THE MAKING OF AN ACTIVIST!

I came to Greenpeace looking for a one month 'legal' internship, learn some new things, have some fun, get my certificate and move on with my life. Little did I know that this was going to change me, my life and my decisions and I'll end up becoming a volunteer activist with Greenpeace India. We started conducting some amazing activities and we all felt part of this massive environmental movement, started by Greenpeace.

While diligently working on starting a new volunteer group and getting ourselves organized, I kept remembering what my mentor had told me- with a little faith, you can keep bringing change.

Eventually I realized, the very second I believe in myself and decide to bring about a change- I am already an activist. If I were to take back, just one learning experience from all this and tell everyone about it, it would be this, don't be scared to experience new and different things in life, just remember one thing- with a little faith, you can keep bringing change, all you have to do is believe in yourself.

- Devyani Kulkarni

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Greenpeace is fiercely independent and survives on donations solely from individuals like you.

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Together, we can do great things, magnificent things. Time and again, our work at Greenpeace has profoundly proven so.

In June 2014, we were caught off guard by a leaked IB report that confounded fact and fiction, following which the Ministry of Home Affairs blocked Greenpeace India’s access to international funds. Our appeal for clarification and a fair probe into the matter was ignored. It is a clear attack on our constitutionally granted rights to free speech and information. Greenpeace, on behalf of the civil society, demands justice and transparency.

These hyperbolic acts of intimidation are merely being done to stop our operations in India. Regardless of that, our vision is clear and strong and we will bootstrap our way forward. We are grateful to you for the continuous moral and financial support that has kept us going.

I’d like to share about our exceptional victory with the Clean Chai Now campaign. We released a report indicating an increased dependency on chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers in agriculture. The case in point was our national drink—Tea. A course of rigorous campaigning led to 4 major tea brands coming on board with Greenpeace India and work towards sustainable farming.

This is a tremendous victory and a clear example of our honest work. No government or corporate force can pull us down since we are financially independent, making our model of campaigning viable. However, in our endeavor to save the world, we have barely scratched the surface. There is a long way to go. What matters is the spirit, and we have faith in all our Indian supporters who endow us with immense support and encouragement.

WE HAVE EXCITEA-ING NEWS!

The tea you look forward to first thing in the morning, also a mandatory pair to every evening snack and a between-the-work rejuvenator might be spiked with toxic chemicals!

This August, Greenpeace India launched its report ‘Trouble Brewing’ spotlighting the presence of 22 illegal pesticide residue in the Indian tea. The study exposed the shocking truth about the unchecked use of illegal pesticides in tea cultivation, which is potentially disastrous to agricultural fields, air and aquatic environment as well as linked to a multitude of diseases.

Indian agriculture needs to break away from the myth of need for pesticides, which is essentially our core demand. To demand clean and safe chai, Greenpeace India activists climbed seven billboards at the Bandra Worli Sea Link in Mumbai, urging the tea companies to commit to phase out pesticides from tea cultivation and descended only after the first tea company agreed.

Over the last 2 months, the clean chai campaign garnered support from over 50,000 tea and environment lovers. Following the huge force and flurry, 4 major tea brands—Hindustan Unilever Limited, Tata Global Beverages, Ginnar and Wagh Bakri have agreed to come on board and find solutions to the practice of excessive chemical usage in agriculture.

It’s incredible how the campaign unraveled and the victories happened! No environmental victory at Greenpeace is possible without the support from environmentally responsible friends like you. So, let’s cheers to this milestone with a cup of clean chai!
CELEBRATIONS

AFTER SUPREME COURT’S UPRIGHT VERDICT!

In an amazing turn of events, all but four coal blocks across the country were declared as illegal and de-allocated after landmark judgement made by the Supreme Court of India on 24 September 2014.

The verdict has led Greenpeace to push for the next stage of coal reforms, urging the Ministry of Coal to eschew allocation of blocks of coal-bearing forests that stand to be mined. The SC clearly acknowledges the persistent corruption in the system. It also complements our stance on politicians’ use of arbitrary, illegal and non-transparent means to get coal block clearances.

Through our campaign Jungilistan that was first launched over 3 years ago, Greenpeace has been attempting to safeguard the rights of people living in the forests and garnering support for our forests in India from being wiped out completely due to rampant mining.

The villagers in Amelia along with the Mahan Sanghshar Samiti gathered and celebrated the SC declaration. However with your support, our campaign to save Mahan from being auctioned again continues!

DELHI HC QUESTIONS THE MHA FOR TARGETING GREENPEACE

In the wake of the leaked IB report in June, that absurdly accused Greenpeace India of “being a threat to national security and stalling development projects”, the Ministry of Home Affairs blocked Greenpeace India’s international funds despite our permanent FCRA permit and complete financial transparency.

On 3rd September 2014, Delhi High Court issued notice to the Ministry of Home Affairs and demanded a reply on its decision to block the international funds. We are now waiting for the next hearing scheduled in January 2015, which could prove to be a turning point.

Activists all across the country and abroad protested against the government for targeting and harassing the civil society over ridiculous charges. Despite numerous attempts to paint Greenpeace India as anti-national and anti-development, we have never and will never compromise on our work to save the only planet we have.

We are ready to face and win over these arbitrary allegations and steps taken against us, thanks to the support of lakhs of people in India that back our call to defend our oceans, forests and the climate.

LEGO

PUTS ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH SHELL ON ICE!

A major blow to Shell and a massive victory for Greenpeace, LEGO confirmed the end of a 50-year old partnership with Shell. During Greenpeace’s three month campaign, more than one million people signed a petition calling on LEGO to stop promoting Shell’s brand because of its plans to drill for oil in the pristine Arctic.

Following all the exciting victories and awesome events that have happened in our pursuit to save the Arctic, Ki-moon accepted a six million signature petition from Greenpeace calling for long term protection of the region. It is like heard.

Many nations of the world are suffering because of the melting Arctic glaciers, ice sheets, and the warming, expanding Arctic Ocean. With constant support from you, we are sure to protect the Arctic on behalf of all humanity.

WHAT’S BUZZING IN DHARNAI?

Ashok Kumar hails from Dharai, Bihar. Dharai was recently illuminated by an off grid solar microgrid which Greenpeace India could not have done without our amazing supporters. This is what he has to say after his village has gone to producing clean and renewable power, from having no electricity for 30 years!

“The light from the solar microgrid is from sun’s power. It is not generated after destruction of forests and pristine mountains!”