

LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE

CLIMATE & CITIES

2026

360plus

HIGHLIGHTS



47 participants

13 countries

4 Indian cities

21 days

**4.6/5 average
experience rating**

**8.8/10 network
built with peers
worldwide**

**200+ hours of
learning, including
virtual sessions**

**4,700+ kms
travelled across the
programme**

INTRODUCTION

The 360Plus Leadership Collective returned in 2026 for its next chapter, built around a single question: how do cities and climate actually shape each other? Where earlier cohorts explored climate citizenship broadly, this year's theme – Climate and Cities pushed the group into the mechanics of urban life itself: water systems, waste, energy, heritage architecture, and the institutions, from centuries-old stepwells to Infosys and KPMG, that decide how Indian cities adapt, or fail to adapt, to a changing climate. Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, and Agra each supplied a different lens on that relationship: four cities under four different kinds of climate pressure.

This year's cohort of 47 students, representing 13 countries, journeyed from Delhi to Ahmedabad to Bengaluru and back, with a closing visit to Agra, over twenty one days in July.

What follows is drawn from the programme's own itinerary and from the participants themselves – majority of whom completed a detailed reflection survey, and several of whom kept blogs day by day while the programme was underway. Their voices are quoted as written, trimmed only for length.





DELHI

In Delhi, the oldest infrastructure still outperformed the newest. The programme opened with orientation and a briefing on the weeks ahead. Students explored Old Delhi on foot: Jama Masjid, the Red Fort, and a detail that stayed with several of them longer than the architecture itself: a centuries-old cooling system that ran water through carved palace channels long before electricity existed.

"Not everything smart is modern," as Abd El-Rahman put it. Lunch at Karim's and an evening at Sundar Nursery followed, then a KPMG visit and a sunset walk through the Lodhi Art District's murals.

The chapter closed at Mud House, a residence built to need almost nothing from the outside world, and a ceramics workshop. Several students later named Delhi's visit as the one that most changed how they think about sustainability.

AHMEDABAD

Ahmedabad's six-hundred-year-old core made a simple point: building material decides who feels the heat. The cohort landed before sunrise, greeted with music and dancing at the hotel doors. The week's academic core followed: a foundational session at the Centre for Environment Education, a CFID session on climate and urban India, a workshop on how cities adapt, and a visit to Adani's headquarters for a look at its AI and renewable energy work — one student noting how much "the impact of concrete and building materials" shapes a city's vulnerability. A trek through Polo Forest and a heritage walk through the old city's six-hundred-year-old pols followed, alongside a local recycling initiative turning donated clothing into affordable wardrobes. The week's most personal day paired Gandhi's home with the programme's Nelson Mandela Day observance where there was sixty-seven minutes of service, including a tree-planting drive. The chapter closed with Garba night.





BENGALURU

In Bengaluru, students filed the reports that make a city respond to climate pressure. On arrival, the cohort was hosted at the home of Vani Kola, founder of Kalaari Capital, who spoke on climate-friendly infrastructure using her own house as the example, followed by speakers from Resilience360, a climate-risk software firm. The week opened gently with a farm visit and a quiet second day for rest, then shifted pace fast: working with Reap Benefit, students street-audited a city neighbourhood and took their findings straight to the Greater Bengaluru Authority, filing reports through the city's own smart-city app. "Within less than an hour," students wrote afterward, "every student had contributed to improving the city." Mornings at ATREE and the Museum of Art & Photography paired ecology with art; an Infosys visit showed sustainability at real scale; and a Super El Niño simulation put students in the seat of government officials managing a real crisis on a real budget. Adda, the cohort's own talent night, brought every country onto one stage before convocation at the Bengaluru International Centre.

AGRA & DEPARTURE

Agra's oldest structure, the Taj Mahal's marble, was built to outlast the very heat now threatening the cities around it. The cohort returned to Delhi to finish blogs and assignments, with a free evening at Dilli Haat. A final day trip brought the group before the Taj Mahal, where the heat, one student wrote, humbled them before the architecture did which was a fitting close for a programme built on the question of how humans and climate coexist. A farewell dinner in Delhi followed, suitcases packed and goodbyes exchanged, closing twenty days that had turned forty-seven strangers into something closer to family.



The 2026 Leadership Collective carried forward what the programme has always been built on: history, culture, service, and friendship, all of which was tested this year against a theme that moved from scenery to systems. From Delhi's water channels to Ahmedabad's stepwells, from Bengaluru's street audits to Agra's marble, every stop deepened the cohort's understanding of how climate and cities work together, and where they don't. Standing before the Taj Mahal on the final day, the cohort reflected on what they'd seen and the bonds they'd built across thirteen countries.

The programme has ended, but several participants said the real work of carrying what they learned back to their own cities is only just starting.

Thirty students later rated the experience 4.6 out of 5 on average, naming the Mud House visit, the Ahmedabad heritage walk, and the Reap Benefit work in Bengaluru as the sessions that most changed how they think.



MONITORING, EVALUATION & LEARNING

Most programmes measure their impact from the outside. This year, the cohort was asked to help tell that story themselves. Working with Reap Benefit, the cohort was guided through a participatory process — understanding who they were and the qualities that made them assets to the group, dreaming about what the programme and their futures could hold, building an action plan around an individual Sub-Theme, assessing their own growth against it, and finally celebrating what they'd built together at convocation and the closing dinner.

What they found, in their own reflection, was a cohort that grew in nearly every way it set out to. Participants rated their engagement with the Climate and Cities theme at **7.8 out of 10**, and their own development as leaders at **7.7 out of 10** — with **60%** rating their learning and leadership a full **10 out of 10**. Nearly **9 in 10** said the programme helped them make real progress on the goals they'd set before ever landing in India, from pursuing higher education to taking climate action back in their own communities.

The standout result was the network the cohort built: an average confidence of **8.8 out of 10** in the international connections they'd carry forward, with **57%** rating that confidence a **perfect 10**. That mattered — **74%** of the cohort had said building exactly this kind of global network was what they hoped for going in.

Each student also carried an individual Sub-Theme through the programme — Circular Economy, Urban Inequality, Food and Water Security, Climate and Creative Communication, Public Transportation, Renewable Energy, and more — rating their engagement with it at **7.6 out of 10**. More than **7 in 10** have already created, or are actively building, a blog, vlog, photo essay, poem, or dance performance from that work.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



Cielo, Peru

Cielo described the programme as reshaping how she understands climate itself: "It helped me see how closely climate is connected to the way cities are designed, managed, and developed." She's now starting an organisation to connect young people in the Peruvian Amazon with opportunities like the one she had.

For Sibongile, the value went beyond the classroom: "It gives young people the opportunity to build meaningful relationships and return home with a stronger sense of purpose." She called it an experience every young person deserves.



Sibongile, South Africa

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Faith's most personal moment came in Ahmedabad, planting a tree in memory of her late cousin: "I felt a profound connection to her while digging into the soil, and I named my tree after her — Brook."



Faith, South Africa



Ziya, India

Before the trip, Ziya wrote about her sincere care for the environment. Afterward, she pointed to Ahmedabad specifically: "The team leaders were amazing and we gained a lot as family." The Polo Forest trek, she said, changed the way she thinks.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



Abd El-Rahman, Egypt

What stayed with Abd El-Rahman was the freedom of the space itself: "No one judging you, no one forcing you to be something." He called it a place to fall and to succeed, on his own terms.

The Super El Niño simulation left Suhana with two lessons in one: "El Niño as a phenomenon, and leadership — the kind that looks completely different depending on the role you're wearing."



Suhana, India

STUDENT BLOGS

Alongside their testimonials, students chronicled their journey day by day, capturing daily experiences, insights, and memorable encounters. Their writings move from descriptions of historic landmarks and civic institutions to reflections on leadership, climate change, and friendship.

Some entries emphasized the excitement of discovery — first flights, first meetings with international peers, the wonder of centuries-old architecture built to survive heat without electricity. Others highlighted personal challenges: homesickness, unfamiliar food, the discomfort of standing in a boardroom one day and a street audit the next. Many students reflected directly on climate and cities, from tracing water channels inside the Red Fort to filing real complaints through Bengaluru's smart-city app.

The blogs mix curiosity, vulnerability, and growth. Together, they show how an international group of young leaders learned, adapted, and inspired each other across borders.

STUDENT BLOGS

Amay, Chamsira & Kimberly: A 3:30 a.m. flight into Ahmedabad, and a city that welcomed the cohort with music and dancing at the hotel doors.

[\(Know more\)](#)

Abd El-Rahman, Raíssa & Yubil: On Delhi's Red Fort and Jama Masjid, and the centuries-old water-cooling system that ran through the palace walls before electricity ever did. [\(Know more\)](#)

Jonas, Ryan & Ziya: A morning inside KPMG's sustainability practice, an evening chasing sunset through Delhi's Lodhi Art District. [\(Know more\)](#)

Micah Provotorov: Inside Adani's cyber-defence labs and grid control room, corporate power up close — and a cohort left debating what it costs.

[\(Know more\)](#)

Malathesha, Marsha & Micah: From spotting broken footpaths on a morning walk to reporting them to the city by lunch. [\(Know more\)](#)

Cielo, Jamyang & Kajal: Why concrete makes cities hotter, and the moment the cohort moved from listening to solving. [\(Know more\)](#)

Suhana Parvin: New roles, a \$100 budget, and a cohort turned into governments fighting a simulated El Niño. [\(Know more\)](#)

Yubil Bhattarai: A restored forest once a mine, a mud house that barely needs the outside world, and a table full of clay. [\(Know more\)](#)

Afrin, Arwa & Thinley: A 5 a.m. start, a four-hour road to the Aravalli hills, and a forest that felt like home to a student from Bhutan. [\(Know more\)](#)

Faith & Mara: A morning at Gandhi's home, an afternoon planting trees, and a tree named after a cousin who never got to see it. [\(Know more\)](#)

STUDENT BLOGS

Jyothi, Mazen & Saya: A morning among the insects and researchers of ATREE, an afternoon where art carried the weight of the planet. ([Know more](#))

Dhanush, Karam & Shubha: A heritage walk through a 600-year-old city, and a textile-recycling office turning waste into affordable wardrobes.

([Know more](#))

Bulelwa, Yubil & Ziya: A day of reflection in Ahmedabad, then Agra — where the Taj Mahal humbled the cohort with heat and history in equal measure.

([Know more](#))

Karam, Ryan & Vartika: A gentle first full day in Bengaluru — a long breakfast, a reflection assignment, and rain that ended the sports early. ([Know more](#))

Kyren, Sibongile & Vartika: A new city, a garden house full of greenery, and a rainwater system that made sustainability feel ordinary. ([Know more](#))

Bunique, Sophianna & Suhana: A morning inside Infosys's sustainable campus, an evening at Adda where every country shared one stage.

([Know more](#))

Axel, Deki, Olivia & Razina: A man-made forest at the CEE campus, uninvited monkeys with an uncomfortable lesson to teach. ([Know more](#))

Akshay, Corey, Nanditha & Shubha: The day the cohort graduated from 360+ — tears, laughter, and the surreal joy of realising how far they'd come.

([Know more](#))

TEAM



**Sridar
Iyenger**



**Tabish
Bilal**



**Mohit
Raj**



**Cedric
Nukeri**



**Vipul
Kalra**



**Arbeena
Jan**



**Michael
Adamson**



**Gaurang
Raval**



**Divy
Bhagia**



**Zephania
Karriem**



**Bisma
Rustum**



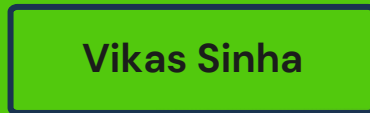
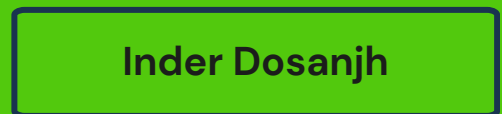
**Sanskriti
Mathur**

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

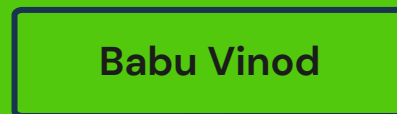
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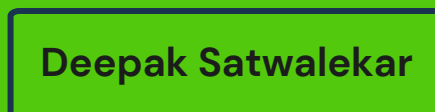
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DISCOVERY



We also thank the many other individuals and organizations who support us with funds or other resources