YOU MINE, WE DIE!

GREENPEACE

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So what is it you think when you think of Greenpeace? Are we “just another NGO” or are we determined campaigners on a mission to protect our environment?

All around us, we see rampant destruction of our planet’s natural resources to satisfy short term wants. What about the future – not only ours but that of our children and grandchildren?

As a child, I learned about India’s rich and ample resources. I’m sure you did too. Recent events have exposed what the vicious jaws of the mining industry are doing to those resources. With complete disregard for repercussions, they’re out to wreck pristine forests in Singrauli. All for coal, an unsustainable and dirty energy source.

At the same time, our government is buckling under pressure from foreign corporations to build a nuclear power plant in Jaitapur, despite clear evidence that it lies on a fault line and is at high risk of disaster!

The massive public support we got for our campaign for a greener telecom industry has had real results. The industry is now under directive to reduce its carbon emissions and move from the use of diesel to renewable sources.

If we can win this, we can win our forests too. We can save Singrauli, Jaitapur and other places in our country from devastation. Your support is our strength – it is what makes us much more than just another NGO.

With so many alternatives for clean energy at our fingertips, it’s time to make the switch for a greener tomorrow. If we don’t act now, there will be nothing left to show our kids.

Samit Aich
Executive Director
Greenpeace India
Greenpeace exists because this fragile Earth deserves a voice. It needs solutions. It needs change. It needs action.

Greenpeace is a non-profit campaigning organisation that acts on the most crucial global threats to our planet’s biodiversity and environment. In over 40 countries around the world, Greenpeace campaigns to stop climate change, defend our oceans, protect ancient rainforests, create a toxic-free future and promote sustainable agriculture.

At Greenpeace, we strongly believe in the power of non-violent direct action. We expose environmental crimes and confront the criminals fearlessly. We point at problems and promote solutions for a clean and safe future for the Earth and all life on it.
No forest, no life
Greenpeace launched the imaginary Republic of Junglistan from its embassy at Jantar Mantar. Bhaalu and Sheru, residents of Junglistan threatened by coal mining, handed out virtual citizenships and passports to people who pledged their support for the fast depleting forests and diversity.

Coal mining poses a serious threat to tigers in Maharashtra’s Chandrapur region, near the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) and must be reined in. This has been revealed in the Fact Finding Mission to the area organised by Greenpeace India, consisting of wildlife experts Praveen Bhargav, Biswajit Mohanty and environmental lawyer, Rahul Choudhary.

Greenpeace activists dressed as tigers, blocked the gates of Shastri Bhawan, which houses the Ministry of Coal, demanding that forests in Central India be saved from coal mining. 20 life-size tigers were chained in front of the main gate to protest against the threat mining posed to their habitat. Greenpeace activists and a tiger mascot met with the minister of coal, Shri Prakash Jaiswal, to deliver petitions signed by 1,12,000 people from across the country opposed to the coal ministry’s demand for more forest land.

Actor Abhay Deol, became a Greenpeace activist as he joined the campaign against forest destruction for coal production. He flew in a hot air balloon over the forests in Mahan in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, to bring attention to lives and livelihoods at stake, if the government opens up Mahan and other forests in Central India to coal mining.

Into 2012, our campaign continues, demanding a moratorium on all new coal mining in forest areas until the government, through a transparent and consultative process, identifies forest areas based on values including those of biodiversity and livelihoods dependent on these forests, which will then be cordoned off from coal mining and other destructive industrial activities.
Emission disclosure, mandatory

Following a failure by Bharti Airtel and the Cellular Operator Association of India (COAI) to honour their commitment of disclosing a detailed and sustainable emission reduction plan, including a substantial substitution of diesel with renewable alternatives to power their network operations by September 2011, our campaigning actively focused on mobilising political opinion and raising the issue of the increasing exploitation of the diesel subsidy by the profit making telecom sector. This resulted in representatives from across the political spectrum urging the Government of India to take measures to accelerate a shift away from diesel to renewable sources and technologies.

At the round-table organised by Telecom and Infrastructure Provider Association (TAIPA) and Greenpeace, the Chairperson of TAIPA made a public commitment to ensure a transition of a substantial target (at least 1,00,000 towers) from diesel to renewables over the next two years.

Relentless campaigning efforts in 2011 resulted in a big success with the Government introducing a directive, making it mandatory for the telecom sector to publicly disclose its carbon emissions and set progressive reduction targets, as well as replace diesel with renewable sources.

Simultaneously, we continued to challenge companies on their commitment to sustainability by manufacturing greener products and appropriate disposal of their products in order to reduce their carbon footprint.

DRE is the solution

As a build up to the meeting of the National Development Council, a comprehensive process of social audits and regional consultations were conducted in and around Bihar. Greenpeace released a report on the flagship rural electrification scheme, RGGVY (Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana). Along with allied campaigning, we called on the CM of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh to take a strong position and allocate a bigger share for decentralised renewable generation within the scheme.

Similarly, our lobbying efforts on going with the working group of the Planning Commission recognising and incorporating the need for a significant increase in decentralized renewable energy systems, under the RGGVY scheme.
Greenpeace, on the basis of new science, exposed the shoddiness associated with the assessment of the safety of the Jaitapur nuclear site. A paper published in the Current Science Journal, establishes that the area is not immune to a 6 plus magnitude earthquake. According to Karuna Raina, Nuclear and Energy Campaigner for Greenpeace India, “The report clearly highlights the lack of consensus on the seismicity of the area. After this report, the government cannot claim that the seismicity of the area is a sorted issue. The environmental clearance based on wrong data should be scrapped and the process taken up in light of the scientific views available now.”

On the basis of an opinion by eminent jurist and former attorney general of India, Soli Sorabjee, Greenpeace established that the notified rules relating to supplier liability are invalid and went against the intent of people on ground, as well as the parliament which passed one of the strongest liability clauses.

Read more at www.greenpeace.org/india
2012 is the deadline that countries set themselves in 2002 at the World Summit of Sustainable Development – to establish a global network of marine protected areas, a target they have failed to achieve. The Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 11 will follow shortly after the Rio 2012 Earth Summit in June 2012. It will be important for governments at the CBD meeting to show the world they are taking action towards achieving global sustainability. As host, India will have a major role to play in setting an example through its own actions and fostering consensus among other countries.

In the build-up to the eleventh COP of the CBD, scheduled to be held at Hyderabad in October 2012, Greenpeace was invited to a high level dialogue organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and chaired by the Minister.

Our campaigning has met with some success with the Government of India and the COP adopting coastal and marine biodiversity as one of the priority themes. Our follow-up will now be to focus on attempting to ensure that this eventually translates into positive and real action, key to preserve the health of the oceans and seas and the millions of livelihoods it sustains.

The iconic Greenpeace vessel, Esperanza, is visiting India between February and March 2012 to support our work, in building greater awareness and support for the protection of marine biodiversity and livelihoods of coastal communities.
The elusive BRAI bill

Dr. Pushpa M Bhargava, Molecular Biologist, Founder & Former Director of Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, Hyderabad and Supreme Court’s Appointee to GEAC.

Greenpeace, in association with Delhi Alliance for Safe Food, conducted a public consultation in New Delhi. The discussion was on the wide implications of the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) bill, 2011. The public consultation saw the coming together of eminent experts in the field of legal, agriculture, biotechnology, health, environment and public policy. It formed a critical step in analysing the elusive manner in which the BRAI bill is being tabled and the harsh consequences of the same. These concerns were also raised at the National Advisory Council.
Initially, I joined Greenpeace as a response to the solicitation from the fund-raisers on the streets. I have always believed that we should all play a participatory role in protecting our planet. This is not only for our own living interests, but also to protect the interests for our descendants who follow. We all think in terms of leaving behind a legacy of culture and fortune; we must however realise that the environment plays a major role in sustaining such a legacy.

I support Greenpeace because there is an urgent need for us to galvanise a more participatory awareness amongst people to take responsibility for the well being of our planet. Global warming has been talked about time and again, without substantial gains made to reverse the scenario. We need to spread the fact that consuming Earth's resources in such an indiscriminate and disproportionate manner, cannot be justified by mere monetary compensation by the rich or those wanting to get rich quickly.

While none of this may be news to those already enlightened, there is a vast majority who need to be made aware of many such issues and educated in ways of prevention and speaking out against policies that directly or indirectly worsen the situation. I believe Greenpeace is one such organisation that can help facilitate such a revolution and help save the planet before it is too late. Supporting them is supporting the movement to protect our Earth and I am proud to call myself a Greenpeace supporter.
CONTACT US

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Web
www.greenpeace.org/india

Head Office
#60, Wellington Street,
Richmond Town,
Bangalore - 560025.
Phone: 080-42821010 / 41154861
Fax: 080-41154862