

# WITNESS<sup>1.19</sup>

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**GREENPEACE**  
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# EDITORIAL



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**T**his is my first note to you in 2019, a year which started on both challenging and encouraging note. Challenging because we had to fight for existence and encouraging because our efforts along with your support brought in major campaign breakthrough.

We got our first breakthrough as National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was announced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with a tentative national target of 20% to 30% reduction of PM2.5 & PM10 by 2024. Greenpeace India along with its allies has been demanding for NCAP for a really long time. Though NCAP is not all encompassing but it is clearly a step in the right direction. Our second breakthrough came as the Karnataka High Court quashed the Enforcement Directorate's order of freezing Greenpeace India's bank accounts. The court's decision emboldened our spirits to continue our critical campaign to mitigate climate change, reduce carbon emission and create a sustainable future.

Another landmark victory that followed this ruling was Central government releasing Rs 46,000 crore, for solar pumps as well as rooftop solar. Greenpeace India also released the third edition of the Airpocalypse report. The report was instrumental in highlighting the effect of Thermal Power Plants as opposed to seasonal stubble burning and Diwali. This report shifted the accountability from common citizens and farmers to the big profiteers in the market.

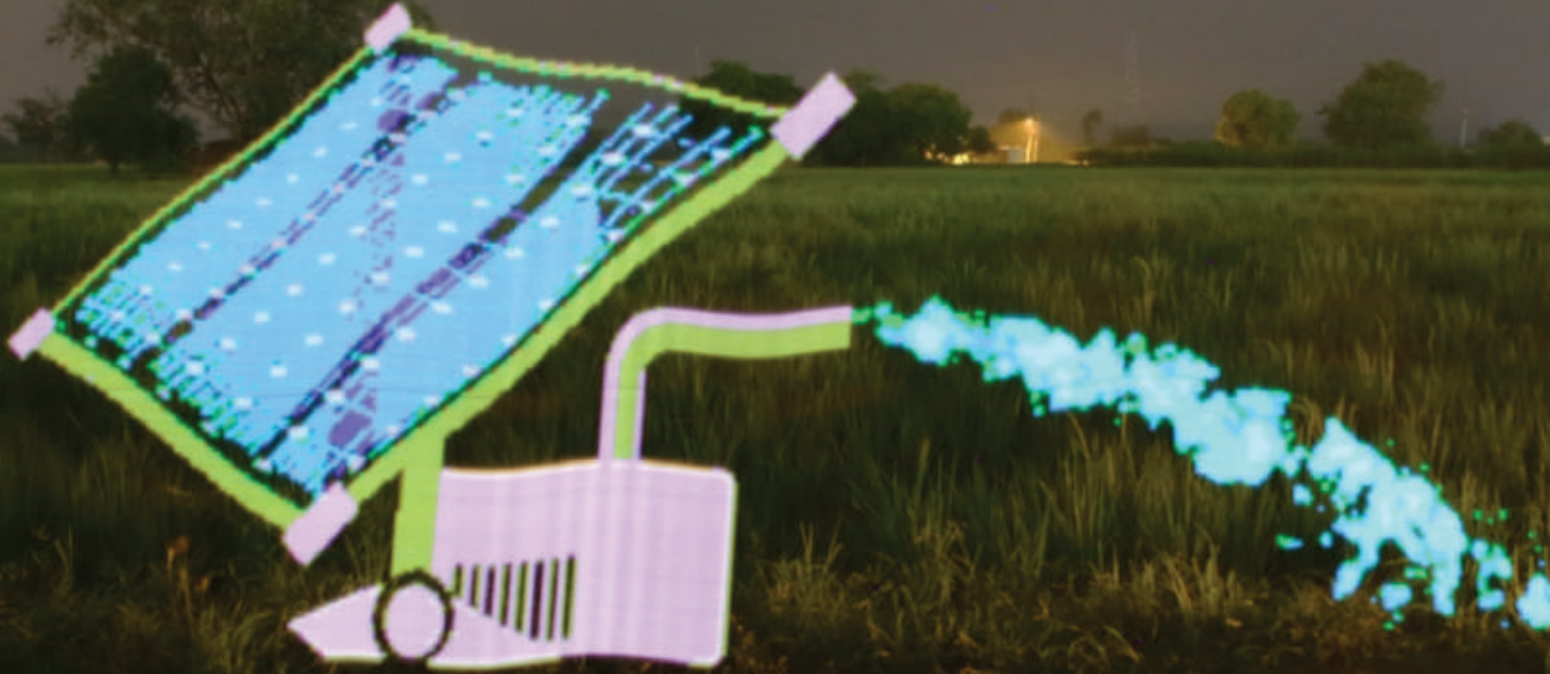
As we gear up for upcoming elections, let's keep in mind scientific studies backing the effect of climate change, and remember that Climate Change is not just a political agenda but a humanitarian crisis looming all over the world. Therefore, when we vote, we need vote for a government who commits to safe guarding our earth, lives, livelihood and come up with a resilient Climate Change agenda.



# KUSUM IS NOW A PART OF INDIA'S SOLAR REVOLUTION

**F**rom KUSUM kaha hain (Where is KUSUM?) to KUSUM is finally here! We have come a long way since 2018, when we first launched the Solar Pumps (KUSUM) campaign to empower the farmers of India. As our voices grew louder, asking the government to release the allocated funds for this policy, the central government finally released Rs 46,000 crore, not just for KUSUM but also for solar rooftops.

The KUSUM scheme will not only help farmers to attain uninterrupted supply of clean energy but they can also financial benefit by feeding clean electricity to the grid. Greenpeace India happily welcomed this move, as it can turn around the footfall for solar in the country which has been languishing at around 4 GW of its 40 GW rooftop target. Solar pumps can also incentivize more efficient energy and groundwater use; significantly reduce India's annual farm power subsidy burden. However, it is important to see how the government thoroughly implements this amorphous policy, holistically across India.



According to a **study** by Greenpeace and its allies, India could add up to 15 GW by converting just 10% of its agricultural pump sets from thermal & diesel to solar.

Greenpeace India, along with its allies, has been campaigning for the speedy implementation of the KUSUM scheme ever since its announcement in the 2018 budget. In addition, a series of 'Rooftop Revolution' reports mapping the rooftop solar potential of various cities across India (Delhi, Patna, Hyderabad & Chennai), have been making the case for further budgetary support to residential rooftop solar for many years now.

The new incentives for solar agricultural pumps and residential rooftop solar can act as a catalyst in India's energy transition away from expensive, polluting, climate destroying coal power towards cleaner and cheaper energy.



# CAN WE CALL NCAP A VICTORY YET?

**T**he much anticipated National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to fight air pollution was finally announced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on January 10th, calling for a national target of 20-30% reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 by 2024. The NCAP is a mid-term, seven year action plan which looks into prevention and control air pollution.



Greenpeace India and its allies were instrumental in starting the conversation of Thermal Power Plants polluting the air and its subsequent effect on public health. This report was widely credited in media and it finally led to government notified stricter emission standards for coal-based power plants in 2015.

The NCAP plans to phase-out old coal-based power plants and convert specific coal-based power plants to Natural Gas by 2024. It also gives out a comprehensive regional plan to be formulated incorporating the inputs from regional source apportionment studies. Under the new programme charging infrastructure, conversion of government-run buses and 3-Wheelers to Electric Vehicles (EV) etc, will be given a boost. The NCAP also takes into account centralised waste disposal infrastructure to sustainable decentralised systems by 2024 along with source segregation and city specific plans for moving towards zero waste pathway (2020). Having emergency action plan to be prepared for all 102 cities by 2020 along with finalising city clean air action plan to be prepared in 2019.

However, despite the holistic approach, NCAP has categorically missed out on creating sectoral Target. Clear timelines are important for pollution/emission load reduction for next 3 years, 5 years and 10 years so that effective targeted absolute reduction in pollution levels are achieved. NCAP also must include the deadlines given by the Supreme Court for implementation of the thermal power plants' emission standards and ensure monitoring.

Additionally, the new Greenpeace India report, Airpocalypse III has identified 139 cities where air pollution levels exceed national standards but were not included in the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**.

Cont...



## AIRPOCALYSE III

Airpocalypse III is back again in 2019, giving us key insights into the state of air pollution in our country. Some of the highlights of the report are as follows:-

- Out of 313 cities for which the air quality data for the year 2017 was analysed, 77 % of the total cities had PM10 levels beyond the National Ambient Air Quality Standards(NAAQS) prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) making all these cities 'non-attainment' of the prescribed national standard. This is more than double the 102 non-attainment cities identified by MoEF&CC for NCAP.
- The omission of the 139 cities by the government is due to the fact that the list of non-attainment cities in NCAP was drawn together using data from the years 2011-2015.
- The NCAP is aiming to reduce pollution levels by 20-30% in only 102 cities. Assuming that all the 102 cities will achieve a 30% reduction by 2024, we will still be left with 139 cities, which will have PM10 levels above the NAAQS in 2024 and belong in the list of non-attainment cities.
- The report found that not only do the new list of polluted cities identified by Greenpeace shows the urgency for reducing particle pollution levels across the country, they also highlight that even a 30 per cent reduction would just be the beginning.
- The NCAP also mentions that the list of 102 non-attainment cities includes 43 cities proposed under Smart Cities programme. However, according to the study, 65 smart cities were found to be in the "non-attainment" category having been left out from the NCAP.
- Only 12 cities identified under Smart Cities programme had PM10 levels below 60 µg/m<sup>3</sup> which is the annual standard for PM10 prescribed by CPCB under NAAQS. These cities include Salem and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Aizwal in Mizoram, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerela, and Shillong in Meghalaya among others.

[Read More](#)



# GREENPEACE CRACKS UP THE FRACKING SITE

**O**n 26th February, in the deserts of Northern Patagonia, 40 Greenpeace Argentina activists tried to protect Patagonia from the likes of Shell, Total, Exxon and YPF, by delivering a message of hope and resistance for us all.



Backed by millions of supporters the activists infiltrated a site near the fracking operations in Patagonia, to block trucks carrying toxic oily waste. **Fracking**, is a drilling process in which a rock is fractured either horizontally or vertically to release the gas inside.

While the activists forfended the police and stood their ground, encouraged by their resilience the activists were also joined by the local Mapuche community members have been resisting the fracking operations that is threatening their very way of life.

**Last December** Greenpeace Argentina, as part of a global campaign called People Vs Oil, published an investigative report revealing that the 13.6 hectare toxic landfill is in violation of the regulations. The report details how the toxic waste is being dumped directly on the soil without proper drainage, without a lining between the waste and the land, and with no waterproofing system in place. The toxic landfill site, equivalent to 15 football fields, is used by oil companies that are fracking Patagonia, infringes the rights of the local communities and threatens their livelihood.

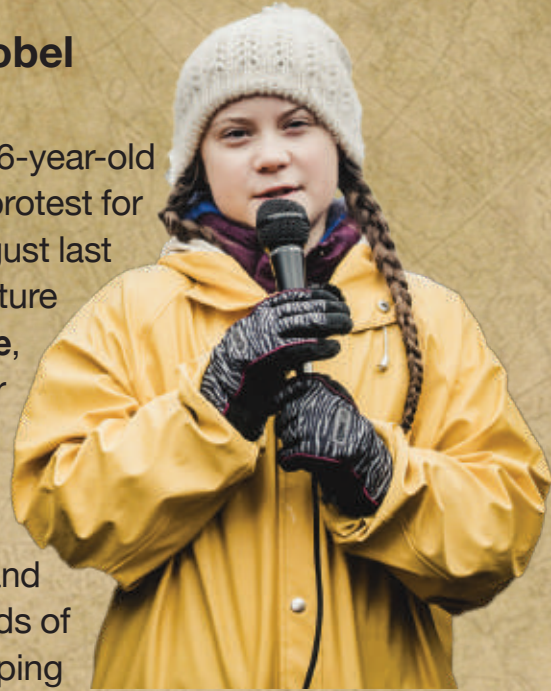
Greenpeace has globally defended the Amazon reef, **the Great Australian Bight** the Arctic drilling and this action is a part of a **global movement of people all around the world** who are standing up against Big Oil and demanding accountability from some of the world's richest and most powerful corporations — that are at the forefront of blocking climate justice. We need to stop this reckless exploration that feeds the desire of a few powerful at the expense of the places that we all hold dear.



# GLOBAL & NATIONAL NEWS

## Greta Thunberg nominated for Nobel Peace Prize for Climate Activism

Greta who identifies herself in Twitter as a 16-year-old with Asperger's syndrome, staged her first protest for climate in front of Swedish Parliament in August last year. Since then she started Fridays for Future Movement under the hashtag **#Fridaysforfuture**, missing her lessons each Friday to stage her protest. She gained international attention after speaking at the UN Climate Talks in Poland in December and at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January. Her movement and words echoed across the world as thousands of school students joined the protest, by skipping their schools on Fridays for protecting their future from a climate debacle. It is for her work and devotion towards climate change and protection of environment that she has been nominated for Nobel Peace Prize this year.



## We are at the cusp of facing dire health issues due to climate change

A careful assessment on the state of the environment completed by the UN in the last five years, produced by 250 scientists and experts from more than 70 countries warns that damage to the planet is so dire that people's health will be increasingly threatened. Cities in Asia, Middle East and Africa could see millions of premature deaths by mid-century. Pollutants in our freshwater system will see anti-microbial resistance become a major cause of death by 2050. [Read More](#)



## People Unite to Save Aravallis

Residents, students and concerned citizens from Gurgaon, Faridabad and other parts of Delhi have joined hands to protect the Aravallis from an amendment to Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) that would open up the entire zone of the Aravalli forests to real estate development. The Supreme Court has slammed the Haryana Government for passing the amendment, and hinted that the legislation could be judicially reviewed. [Read More](#)



# FRIDAY PROTEST FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Fridays for Future is an international movement of school students who have decided not to attend classes and instead take part in demonstrations to demand action to prevent further global warming and climate change.

In India, 400 students from Delhi joined the movement demanding the Governments to take urgent climate action. [Read More](#)



## Impact Box

The United States District Court for the District of North Dakota issued a landmark **dismissal** of all claims against all defendants in the US\$900 million case against Greenpeace and others brought by Energy Transfer Partners. The decision to dismiss this lawsuit, which alleged Greenpeace engaged in racketeering and defamation, sends a strong message to all companies trying to silence civil society with baseless cases. This is a huge victory not just for Greenpeace but for anyone and everyone who has ever stood up against powerful corporate interests. The decision to dismiss this case comes at a key moment of growing resistance to pipelines around the world.



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