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EDITORIAL

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Hope the tiding of your life is favourable while the pandemic, related social and economic issues keep throwing curveballs to test our resilience. At the same time, it provides a rare opportunity for humanity to reconsider its priorities. Hence, Greenpeace has envisioned campaigns that push for an equitable society.

As some sections of society can work flexibly, it has reduced commute and in turn traffic and pollution. At the same time, some jobs require commuting. The question is can it be done sustainably? IQAir '**World Air Quality** Report 2020' suggests 22 out of the world's 30 most polluted cities are in India. Greenpeace's Cost of Air Pollution estimated **54,000** avoidable deaths in Delhi, in 2020. These are grim realities but we need to ACT.

We are working with different stakeholders, with communities and conducting listening exercises to hear them out. This helps us design interventions for our new 'Detox City' campaign. I urge you to follow our digital space for regular updates.

Bihar Living Soils team under #IGrowWithNature has facilitated 150 women in setting up organic kitchen gardens. These women belong to the most marginalized communities. Through this, they have increased their savings and provided their families with fresh and nutritious food. The office-bearers of Jeevit Mati Kisan Samiti were invited by the Bihar Government to participate in pre-budget consultations.

India is said to be witnessing the second wave of COVID-19, while we have vaccines, we still need to strictly follow the protocols, and resolve to fight the pandemic. Stay Safe, Stay Healthy.

NEW SHOOTS OF CHANGE?



Did you know Bihar was among the states **worst-affected** by climate change? Erratic and extreme weather like cold waves and floods have severely impacted the lives and livelihoods of Bihar's small and marginal farmers. On top of this, they also struggle to get fair prices, and source quality native seeds.

Since November 2020, our Living Soils team has been working with Jamui district's farmers to build a sustainable source of income, strengthen food security and revive biodiversity. Through #IGrowWithNature, over 150 women have set up organic kitchen gardens, with over 15 types of vegetables growing.

These women hail from the vulnerable tribal and Dalit communities of six Jamui villages. Our team recently held a workshop on preparing eco-fertiliser and pest management solutions. This knowledge has helped many farmers cut out chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

Empowering these women has helped them save money, feed their families fresh nutritious food daily, protect their health and restore their fields. Together we're building models of a sustainable food system through five steps:

☀️ Knowledge co-creation (Indigenous knowledge & the latest scientific developments)

☀️ Redefining food and nutritional security & sovereignty from a gender perspective

☀️ Identifying cracks in the existing food system & ways to mend them ecologically

☀️ Developing community & individual-owned seed banks to preserve native diversity

☀️ Farmer-to-farmer sharing of essentials to shift towards an ecological lifestyle

In February, three farmers representing the Jivit Mati Jaivik collective of Jamui were invited to participate in pre-budget consultations, with top government officials. The trio presented three **recommendations** to boost ecological agriculture.



① To increase farmers income by procuring more grains and pulses from Bihar farmers at the minimum support price.

② To boost ecological farming with fair budgets to incentivise organic farmers and promote organic kitchen gardening.

③ To provide higher investments for creating decentralised infrastructures for soil and water conservation.

India is the **5th** most vulnerable country to climate change. Sadly, the 2021 Agricultural **budget** has not met the high expectations set in the Union Budget 2020. To make our food systems resilient and sustainable, we need concrete proposals. Slowly but surely we can turn India green.

BUILDING THE CITIES OF THE FUTURE

Can you imagine being stuck in traffic for ten days straight? This seemingly bizarre reality is the fate of car users in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi; three of the world's **10** most traffic-congested cities in 2020. Over the years, private vehicles across India have soared and along with it, traffic, pollution, the price of fuel and health issues.

The unsustainable transport sector is one of the biggest culprits of air pollution. According to the IQAir **'World Air Quality Report 2020'**



that studied PM2.5 emissions, 22 out of the world's 30 most polluted cities are in India. While Delhi saw a 15% decline in pollution, it remained the top polluted capital city.

Delhi racked up an estimated **54,000** avoidable deaths in 2020 according to the Greenpeace digital Cost Estimator tool which calculates the real-time health impact and economic cost of air pollution. Major cities across South India suffered similarly, as pollution remained above the WHO safe limit of $10\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ despite a decline in PM2.5.



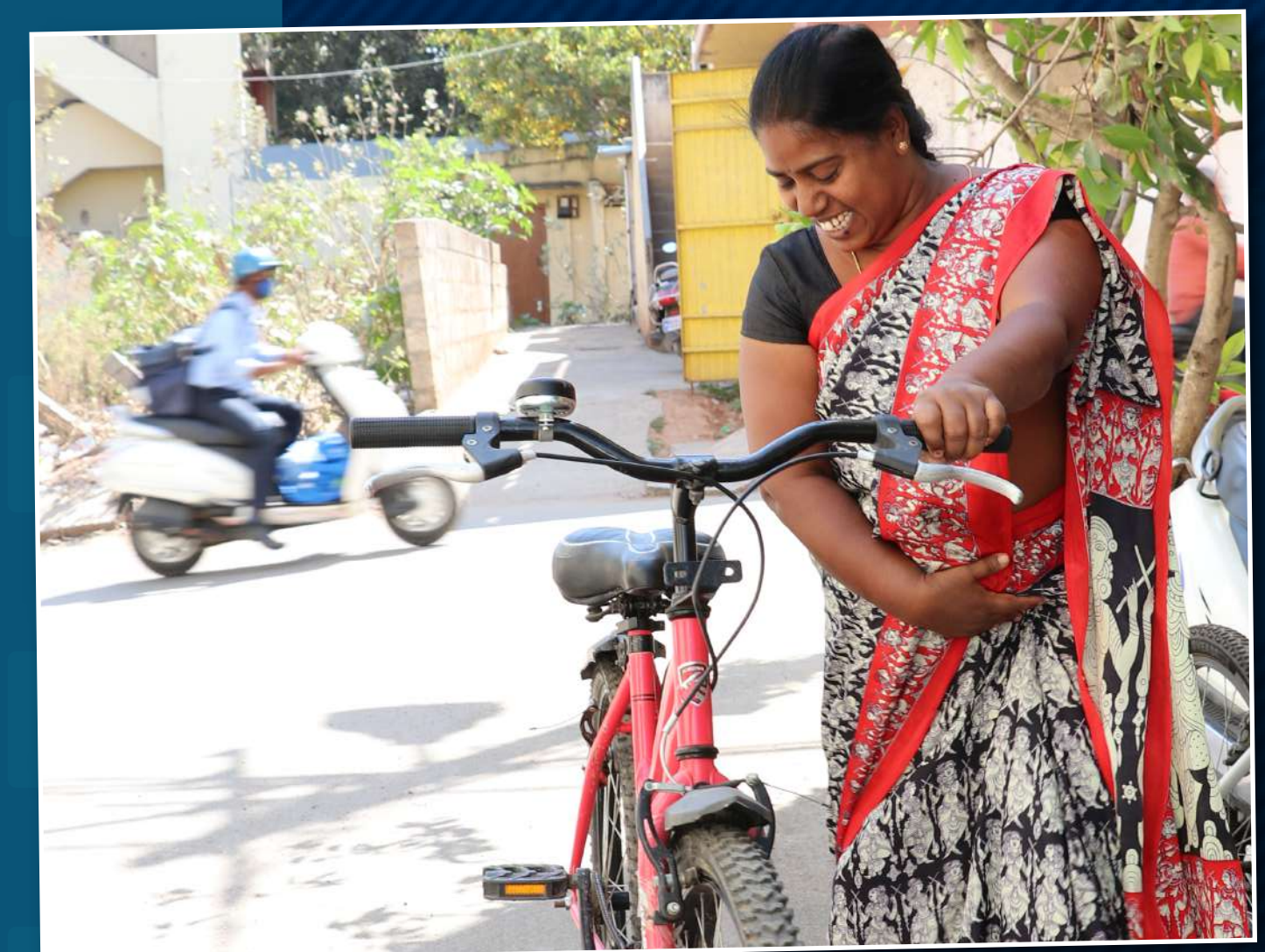
Our new Detox City campaign aims to drive a change in mindsets in order to transform urban mobility. The first step is to capture the emotions and experiences of diverse mobility users, through a series of focus group discussions (FGD) with different sections of society. As part of the listening tour, our volunteers interviewed citizens during a unique showcase of outdated "Carzillas" in Delhi.

We also collaborated with Feminism In India (FII) to highlight the unfair impacts of air pollution on women and marginalised communities. Women faced added challenges of safety, comfort and convenience when shifting to sustainable modes of transport. A feminist approach to mobility must provide non-motorised transport and promote free or low-cost public transport.



Through our new **Power the Pedal** initiative, 500 women from Bengaluru's vulnerable garment worker community, will now commute to work on cycles. This is one more step of theirs towards more independence with sustainability. Their action can be an inspiration for you, me and many others to also join the sustainability movement.

If more people switch to sustainable transport our cities will be cleaner,



healthier and more equitable. We're urging citizens to pledge to avoid using their car or motorbike for one day a week, in favour of public transport, walking or cycling.

Across the globe, cities are embracing a 'new normal' of transport with a focus on better cycling and pedestrian facilities. In the Union Budget '21, the government allotted **Rs. 2217 crores** to tackle air pollution in 42 urban cities but it isn't clear how the funds will be utilized. To help save the **1 million** lives lost to air pollution in India annually, we must rebuild our cities around sustainable mobility.

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AN OCEAN OF WORRY

With the onset of Covid, regular life came to a screeching halt. But one thing that continued relentlessly is the devastating destruction of Earth's oceans. Industrial fishing, pollution, mining and climate change have pushed this vital resource to the breaking point.

As part of the Protect the Oceans campaign, Greenpeace ships sailed an epic voyage from the North to the South Pole. The team revealed wonders that lie beneath the oceans and confronted the threats they face.

The Greenpeace ship, Arctic Sunrise is now sailing the Indian Ocean, where the team found widespread use of **illegal driftnets**. They are also studying the Saya de Malha Bank, an important habitat that is home to massive seagrass meadows which act as one of the world's



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biggest carbon sinks.

Our oceans provide food and livelihoods for millions who live along coastal regions. By working with these communities and carrying out research, we can prove to governments around the world why all oceans need protection.

Greenpeace is calling on world leaders to enforce a strong Global Ocean Treaty to protect **30%** of the oceans by 2030 by setting up sanctuaries that are off-limits to human activity. These would allow marine ecosystems to build resilience against climate change. Later this year, world leaders will decide whether to increase ocean protection or allow destruction to continue.

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GLOBAL & NATIONAL NEWS

Uttarakhand Sees A Flood of Deja Vu

On 7 February 2021, news of a glacier burst in Uttarakhand shook India in a disaster similar to 2013. After a chunk of the Nanda Devi glacier broke off, flash floods ravaged Chamoli district, leaving **72** dead and damage worth **INR 1500** crore to two power projects. Erratic development and increasing human activity in this eco-sensitive region are making it more **vulnerable** to climate change. Development cannot be at the cost of local communities and the environment.

Odisha Under Fire

A biodiversity hotspot, Odisha's Simlipal National Park, was severely struck by wildfires in March. An extremely dry winter led to a build-up of dry vegetation which provided the perfect tinder for fires to spread. Over the last 5 months, Odisha witnessed **29,580** forest fires. The frequency of forest fires across India has **increased** over the years. This is an ecological disaster and a crisis for the indigenous communities who rely on the forests for their food and livelihoods.

Israel On A Slippery Slope

In one of the worst ecological disasters that Israel has ever seen, over 1000 tons of tar mysteriously washed up along **90%** of Israel's 195-kilometre coastline in February. While the cause of the spill is yet to be ascertained, there has been extensive environmental damage and loss of wildlife. The government must take serious action to end the age of oil and focus on a green recovery package based on climate-friendly solutions and technologies.



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NEW LEAF, NEW LOOK

As part of our Detox City campaign to transform urban mobility, Greenpeace India supporters and volunteers conducted a cleanup and plantation drive at the Bangalore City Railway Station in Bengaluru on 7th, March, 2021. The drive aimed to improve the tree cover around the railway station which is a major transport hub. This will provide commuters with a better, cleaner and more accessible experience while helping to revive biodiversity. For urban mobility to be sustainable, public transport must be accessible, well-maintained and accommodative of everyone's needs.



Impact Box

Certified Green Growers!

On 26th January, 45 farmers from the Jivit Mati Kisan Samiti farmer collective of Kedia village, Bihar, were certified as organic producers. They are the first group in Bihar to officially receive the certificate. Through the Living Soils ecological farming model, Kedia's farmers have completely cut out the use of chemical pesticides. The community has established a sustainable and self-reliant food system that has increased their income and improved their health.

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