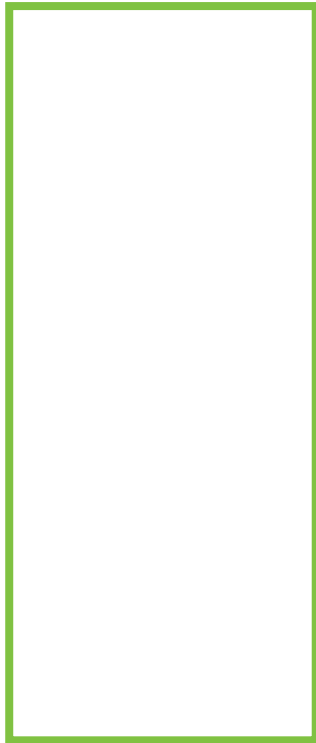


# THE WITNESS

## 3.08 GREENPEACE



TO



BOOK POST

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"Is it too late to prevent us from self-destructing? No, for we have the capacity to design our own future, to take a lesson from living things around us and bring our values and actions in line with ecological necessity. But we must first realise that ecological and social and economic issues are all deeply intertwined. There can be no solution to one without a solution to the others." – Jean-Michel Cousteau.

We're not alone on this chance planet. We're part of a larger, interconnected, interdependent web of life, and destroying this balance will jeopardise our own survival. That's just the reason why we must place a price on the priceless, limited, irreplaceable resources and use these in a sustainable manner.

Greenpeace has been urging governments to enforce laws and make a paradigm shift in the way we use energy, to stop belching carbon dioxide and flattening our carbon-capturing forests, and discard the nuclear trojan horse, which has been projected as a solution 'for the greater common good'.

After Greenpeace opened the can of worms earlier this year, Indonesia has enforced moratoria to allow its rich rainforests to recover from the recent but disastrous palm monoculture onslaughts.

Governments the world over are rejecting spuriously introduced genetically engineered foods from entering their markets. India too needs to get its act together.

Corporations need to act just as responsibly. Over the last few weeks, we've managed to shame dirty electronics majors into taking back their e-waste. We've embarrassed Nokia into pulling up its socks. Others, wary of Greenpeace, are cleaning up their acts too.

All these are good signs, but a lot more needs to be done. Thanks to a growing community of concerned citizens – people just like you – Greenpeace has the strength and credibility to do what needs to be done.

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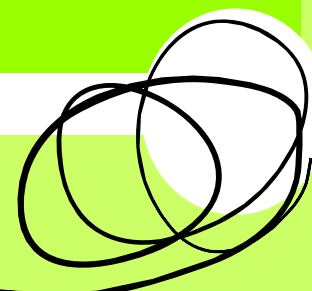
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Samit Aich  
Executive Director  
Greenpeace India



## Cover Story: When David met Goliath

In August, Greenpeace activists blockaded Tata headquarters in Bombay for over three hours. The Tatas filed a suit against Greenpeace seeking a prohibitory order on any protest or activity. In an order passed at the Bombay High Court, Greenpeace was permitted to express its protest in a peaceful and non-violent manner. And that's exactly what Greenpeace and nearly 1,00,000 of Tata's own customers have done over the past six months.

Under pressure from NGOs and civil society groups across the world, the Tatas pulled the plug on their soda ash project that threatened flamingos in Tanzania. But the same Tatas aren't willing to budge an inch on their highly destructive port in Dhamra that threatens the endangered Olive Ridley Turtles. We don't get it. Nobody gets it.

Hundreds of scientists, conservationists, and fishing communities have joined Greenpeace in opposing destructive development in ecologically sensitive areas, and Dhamra certainly qualifies as one. Olive Ridley Turtles have been coming here for eons to nest in tens of thousands, and if the Tata's port comes up here, it will push this enigmatic species closer to the brink of extinction.

It's not like the Tatas have been unfazed by the opposition. They've changed their position from aloof indifference to a point where they're hiring international 'Public Relations' experts and contracting agencies to track what thousands of blogs are saying about them and their environmental record. This is proof that creative, non-violent direct action can and does embarrass powerful corporations, even one as powerful as the Tatas.

In August, Greenpeace activists blockaded Tata headquarters in Bombay for over three hours. Their message? 'Turtles Before Turnover!' 'Extinction Is Forever!' 'Stop The Port, Save The Turtles!'

Retribution was swift. The Tatas filed a suit against Greenpeace seeking a prohibitory order on any protest or activity. Fortunately, the spirit of the law prevailed. In an order passed at the Bombay High Court, Greenpeace was permitted to express its protest in a peaceful and non-violent manner.

And that's exactly what Greenpeace and nearly 1,00,000 of Tata's own customers have done over the past six months. Ratan Tata, on the other hand, has been in denial, resolutely insisting that these people didn't actually exist.

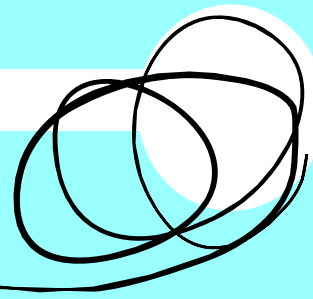
So we took the evidence to where it hurt them most: the Tata Steel Annual General Meeting. Fifteen Greenpeace



"Every creature is better alive than dead, men and moose  
and pine trees, and he

who understands it aright will rather preserve its life than destroy it." -

Henry David Thoreau





activists met face to face with Ratan Tata, to speak truth to power, ask hard questions, and urge Ratan Tata to live up to TATA's claims of environmental and social responsibility by withdrawing from Dhamra.

Tata's shareholders were understandably shocked that the company in which they have invested their money has abdicated its environmental responsibilities on this project and isn't honouring its commitments.

The crowd cheered and booed, but the end result was that the Tatas invited Greenpeace to discuss the threat their port poses to the turtles and the environment. This is incredible! Six months back, we never imagined we'd get this far, this quickly. These are the same Tatas, after all, who wouldn't talk to us in the past. But after all the public pressure -- your pressure -- Mr. Ratan Tata himself announced that the Tatas will meet with Greenpeace.

This is the result of nearly 1 lakh of Tatas' own customers asking them to stop the destructive port in Dhamra. This is the result of tens of thousands of emails, faxes, candles and roses sent to Mr. Ratan Tata by people just like you. This is great, but this is by no means enough. A meeting with the Tatas means nothing while the port construction continues.

Which is why Greenpeace is committed to stepping up the pressure. We know getting the Tatas to commit to their promises is difficult, if not plain impossible. But with your continued support, we can make the impossible possible.

Thank you, and congratulations!

## Keeping carbon in chains

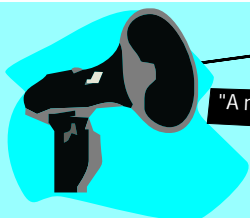
Forests are carbon sequesters (or sinks) that suck up and store millions of tonnes of carbon that humans have been spewing into the atmosphere since the dawn of the industrial age. As you can guess, carbon sinks are good for the planet because they reduce global warming. Of late, however, governments and corporations alike have been releasing all the carbon contained in these sinks, by razing ancient forests all the way from the Amazon to Indonesia.

Last year, Greenpeace exposed how corporations such as Unilever actively clear forests, drain peatlands and burn them up, not only leaving behind vast stretches of palm oil plantations bereft of any life forms, but also cooking the climate. Palm oil finds its way into foods and cosmetics and worse, it has been touted as a bio-fuel.

In response to Greenpeace's revelation, a regional governor in Indonesia has announced an interim ban on deforestation in Riau, which is worst hit by rapid deforestation. And Unilever, the world's biggest user of palm oil, has announced its support for a moratorium on further deforestation for palm oil.

Though a little late, Greenpeace welcomes the governor's positive move in the right direction. This will help keep carbon locked up for a while. But carbon dioxide needs to be kept under lock and key, forever, if we are to mitigate climate change and not sacrifice our biodiversity on the altar of development. For this, Indonesia needs to enforce a national law, and quickly.

Time is running out for the forest, and the climate.



"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests

are the lungs of our land, purifying the

air and giving fresh strength to our people."

– Franklin D. Roosevelt

## Smoking is banned. Killing the climate isn't

Greenpeace was one of the first organisations to highlight the direct link between inefficient cars, the growing demand for scarce oil, skyrocketing prices, inflation, and a warming world. The only logical way to break this gormandising cycle would be to reduce our demand for petrol.

Spiralling fuel costs have been a reality for some time now. What's worse is fuel-triggered inflation, which has touched a 13-year high in India. Which simply means everything is going to be a lot more expensive. Not to mention that the petrol you're paying for is going up in smoke, and fuelling global warming.

That's the bad news. The good news is that we can actually do something about it.

Early last month, Greenpeace launched a nationwide campaign, "Let's Drive Change" to demand that the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) enforce a progressive mandatory fuel efficiency law for the car industry in India. Cars with giant balloons labelled "CO2" connected to their exhausts drove home the message of climate pollution from the car industry. We've demanded that cars must be labelled from now on, indicating just how much they smoke up. We've also demanded that by 2020, car manufacturers must stop manufacturing cars that produce any more than 80 gm carbon dioxide per kilometre.

It seems like the logical argument was easily understood by at least 22,000 citizens from across the nation. Just in case those in positions of power didn't already know that, Greenpeace "climate cops" doubled up as postmen, and promptly delivered these petitions to Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General of BEE. Yet, he continues to hum and haw, saying that other stakeholders need to be taken into account. What exactly is meant by that is anyone's guess, but every second that he twiddles his thumbs, the planet continues to get warmer and warmer.

What could be worse than comprehending the complexities of climate change and not doing anything about it?

To know more, log on to [www.letsdrivechange.org](http://www.letsdrivechange.org)

## Paradise lost, paradise gained

Every second breath you take comes from the rainforests – often called the lungs of planet Earth. Preserving these rainforests to fight climate change is as crucial as ensuring that cars become more fuel efficient.

But there are corrupt governments and corporations that work hand-in-glove to saw, clear and bring down forests that have taken thousands of years to form. This unlocks millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide that has been safely stored away, and sterilises areas teeming with biodiversity. Greenpeace has been confronting these environmental criminals.

Recently, Greenpeace activists boarded a ship at Paia in Papua New Guinea, and thwarted attempts to send illegally-logged timber from Paradise Forest to China. As it often happens, this timber is flattened into plywood in China and then shipped off to Europe, another accomplice.

The peaceful activists remained harnessed to a crane onboard the vessel for over 55 hours, highlighting the problem between deforestation and climate change, before they were forcibly removed and taken away.

It's time to realise that if various governments and the crooked corporations that run them don't rein themselves in, it's not just the forests, but also the climatic equilibrium that depends on the health of these forests, that could soon reach a point of no return.



"The problem of climate change is so large that it can't be solved by voluntary individual

responses. It requires an economy-wide solution, i.e. one that limits the total carbon intake of the economy."

– Peter Barnes

## Exporting carbon dioxide, importing global warming

If Australia claims to be changing the light-bulb to fight climate change, while it actually runs its economy by exporting deadly coal to other nations of the world, it qualifies as a two-faced Aussie. This August, Greenpeace activists 'caught' a fleet of 20 ships loaded with coal, ready to be exported.

Activists sailed high seas and circumvented tight security at Queensland's Hay Point port, to give the 20 coal ships a paint job. The messages were bold and clear "Stop Coal Expansion", "Barrier Reef Gone", "Ice Caps Gone" and "Rudd Exporting CO2". Police arrived at the scene within no time, boarded one of the inflatables and arrested 10 activists.

While talking about urgent action on climate change, Rudd is overseeing plans for Australia's first new coal port in decades and a doubling of the country's coal exports.

And this despite the fact that Australia has the best solar resources in the world. To drive home the point, Greenpeace activists scaled a 140-metre high smokestack at Swanbank B coal-fired power plant near Brisbane, leaving a message for Australia's leaders – "Go Solar!" –

painted on the side of the smokestack.

Elsewhere, in Thailand, a new law allows residents and villages to generate electricity from wind turbines or other renewable sources and sell surplus electricity back to the national grid. For every single glimmer of hope like this, there seem to be many more dark clouds gathering on the horizon.

Investors are gearing up to build coal-fired power plants and even reinvest in dirty and dangerous nuclear energy, like the frenzied French President who has signed nine nuclear deals in the last one year alone! Sarkozy seems to be addicted to dirty energy. Nothing has been learned after the Flamanville fiasco and the catalogue of accidents at the French nuclear site Tricastin-Pierrelatte.

A few weeks back a uranium leak contaminated two rivers in Southern France. Swimming, fishing and drinking local well-water was banned after liquid containing uranium leaked. The French police have launched an investigation and the French Environment Minister has ordered tests of the groundwater at all nuclear facilities.

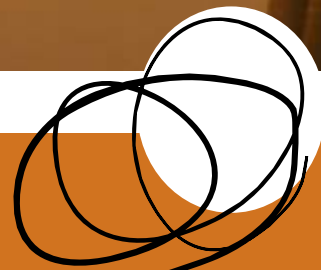
What's happened in Flamanville echoes what happened at EPR's Olkiluoto 3, in Finland. How long before it happens in India? Are the deaf and blind people sitting in our Parliament even concerned? Only time will tell.



The two most abundant forms of power on earth are solar

and wind, and they're getting cheaper and cheaper...

– Ed Begley, Jr.





## That's all folks!

Monsanto continues to receive severe blows as it persists to spread its deadly tentacles across the world.

After joining a league of nations in banning Monsanto's infamous MON810 maize strand, Austria has banned the import of the highly dangerous genetically engineered maize MON863 variety.

MON863 is genetically engineered to produce a toxin against the corn-borer, an insect that can cause damage in maize. Shockingly, rats fed with the maize variety were seen to have suffered liver and kidney damage. Scientists have also stated there is a definite link between MON863 and changes in the blood composition and possible damage to internal organs in rats that were fed on it. Despite this, the European Commission permitted it to be imported for human and animal consumption. It's outrageous. Austria does seem to understand that what can happen to rats or any other life form could affect humans, but perhaps the EC needs to be hit on the head before it can see disaster staring it in the face.

In another corner of the world – Western Australia – the government has extended its moratorium on genetically engineered crops (food and fibre) by another four years. The government has also recently called on its federal counterparts to deliver on comprehensive labelling and

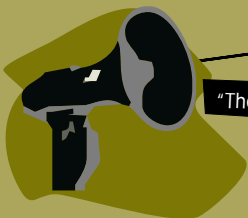
stringent safety assessment of GM food.

And if that wasn't enough good news to digest, thanks to public pressure Monsanto is actually walking out of Canada by dropping a genetically engineered hormone for milk. Monsanto produces bovine growth hormone rBST, a genetically engineered product to increase milk production in dairy cows. Global and consumer markets have rejected rBST and that has already caused Monsanto to get out of the rBST business in the U.S

Safeway, Starbucks and Kraft have walked out on Monsanto, making it the second rBST setback for Monsanto this year.

Governments should be putting the interests of consumers and the environment ahead of the vested interests of multinational agri-business. Austria, Australia and Canada have closed several doors to Monsanto, but India does not seem to learn from others' mistakes.

Already Bt cotton farmers are paying heavily by lower yields and death of cattle possibly resulted from them feeding the harvest remains from the Bt fields. But India's Genetic Engineering Approval Committee is in some sort of strange frenzy to approve the country's first GM food crop, brinjal. If it is indeed permitted, what could be lurking in your favourite iron-rich bharta is anyone's guess.

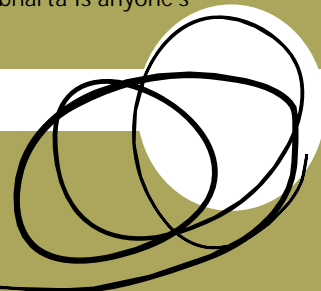


"The next generation of GE crops will pose a whole new series of challenges... it's difficult to

separate different types

of GE crops, and it's difficult to control the ones that pollinate."

– Ben Lilliston, IATP



## Wipro applies innovation. About time too.

After several months of cajoling the country's electronics majors to implement a take-back service for their end-of-life products, Greenpeace decided to wash their dirty electronics in public.

Hewlett-Packard employees were greeted by a message "Lobby for Law," painted on the bodies of outrageously bold Greenpeace activists shaming everything that HP stands for.

HP shied away ashen-faced, promising to revert. Two years of learning does not seem to have been enough for the gizmo giant to initiate a take-back service for individual customers in India, even though they seem well-equipped to take back their trash from customers in Europe, U.S. and other developed nations.

Samsung was quick to follow, promising eight collection centres across the country for take-back of its toxic products.

Philips meanwhile was reminded by Greenpeace that it stood ignominiously at the bottom of our latest Guide to Greener Electronics, and also received penalty points for

taking contradictory positions on the issue of take-back and recycling its own toxic products.

Philips is attempting to skirt around the issue by announcing its intention to launch a pilot project in India in 2008, sometime in the next five months, without spelling out a definite plan of action for this project. As far as Greenpeace knows, empty promises and junk reeking with toxics does not qualify Philips for the race towards Greener Electronics. It will have to shed all its inhibitions and promise to clean up its act in public.

As far as we're concerned, only Sony-Ericsson and Sony manage to reach above 5 on 10; HCL continues to lead the pack of Indian electronics companies.

If companies have to start cleaning their own mess, chances are that corporations will phase out the use of toxic substances in their products at the design stage itself, thus allowing for safer recycling and reduced end-of-life costs for the companies.

Acer and HCL have been bold enough to come out in the open and support the e-waste legislation in India. And by openly pitching for an e-waste law, Wipro leads the pack. Greenpeace welcomes this progressive move and hopes this will encourage other electronics majors to catch up.

To find out where your favourite gizmo producer is in the race, log on to [www.greenpeace.org/india/toxics](http://www.greenpeace.org/india/toxics)



While many computer companies have reduced or phased out the use of PVC, there is

still a huge volume of PVC in the computer scrap that continues to grow - potentially up to 250 million

pounds per year



## Rocket science cannot stop global warming, you can!

Small choices can make a big difference. Let's do our bit...

### 1. Washing day

If you use a washing machine, make sure you always run it on full load. The amount of energy utilised is the same.

### 2. Reject junk mail

Stop junk snail mail. Write to companies asking them to take you off their mailing list.

### 3. Buy in bulk

Buy products in bulk to minimise packaging, and do not patronise products with unnecessary and wasteful packaging.

### 4. Endorse ceramic style

Carry your own ceramic cup to the office or college to avoid using plastic or paper cups.

### 5. Flush less

Use flushes that use half the quantity of water and low-flow taps at the washbasin. Or simply place a brick into the flush tank to decrease the quantity per flush.

### 6. Walk more, save more

Walk or ride a bike to work. Use public transit or carpool – you can advertise at work or on community bulletin boards.

### 7. Refill and reuse bottles

Right now, the bottled water industry pumps billions of litres of water - water that belongs to everyone - out of underground aquifers each year and sells it back to us for profit.

### 8. Visit [www.letsdrivechange.org](http://www.letsdrivechange.org)

Join Greenpeace in pushing the Government to enforce a progressive mandatory fuel efficiency law.



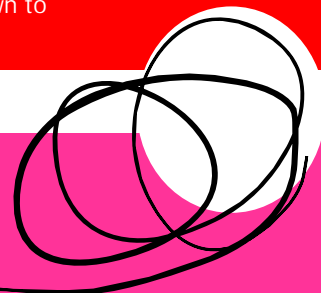
The new limited-edition Greenpeace T-shirt declares your undying love for cutting-edge electronics, while yelling out your loathing for the toxic stuff that goes into them.

It's made from 100% organic cotton, printed with non-toxic inks, and lovingly crafted under ethical trade conditions. Which means that even as it confounds your conspicuously-consuming cousins, colleagues and corporate claptrap, it treads lightly on the planet. To get one that fits you, simply hop down to [greenpeace.org/india/goodies](http://greenpeace.org/india/goodies)



"I hope to be remembered as someone who made the earth a little more beautiful."

– Justice William O. Douglas



## 145 WORDS ABOUT GREENPEACE, NONE OF THEM WRITTEN BY GREENPEACE



## Hi, I am Amit

Our world is growing rapidly and in this competitive world, we need to consider the adverse effects development will have on the environment. Rivers flood and then run dry, glaciers are melting at a rate faster than one can imagine... and all we know what these tell-tale signs bode for the future.

In a fast-paced life, it seems difficult to spend time thinking about our environment. Truly speaking, Greenpeace to me is like a trusted financial advisor, who I can blindly depend on for all my investments. Greenpeace is my environmental advisor. I trust and support Greenpeace for investing my money towards protecting the environment, and time organising masses towards saving the world from anything that thwarts our green hope.

It is difficult to remember when I first heard of Greenpeace, perhaps in my childhood... But here I am today, under Greenpeace's protective green umbrella.

## HELP GREENPEACE TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU

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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.

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Fax: 080-41154862

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

Email: [sservice@in.greenpeace.org](mailto:sservice@in.greenpeace.org).

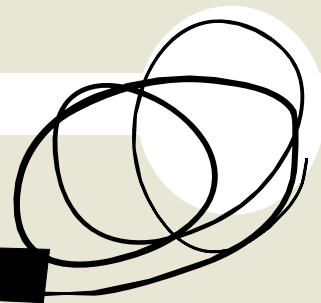
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You can read them all online at  
<http://www.greenpeace.org/india/about/witness>



"There is something fundamentally wrong with treating

the earth as if it were a business in liquidation." -

Herman Daly



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We're available Monday to Friday,  
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