

GREENPEACE
Future.
ग्रीनपीस

WITNESS 3.20

VOL. 72

विश्वनाथ रेडकर
कर्मचारी संघ

श्रीधर शंकर शिंदे
#TowardsBetter



EDITORIAL

Binu Jacob
Executive Director
Greenpeace India

As India and the world eyes the progress and possibilities of the coronavirus vaccine by early next year, it's crucial for all of us to adhere to COVID-19 protocols.

In order to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic, Greenpeace India and its allies through our 'Circles of Solidarity' initiative procured sustainable and healthy farm produce from small and marginal farmers and provided for thousands of daily-wagers and migrants. It's clear that to achieve sustainable goals, we also need to be socially just.

To constructively engage in the policy-making process as citizens, we developed the "Green Recommendations" to be submitted to NITI Aayog. These are a draft guide for sustainable policies co-created and supported by thousands of Indians, in order to move towards better post-COVID.

On the Climate and Energy front, this International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, our volunteers across 20 cities hit the streets with creative messages on tackling air pollution. As humans, we are consumers and producers of stories and these acts need to be seen in the context of telling the stories of our time.

A new culture of work from home has given the privileged population flexibility with work while luxury cars gather dust. The upcoming mobility campaign tries to envisage a sustainable world which is just to all.

Whatever our contribution may be, it's because of the constant support from our supporters who are the driving force for our team. As we gear up for super exciting projects in the upcoming quarter, we must all be committed to flattening the pandemic curve to the best of our ability.

THE TIES THAT BIND US

Celebrated on August 9th each year, Bihar Earth Day or Bihar Prithvi Divas was conceptualised by the state Chief Minister in 2011 to spread awareness about the impacts of climate change. However, for the sustainable farming communities of Kedia and Tari Dabil village in Jamui district, the day is an occasion to celebrate and renew their commitment to protecting the environment and all its biodiversity.

We marked the occasion together with the two farming communities and the Jamui farming collective, Jeevit Mati Kisan Samiti, by tying rakhis to elements of the earth as a symbol of respect and gratitude. Rituals were performed on fields, cattle, wells, composting pits, trees and traditional



farm equipment. The organic farmers also reasserted their pledge to protect the ecology and not use any technology or potentially harmful agricultural inputs.

Through the implementation of the Greenpeace India Living Soils organic farming model, Kedia village has raised the organic carbon content in the soil, restored the groundwater table, and revived the naturally existing ecology.

When the COVID-19 pandemic left India's food systems flailing and countless without the means to feed their



families, Kedia and Tari Dabil village took on the mammoth responsibility of providing safe and nutritious organic food to the struggling local communities. Creating a strong and sustainable food system of production and distribution is a key element in building India's resilience against future disasters like the ongoing pandemic.

Earlier in July, over 2500 saplings were planted by the Tari Dabil farming community and the Greenpeace India team, in a drive to develop a six-acre Food & Biodiversity Park in the village. The Kedia community also planted around 800 saplings in an activity leading up to Bihar Earth Day. Initiatives like local community food parks have the potential to lower atmospheric carbon levels, raise incomes and improve the overall standard of living.



A BRIDGE TOWARDS BETTER

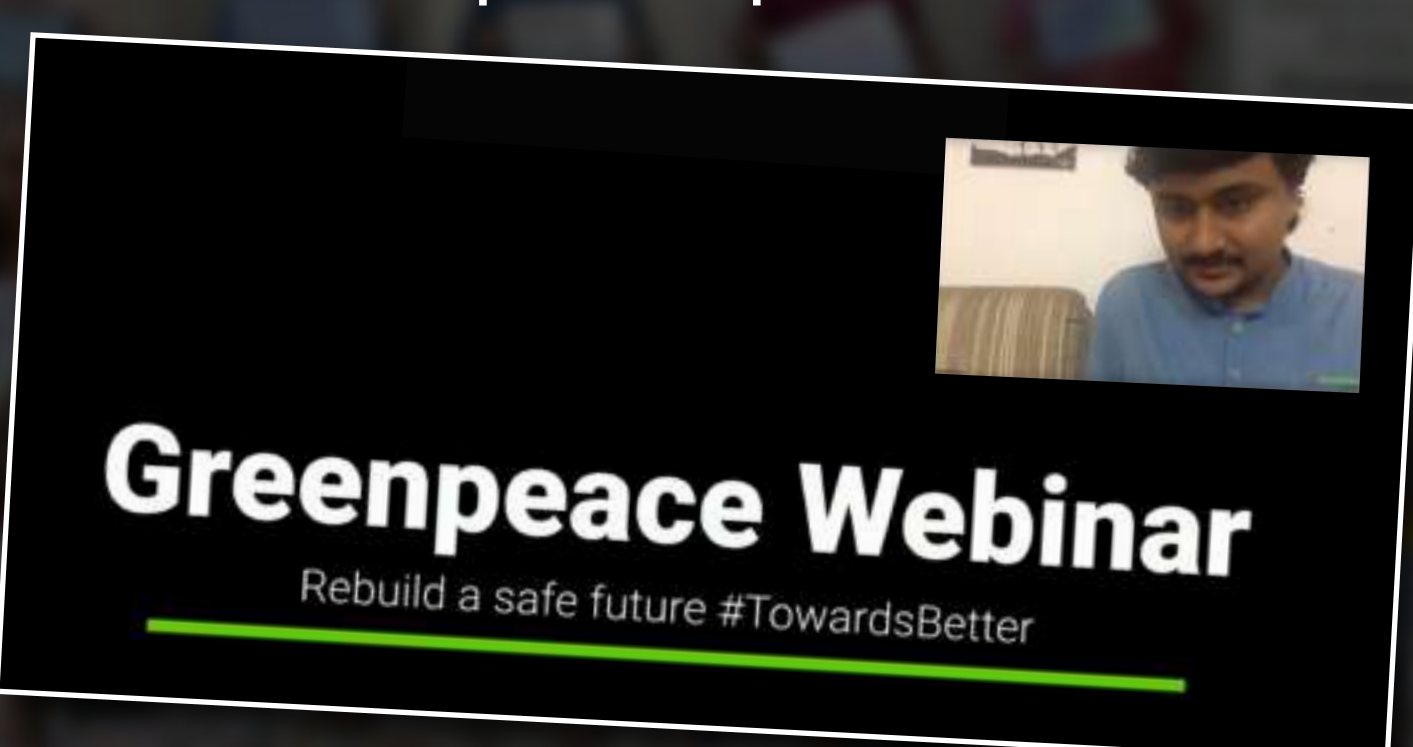
To say that India's existing food and livelihood systems cracked under the pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic is not enough to illustrate the suffering and struggles that lakhs of citizens have faced since March 2020.

The Green Recommendations **manifesto** of policy suggestions was created to urge our government to strategise a green recovery for India. So far, over **26,000** citizens have signed the petition for a green recovery and raised their voices to demand that India rebuild a safer future.

Investments need to be directed towards sectors that will assist in ensuring a sustainable recovery. Special focus must be on:

CLEAN ENERGY

In 2019, **80%** of Indian cities (231 out of 287) reported PM10 levels above the 60 µg/m3 safe limit prescribed by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Rather than providing more support to the polluting fossil fuel industry, the government must promote renewable energy projects. A switch to clean energy will also cut out the tonnes of water lost in coal power production and



generate over a million jobs by **2022**.

CLEAN TRANSPORT

The **toxic air** in our metropolitan cities is largely owed to emissions from transportation. The government must boost public transport systems and promote carbon-neutral transport (cycling and walking) and electronic vehicles for the sake of our health and economy.



SAFE FOOD

Decades of chemical-intensive agricultural practices have not only damaged our ecosystems but also reduced the nutritional levels of crops. Chemical-based farming has also resulted in a drop in India's food sovereignty. A food system based on sustainable farming will ensure nutritious food security and regenerate decaying ecosystems. This can be developed by providing subsidies for farmers, enhancing biomass production and **shortening** the food supply chain.

EMPOWERED FARMERS

By incentivising sustainable agriculture practices, and investing in food and biodiversity parks, more farmers will be encouraged to take up organic farming. Subsidies for installation of solar pumps and drip-irrigation systems should also be provided.

To build support for the Green Recommendations, two Greenpeace India activists set up a massive floating banner on the Devi River with the campaign message "Towards Better". Over the years, erratic warming, rainfall and wind spurred on by climate change have impacted crop productivity, livelihood development and poverty eradication efforts in the state.

Now, we're working towards building stronger systems of transport, food and energy by engaging with experts, thinkers, farmers, consumers and leaders through a series of webinars that discuss the existing systems, the problems and possible solutions.

This disruption in the world's normal routine is a rare opportunity to spark change. Let's stand together in support of better policies so India can move #TowardsBetter.



[READ MORE](#)

WHAT COST WILL YOU BEAR?

From January to June 2020, air pollution racked up a bill of approximately **98,000** lives and 56.5 billion dollars in Delhi, Tokyo, São Paulo, Shanghai and Mexico City (top five populous cities), despite the lockdowns imposed.

This shocking data was uncovered using a new digital tool developed by Greenpeace Southeast Asia and IQAir AirVisual, to calculate the health and economic cost of NO2 and PM2.5 pollution in cities since January 1st. The '**Cost Counter**' uses real-time air quality data, population and health data, and scientific risk models to estimate the figures.



How much is air pollution costing your city?

Please select your city

Created by [Greenpeace Southeast Asia](#) based on [IQAir](#) data

The tool also revealed that air pollution in Delhi claimed around **24,000** lives and Rs 26,230 crore (**5.8%** of Delhi's annual GDP) in the first half of 2020. Any improvements made in air quality during the lockdown were quickly **lost** once the restrictions were lifted.

According to the WHO, air pollution kills approximately **7 million** people every year through lung cancer, stroke, pneumonia and heart disease. Prolonged exposure to polluted air **increases** the severity of COVID-19 infections, especially in those already suffering breathing issues.

The clear and present dangers of fossil fuel-powered air pollution cannot be avoided. Governments and leaders across the world must ensure that their economic recovery plans are in-line with global sustainability goals especially in the areas of clean energy, food security and development.

City	Total Population	Estimated Premature Deaths	Estimated Economic Cost
Tokyo	37 million	29,000	US\$31 billion
Delhi	30 million	24,000	US\$3.5 billion
Shanghai	26 million	27,000	US\$13 billion
São Paulo	22 million	7,300	US\$3.5 billion
Mexico City	22 million	11,000	US\$5.5 billion

Source: Greenpeace Southeast Asia/IQAir AirVisual cost of air pollution counter. Population source: [United Nations World Population Prospects](#) e .

[READ MORE](#)

GLOBAL & NATIONAL NEWS

Bt Brinjal Makes Its Debut



Genetically-modified (GM) Bt Brinjal is set to undergo field trials in **eight states** across India. Bt Brinjal is said to cut out the need for pesticides due to a modified gene that produces a toxin to kill plant-boring pests. However, it is still susceptible to other pests. Determining the long-term effects of Bt Brinjal requires decades of study. After years of campaigning and public opposition, the government enforced a 10-year moratorium on February 9th, 2010.

Oil On The Water, Fire In The Sky

It took **110 days** for Oil India Limited (OIL) to douse the fire at the Baghjan oilfield in Assam, yet the gas leak rages on. What started as a gas blowout, caused irreversible damage to the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Maguri-Motapung wetland. This calamity left **two dead, 70 hectares destroyed, 11,000 displaced** and numerous marine life and wildlife dead. **Severe penalties** must be enforced. We cannot compromise lives and precious ecosystems for dirty energy.

The Heat Is On In California

Over **3.2 million acres** have been wiped-out in California's deadliest wildfire season. **100,000** residents were evacuated as the state faced the world's **worst air quality**. Wildlife is being killed off, and precious ecosystems are being destroyed. As air pollution peaks, Californians will face a greater health risk from COVID-19. Climate change is intensifying extreme weather events and fossil-fuels are a key contributor. California is the top **oil producing** in the country.



© David McNew / Greenpeace

A HISTORIC DAY FOR THE FUTURE

Observing the **first-ever** International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, hundreds of citizens across India raised their voices in support of clean air. The day highlights the impacts of air pollution and the need for collective action. This year's theme #CleanAirForAll, focused on how clean air offers benefits to our health, environment and economy. Greenpeace India called on citizens to pledge to #ProtectBlue and share why they consider blue skies important. Our volunteers set out in costumes and protective gear to distribute roses to cyclists and campaign for clean air outside India Gate and Qutub Minar and the Red Fort.



Impact Box

A New Lake On Life

Once a sewage-filled breeding ground for dengue mosquitoes, Sanjay Lake in East Delhi now has a new life. Years of negligence had led the rainwater lake to becoming a cesspool of toxic waste. Citizen activists Vivek Shrivastava and Mohit Relan, took on the challenge and transformed the lake over 10 months. Cleanliness and plantation drives turned the shrunk hyacinth-laden lake into a thriving ecosystem. This was possible thanks to residents, Greenpeace volunteers, allied organisations and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

GREENPEACE

ग्रीनपीस

Greenpeace does not solicit or accept funding from governments, corporations or political parties.

Greenpeace is fiercely independent and survives on donations solely from individuals like you.

Supporter Services

Email: supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org

Phone: 1800 425 0374 (Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 6:00pm)

New address/email/ phone number?

Email your current contact information to
supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org

**If working for a cause and increasing awareness
is what you are looking for, then write to us:**

careers.india@greenpeace.org

www.facebook.com/greenpeaceindia/

www.greenpeace.org/india

<https://twitter.com/greenpeaceindia>

Greenpeace Office

Chennai:

No. 49/23, 2nd Cross Street, Ellaiamman Colony, Gopalapuram, Chennai - 600 086

T: 1800 425 4594

Bengaluru:

No: 173, 9th Cross 1st Stage, Indira Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 038

T: 080 411 54862

**Edited, printed and published by Binu Jacob, Executive Director
for Greenpeace Environment Trust.**

Donate Now!



Paytm



100% Recycled paper