

THE WITNESS

CLIMATE CHANGE GETS
A WARM WELCOME

WMD DISCOVERED
ACROSS EUROPE

YOUR TRASH SWIMS TO
THE NORTH PACIFIC

AND GMOs FOUND FROM
KARNAL TO COIMBATORE



Quarterly Newsletter of Greenpeace India. **Q4.2006**

GREENPEACE

EDITORIAL

In 2006, Greenpeace stopped *Clemenceau*, the highly-toxic French aircraft carrier, from touching Indian shores. We documented the unchecked massacre of highly-endangered Olive Ridley turtles, and delivered evidence of it at the government's doorstep. We pressurised IT giant Wipro to clean up its toxic products. We joined farmer groups and traders in exposing genetic contamination of your food supply. And we dragged the issue of climate change out of the scientific closet and into the living rooms of India.

Some of these we did rather well, and some rather poorly.

In 2007, we'll turn our cold unforgiving gaze to the things we did poorly, and we will do so under two potent influences...

First, we are now supported 100% by over 32,000 Indians just like you. Your support – financial and ethical – gives Greenpeace the legitimacy and credibility to act. This financial independence and self-sufficiency mean we don't have to stand cap-in-hand before corporations, governments or political parties. Because we don't take money from them, we don't take orders from them.

Second, we've decided that from now on Greenpeace is not going to save the world. You are. The future of our environment rests with the millions of people around the world who share our beliefs, and it's time for you to stand up and be counted. This year, we'll encourage and inspire you to join us in tackling problems as well as in promoting solutions.

Remember, you don't have to be superman to save the world. Just human.



G Ananthapadmanabhan

**Executive Director
Greenpeace India**

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CLIMATE CHANGE GETS A TASTE OF INDIAN HOSPITALITY.

Last October, as the higher reaches of the Himalayas shut the door on impending winter, long convoys of buses, jeeps and vans began ferrying thousands of tourists, traders and pilgrims southward to warmer weather.

One vehicle, however, headed even further North. And when finally it stopped at the frozen and forbidding roof of the world, it was to let out four Greenpeace activists. 4,000 metres above sea level and stripped down to little more than beachwear, they were sending out a chilling reminder of the threat that climate change poses to India's glaciers and the rivers that flow from them.

Barely a month had passed when, thousands of miles away, Calcuttans were woken up to a most awesome sight. Beneath their iconic Howrah Bridge, in what must be Greenpeace's most daring action in India yet, four activists hung spider-like at the

"Climate change is the most severe problem

*that we are facing today, more serious even than
the threat of terrorism."*

*– David King, UK government chief scientific adviser,
January 2004.*



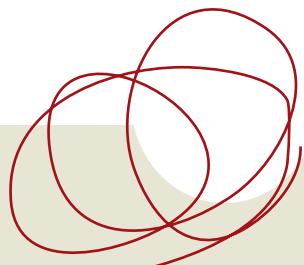


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end of a gigantic banner. Their message “Climate Change is Killing Ganga” drew attention to the enormous implications of the biggest environmental threat facing India today: that of Himalayan glaciers receding and rivers fed by them trickling to extinction.

And finally, in December, two things happened in Bombay in quick succession.

First, Greenpeace’s motley bunch of climate refugees – or Pirates of the Arabian, as they call themselves – began raiding disreputable establishments across the city (such as the grandiose Crystal Room at the Taj), switching regular incandescent bulbs to CFLs and spreading the message of energy efficiency and the need to reduce carbon emissions to combat climate change. The fortnight-long campaign saw Bombay’s entire food-chain participate, from Bollywood filmstars to panwallahs. And businesses and ordinary citizens from Mulund and Malad to Ghatkopar, Parel and Dharavi were encouraged to Switch for Mumbai.



And then, bringing to an end three months of hectic campaigning against climate change, Greenpeace climbers took the battle straight to the belly of the beast.

Over the imposing façade of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board, the department that's building as many as ten new coal-fired thermal power plants, our activists left a damning message to sum up MSEB's collaboration in climate crime, as well as a not-so-subtle hint that energy efficiency and not new power plants are the solution to the city's ongoing power crisis.



From raising disturbing questions to providing viable answers, we've spent the closing days of 2006 dragging the issue of climate change out of the scientific closet and onto the streets and homes of everyday India.

Climate change is an unwelcome guest. Rest assured that with your help in 2007 we'll treat it accordingly.



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"God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods.

But he cannot save them from fools."
 — John Muir

SHARE MUSIC AND YOU GO TO JAIL. STEAL TREES AND YOU GO PLACES.

It's official. The **EU Commission** has admitted that **Greenpeace** was right about illegal timber being used in the **Commission's** own headquarters.

In 2004, we roped off the **Commission's** Berlaymont building as a "Forest Crime Scene." We'd discovered that timber stolen from the forest homes of orang-utans was being used in the construction.

The forests of Indonesia, home of the orang-utan, are under threat from illegal and destructive logging. At the time of our Berlaymont confrontation, up to 80% of logging in Indonesia was estimated to be illegal. Huge volumes of timber were being smuggled into Malaysia and China, where they were processed into wood products for export to consumer markets including Europe.

While the **Commission** initially rejected the charge of double standards, it has now confirmed that uncertified wood was used. And though **Greenpeace** stands vindicated, we are still demanding tougher legislation to tackle illegal timber.

At the moment, it's easier to get illegal timber into the **EU** than it is to bring in pirated music.

We think it's an example of misplaced priorities when the law is better at protecting the pocketbooks of entertainment executives than it is at protecting the last remaining habitats of nearly extinct species.





ROTTEN TO THE CORE?

Here at Greenpeace, we love our Apple Macs. But we hate the fact that they're full of toxic chemicals.

We've seen the electronic graveyards across India where old electronic devices end up, Macs included. We've seen children waist-deep in cables, keyboards and circuit boards picking through a soup of hazardous chemicals, including lead and mercury, to find components or bits of metal they can sell. We've seen them breathing in dioxins as the PVC cables and casings burn around them, watched them stop drinking from local wells polluted with heavy metals.

Hey, that's not what Apple is about. Apple knows more about clean design than any other computer manufacturer on the planet. You'd expect Apple to be the world leader in clean environmental practice. But they're not.

Far from it. Apple products contain hazardous substances which other manufacturers have committed to stop using. Even Indian IT major Wipro has committed to a take-back and recycling programme, But not Apple.

So who's going to make Apple change its ways? You are.



"I have to foot the bill for nuclear waste and buried gasoline tanks and landfilled toxic a generation before I was born."

– Chuck Palahniuk, Fight Club

Apple's customers are a force that Apple listens to, and which can make Apple adopt clean production policies and improve its recycling programmes.

If you use an Apple product, or intend to, here's a campaign that you can not only join, but actually lead. Go to www.greenmyapple.org. Design a T-shirt. Write a speech in which Apple CEO Steve Jobs announces the greener, cleaner Apple. Shoot the Apple commercial that sets Apple talking about clean production and take-back schemes.



By buying an Apple product, you don't just have a right, you have a duty to tell Steve that you want clean ingredients in all Apple products. Let him know you want Apple to provide a free take-back program to reuse and recycle its products wherever they're sold.

But most of all, tell him how much you love your Mac, and how badly you want it to be green. Go to www.greenmyapple.org to get started.



BUILDING A WALL AGAINST THE GE TSUNAMI.

Rice has been part of humankind's staple diet for over 10,000 years. It is cultivated in 113 countries. Its production accounts for 11% of the planet's arable land. And 90% of the world's rice grows on Asian farms.

Lately, however, all this has been threatened by genetic contamination. Biotech giants like Bayer have gone behind your back, over your head and against your interests to let loose untested and potentially harmful strains of Genetically-Engineered (GE) rice into the environment.

None of this has gone unnoticed, however.

In a breakthrough for the campaign against GE, Thailand and Vietnam have agreed to shun GE varieties. This has been a result of the massive backlash against the GE industry following recent scandals and, behind the scenes, Greenpeace has been working with traders, farmers and the scientific community to bring about this sea-change.

Thanks also to efforts by Greenpeace to stop GE rice from flooding world markets, rice exporters in



“Genetic engineering is a molecular Auschwitz,

*posing a greater threat to the world than the advent of
An irreversible attack on the biosphere is something so u*

so unthinkable to previous generations, that I c

– Dr. Erwin Chargoff, the father of molecular biology.



India (the world's third-largest exporter of rice) too are pressing for a ban on all GE rice trials because of the threat these pose to their GE-free export markets.

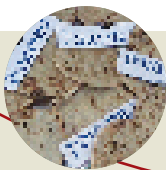
Because of increased testing costs, product recalls, brand damage, import bans and cancelled imports and contracts, rice growers, distributors and exporters in the US and China have already suffered massive losses.

If India is serious about protecting at least its exports – it's clear that the environment and people's health are not a priority for our government – we need to put some really serious laws in place.

Unless that happens, farmers across the country will be forced to take the law into their own hands, as they did recently by destroying GE crops in Karnal and Coimbatore.

While Greenpeace doesn't support their methods, we stoutly endorse their message: field trials of GE crops must stop now!

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nuclear technology.

inheard-of,

only wish that mine had not been guilty of it.”

GREENPEACE FINDS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

In 1996, the International Court of Justice stated that the use or threat to use nuclear weapons is contrary to international law, because they cause unnecessary suffering, and are indiscriminate in their destruction... two tests of the humanitarian conduct of war, if you can believe such a thing exists.



What the ICJ basically said was this: Nuclear. Weapons. Are. Illegal.

On top of that, the 480 US weapons in Europe violate one of the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which says that all nations are supposed to keep their nukes in their own backyards.

And in the UK, a top lawyer declared that Tony Blair's plans to upgrade the existing nuclear weapons system are also illegal.

Three counts of illegality. For Greenpeace, that's three counts too many.

So, late in November, we supported BombSpotting to encourage the filing of citizens' summons and complaints all over Europe. The demand? Enforce international humanitarian law by dismantling nuclear weapons.



“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in a final sense a theft from and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed.”
– Dwight D. Eisenhower

These “citizen complaint forms” that people downloaded, filled out and handed in to their local law enforcement agencies are the same kind of thing you bring to the police whenever you’ve got an issue with, say, your neighbour threatening to incinerate your home and make your entire town glow like a radium watchface.

In Spain, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Netherlands and the UK, wave after wave of actions were set off, with thousands of supporters turning up and filing citizens’ complaints in police stations, often with interesting results.

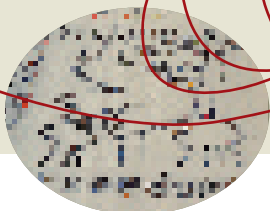
In some places, activists were told that they, rather than their governments, were committing the illegal act. In others, they actually received notification from the police department that the case was being transferred to higher authorities.

And finally, in India... why don’t you just tell us what you think we should do with WMD in India? Email us at sservice@in.greenpeace.org



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those who hunger





WHAT DOES A TURTLE DO WITH A TOOTHBRUSH?

Plastic is truly an amazing thing. Because of its resistance to degradation, its life-span can be hundreds of years. And that's probably a great thing, right?

As it turns out, about 300 billion pounds of plastic is produced around the world every year, and only a fraction is recycled. Where does the rest end up? Well, the majority ends up in landfills, but some meets a different fate...

Welcome to the Trash Vortex, an area of the North Pacific where currents and winds gather plastic pollution from places tens of thousands of miles away.

Estimated to be the size of Maharashtra, MP and Chhattisgarh combined, this phenomenon is a reminder of how our lives on land are helping destroy life at sea.



*“An estimated 80% of marine pollution originates from
And this could rise significantly by 2050 if,
as expected, coastal populations double in just over 40
and action to combat pollution is not accelerated.”
– Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director*

Greenpeace ship Esperanza recently sailed through the Trash Vortex to get a first-hand experience of the threat that plastic poses to marine life. We watched in awe as a river of plastic floated by us, and with our marine debris collection and sampling efforts, we even found how this garbage is becoming one with ocean creatures.

We found that when plastic reaches our oceans, it eventually breaks down (due to the action of the sun, wind, currents and salt water) into small, literally bite-sized pieces that marine wildlife confuses with food. It's an easy mistake to make.



If you think that has nothing to do with you, consider that some of the things found swirling in that Trash Vortex – and lodged inside dead seagulls, cormorants, albatrosses, turtles and dolphins – were toothbrushes, slippers, soda bottles, ice-cream spoons, candy wrappers, even credit cards.

Upset? Ashamed? Angry? Ready to do something?

Turn over the Page. It's going to be a big change, but it's a change you have to make, for the sake of our oceans, and for the ability of future generations to enjoy them.

the land.



years time

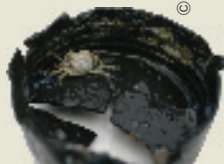
FISH CAN'T TELL PLASTIC FROM FOOD. WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?



You just read about the Trash Vortex floating around the North Pacific. If you think that has nothing to do with you, consider that a city like Bangalore generates around 176 tonnes of plastic waste every day. The trend is even worse in other Indian cities.

If you're part of this problem, you can be part of the solution. Here are some things that you can do right now:

- Every time you see litter, pick it up and dispose of it properly.
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – you've heard it before, but now you know what happens when you don't. Be conscious of all that you buy, and be sure to avoid products with excessive packaging.
- Demand more and better recycling facilities in your area.
- Take part in locality cleanups – or organize one yourself. Though these don't solve the problem, they are very effective at drawing attention to the greater problem offshore.
- If you live near the ocean or a river that drains into it, your drains are probably washing garbage right out to sea. Be conscious of this and any other potential sources of marine litter in your area. Demand that these are eliminated.
- Be very conscious of your ecological footprint. Go to www.myfootprint.org to calculate yours, then act upon what you learn.



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“When the power of love overcomes the love of power,
the world will know peace.”

- Jimi Hendrix

INTERACT!

In the last issue of Witness, we encouraged our supporters (that's you) to send us a picture of something beautiful they've captured in the natural world. Printed below is the best one we've received so far. It was taken by Samuel P Anand in the Botanical Gardens at Ooty, and for his pains he receives the highly-prized Greenpeace 2007 Calendar.



This time around, we'd like to hear from you on how you made a positive difference to the environment.

While your story might be the stuff of epic proportions, on account of limited space we request you to keep it within 150 words.

As before, the best one – and only the best one – will be published in the next issue of the Witness. It'll also go up on our Website, and it'll get you a limited-edition Greenpeace T-shirt.

Mail sservice@in.greenpeace.org with 'Greenpeace Moment' in the subject header.



148 WORDS ABOUT GREENPEACE, NONE OF THEM WRITTEN BY GREENPEACE.



HI,
I AM SHATAM

I came across Greenpeace through an awareness program in Pune. Though initially apprehensive, I decided to join as a supporter. In retrospect I feel it's very satisfying to support such a cause. After all, Greenpeace to me is not just any other forum for volunteers trying to change the face of the world.

The work they are doing is indeed impacting our lives, though in more subtle ways than is obvious. In fact the very vision "greenpeace exists because this fragile Earth deserves a voice" suggests that the world we live in and take for granted needs nurture and care.

The stupendous achievements of this organization worldwide speaks volumes of the kind of constructive work a community can do with a firm believe in environmental ethics and nature conservation. Today, this is needed more than ever, when the harmful effects of unrestrained exploitation of natural resources are evident.



"Peace is not the absence of conflict

*but the presence of creative alternatives
for responding to conflict."*

- Dorothy Thompson

HELP GREENPEACE TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU

As part of our ongoing efforts to move towards a 100% paperless office, we encourage you to communicate with us electronically only, instead of through the dead-tree format. To opt for word from Greenpeace via email, do write us at sservice@in.greenpeace.org

To let us know any changes in your contact details, simply email us your old and new contact details. Do remember to include your name and Supporter ID, as well as your most current street address, phone number and eMail ID.

SUPPORTER SERVICES CONTACT DETAILS:

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080-2521-0374 (all other phones).
Fax: 080-41154862.

We're available Monday to Friday,
10am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm.

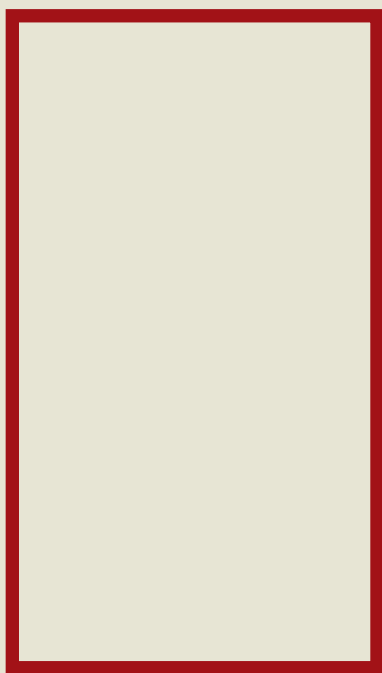
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Missed out previous issues of Witness? Rejoice!
You can read them all online at
<http://www.greenpeace.org/india/about/witness>



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