

WITNESS 4.18

VOL. 65

EDITORIAL



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The last quarter brought to limelight both the IPCC report and the Katowice Climate Change Conference, which were both monumental in highlighting the effects of climate change and how to mitigate the problems. While the IPCC report gave us little hope as we stand at the brink of irreversible climate change, the Katowice conference was a follow up from the Paris Accord 2015, which ultimately formulated the unanimous rulebook to track the emission standards of nations.

In times when acting on climate change has become imperative not just for governments, and organisations but also for individuals, Greenpeace India was targeted yet again and questioned on its credentials. Greenpeace India often speaks out the inconvenient truth and has been at odds with the government and corporates for fearlessly raising its voice against environmental crimes and lack of accountability. However the organisation has repeatedly stood strongly against all attempts of clampdown and muzzling of dissent.

In a partial relief, in December, Greenpeace India was able to access its bank accounts only to pay out one month's salary and make other statutory payments upon furnishing a bank guarantee to the Enforcement Directorate. This relief comes two months after the Enforcement Directorate raided Greenpeace India's Bangalore office and arbitrarily froze its bank accounts.

While we might need to downsize drastically given our financial situation, there are already several staff who are continuing to work passionately without salaries and have committed to do so till we have a cleaner and greener planet.

According to the IPCC report, the deadline for climate reversal needs to be met by 2030 to keep the temperature from rising above the 1.5 degrees. In such a dire situation we cannot afford slips or errors, and must work collaboratively to deliver with tact and efficiency.

GREEN YATRA THROUGH BIHAR'S GREEN CORRIDOR



It has been five long years that Greenpeace India has been working relentlessly to alter the effects of chemical farming in Kedia, Bihar. And it has indeed been a daunting task to not just bring a mindset shift but also hand-holding the farmers and pave the way for chemical free farming.

Following Bihar govt announcement on creating an organic corridor on both sides of the Ganges giving special emphasis to organic farming in its Third Agriculture Roadmap 2017-2022, we donned the role of a green advisor. Greenpeace India took to the villages on a Yatra to assess local farmer's understanding of the Government's organic corridor scheme to support farmers on organic farming.

On 20th November, Greenpeace India farmers collective - Jeevit Maati Kisan Samiti (the first organic certified village in Bihar), along with the state Government- commenced on a 10-day march covering a distance of 1500 kms in 9 districts, 16 villages across Bihar's Ganga

Organic Corridor and connecting with over 800 farmers in 10 day period.

The yatra not only helped Greenpeace India to hit the hinterlands of Bihar and create awareness, it was also symbolic to show that people's power play a decisive role on policies.



Impact Box

2 million people defended the Amazon Reef — and won! The Brazilian environmental agency (Ibama) has denied Total, the license to drill for oil in the region.

Greenpeace India efforts led to Supreme court firmly fixing the deadline for implementation of emission standards for coal based thermal power plants to 2022. The court also has fixed a deadline for NTPC and DVC in critically polluted and densely populated area to 2021.

THE RAINFORESTS RING THE BELL OF VICTORY



As a **Greenpeace International Investigation** revealed that Palm Oil suppliers destroyed an area of rainforest almost twice the size of Singapore in less than three years, it catapulted into something unimaginable. Over 1.3 million people signed a Greenpeace petition calling for an end to deforestation for palm oil. And that's how we got victory, as

Wilmar, one of the most dirtiest and biggest supplier of palm oil to major brands including Colgate, Mondelez, Nestlé and Unilever, announced that it will map all of its palm oil suppliers; use satellites to monitor them and suspend any suppliers that destroy forests.

Oreo, the wonder-filled cookie also sources its palm oil from Wilmar. In the past three months, activists **occupied Wilmar's refinery in Indonesia** and twice **boarded a tanker ship** carrying Wilmar's palm oil products. Greenpeace Italy blockaded the factory of one of its major customers, Mondelez (owner of Oreo, Cadbury and Ritz). And once again people power won, preceded by Wilmar International publishing a detailed actin plan to map and monitor its palm oil suppliers.



So as we step into another year, we have to make sure that Wilmar which supplies 40% of the world's palm oil, implements these plans, which can finally help in eliminating deforestation from its supply chain and would have a major impact on the rest of the industry.

WINGS OF PARADISE: DRAWING ATTENTION TO RAINFOREST DESTRUCTION

For too long the story of Indonesian forests has been painted with the darkness of burning rainforests, disappearing species and displaced communities.

Little or nothing is known about the beauty of the spectacular Birds of Paradise that call the forests of Papua home.

After ravaging the forests of Borneo and Sumatra, the palm oil industry has reached the final frontier, Papua, home to these Birds of Paradise. Both the birds and the forest could be lost if we allow these companies to continue.

That's why street artists and volunteers from all over the world, from Melbourne to Taipei and Vienna to LA, are taking matters into their own hands.

Their mission is simple – to recreate the essence of the extravagant, brightly coloured plumage, crazy courtship dances and bizarre behaviours of these birds in our cities through huge artworks on walls.



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MUST WE BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EARTH'S SAND?

Strange but true, Dubai which is on the edge of Arabian desert, imports sand from Australia; Qatar imports \$6 billion worth of sand annually. When one third of the earth is covered by desert it is worth pondering why there would ever be shortage of sand.

The colossal growth of human infrastructure requires massive extraction of sand and gravel. And, while one might think that naturally available sand is found in abundance, the wind-formed desert sand is too fine for construction which leaves humans to dredge up billions of tonnes of sand from rivers, lakes and ocean ecosystems. Highly valued river and lake sand contains the right-sized particles for landfill and strong concrete.

The global volume of resources for buildings and transport has been increasing by about 2.8% annually, doubling every 25 years. Sand and gravel represent about 79% of this material extraction, almost 29 billion tonnes a year, exceeding fossil fuels and biomass extraction.

Sand extraction is both rampant and unregulated in most of the countries, and even where sand mining is regulated, sources are so widespread and accessible that illegal extraction and trade have become common. In **India**, criminal gangs have diverted rivers, destroyed aquaculture habitats, and devastated lakes and wetlands.



This relentless global sand trade leaves behind loss of habitat, species, fishing decline, obliterated beaches, disintegrating riverbanks, and collapsing bridges. “It’s the same story as over-fishing and over-forestry,” says Pascal Peduzzi, co-author of the UN environment programme **report on sand scarcity**.

The consequences of sand mining is not just limited to the flora and fauna. A 1998 study in California showed that every tonne of sand removed from a California river caused \$3 in infrastructure damage, including the failure of roads, dikes and bridges. In 2000, in Taiwan, sand mining caused a bridge to completely collapse. The following year, in Portugal, due to sand mining, a bridge collapsed as a bus passed over, killing 70 people; likewise a weakened bridge collapsed in India in 2016, killing 26 people.

As per the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development **report** the projected raw material extraction will double by 2060 with severe environmental consequences. All things said and done, we really need to contemplate whether or not the Earth can even sustain such growth, and how the environmental movement can or will respond.

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GLOBAL NEWS BOX



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report shows that global CO₂ emissions must be halved by 2030 before falling to net zero by mid century at the latest. To meet the 1.5 degree target, coal consumption would need to be cut by at least two thirds by 2030 and fall to almost zero in electricity production by 2050.



<https://news.un.org/en/events/cop24>

The UN Climate Change conference took place in Katowice, Poland with an aim to deliver the Paris goals of limiting global temperature rises to well below 2°C. The summit accord signed on a common rulebook **for all countries** - regulations that will govern the nuts and bolts of how countries cut carbon, provide finance to poorer nations and ensure that everyone is doing what they say they are doing.

#HUMANRIGHTS

Hundreds of individuals in Delhi and Bangalore marked the Human Rights Day (December 10) by standing up in solidarity against the attempt to silence the civil society movement in India.



GREENPEACE OPEN PHOTO COMPETITION

For the very first time, we are launching the Greenpeace Open Photo competition through our quarterly magazine Witness; inviting all the photography and environment enthusiasts to apply. The best image will be featured in our next Witness. For this quarter we are opening our doors for Best Wildlife Photography. You can send in your entry (1 best image) until March 31 at supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org

Few guidelines to keep in mind

- 📷 Images must be of high quality
- 📷 Make sure the images are owned by you
- 📷 Images must be in jpg or raw format
- 📷 Kindly caption the image, with details about when and how it was shot

GREENPEACE

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