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**THE UNFILTERED
TRUTH**

GREENPEACE

ग्रीनपीस

EDITORIAL



From the desk of:

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Executive Director
Greenpeace India

Have you noticed the relatively recent change of events taking place around us? The perpetual quest for power is revealing its dark side. The irony of it all is that we call ourselves 'modern' but yet resort to archaic means of attaining energy - clearing forests to mine for coal. Given the dismal track record, this is clearly not the solution to a growing demand.

Unfortunately today, majority of the world depends on unsustainable/ dangerous sources like coal, nuclear and oil for power generation. The repercussions of using these sources are proving to be too detrimental to our supposed development. Millions of ecosystems and livelihoods are being wiped away in the blink of an eye.

In traditional Greenpeace style of bearing witness, I recently visited Chandrapur and Mahan in Maharashtra where rampant coal mining is destroying pristine forest reserves. The scale and pace of destruction is beyond comprehension. I could not help but get teary-eyed after my interactions with the local communities who are powerless in the fight for their very future. This is a perfect example of how human rights seem to have bypassed these defenseless people. Seeing this injustice first hand, boosts my motivation to fight for this cause and let their voices be heard.

In a step towards this goal, a Greenpeace activist stayed on a tree for a month in the forest to protest and bring to light the ill-effects of coal mining on natural habitat. As an alternative to unsustainable energy, there are limitless and cost-effective sources of renewable energy on tap. All we have to do is exert pressure on our leaders to make the right decision and go green.

Turning our attention to the Arctic, where Greenpeace has been campaigning against drilling for oil, we recently convinced Shell to halt their drilling for this year - a classic example of the power of volunteers which resulted in a ray of hope for the Arctic's survival. The more support, the bigger the change.



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Satellite imagery showing the progressive destruction due to coal mining in the Chandrapur region.

THE UNFILTERED
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JUNGLISTAN

DIARIES

Letter from a treetop

This year, India is hosting the UN convention on biodiversity in Hyderabad where world leaders will be present and it angers me that our government seems to have taken an oath to destroy whatever little biodiversity there is left. More than 10 lakh hectares of forests in central India face the threat of destruction due to coal mining. The coal for the upcoming Essar power plant lies under the Mahan forest block in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh and if the government has its way, sooner or later, that forest will be replaced by a coal mine. That's when I figured that the world needs to know about this.

So I decided to live on a tree for a month in the edge of the buffer zone of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra to bring to your attention a crime that is unfolding as we get on with our lives, ignorant about everything not in our immediate surroundings.

Since my time on this tree, I have felt the thunder of 81 blasts from the coal mine to the left of my tree! I can also see a new chimney of an extension of the Chandrapur thermal power station which is under construction and it's hungry for more coal which lies beneath these forests.

People say that we have to speak for the rights of forests and animals as they can't speak for themselves. I think they're wrong - forests can speak and I have been listening to stories every day. Forests told me that they have a lot to offer if we would take the effort of using it and not abusing it. There is a stream that flows five feet from my tree and that's where I source my drinking water from. This very stream that flows through the periphery of the forest has been a watering hole for all the animals in the forests for hundreds of years. A shepherd tells me that the stream has been diverted to pass through the coal mine so that they can mix their waste water in this natural stream which turns into a dirty drain just half a kilometre away from my tree.

I see claw marks of bears on tree trunks, trails of a rock python, two cobras, a wild boar and more species of birds than I have ever seen in my life without even leaving the tree. That's the biodiversity in more than 10 lakh hectares of forest which is threatened by coal mining. With your support, we can make it clear to the PM that we want renewable energy instead of dirty coal energy that costs us our forests.

"We want **FORESTS** not **COAL!**"

Log on to junglistan.org



Greenpeace activist
Brikesh

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People vs. **Shell**: we won!

For over six months, nearly two million people from around the world joined the Greenpeace campaign to save the Arctic and keep it off-limits from oil companies. In particular, Greenpeace was pressuring Shell to stay out of the Arctic. Recently, its company bosses announced they were scrapping their oil drilling programme for this year. It's a huge victory for people power!

The significance of Shell stopping oil drilling is hard to overestimate. After sinking five billion dollars into its failing programme, other oil giants are now questioning the logic of Arctic drilling.

This is a huge step forward in our campaign. We need to build on it to make sure we keep the Arctic protected from all oil drillers, for good.

Scientists from the National Snow and Ice Data Centre (NSIDC) have released preliminary figures suggesting that Arctic sea ice has reached the lowest recorded extent since records began in 1979. The data indicates that on September 16th, 2012, Arctic ice covered 3.41 million sqkm, - a drop of at least 45% since records began.

Greenpeace International Executive Director, Kumi Naidoo said, "We must work together to protect the Arctic from the effects of climate change and unchecked corporate greed. This is now the defining environmental battle of our era."

The more the people, the stronger the movement: savethearctic.org



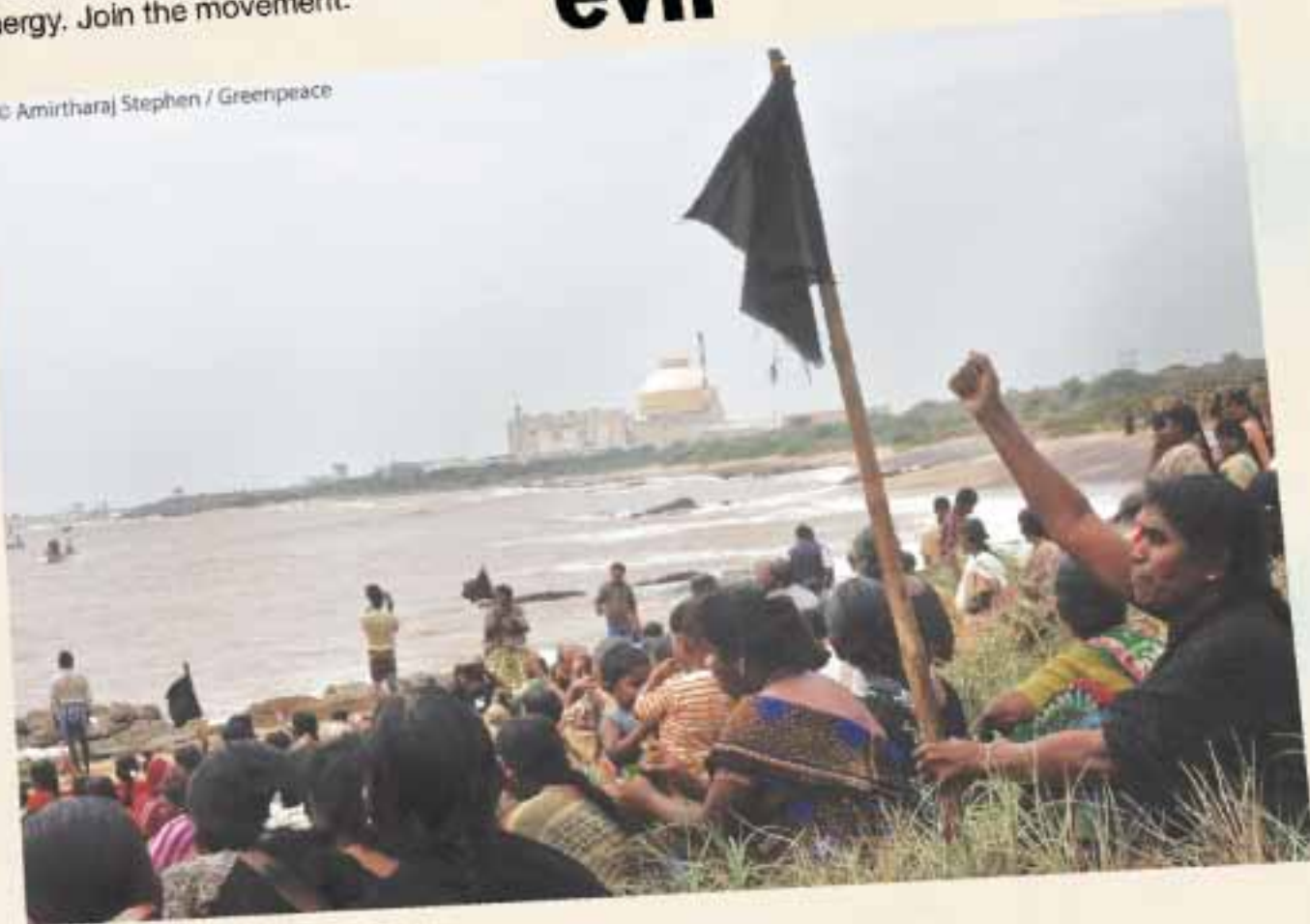
The nuclear reactor project in Koodankulam has been questioned by common people, scientists, ex-bureaucrats and even the former chairman of the regulatory board. Instead of engaging with them, the government has attacked the protesters. Two people have already died in the protests and the government has been fiercely using its machinery to stop anti-nuclear activists from other countries to enter India. The people are peacefully and persistently trying to raise several important questions – both site-specific and generic with regard to nuclear power – through all possible forums.

The debate on India's energy future is far from settled. We will need a broader consensus and greater persuasion to ensure that India opts for the safest, most sustainable people-centric energy future.

We need all the help we can get to make our voices heard. Nuclear power is not the answer and luckily for us, there's a solution at hand – renewable energy. Join the movement.

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Nuclear: an unnecessary evil



True **BLUE** supporter

"With no environment, there's no human life. We need real action to save our planet before it's too late. I try my best to contribute to this cause in my own way. One person cannot bring change that's why we all have to come together so nothing will be impossible. I'm happy to support Greenpeace by reading up on the campaigns, collecting information and spreading it to whoever I can. I believe that everyone needs to know the issues and what they can do to help save our future. I like that Greenpeace is fighting for all of us, for our future. Now, we need to join in and take action".

Siddha Raj Dhami Siddhartha
Security Guard
Greenpeace India



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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.

Recommend a Friend

Have a friend who loves the planet?

Send us their name and phone number and we'll call them!

SMS GREEN <name> <number> to 9220092200

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