



OPEN CLIMATE
REPORTING
INITIATIVE

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The Centre for
Investigative Journalism



Project Overview: **OPEN CLIMATE REPORTING INITIATIVE**

Aimed to **raise the standard of environmental investigations** to enable thoroughly researched public interest reporting and evidence-based advocacy through training and skill-sharing with target audiences across six different regions for its first run.

It's a program under Centre for Investigative Journalism at Goldsmiths, University of London. The South Asia chapter of OCRI was implemented by DataLEADS



ABOUT DATALEADS

Headquartered in **New Delhi, India**, with a subsidiary in **Singapore** and operations across Asia, DataLEADS is a globally recognised, award-winning **digital media and tech company**, leading conversations on information integrity, media development, research and AI ecosystem and digital transformation globally.





At the heart of DataLEADS' work is a commitment to fostering **meaningful conversations and strategic partnerships** through media development initiatives, dialogues and capacity building initiatives



Why This Project Was Important

Addressing ecosystem-level challenges in investigative climate reporting in South Asia

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01

Limited investigative skills and resources in newsrooms

02

Weak regional and cross-border collaboration

03

Investigative reporting is constrained by fragmented climate and environmental data,





04

Lack of dedicated climate reporting teams in most newsrooms

05

Safety, legal, and political risks: Investigating climate issues often exposes journalists to legal pressure or safety threats

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

-  Strengthen climate reporting in the region
-  Offer knowledge of tools and skills to investigative journalists
-  Build a conversation on climate reporting change in the region
-  Initiate policy changes through training and investigative story writing



PROJECT DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

DataLEADS executed the project in two phases:

PHASE I Year 2023



PHASE II Year 2024



PHASE I YEAR 2023

16 journalists were selected and offered intensive training in a two-day workshop on data tools and climate misinformation held in New Delhi, India.

Total applications received: **104**

Journalists selected: **16**

Journalists trained across India: 1256

Hear from them: [Addressing Climate Misinformation - Now & Beyond](#)



PHASE II YEAR 2024

DataLEADS executed a fellowship programme where 9 journalists from Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka participated in an intensive 4-day climate investigations course held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Topics: Climate Science, Climate Mis/Disinformation, Data-Driven Climate Investigations, Digital Tools & Methodologies for Climate Investigations (ECOSINT), Investigating Corporations and Governments, Satellite Imagery & Mapping

Applications received : **162**

Fellows selected: **10**

Story Projects published : **4**

Asian Dispatch_



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Nine journalists from five countries participated in an intensive 4-day climate investigations course in Sri Lanka, **strengthening cross-regional collaboration and knowledge sharing.**



PHASE II STORIES PUBLISHED

THE KATHMANDU POST
Without Fear or Favour

No relief yet for Bajhang Dalits devastated by 2021 floods

Many have migrated to India after being excluded from reconstruction aid lists.



Asian Dispatch_

From War to Weather: Tamil Women in Sri Lanka Confront a New Crisis

The island nation's north saw the last phase of a brutal civil war. As war widows and mothers of the disappeared reclaim their land from the conflict, they seek to turn another disaster into a story of resilience.

Climate Change & Environment

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Rukshana Rizwie, Editor: Pallavi Pundir | 1 May, 2025

English

HIMAL
SOUTHASIAN

CULTURE BOOKS PODCASTS NEWSLETTERS REGIONS ARCHIVES

How India – and Southasia – fails to count and deal with heat deaths

As climate change-driven extreme heat threatens more and more of India's massive population, ineffective advisories and undercounting of heat-related deaths leave millions vulnerable and unaware of the real risks

Jeff Joseph

Published on: 15 Apr 2025, 12:30 pm

Asian Dispatch_



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WHAT WORKED FOR US & LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

DESIGN-THINKING APPROACH

The project applied a design-thinking approach end to end—from cohort selection to training and story publication—ensuring clarity of goals, defined roles, and effective execution throughout.

1

COLLABORATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Cross-border collaboration enables deeper investigative reporting on climate change, turning shared insights and data into impactful, evidence-based stories.

2

CROSS-REGIONAL DIALOGUE

Regional exchanges help climate journalists uncover patterns, follow transboundary impacts, and amplify investigative reporting on climate accountability.

3

SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT

Deeper and sustained engagement with climate journalists strengthens investigative skills, fosters trust with key stakeholders, and supports long-term, high-impact reporting.

4

COORDINATED TRAINING

Climate investigations in South Asia require more consolidated training, shared resources, and regional coordination to address complex, cross-border climate challenges effectively.

5

The project empowered us to play an important role in promoting climate reporting to significantly strengthen investigative climate journalism in South Asia—enabling more informed dialogue, deeper accountability reporting, and meaningful action on climate change across the region.

Thank you!

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More about DataLEADS

www.dataleads.co.in