmental Sanitation Coalition (Maha-UWES-C) is a first-of-its kind state level Coalition of government and non-government stakeholders working in the field of WASH, Environmental Sustainability, Menstrual Health etc., jointly established by initiative of the All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai and UNICEF, Maharashtra. The Coalition has brought together more than fifty diverse non-government stakeholders, civil society organizations, and community / youth groups. The Coalition brought together four organizations with complementary expertise- **Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR)**, **Centre for Youth Development and Activities (CYDA)**, **Citizens Association for Child Rights (CACR)**, and the **Centre for Environment Education (CEE)**. Together, they advanced climate action through community mobilization, environmental education, youth engagement, and natural resource management across Maharashtra.



In the year 2026, WOTR, CYDA, CACR and CEE contributed to world environment day celebrations by delivering **20+ on-ground activities** across Maharashtra, advancing climate action through community engagement, youth leadership, environmental education, and nature-based solutions.

Key Thematic Priorities: Strategic emphasis was placed on three critical dimensions –

- 1) Youth Leadership:** Encouraging children and youth to become leaders in climate change issues.
- 2) Climate Literacy:** Creating awareness about climate change and sustainable living.
- 3) Nature-based Solutions:** Promoting the development of ecosystems and biodiversity protection.
- 4) Water and Resource Conservation:** Promoting sustainable management of water and natural resources.
- 5) Behaviour Change:** Fostering environmentally friendly behavior in all aspects of life.
- 6) Collaboration and Partnership:** Developing partnerships and collaborations in climate resiliency.



Overview of Activities conducted by implementing Partners for WED Celebrations under Maha WASH & ES Coalition –

Building Climate-Resilient Communities through Water Conservation and Collective Action by WOTR	Mobilizing Youth and Communities for Collective Climate Action by CYDA	Engaging Communities and Youth for Climate Action in Mumbai Metropolitan Region by CACR	Advancing Climate Literacy through Interactive Citizen Engagement by CEE
a. Strengthening Local Leadership for Climate-Resilient Water Management b. Mobilizing Villages for Climate Preparedness and Community Planning c. Inspiring Collective Environmental Action through Community Shramdaan d. Restoring Ecosystems through Water Conservation and Ecological Interventions e. Enhancing Water Security through Community-led Conservation. f. Developing Knowledge Resources for Sustained Climate Action	a. Fostering Environmental Awareness through Essay and Drawing Competitions b. Mobilizing Communities through Poster-Making and Environmental Awareness Rallies c. Amplifying Climate Messages through Youth-led Digital Reels	a. Driving Public Awareness on Climate Action through Mass Transit Campaigns b. Taking Environmental Awareness to Daily Commuters c. Promoting Sustainable Practices in Workplace Communities d. Inspiring Environmental Stewardship across Mumbai Shelter Homes e. Mobilizing Youth for Coastal Conservation at Mahim Beach f. Promoting Sustainable Mobility through a Community Bicycle Rally g. Strengthening Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Climate Action	a. Engaging Children, Youth and Citizens on Climate Action
Direct Reach: 1,260+ Indirect Reach: 15000+	Direct Reach: 1,190+ Indirect Reach: 14,800+	Direct Reach: 2,600+ Indirect Reach: 6,800+	Direct Reach: 2000+ Indirect Reach: 6000+
Overall Direct Reach: 7,050+ Overall Indirect Reach: 21,600+			



1) Building Climate-Resilient Communities through Water Conservation and Collective Action by WOTR

Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR) is an internationally recognized non-profit organization and think tank that engages at the intersection of practice, knowledge, and policy across scales and in collaboration with various stakeholders across sectors. WOTR's goal is to ensure water and food availability, along with livelihoods and income security to support the sustainable growth and well-being of vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in rural India.

a. Strengthening Local Leadership for Climate-Resilient Water Management

Five **capacity-building workshops** were conducted across Maharashtra, equipping village **key resource persons, Gram Panchayat members, farmers, women**, and youth with knowledge on climate hazards, water conservation, participatory village planning, and climate preparedness. The workshops strengthened local capacities to facilitate climate awareness campaigns, mobilize communities for collective environmental action, and develop village-level preparedness plans to enhance resilience against climate-related risks.



b. Mobilizing Villages for Climate Preparedness and Community Planning

Following the workshops, trained resource persons facilitated awareness and planning meetings across **35 villages**, engaging community members in discussions on climate risks, water security, village preparedness, and locally relevant conservation priorities. These consultations enabled communities to identify actions and collectively prepare for climate-related challenges.



c. Inspiring Collective Environmental Action through Community Shramdaan

On the occasion of **World Environment Day**, community-led **Shramdaan** campaigns were organized across **35 villages** in **Dharashiv, Gadchiroli, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Pune, Nashik, Sangli, Ahilyanagar, Buldhana, and Thane** districts. Farmers, women, youth, self-help groups, village



development committees, and local leaders collectively participated in conservation activities, demonstrating strong community ownership towards protecting natural resources.



d. Restoring Ecosystems through Water Conservation and Ecological Interventions

Communities implemented locally relevant conservation measures including the excavation of **Continuous Contour Trenches (CCTs)**, construction of loose boulder structures, stone and earthen bunds, desilting of check dams and drainage channels, spring rejuvenation, tree plantation, seed-ball preparation, and village cleanliness drives. These interventions enhanced water harvesting potential, reduced soil erosion, and strengthened ecosystem resilience.



e. Enhancing Water Security through Community-led Conservation

Collective conservation efforts created an estimated **21.10 cubic metres of additional water harvesting capacity**, with the potential to capture approximately **210,426 litres of rainwater**. These interventions contribute towards improved groundwater recharge, enhanced water availability, and increased resilience to drought and climate variability.



f. Developing Knowledge Resources for Sustained Climate Action

To reinforce long-term behaviour change, WOTR developed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on climate awareness, preparedness actions, village water budgeting, and data recording formats. These resources are intended to support continued community engagement and informed local decision-making on water resource management. *(Refer to the 'Knowledge Resource Generated for WED 2026' section for further information)*

1,260+ direct reach | 1500+ indirect reach



2) Mobilizing Youth and Communities for Collective Climate Action by CYDA

Centre for Youth Development and Activities (CYDA) is a youth-focused organization dedicated to empowering young people through leadership, capacity building, and community engagement. Since 1999, it has worked to foster responsibility and informed youth who drive positive social change and community development.

a. Fostering Environmental Awareness through Essay and Drawing Competitions

Essay and drawing competitions were organized across **three Community Resource Centres in Pune**, providing children and adolescents with a platform to creatively express their understanding of environmental conservation, climate change, and sustainable living. The activity encouraged young participants to reflect on their role in protecting the environment while nurturing environmental responsibility from an early age.



b. Mobilizing Communities through Poster-Making and Environmental Awareness Rallies

Poster-making activities and community rallies were conducted across **community and market areas** to raise awareness on environmental conservation. Through creative messaging and public engagement, participants encouraged citizens to adopt environmentally responsible practices and contribute towards building cleaner, greener, and climate-resilient communities.



c. Amplifying Climate Messages through Youth-led Digital Reels

Youth volunteers created and disseminated **two social media reels** highlighting environmental awareness and sustainable practices. By leveraging digital platforms, the campaign expanded the reach of climate messages, encouraged online engagement, and inspired wider public participation in environmental action.



Additional environment-themed reels were shared across social media platforms to reinforce messages on climate action and environmental stewardship. The digital campaign engaged audiences beyond the immediate community, extending awareness through online networks and promoting collective responsibility towards environmental sustainability.



1,190+ direct reach | 14,800+ indirect reach



3) Engaging Communities and Youth for Climate Action in Mumbai Metropolitan Region by CACR

Citizens Association for Child Rights (CACR) is a non-profit organization working with Mumbai's municipal schools to promote behavior change, health, and child participation. In collaboration with MCGM, it has reached over 56,000 children across 395 schools through hygiene, education, and school-strengthening initiatives.

a. Driving Public Awareness on Climate Action through Mass Transit Campaigns

Large-scale awareness campaigns were organized at **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)** and **Dadar Railway Station**, engaging commuters through environmental pledges, flash mobs, street plays, interactive quizzes, question-and-answer sessions, and selfie points. These activities encourage citizens to reflect on their role in protecting the environment, adopt sustainable practices, and commit towards a cleaner and greener future.



b. Taking Environmental Awareness to Daily Commuters

An awareness initiative was conducted on the **Kalyan local railway trains**, engaging commuters through interactive discussions on climate change, environmental conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable lifestyles. The outreach transformed routine travel into an opportunity for environmental learning and encouraged individual responsibility towards protecting natural resources.



c. Promoting Sustainable Practices in Workplace Communities

A community awareness session was conducted at the **Nahar and Seth Estate office premises, Chakala, Andheri**, engaging building caretakers, BMC sanitation workers, vegetable vendors,



homemakers, and support staff. The sessions encouraged participants to adopt environmentally responsible practices in their homes and workplaces while promoting cleanliness, waste reduction, and climate-conscious behaviour.



d. Inspiring Environmental Stewardship across Mumbai Shelter Homes

Tree plantation drives were organized across **10 shelter homes in Mumbai**, where children, caregivers, institutional staff, and government stakeholders collectively planted **100 saplings**. Alongside environmental pledges and awareness activities, the initiative fostered long-term responsibility towards biodiversity conservation and greener institutional environments.



e. Mobilizing Youth for Coastal Conservation at Mahim Beach

A beach clean-up drive was conducted at **Mahim Beach (Reti Bandar), Mumbai**, bringing together youth volunteers and university students from **SNDT Women's University, NMIMS, and Symbiosis Law School**. Participants removed approximately **900 kg of waste** from the coastline while promoting responsible waste disposal, marine conservation, and community participation in protecting coastal ecosystems.





f. Promoting Sustainable Mobility through a Community Bicycle Rally in Thane

A bicycle rally was organized in **Khanivali village, Thane district**, in collaboration with the Gram Panchayat, local leaders, and community members. The rally promoted cycling as an eco-friendly mode of transport while creating awareness on climate change, plastic pollution, water conservation, afforestation, and environmentally responsible lifestyles. The programme concluded with a collective environmental pledge.



2,600+ direct reach | 6,800+ indirect reach



4) Advancing Climate Literacy through Interactive Citizen Engagement by CEE.

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) is a national institution dedicated to promoting environmental education, sustainability, and public participation in environmental conservation. With partners including State Governments, Foundations and Corporates through CSR funding, CEE has undertaken projects in rural and urban development, waste management, biodiversity conservation, quality improvement in school education, marine conservation, and others.

a. Engaging Children, Youth and Citizens on Climate Action

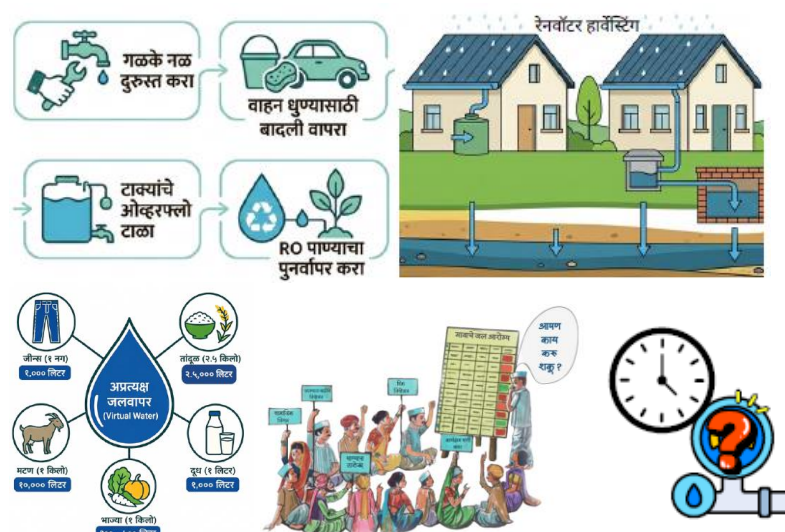
An interactive citizen engagement exhibition was organized at **Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park** from **5–7 June 2026** to build public awareness on the **Pimpri Chinchwad Climate Action Plan (CAP)**. Through **11 interactive posters**, citizen information booklets in **Marathi and English**, and facilitated discussions, children, youth, and citizens learnt about local climate risks, sectoral actions under the CAP, and their role in advancing climate action. The exhibition also encouraged citizen feedback, participation in future climate dialogues, and strengthened public understanding of climate resilience through accessible and interactive communication.

Recognizing **the educational value of the exhibition**, Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park requested that the panels remain on display, **extending the exhibition for over 2 weeks** beyond the World Environment Day celebrations.

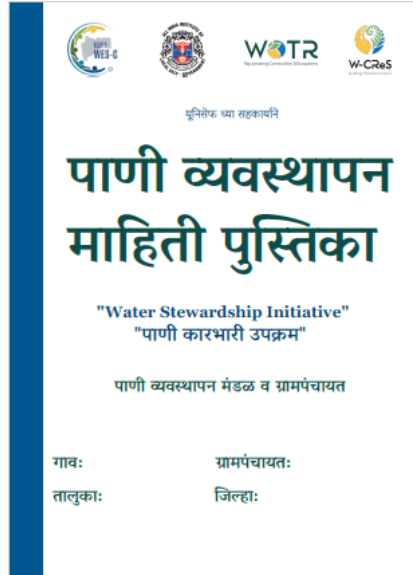


2000+ direct reach | 6000+ indirect reach



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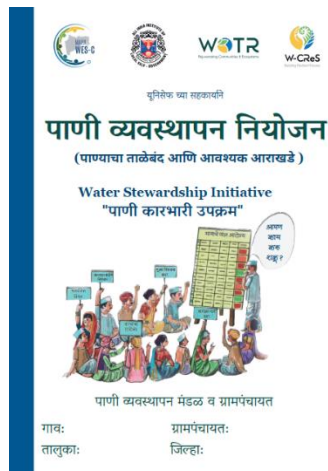
Brochure on Climate Change and Required Action



Few Highlights of the Knowledge Material



Data Handbook



Few Highlights of the Knowledge Material



Water Stewardship Plan Handbook



Few Highlights of the Knowledge Material

MAJOR POLLUTION SOURCES

CURRENT AND DESIRED FUTURE MOBILITY

Modal Share Comparison: Current vs 2050 Target in Pimpri Chinchwad

Mode	Current Share (%)	2050 Target (%)
Walking & Cycling	25%	50%
Public & Shared Transport	23%	50%
Two-wheeler	37%	0%
Car	12%	0%
Other	3%	0%

Illustrated, simple guide to PCMC's Draft Climate Action Plan
(Available in Both English and Marathi)

Few Highlights of the Knowledge Material

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Pimpri Chinchwad in 2025

36.1 lakh tonnes of CO₂ equivalent

Source	Percentage (%)
Industry	64%
Transport	27%
Buildings	6%
Water	3%

1.4°C

Higher Temperatures – More heatwaves and wildfires.

Extreme Weather – Stronger storms, floods, droughts and water scarcity

Sea-Level Rise – Threats to coastal communities and ecosystems.

Illustrated, simple guide to PCMC's Draft Climate Action Plan
(Available in Both English and Marathi)



Scan the QR code to access the complete set of Knowledge Resources.
 For any queries or additional information, please contact us at:
mahawashcoalition@aailsg.org



Awareness and Amplification through Media



Centre for Environment Education
42,310 followers
1w •

On the occasion of World Environment Day, a panel exhibit on the Pimpri Chinchwad Climate Action Plan was displayed as a first step for public awareness about the plan. The CEE Urban Programmes group developed the exhibit in partnership with ...more



ngocacr
Mahim Beach!

ngocacr • World Environment Day 2026 | Day 2

Action speaks louder than words.

Today, CACR, in association with the @mahawashcoalition under @aailsgmumbai and supported by @unicef

Conducted a beach clean-up at Mahim Beach. Removed 9 sacks of waste from the coastline. Planted saplings across 7 shelter homes. Engaged communities in environmental awareness.

Together, we're taking small but meaningful steps towards a cleaner, greener future. 🌱

@my_bmc

19 likes
June 5



ngocacr Edited • 2w

World Environment Day 2026 | Day 1

"The Earth doesn't need a few people doing sustainability perfectly. It needs millions doing it imperfectly, but consistently."

On 4th June 2026, CACR, in association with the Maharashtra @mahawashcoalition under @aailsgmumbai and with support from @unicef, took the message of environmental responsibility across Mumbai—from bustling railway stations and local trains to shelter homes nurturing vulnerable children.

Through awareness campaigns, public engagement, creative performances

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