Short Report:

One Billion Rising- New Delhi

One Billion Rising- a global call to action, called upon people of the world to rise against all forms of violence against women and girls, it asked people to collectively rise and say Enough! Violence ends now!  
Why One Billion? United Nations states that 1 in 3 women on the planet is beaten or raped during her lifetime. That is more than one billion women living on the planet today.

“In India a woman is raped every 22 minutes, and a bride burnt for dowry every 58 minutes.”

The campaign began with a global call from American playwright and activist, Eve Ensler, to people around the world – men and children included - to root out violence against women and join in a global day of action on 14 February 2013. Over 5,000 groups in 207 countries supported the idea. In New Delhi a coalition of more than 65 organizations and individuals from all walks of life worked on the campaign as a collective along with Sangat & Jagori. The campaign was launched in New Delhi on 24th November 2012, other states and neighboring countries also launched it around the same time. Since then a series of planning meetings were held with the working groups and various activities were organized as part of OBR.

On 7th January 2013 a cultural evening was organized at FICCI auditorium, New Delhi. The main idea behind the cultural evening was to raise consciousness on ‘Ending violence against women and girls’ through music, dance, drama & conversations. The idea was to promote cultural forms of resistance as opposed to the violent forms. The evening saw special performance by Mallika Sarabhai, renowned activist and classical dancer, along with internationally acclaimed pianist Elizabeth Sombart of their new piece ‘Women with Broken Wings’ dedicated to the women and girls who have lost their lives because of patriarchal violence. Eve graced the evening by her presence and performed her newly written piece “I am an emotional creature”. The evening was inaugurated with key remarks & overview by Kamla Bhasin, OBR South Asia coordinator & Advisor, Sangat South Asia, it was followed by performance by Navtej Johar renowned dancer, commitments by eminent activists and citizens to end violence against women and girls and felicitation of artists.
On 8th January 2013 a student-activist meeting was organized at Miranda House, Delhi University and was attended by more than 2000 students and activists. The panel consisted of Kamla Bhasin, Eve Ensler, Mallika Sarabhai & Abhijeet Das; a very vibrant discussion took place for than two hours around the issues of violence, rape, sexuality, gender, masculinity and patriarchy.

On the 21st of January critically acclaimed actress and activist Shabana Azmi in conversation with Principal Pratibha Jolly on the role of media in combating VAW again witnessed a jam-packed auditorium. On 22nd January, the intersectionality of the issue of violence against women in its class, caste, and community context was brought out by activists from the field which included Jagmati Sangwan of AIDWA, Kavita Krishnan of AIPWA, Shuddhabrata Sengupta of Kafila, Maya John of CSW. During the college’s winter festival the WDC stall was dedicated to the OBR theme. Pink ribbons, self-made bookmarks, badges, stickers, posters all proclaiming “enough is enough” and “no more violence against women” were liberally distributed to all who came. A well attended protest poetry competition on the issue witnessed a day of beautiful, heart rendering poems in their multi-lingual hues. The competition was judged by feminist-activist Suneeta Dhar from Jagori, NDTV presenter Ketaki, and Kamla Bhasin from Sangat. The flagging off of the OBR took place that day. In addition several programs were organized in Lady Shri Ram College as a build up to the final rising on the 14th, a month long rising was organized, with activities around OBR scheduled every day from 15th January 2013 onwards.
On 14.02.2013, events and activities were held across the city in more than 30 locations. These activities were organized jointly by the more than 60 organizations, individuals and collectives that were part of the OBR Delhi Working group. A press curtain raiser was organized at Miranda House on 08.02.2013 and was covered live by major news channels like NDTV, on 13.02.13 a pre-event press conference was organized at IWPC; the press conference received huge media attention and was carried in all major news papers and news channels.

Some of the key highlights of the events and activities held on 14.02.2013 are the following:

The day was divided into parts, in the first half there were activities organized in several communities across the city. The second half saw culmination of all day activities into a final mass event organized at parliament street 5 pm onwards. During the day, flash mob followed by cultural and awareness generation was organized at Dilli Haat, a prime market area and was covered live by several news channels. There were vehicle rallies organized in several parts of the city. In Dwarka there was a huge cultural program organized at the National Law University, it was a day long event which saw participation of well known actor and activist Gul Parag. There were flash mobs, songs, street plays across the city. There were activities organized in 10 metro stations, which are also the busiest. Flash mob dance was performed in all these locations by people on wheel chairs. At the parliament street event there were more than 3000 people present. These were people from all walks of life. The event at Parliament Street was a cultural program which began with a mass flash mob of over 500 people; this was followed by a dance by differently abled men and women on wheel chairs.
Vidya Shah, a renowned classical singer performed during the evening, singing songs of empowerment and strength. There was a brief speech by Kamla Bhasin and inauguration of poster image of ‘Water Weaver’ donated by well know artist Aparna Kaur to the movement. The evening was filled with performances by citizens collectives like Delhi Drummers and Delhi Drums Circle, student groups from Miranda, LSR, Kamla Nehru College, powerful stand up performance by Maya Rao, movement songs by Vinay & Charul, street play by Asmita theater group, clothesline exhibition by Blank Noise, poster exhibition by fearless campaign were some of the key highlights of the evening. The evening ended by lighting candles, saluting the spirit of billions of fearless women across who have been survivors of violence. The event witnessed media attention never seen before, and was covered live by some of the leading news channels. It was also carried in all major national and regional dailies. The evening was also live web streamed across the world with support from Action Aid.

During the process of build up to OBR a lot of campaign and IEC materials were developed. This included posters of a historical photo from women’s movement donated by Shebha Chachi, music cd of songs from the women’s movement, ribbons, flags & postcards with messages saying No to violence against women and girls. With support of other groups T-Shirts, badges and stickers were also made with similar messaging. Aparana Caur a renowned painter very kindly
donated an image of her painting ‘Water Weaver’ which was developed into posters. A series of banners (flex & cloth) were also produced with messages on OBR demanding end to violence.