

WITNESS 3.19

VOL. 68



GREENPEACE
ग्रीनपीस



EDITORIAL

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As we continue to face external challenges, our committed activists, donors and supporters are standing with us to voice out environmental issues.

This quarter, we released the NO₂ and SO₂ analysis reports. Our updated analysis of TROPOMI NO₂ satellite data confirmed that the coal-fired power plants and industrial clusters are the most polluting hotspots, besides major cities. Similarly, our analysis based on NASA OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite data revealed that India is the largest emitter of SO₂ in the world. Data also reasserted the fact that burning of fossil fuels in power plants is one of the major sources of SO₂ emissions.

India was recently hit by extreme climate events such as floods and droughts. We, along with support from our volunteers, collaborated with our ally Goonj and organised flood relief donation camps to help the flood-affected people in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Bihar.

On September 20th, Greenpeace volunteers supported the global climate strike in Delhi, Hyderabad, Lucknow and Patna. Students and volunteers staged demonstrations outside the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. They also led a march carrying placards that read 'The oceans are rising and so are we' and 'There is no planet B', from Lodhi Garden to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, to highlight the climate emergency.

I am very happy to share that presently our team is set to scale up the Bihar Living Soils campaign and is now working to take the model to Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

I thank you all for your continued support.

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE AIR TONIGHT

- **HAIR-LOSS¹** and baldness is accelerated by air pollution.
- Every three minutes **A CHILD DIES²** in India because of air pollution.
- **4.2 MILLION³** people die each year as a result of outdoor air pollution
- An increase in mental health issues like **DEPRESSION⁴** is linked to air pollution.
- **SILENT MISCARRIAGES⁵** and other pregnancy complications is linked to rising air pollution.
- Air pollution is linked to early death from respiratory diseases, **HEART DISEASE⁶**, stroke, and diabetes.

Air pollution across India has reached extremely hazardous levels several times in the past year, with Delhi recently recording AQI levels 20 times the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended limit. The release of our 'India's Worst No2 Emission Hotspots' report and our '**Global SO2 Hotspot and Emission Sources**' report, show that India is the number 1 when it comes to these toxic pollutants.

Our NASA OMI satellite data analysis proved that India is the world's largest emitter of sulphur dioxide (SO2). 2/3rds of man-made SO2 emissions are from coal and oil-burning power plants and refineries, while locomotives, ships and vehicles burning high sulfur-fuel are other contributors.

In December 2015, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (MoEFCC) introduced a deadline for coal power plants to control SO2 emissions by December 2017. This was later **extended to December 2019** for the Delhi-NCR region and 2022 for the rest of India. Only one power plant will meet the 2019 deadline.

NO2, which contributes to the formation of PM2.5, resulted in more than 6.7 lakh deaths in India in 2017. While the WHO's annual PM2.5 level guideline is 10µg/m3, India's standard level is 40µg/m3. Our NO2 satellite data analysis reaffirmed that coal-reliant, transport and industrial clusters are major NO2 hotspots.

Our Airpocalypse III report found that 139 cities violating National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) aren't included in the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Air pollution in our top polluting cities is so high that even the NCAP reduction target of 20-30% by 2024, will bring only 12 cities within WHO standards.

We have repeatedly urged the government to set city and sector-wise targets for emissions and invest in renewable energy. Public health must be prioritised and polluters must be penalised in order to stop a climate catastrophe.



SCHOOL STRIKERS TAKE A STAND

On September 20th, the Global Climate Strikes made waves across the world. What was initially sparked by 16-year old Greta Thunberg as an individual climate strike, has now spawned into a mass movement. In over 150 countries worldwide, students took to the streets three days before



the UN Climate Action Summit. We joined our allies - Fridays For Future - in the global strikes to demand immediate climate action.

In India, the movement incited both the youth and adults in over 130 cities to protest against government



inaction on 20th and 27th September. Greenpeace India joined the strikes in Delhi, Lucknow, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Uttarakhand. In Delhi, strikers were flanked by a huge Ravana float depicting a climate doomsday demon, that bore symbols of environmental destruction. Slogans echoed across the country, with powerful statements such as 'The oceans are rising and so are we', 'There is no Planet-B' and 'History has its eyes on you'.

To alleviate the climate crisis, earlier this year, we presented the government with a manifesto for policy changes needed in the areas of renewable energy, air pollution



and agriculture in India. We focused on clean energy for clean air, achieved through solar rooftops, electrification of transport, stricter emission standards and converting Non-Performing Assets in the energy sector. We also made several recommendations for transforming rural India through the spread of ecological agriculture.

Here are some of the most powerful photos capturing the frustration, anger and unity of the youth climate strike.



WHO STARTED IT?

“We didn’t start the fire, no we didn’t light it but we tried to fight it.” - Billy Joel



© Chris J Ratcliffe / Greenpeace

The Amazon rainforest made international headlines this year but it’s just one of many areas that battled raging infernos across the world. From Serbia to Spain and Alaska to the Amazon, massive wildfires destroyed ecosystems, land, property and lives.

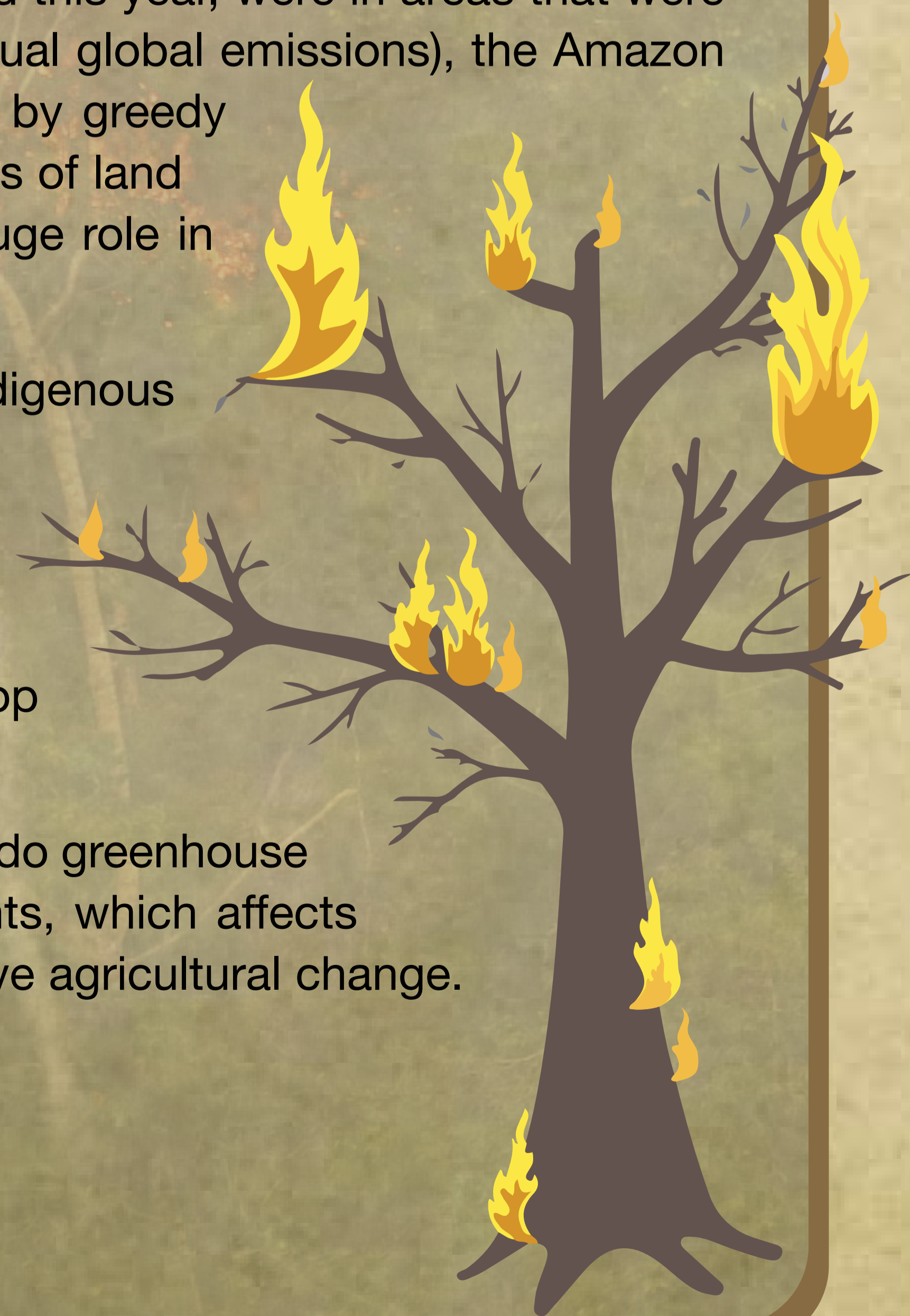
As one of the largest forest fire outbreaks in recent times, this threat is exceedingly alarming. However, it’s not a new occurrence. Forest fires have threatened the Amazon biodiversity and indigenous forest communities for years. Forest fires between January and August 2019, were **145% higher** in the Amazon forest region and **84% higher** across Brazil, as compared to the same period in 2018.

The Amazon is no stranger to deforestation. **75%** of the hot spots recorded this year, were in areas that were forest land in 2017. Absorbing **2 billion tons of CO2** in a year (5% of annual global emissions), the Amazon plays a crucial role in alleviating climate change. However, deforestation by greedy agro-industries supported by Bolsonaro’s government has levelled hectares of land for cattle and soya farms. Hence, the meat and dairy industries play a huge role in accelerating climate change.

Greenpeace has now been fighting for forest protection and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. We exposed Bolsonaro’s lies and put pressure on the Brazilian government to ensure they face consequences for their harmful policies. Additionally, we brought to light the connection between the meat industries and forest fires through a new campaign. We pushed McDonalds, Burger King and KFC, to take responsibility for their businesses impact and stop destroying forests for beef, soya and other materials.

Forest fires and climate change follow a vicious cycle. As fires increase, so do greenhouse gas emissions. This increases global warming and extreme weather events, which affects biodiversity and human health. We must end the use of fossil fuels and drive agricultural change. Without forests, we can’t protect the planet’s future or ours.

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GLOBAL & NATIONAL NEWS

Update from the Ocean



The Esperanza is journeying across the ocean to expose threats, peacefully confront environment destroyers and champion solutions for our oceans- namely a strong Global Ocean Treaty. From the changing Arctic climate to the impact of plastic pollution in the Sargasso Sea. From the plundering of the South Atlantic Sea by illegal industrial fishing vessels to the destruction of the hydrothermal vent seabed ecosystem in The Lost City, by deep-sea mining companies. Our team is documenting atrocities against the oceans.

To allow marine life in these areas to recover from the threats they're facing and to avoid an extreme climate breakdown, we need to put at least 1/3 of our oceans off-limits to harmful human activities by 2030. This August, **over 190 countries** came together at the United Nations to negotiate a historic Global Ocean Treaty that could help protect at least 30% of our seas by 2030.

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Call Out the Top Plastic Polluters

On October 2, PM Narendra Modi announced that India will phase out **single-use plastics by 2022**. In a recent interview with Doordarshan, we talked about our stand on single-use plastic.

90% of global plastic waste isn't recycled. While multinational companies make billions selling goods packaged in plastic, the onus of dealing with the waste they produce is passed onto consumers. While efforts to collect and recycle plastics packaging are important, they aren't a solution. According to a new Greenpeace report, Coca-Cola, Nestlé, and PepsiCo are the **top 3 plastic polluters** for the second year in a row. The FMCG industry must take responsibility for their products and packaging.

We need to force corporate polluters to end business models which rely on disposable products and packaging. They must consider redesign efforts, which have reuse and refill at the heart.

STRIVING TO SAVE OUR SOILS

The Bihar Living Soils (BLS) campaign kicked-off the quarter with the construction of 29 vermicomposting units and 3 concrete-floored cattle sheds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). We also conducted organic farming training in 10 villages. Together with the Kedia farming collective - Jivit Mati Kisan Samiti- we petitioned the District Magistrate of Jamui to build groundwater conservation structures.



We are proud to say that two more Jamui villages are receiving organic certification. Tari Dabil Village will be the first organic village developed with only MNREGA funds. For the next phase, we're taking the BLS model to Odisha and Chhattisgarh. We will continue to spread the model, for a flourishing and healthy food system.

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Impact Box

A hand across flooded lands

Disastrous extreme weather events have become **increasingly common** in India. This August, devastating floods wrecked the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, and Bihar, leaving behind destruction to homes, lives and infrastructure. To lend a helping hand, Greenpeace joined hands with NGO Goonj and organized flood relief donation camps in the Institute Of Home Economics, Hauz Khas. We also approached several Resident Welfare Associations and educational institutes, to spread awareness and raise funds for the flood-affected.

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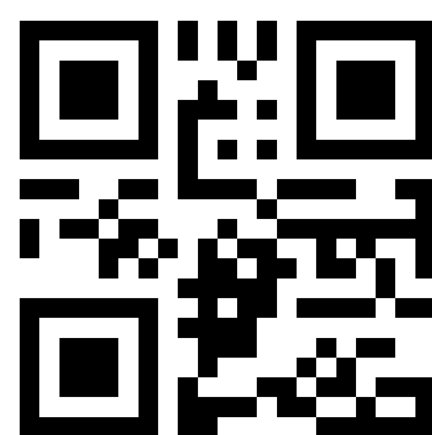
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**Edited, printed and published by Mousumi Dhar, Interim Executive Director
for Greenpeace Environment Trust.**

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