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GREENPEACE
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EDITORIAL

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Life seems to inch closer to the state before Covid at the same time some of us have lost dear friends and family in the pandemic and others have lost their livelihood. With humility, we look to learn from the pandemic and build back better and greener.

The climate and energy campaign team released the “[Behind the Smokescreen](#)” report, which revealed an unprecedented spike in NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide) levels in India’s most populous state capitals. As it seemed ‘business as usual’ for polluters, very rightly, the World Health Organization (WHO) updated its air quality guidelines for the first time in 15 years, re-asserting the need for clean air for all. While we champion clean air, the [Detox city campaign](#) continues to advocate the transition to clean and sustainable transport. Greenpeace volunteers with our allies are engaged in a survey with bus users to understand the challenges of public transport, document individual stories and come up with suggestions to authorities based on the same.

The [Food for Future](#) campaign has gained momentum with the team making a case for nutritional security and the role of sustainable food systems in tackling climate change. [Reports](#) suggest India has a sizable population of underweight and undernourished children and mothers. To highlight the importance of nutrition, this National Nutrition Week, Greenpeace India engaged with a few schools in Maharashtra and Bihar, highlighting the importance of ecologically grown food and nutritional security. The project is also asking consumers to add a millet meal to their diet. Consumers are also encouraged to buy local, sustainable and climate-resilient produce.

The team is also eyeing COP26, which we hope will accelerate climate action commitments swiftly.

RAISING THE BAR FOR OUR CITIES

If you face the same monster every day, eventually you get used to its presence. This is how we have come to live alongside toxic air pollution for decades. A recent study revealed that air pollution can reduce the life expectancy of Indians by six years. When will it be enough?

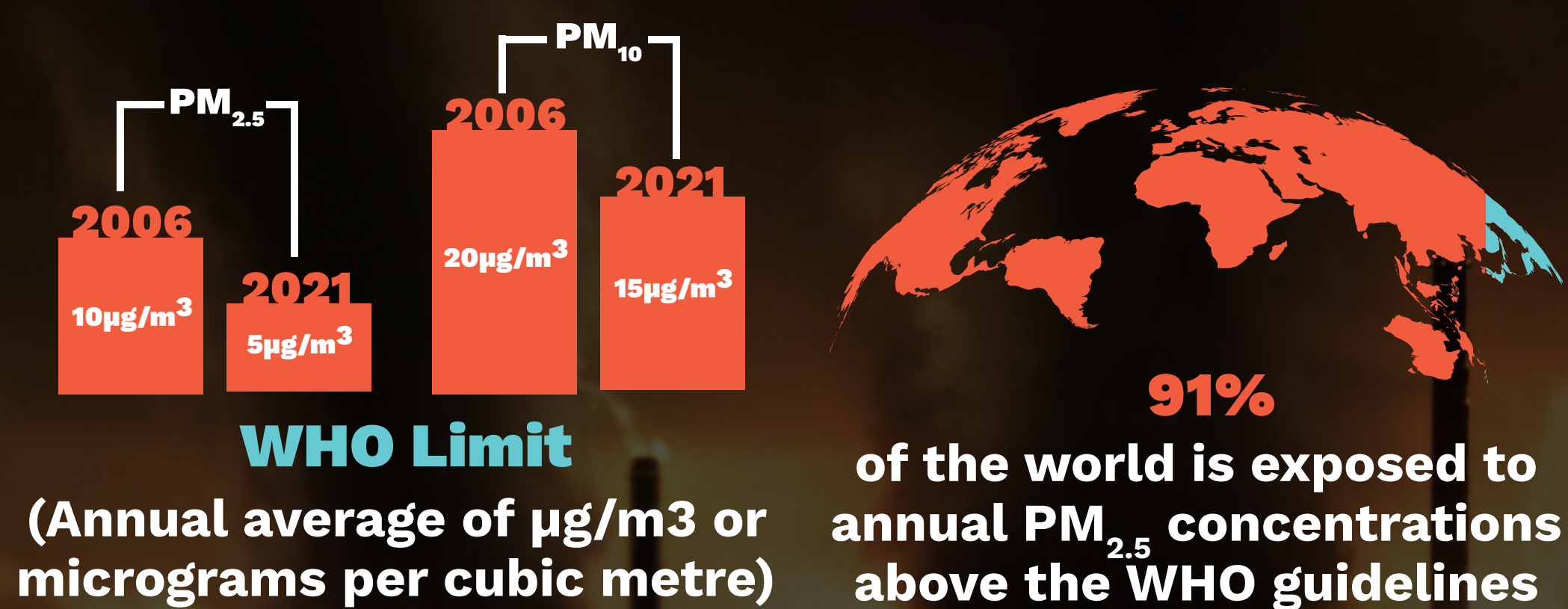
This July, we released the “[Behind the Smokescreen](#)” report, which revealed a spike in NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide) levels in India’s 8 most populous state capitals from April 2020 to 2021. NO₂ exposure can severely impact our respiratory, circulatory systems and increase the risk of death.

After 15 years, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently updated its air quality guidelines, highlighting the levels of air pollutants exposure beyond which human health is critically affected. India must urgently revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standards based on these guidelines.

Now is the time to transition to clean and sustainable energy sources and mobility systems. Our Detox City campaign aims to transform urban mobility to create better cities. We are now reimagining public transport. Our volunteers are conducting a survey with bus commuters in Delhi to understand their challenges, highlight individual stories and develop recommendations to improve the user experience.

Sadly, during city planning, the commuting needs of low-wage earning women are sidelined, as roads continue to expand. Through our Power The Pedal project, women labourers in Bengaluru and Delhi are choosing the cycle as their own safe, affordable, independent and sustainable mode of transport.

THERE’S, NO ‘SAFE LEVEL’ OF EXPOSURE TO POLLUTION

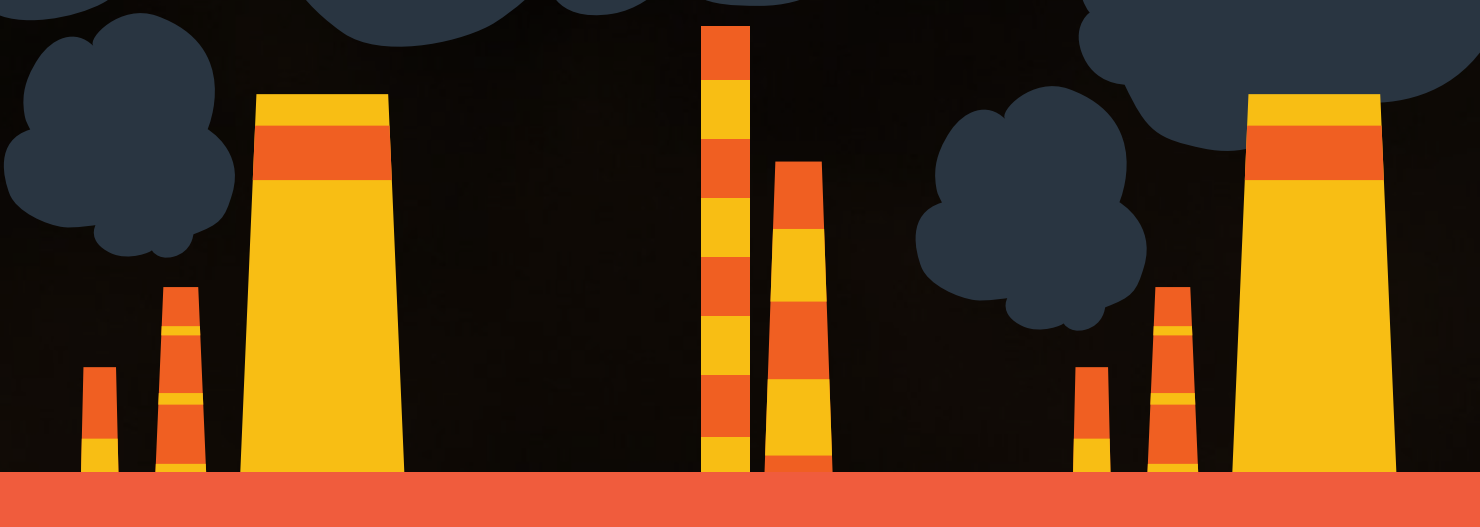


WHO Limit
(Annual average of µg/m³ or micrograms per cubic metre)



4.5 million premature deaths annually can be linked to air pollution from fossil fuels

Burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) for energy and transport is a key source of pollution



We’ve been working with a leading cycle manufacturer to develop customised cycles for these women. In phase 1, 500 cycles will be distributed to women engaged in domestic work in Delhi and garment factory labourers in Bangalore. Join us as we reimagine and raise the bar for our cities.

SOWING SEEDS OF FOOD SECURITY

Did you know that India is home to a massive food insecure population despite having enough food for everyone? As the pandemic affected livelihoods in 2020, it also created a ripple effect and increased the food-insecure population five times as nutrition levels plummeted. To top it off, as the 7th most vulnerable country to climate change, India's food and nutrition is also heavily impacted by extreme weather.



In rural India, 63.3% of people cannot afford the 'Cost of a Recommended Diet' (**CoRD**). In fact, [reports](#) show a disturbingly high rate of undernourished mothers which has resulted in underweight, undernourished newborns and infants. To highlight the reality of India's nutritional security Greenpeace India's Food For Future campaign celebrated National Nutrition Week from 1st to 7th September.

With the help of our allies Doorstep School, we reached out to over 80 students from four Maharashtra districts. We engaged with them on the importance of healthy nutrition and the importance of sustainable farming to tackle the ongoing climate crisis. Our team also showcased relevant videos that talked about the advantages of ecologically grown produce vs industrially grown food. We also encouraged students and supporters to take the Millet Meal Pledge to add millets to their regular diet as a sustainable and climate-resilient source of nutrition.

Chemically fortified foods are being sold as the ultimate cure for the food crisis but this is a false solution. Among other sustainable options, Home organic kitchen gardens (OKGs) have proved to be a safer, resilient, sustainable and dependable solution to lessen the impacts of the struggling and contaminated food systems, for both small farmers and urban consumers.

For National Nutrition Week, we amplified the story of over 150 women eco-warriors in rural Bihar who are growing over 16 types of vegetables and fruits in their home organic kitchen gardens. In spite of a loss of income during the lockdown, these women were able to grow enough food to share with other families in their village, thanks to the 'I Grow With Nature' initiative.

Our Food For Future campaign is focused on building the resilience of farmers and strengthening India's food system through the spread of ecological agriculture. As we plan our journey for the next few years, we are reaching out to all our supporters to understand the daily challenges around access to safe food.

Join the movement to strengthen India's food security and choose locally and sustainably grown produce for the sake of our health and the planet.



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THIS IS A CODE RED

It's been said time and again, the climate emergency is here! A milestone report written by the world's top climate scientists from the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) gave a stark warning about the Earth's fate if urgent action isn't taken.

The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report said that the extreme weather events we are facing will only worsen for decades, if not centuries. Today, CO2 levels are at the highest they have been in 2 million years!

This has led to a rise in land and ocean temperatures, increased ocean acidification, shrinking glaciers, melting ice sheets in Greenland and a rapid rise in sea levels. In the last decade itself, global surface temperatures have risen faster than we've seen in over 2000 years.

While it linked rising air pollution to the climate crisis, the IPCC also said that we can still limit global warming to 1.5°C. How? With bold and strong climate action. Reducing anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions globally is the answer.

We cannot keep relying on fossil fuels for our energy and transportation needs. Governments and corporations must quickly transition to 100% renewable energy in all sectors, especially transport, energy and industries.



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GREENPEACE INDIA'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

A Shoulder to Lean On

When we face a collective crisis, it is our duty as a society to help communities tide through the challenges. With the devastating second wave of Covid-19, came a surge of unemployment. Many families didn't have sufficient money for rent, let alone food. As a result, India's food insecure population rose **five** times in 2020 and millions went hungry.

Through Circles of Solidarity 2.0, Greenpeace India and its allies worked to support these communities. Together with local sustainable farmers, we helped procure ration kits for vulnerable families, many of whom had lost their daily-wage jobs due to the pandemic.

With the support of our allies, we procured organic produce from over 130 sustainable farmers in phase 2 of Circles of Solidarity. We then distributed dry ration kits to 210 families from Bangalore's Munnade and Garment Labour Union communities, and 200 families from Tamil Nadu's marginalised Irular & Narikuravar tribe. We thank our allies, Sahaja Organics, Cividep and Organic Farmers Market.

Families faced an intense battle; on one hand, there was the possibility of a Covid-19 infection and on the other hand, there was the reality of a hunger crisis. With mental health declining and anxiety on the rise, we organized online art therapy sessions to help communities heal and develop a positive mindset.

As hospitals struggled with falling oxygen supplies, Greenpeace East Asia sent oxygen concentrators to some of the most affected areas in India, as part of our global Covid-19 response work. Greenpeace India facilitated and coordinated the distribution of 30 oxygen concentrators to rural Telangana along with 30 each to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in phase 1.





50 YEARS OF GREENPEACE

15th September 2021 marked 50 years since 12 young activists embarked on a voyage to stop nuclear testing off the coast of Alaska. This one action in 1971, gave birth to a global environmental movement that the world now knows as Greenpeace. As we hit half a century amidst a raging pandemic and the looming climate crises, the celebrations were largely muted. Instead, we used the occasion as a moment of reflection. A pause to think about our journey and what makes us who we are; you. Now more than ever, we must stand together and take action against those threatening our home - planet earth. As long as you continue to dream and fight for a green and peaceful world, we will hold on to hope and keep on fighting.



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Impact Box

Battles Won, Now The War

After four years of campaigning by Greenpeace India and other allies, the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was announced in January 2019. The NCAP is a national-level strategy to tackle air pollution by reducing particulate matter levels by 20% to 30% by 2024. However, almost 4 years after its introduction, the NCAP still does not include all polluted cities. In March 2021, state representatives signed an MoU to urgently execute action plans in 132 cities. The government recently included eight more polluted cities under NCAP, including Chennai, Rajkot, Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Jabalpur, Vasai-Virar, Meerut and Faridabad. We now need strict implementation and monitoring of the NCAP.

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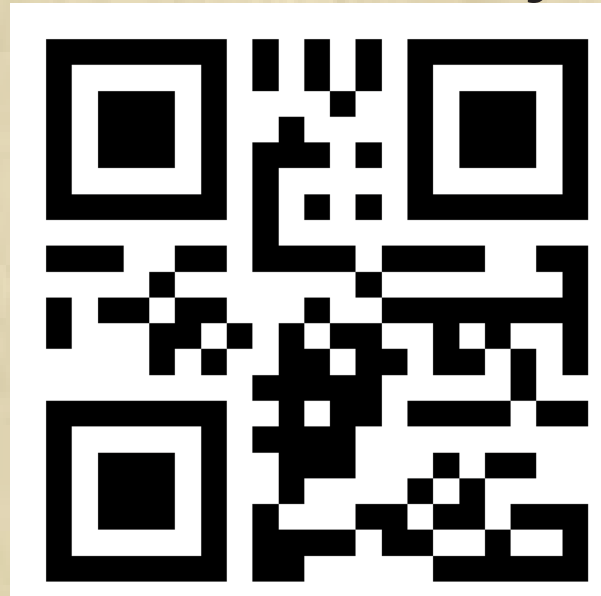
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