

Founder Govind Singh, **Organisation** Delhi Greens, Delhi



Govind's story begins with the controversial construction of the Delhi Commonwealth Games. In 2007, when the trees in Delhi University's North Campus were being mercilessly chopped down, Govind Singh, a student of environmental studies, decided he wasn't going to just wring his hands and watch the show. He started a campaign named 'Delhi Greens' to protest against unscientific markings and cutting of trees in large numbers. The campaign started with a 'Delhi Greens' blog which became an online 'green outreach platform' for students and other residents of the city. It soon took shape of a strong movement and successfully spread the message to the citizens, students and mainstream media.

With the movement growing stronger by the day, in July 2008, the Delhi Green Blog transformed into Delhi Greens organisation, a non-governmental organisation (NGO). "The underlying idea behind this move was to mobilise people and continue our fight against environmental degradation," says Singh. Since then, he is heading Delhi Greens, with the aim to generate awareness on the environment and promote the idea of sustainable development. He initiated the youth climate movement and is a Climate Project presenter

too. He provides consultations to organisations and guides a number of environment-related projects. Singh feels proud at having taken the initiative to organise the Urban Ecotour festival in Delhi.

Govind's objective for Delhi Greens is closely connected with his vision for Delhi's future. In the years to come, he aspires to be an effective urban planning watchdog who would ensure that Delhi works on the lines of sustainable development.

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In the present context, when we have thousands of NGOs in the country, it has become difficult for a genuinely committed organisation to make its presence felt. "Running the organisation isn't easy, but that's part of the game. When we put forth our case, the concerned authorities raised several questions before actually offering any help. But what motivates me to continue is my passion and the inspiration that I get from people who take note of my work and appreciate my efforts," smiles Singh.