



# CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



Seedling in an organic field. © Vivek M. / Greenpeace

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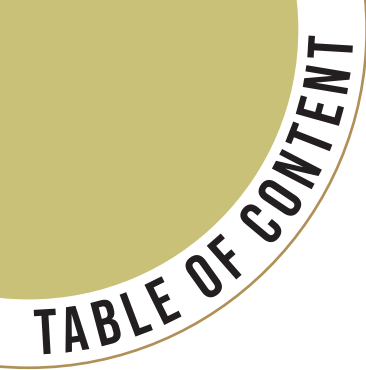
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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Now is the pandemic a black swan event ? Maybe or maybe not, we cannot argue though the major disruptions caused by it, the loss of life, changing norms of interaction and work, the difficulty for dignified life especially for the marginalized in the society. While the initial wave was paralyzing, soon individuals and responsible organisations stepped in to act in whatever manner they could. At Greenpeace India, our work was impacted and so were the team members. As our responsibility, we made contributions to the PMNRF but importantly created the 'Circle of Solidarity' building a bridge between farmers groups, consumers and reaching out to the most vulnerables. The initiative provided healthy farm produce to stranded migrants, daily-wagers and homeless and meals at community kitchens.

If anything the Covid pandemic was a reminder that the balance of nature is crucial for humans to thrive. Sometimes the worst times also provide opportunities for us to build back better, Greenpeace approached the Government of India with a set of 'Green Recommendations' for rebuilding a better future for all.

Meanwhile our teams kept up the work on the mobility campaign and Food for future (FFF) initiatives, with the focus on limiting carbon emission while being just and equitable. The mobility campaign champions for a clean, equitable, feasible and accessible transport system. While in FFF, we are working with hundreds of small and marginal women farmers in Bihar, to develop nutritional kitchen gardens and to strengthen our food diversity. Both the campaigns aim to enable a mindset shift that prioritizes health of self and the planet both need the same action.

I am very grateful to all our supporters and donors, for continuing to support and believe in the work we do.

Binu Jacob, Executive Director-Greenpeace India



Glass-bangled hands balance a laden tray of cement on  
her sari covered head

Mud caked feet tighten their grip on the makeshift  
wooden frame of a high-rise, his body leans forward to  
cement bricks at a precarious height of thirty feet and  
more

Curved fingers numb to the touch of a needle,  
her deft wrist orchestrates the placement of one button  
upon another, adding glamour to a designer shirt

Hardened palms greased with grime, his meticulous  
engineering revives a dying motor vehicle

Wrinkled hands camouflaged in bubbles of soap,  
her experienced touch washes, dries and smoothens the  
garments, until they come unwrinkled

Cracked feet cave footprints in damp soil, his sinewy  
limbs weed urban forests, dress terrace gardens.

Hands and feet that give our cities their magnificent  
place on the map of world metros

Gather their everyday belongings ... they trudge home  
to faraway hamlets, their little children, their aged  
parents, keeping step, scaling the endless roads

By the light of the scorching sun they walk, they run

No water to moisten their parched lips, nor food to  
fuel their arduous homeward exodus.

This mass exodus of migrant workers amidst a raging  
pandemic, a blemish in the heart of democracy.

This democracy has a soul.

The soul of the fellow citizen isn't dead.

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

## HEART AND SOUL FOR FELLOW CITIZENS

An escalating pandemic brought with it a national lockdown. Loss of work. Homelessness. Hunger. Fear. And a yearning among skilled and semi-skilled toiling lives that build our nation to return to the shelter of their homes, many tucked in the remote, often difficult-to-access pockets of the country.

*'Millions of people had lost their jobs – the pandemic had emotionally ripped us ... we were not in control, and were witnessing a mass exodus of people,'* recalls Rohin Kumar, Communications Officer, Greenpeace India.

*'These people, all migrants from India's rural heartlands were not beggars – they worked and lead dignified lives as daily wage earners in the cities they came to in search of jobs,'* points out Ishteyaqe Ahmad, Greenpeace India's Senior Campaigner for Sustainable Agriculture.

Now, in the face of a lockdown, and the looming uncertainties of a novel pandemic showcasing its surprise cards, the builders of the nation who represent the unorganised workforce of India, were suddenly without jobs. Overnight, the very cities that had used their services, rendered them homeless, hungry and insecure.

*'It was a time when Greenpeace campaigners too, were locked up at home, wondering how to respond to the situation,'* reminisces Ishteyaqe. *'From the confines of our homes, we didn't have a great idea about how to put ourselves out to migrant workers who have lost their jobs, are penniless and hungry.'*

## DO OR DIE

*'It was also a time when Binu Jacob had joined as Executive Director of Greenpeace India, and, in the face of a challenging pandemic, wanted us to do something impactful and visible, something big, risking ourselves and our job security if it came to that,'* reveals Ishteyaqe.

Heart on the idea of creating a high impact campaign, Binu and his team of campaigners came up with the sustainable idea of reaching out to migrant workers who have lost their jobs, and making it doubly profitable at that. *'We wanted to treat these wage earners with dignity – they work*

*hard for their living, and what we sought to do would have to be respectful, and not seem like food is being distributed out of pity,'* emphasises Ishteyaqe.

The campaigners decided that Greenpeace intervention should endeavour to orchestrate an act of solidarity, with sustainable farmers supporting their working friends.

*'And Binu came up with the campaign term Circles of Solidarity,'* reveals Ishteyaqe.

## TOWARDS CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

In 2020, while exploring new possibilities for the organisation's Clean Air campaign, Greenpeace India's Senior Campaigner for Climate and Energy, Avinash Kumar Chanchal realised how the pandemic had collapsed the system. *'We had to stop on-ground activities, and, with movements being restricted under lockdown, saw how people had no food,'* he says. *'The pandemic had exposed the system. There was a failure of medical care, and the economy was in shambles – it was time to show our solidarity with the masses.'*

With the farmers in trouble and marginalised labourers in huge crises, Greenpeace India campaigners brainstormed to arrive at an all-encompassing solution.

*'A United Nations report talks of how the pandemic has pushed hundreds of millions into hunger,'* explains Rohin. *'So, what is the solution to this food crisis? We talked of how, while extending our hands to mitigate the hunger issues, we also needed to look at nutritional security.'*

*'We were dreaming of a just and sustainable world, and so linked climate justice and humanitarian work to create a circle. We connected with sustainable farmers, the urban middle class and migrant labourers to create the campaign for Circles of Solidarity,'* explains Avinash. *'We procured ration from farmers directly, and distributed food kits to migrant labours.'*

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

## THE SUSTAINABLE CIRCLE: FARMERS-MIGRANT LABOURERS - URBAN MIDDLE CLASS

*'We had the option of purchasing rations from the market and distributing kits to migrant workers, but we had another, sustainable plan,' reveals Ishteyaque. 'We thought we should purchase produce from sustainable farmers, that too, at their rate. So, we gave the premium to farmers who had been impacted by the lockdown.'*

And rightly so, if one were to examine the situation from the perspective of climate justice.

*'In the last few years, extreme weather events have impacted farmers, and to cap that there is government apathy, which is a running theme,' points out Ishteyaque. 'Firstly, given this scenario, we thought we should work with sustainable farmers. We decided to procure rations only from small and marginal sustainable farmers from across five geographies including Bihar, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore. It is imperative to note that small and marginal farmers are workers as well – they are partial farmers and partial workers. When their work is low, their earning is less. So, we identified two regions in Bihar – Jamui in the first phase, and in the second phase, Shoehar in the Terai region of Himalaya, which is prone to natural calamities. Secondly, given that farmers are facing multiple challenges in ensuring food security of the nation, we cannot expect them to mend all broken links of the food system. They are not the cause, but are expected to mend all problems. So, why should the farmers alone be held responsible, the common people too, should feel equally responsible. Which is why, we came up with the idea of involving the urban middle class to fix the food security situation – this was the other angle of Circles of Solidarity.'*

*'The urban middle class,' adds Avinash, 'gave their time by volunteering, and money by raising funds and contributing to Circles of Solidarity.'*

## COLLABORATORS FOR FOOD SECURITY

Partnering Greenpeace in the grand Circles of Solidarity design, were organisations like the Organic Farmers Market (OFM) in Chennai, providing food to distressed communities when they need it most.



Distribution of ration kits to farmer families during covid19. © Greenpeace



Distribution of ration kits to farmer families during covid19. © Greenpeace



Oxygen concentrators donated to India by Greenpeace South Asia during the pandemic. © Greenpeace



## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

When the Covid-19 outbreak hit India and forced the government to impose a nationwide lockdown, the agricultural supply chain was badly affected.

Restrictions on transportation led to delayed procurement and delivery, which impacted the freshness of the produce.

On the one hand, we had farmers struggling with their produce and on the other, we were subject to witness the helplessness of marginalised communities whose daily lives were put at stake. To meet these challenges, we were required to create Circles of Solidarity.

The sustainable farmers, the ones OFM works with, possess small landholdings. They struggle to diversify the crops in their farms. Their limited range leads to exploitation by traders and other middlemen, both in terms of price and weight. Thus such efforts to coordinate, collectivise and ensure fair prices need better channelization.

To meet these challenges during an unprecedented crisis, OFM, that works with small and marginal sustainable farmers from Kodai, Ooty, Dindigul, Tindivanam, Madurantakam and Chengalpattu, ensured that the producers are connected to the consumers who need it most, namely the stranded migrant workers, homeless and distressed communities.

Collaboration with Greenpeace India provided a great boost to our work. Greenpeace helped support our farmers and ensured that safe and nutritious ration kits were provided to the distressed communities and organic vegetables were supplied to various groups organising community kitchens for the poor and marginalised.

Excerpted from a blog post by Ananthoo, Founder, OFM

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

## FOOD FOR GREEN RECOMMENDATIONS. THOUGHT FOR A SECURE FUTURE.

*'Through all this, we continued to work on our Clean Air campaign as well,' says Avinash. 'We used the pandemic as an opportunity to reach out to new people by formulating Green Recommendations, which we submitted to the National Institute for Transforming India (NITI AAYOG). Mainly because we became aware that we simply cannot go on the way we are. We had to build back better. And, given the pandemic, all this was happening online – we explored and tested our capacities to the maximum when people had lost family members and other dear ones. At the same time, I found hope – civil societies came together in our need to fight the ravages of the pandemic and climate crisis. In the process, we reached out to 3,000 farmers across 15 states.'*

*'There also came other campaigns like Bridge Towards Better, wherein thousands signed offline and online petitions, at a time when we were all sitting at home,' adds Ishteyaque. 'In fact, we got 15,000 offline petitions, and we hadn't stepped out of our homes. You can imagine the kind of support we got from our allies – we had cultivated strong relationships with them over the years. Hundreds of farmers from around 20 plus states, held placards for Bring Back Better, their demands for a secure future loud and clear in Hindi, Tamil, Akhami and other languages. Another big aspect was that we partnered with organisations like Goonj who adopted our model of procuring food from farmers. We managed to work with few people given that we didn't have resources to work with lakhs, but, via our network, advocacy happened on its own.'*

## THE BUZZ: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

Despite the pandemic, several Greenpeace campaigns went on-ground. *'We mainly did this by identifying on-ground organisations, and the activities happened in two phases,'* explains Greenpeace India Engagement Officer Abhishek Kumar Chanchal. *'We researched with existing partners, and worked on capacity building even as youth groups chipped in. Our activities were driven by joint effort. We bought rations directly from farmers practicing organic cultivation, thus breaking the trend of food growers earning less money for their sustainable efforts.'*

*We established communication channels between farmers and daily wage workers, for, sustainable food is everyone's right, and everyone's health is important.'*

But, when the number of Covid-19 cases come down, extreme weather events impacted the daily wage earners. *'So, we started to focus on how to build a community which is climate resilient, and how we citizens are translating this into sustainable energy and sustainable agriculture,'* explains Rohin. *'We also engaged with the fisherman's community in Orissa, conducting offline activities when the number of cases came down. This was possible because we were able to conduct on-ground activities if we engaged with small groups of 5 to 10 people.'*

*'So,'* adds Rohin, *'Greenpeace India, along with its allies, procured produce from sustainable farmers thereby assisting easy selling during the lockdown.'*

***"We provided 170 ration kits to Covid patients and lactating mothers. The organisation Samadhan Abhiyan distributed the ration in batches of 25 to 30 kits per day, ensuring they observe maximum precaution while delivering. Samadhan Abhiyan provided door-to-door delivery services using e-rickshaws for families of Covid-19 positive patients who were forced to quarantine themselves as with lactating mothers."***

*'Through this project, we expressed solidarity with members of the Zamrudpur community, who largely worked in the national capital's unorganised sector as helpers in homes, beauty parlours and small shops, also as daily wage construction workers, barbers, cooks, dhobis, autorickshaw drivers and rickshaw pullers among other forms of unregulated work. A majority of these labourers were migrants from Bihar, West Bengal, the North-Eastern states, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, and are left to fend for themselves with no employment options during the pandemic.'*

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

In Bangalore, 170 ration kits were supplied to garment factory workers as well as the domestic workers' community. *'Many of these workers were migrant labourers from Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and other districts in Karnataka,'* confirms Rohin. *'Several of these workers were women—they were the sole breadwinners of their families, and had been reeling under the impact of the pandemic.'*

Another grassroots organisation, Sahaja Organics, with its wide network of sustainable farmers, supplied organic fruits and vegetables. *'Joining hands with our allies, farmers, labourers, donors and supporters we have formed a Circle of Solidarity, Resilience and Sustainability. A circle where no one feels alone,'* smiles Rohin.

## THE KEY INTENT FOR CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

Abhishek talks of the scale of on-ground activities at the peak of the pandemic.

- We mobilised 29k people to support our Green Recommendations campaign. We conducted more than 70 meetings with civil society organisations and volunteers pan India, in lieu of this activity. While our focus was to gain greater support from people, we also tried to build a community and spread our network in different regions. Through this, we managed to connect with a good network of local communities and organizations across the country. Digital platforms helped online mobilization, and, going beyond the regions we already worked in, we covered new geographies including Assam, Kerala, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, West-Bengal, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan among other states.
- We mobilised over 20 social media influencers to amplify our Green Recommendations campaign.
- Going beyond the purview of single day activities, we worked with volunteers to co-create a sustainable ecosystem, thereby imbuing in them a feeling of being change agents, acting for a better world. By providing volunteers the 5th space, we built a strong community to enable individual journeys for a cause. A journey that enables them to own the campaign.

- We worked with low-income communities including garment and domestic workers, connecting them with our mobility campaign.
- We facilitated offline and online digital training for the youth community during the pandemic-intense months.
- Our focus group discussions concentrated on Covid-related challenges.
- With the help of on-ground partners, we distributed 1,160 dry ration kits in Bangalore, Delhi, and the rural parts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.



Distribution of ration kits to farmer families during covid19. © Greenpeace



Circles of Solidarity provided essential item ration kits to farmers during the pandemic. © Greenpeace

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

## BRIDGE TO SURVIVAL

We are living in an unprecedented pandemic where the basic human norms of greeting and interacting in person has become a challenge for most, and even dignified survival has become difficult for some. This situation has provided us with a thoughtful pause in our otherwise fast-paced life. We need to realise that nature has not given us time out, but provided us with a second chance towards rebuilding a just, equitable and sustainable future. We can be the change we want to see, supporting the vulnerable communities and opting for more sustainable choices. With this principle, the Greenpeace family - supporters, volunteers, allies, board, and staff, - all came together to create the Circles of Solidarity, which helped in building a bridge between producers and consumers in these challenging times. Our team procured grains at fair prices from farmers around Delhi, Jamui-Bihar, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Chennai which not only helped farmers sell their produce but also provided healthy farm produce to stranded migrants, daily-wagers and homeless, through ration kits or meals at community kitchens. With the consent of our ever-supportive donors, we contributed some of our donations in April to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) to bolster India's fight against COVID-19. This pandemic is also a reminder that we need to revisit our lifestyles and adopt sustainable behaviours if we want nature to continue its healing. Greenpeace India is currently working on a set of "Green Recommendations" to guide the Government of India in rebuilding a better future for all, where people and nature are at its core. Let us join the chorus of togetherness and strengthen our circles of solidarity in the fight against COVID-19.

Binu Jacob, Executive Director-Greenpeace India.  
Excerpted from his message in the Witness Report dated July 30, 2020

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

## VOLUNTEERS FOR CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

Soul for humanity, young volunteers joined hands with Greenpeace India to carry the torch of togetherness in the face of global adversity.

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Graduating from intern to changemaker, I joined the Circles of Solidarity challenge, and independently raised over Rs. 2 lakhs, the funds going towards migrant labourers and marginal farmers. Virtually, the challenge had a reach of 20,000 plus followers in response to my Instagram IGTV video that explained what the Circles of Solidarity project was about. Towards the end of the video, I challenged everyone to tag 3 people for each stakeholder, keeping the donation chain going. It was an enormous success, and I'm blessed and grateful to each individual who kept us going.

- Anusuiya Radhika Dev Sarmah – a student and model residing in Delhi, was motivated to join Greenpeace during her gap year

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I have been continuously generating funds for Greenpeace. In a bid to help migrant labourers and farmers during the pandemic, I have raised Rs. 2,00,000 via online campaigning.

- Pooja Prasad

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I thank Greenpeace for thinking positive during the midst of a pandemic – we volunteers not only distributed rations to migrant workers, but also helped farmers, which was a great step towards creating sustainable circles. Greenpeace directly purchased all rations from organic farmers, supporting them during the pandemic. In turn, we distributed these rations to around 500 families.

- Vivek Shrivastava

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## CELEBS FOR CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

Amplifying Greenpeace India's human for human campaign at the peak of a pandemic, voices representing politics, Bollywood and the music circles lent hand, heart and voice for survival and sustainability.

I'm someone who is deeply concerned about our environment and social justice issues. Today, I write to you with an earnest appeal to join me in supporting vulnerable and marginalised communities in these trying times.

The Covid-19 crisis shattered the lives of thousands across India. As a primarily agrarian society, farmers were some of the worst affected in the pandemic lockdown. Daily-wagers and homeless communities also struggled to find a single, safe and nutritious meal for their families each day. Our farmers are still facing huge losses after disruptions in labour, transportation and produce markets left them with produce rotting in the fields or receiving abysmally low and unfair prices. Here's an opportunity for each and every one of us to make a difference to the lives of the very farmers who look after us through meals each day.

Greenpeace India provided organic food grown by small and marginal sustainable farmers, to vulnerable communities who are in desperate need of help. India's farmers are in need of a stronger food system. Sustainable farming methods can help them develop a more resilient livelihood that is able to withstand such grave catastrophes.

Join this Circle of Solidarity and support those who are the hardest hit by the Covid-19 crisis.

T. M. Krishna, Carnatic Musician, Author, Activist

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

The pandemic has affected a large section of society. Worst affected are people from the unorganised sector, daily wagers, migrant and homeless – they are struggling to make ends meet and fund themselves and their loved ones ... What is Greenpeace India doing? As we know, farmers play a key role in feeding the nation and during these testing times they, along with other frontline workers like doctors nurses law enforcers and small shop owners are playing a stellar role. However, at the same time, we are also aware of the fact that the small and marginal sustainable farmers have always faced challenges to sell their produce at fair prices. When this has been the usual case, we can well imagine their difficulties during this pandemic.

Greenpeace India is connecting these farmers to distressed communities in need. And they have done so through the Circles of Solidarity campaign wherein small and marginal sustainable farmers grow safe and nutritious food, then Greenpeace India procures dry grains and vegetables at a fair price from local farmer groups and associations. The procured food is distributed to individuals, families and community kitchens in five regions with the support of partner organisations. Through this initiative, farmers can sustain their livelihood, and distressed communities can receive safe meals daily. So far, Greenpeace India has delivered food supplies to 16,000 plus individuals sourced from 100 plus farmers at fair prices. I appeal to you to support Greenpeace India in this endeavour. To continue this initiative Greenpeace India needs Rs. 30 lakhs. This fund will be used to procure safe and nutritious produce from sustainable farmers, and will be distributed to daily wagers, migrants and homeless communities. Show your solidarity to our community now. Help, and donate to Greenpeace India.

Celina Jaitley, Actor

The whole world is going through a pandemic. Governments are trying to help prevent spread. The people most affected are the poor and the farmers, also the labourers. Greenpeace India is feeding 10,000 people. We have started a community kitchen wherein around 7,000 to 8,000 people are being fed. I thank Greenpeace, through whom grains and vegetables were procured and sent to our community kitchen. This eco-friendly approach during a pandemic, also helped us feed people. This Circles of Solidarity is about demand and supply – the rations are sourced from farmers, and fed to migrants – it's a good endeavour. We thank Greenpeace and hope that in future too, we work together, humanity for humanity.

Dilip Pandey, MLA Aam Aadmi Party

Contribute to help farmers receive their fair prices, and to feed the distressed communities safe and healthy meals.

Nandita Das, Actor









Chakotra, the Giant Nimbu

Vitamin C rich cousins of the Orange

Amla, Jamun and Amra

These indigenous fruit, fountainheads of nutrition

Moringa and Punarnava

These leafy greens, sustainable superfoods

Growing in the organic backyards of rural Bihar

Blessed are the glass-bangled hands that enrich the  
earth with nature's bounty of nutrients

Food for a disease resistant life

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: BIHAR LIVING SOILS

## MORE POWER TO WOMEN FARMERS

With women farmers taking control of their backyards, the villages of Bihar are vitalised with rich antioxidants, nature's own healing agents, even as the pandemic played havoc with the resilience of the city's daily wage earner aka the hamlet's farmer. As part of Greenpeace India's Bihar Living Soils – BLS campaign, 150 small and marginal Dalit and tribal women farmers cultivated organic gardens in their own backyards, regaining their power to decide on the nutrients that flavour their hearth. *'All this, at a time when the pandemic was raging, and small and marginal farmers were returning to the villages with no food and no work,'* explains Ishteyaque.

**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.**

Binu Jacob, Executive Director-Greenpeace India. Excerpted from his message in the Witness Report dated May 10, 2021

## POSITIVE SIDE TO REVERSE MIGRATION

*'The government had ensured 5 kgs of rice and 1 kg of dal per person, but, this quantity was simply not enough to feed a farmer for the entire month,'* points out Ishteyaque. *'We figured that if a person was returning home to the village, there must be something for them to do. We lobbied with the local administration to speed up MGNREGA projects, also encourage farmers to plant food producing trees like Amla, Jamun and Amra, which are high in nutrition. The Bihar Government reciprocated well, and we planted 3,000 trees in the villages of Kedia and Taridavil, with farmers*

*further committing 10 acres of land to plant these trees. The idea was to plant a community food farm, and this was part of our food security campaign. It was about removing dependency on any external agency, and what got highlighted as a result, was the resilience of the food and nutrition sector. For instance, if a Bihar farmer has to purchase oranges coming from Maharashtra, and movement of transporting vehicles is restricted due to the lockdown, the food grower's immunity is at risk. But, there are other local fruits which are equally nutritious, and the BLS campaign is about creating this awareness and enabling women farmers to grow foods organically, in their own backyards. Round blackberries and ladies finger, for instance are rich in vitamin c. We also promoted chakotra, the big local nimboos (lemon) – the commonly grown local fruit's pink insides are more nutritious than the orange and pomegranate, and available at Rs. 10 per kg in the villages. So, instead of relying on food from outside the state and country, we aimed to ensure locally available nutrition. Also, locally grown moringa (drumstick) leaves, jackfruit and leafy vegetables like punarnava (hogweed), which grow in the wild, are superfoods. It was about reinstating the importance of leaves in nutrition. Earlier, the husbands decided what was to be cooked because they brought the money home – with organic kitchen gardens in their homes, women got their power back. Women farmers enjoyed this newfound power, and we provided them with seeds for their kitchen cultivation. Greenpeace worked with the JEEVIKA Rural Livelihood Promotion Programme to spread this campaign since we couldn't step out often during the lockdown months. JEEVIKA mobilised women farmers through their self-help groups, and we travelled to places where organic kitchen gardens have been set up to offer seeds and guidance. We worked with district officials who, in turn, co-ordinated with a village resource person for the women farmers' initiative.'*

## BIHAR EARTH DAY

Riding high on empowering farmers, come August 9, 2020, and Greenpeace India joined hands with Jeevit Mati Kisan Samiti, Jamui to celebrate Bihar Earth Day aka Bihar Prithvi Divas, a day conceptualised by the state's Chief Minister

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: BIHAR LIVING SOILS

in 2011 to spread awareness on the impact of climate change. 'This special day endeavoured to strengthen the community's commitment towards the environment, while concentrating on various other components of the earth,' explains Rohin. 'Ecological farmers across Kedia and Tari Dabil villages in Jamui tied rakhis (a thread which is believed to represent love and sublime sentiments across India) to various elements of the earth to express their respect and gratitude, creating a celebratory atmosphere although, given Covid restrictions, a formal event as in the case of the previous years, couldn't be organised. They also performed similar rituals with trees, wells, composting pits, cattle, and traditional farm equipment.'

'The farming communities of Kedia and Tari Dabil villages have often risen to the occasion, and built solidarity within and outside communities. When the Covid-19 pandemic brought the world to its knees, and the food systems were drastically affected, the citizens of Kedia, Bihar's first organic village and Tari Dabil resolved to take up the task of feeding some of the impacted communities in close proximity,' adds Rohin.

## THE HIGHS OF BLS DURING A LOW YEAR

'Due to the lock-down,' says Rohin, 'small and marginal farmers were finding it difficult to get their produce to the market, resulting in lack of funds. The halted food product export too, was also hurting the already feeble food system as well as the farmers. Even before the lockdown, during the initial stages of the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a 20% drop in the prices of agricultural commodities. Following rabi-crop harvests, farmers were in need of money to repay loans and run their families. Thankfully, the government has announced that farmers who have taken institutional loans can repay the amount after three months. But, the non-institutional borrower farmers will have to arrange funds to avoid astronomical interest rates later. In the absence of markets, they have been unable to negotiate respectable prices for their products, and are forced to sell them at very low rates. The economic losses to farmers will not only get translated into a possible agrarian crisis, but will also impact India's overall economy. The gloomy trail does not end here. This will have severe

implications on food availability in future, too. If farmers are unable to repay their loans, they will not have money to invest in the next crop. In response to the wider humanitarian disaster, philanthropies and all the other segments of society are providing dry ration kits or cooked/semi-cooked food to people in need, and have a crucial role to play in revitalising the farm economy. Instead of purchasing food items from the stockists and retailers, they can buy produce from small and marginal farmers or their farmer-producer collectives or cooperatives. This way, they will pay farmers fair prices, and cater to destitute workers as well. This positive trail does not end here. It will also boost the agrarian and national economy, along with investing in food security.'

Through this trying time, the BLS campaign worked towards influencing the government to give better benefits to farmers. 'Earlier, the subsidy amount was Rs. 6,000 per acre, we lobbied to increase the amount to Rs. 11,500,' beams Ishteyaque. 'Earlier the government was supporting farmers along the belt of River Ganges; now, we have convinced the authorities to include the whole state. Importantly, the Kedia farmers have received organic certification – they call now sell their produce as 'certified organic'. Greenpeace had set up a cold storage facility in Kedia in 2016, this year, we have transferred the entitlement to the Kedia Co-operative. In fact, we worked closely with the Bihar Government on mitigating the locust attacks without using a single spray of chemicals. The farmers used an organic locust control spray called Amrit Paani, which successfully kept the pests away!'

## BLS: NARRATIVE SHIFT FOR POLICY CHANGE

'One very visible impact this year, has been an increase in government support for organic farming,' says Ishteyaque. 'The government has increased certified organic farming to 21,000 hectares, and this is a great achievement. In fact, government departments also conducted training programmes on organic farming, giving farmers the impetus to pursue this sustainable practice. The Patna District Horticulture Department approached Greenpeace to support their volunteers in organising village level training programmes. Via this initiative, 750 farmers in

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: BIHAR LIVING SOILS

21 villages were trained. In effect, Greenpeace has lead this transition in the government's goals for sustainable agriculture by conducting training for farmers, providing content for information booklets, as with other forms of policy-related support.'

## SOCIAL CAPITAL FOR FOOD SECURITY

Despite lockdowns and restrictions, Greenpeace India has, via its Circles of Solidarity and BLS campaigns, paved the way for sustainable food security. 'It's all thanks to the social capital of farmers, grassroots organisations and civil society organisations that we have built over the past 5 to 6 years,' reveals Ishteyaque. 'When we started the Circles of Solidarity campaign in Bihar, procurement and cleaning was done by our Kedia farmers, while the grassroots organisation Samagra Seva undertook distribution. Everything went off safely and smoothly, and this couldn't have happened without us having built a strong social capital. We took the theme of our Climate Samvaad Campaign forward with our Bihar Earth Day and World Environment Day celebrations – all we had to do was make a call, and people volunteered to make it a success. We give our human hours in times of crisis and help highlight issues, and in return, many support us. In fact, they are not here to help Greenpeace India, but individual campaigners like me and Avinash, even as we interact with them on different issues. We stand with organisations and groups, but the campaigns don't carry a Greenpeace logo – that is the art of solidarity.'

## THE ROAD AHEAD: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

'Going forward, we are working on creating pilots of sustainable and resilient food systems with small and marginal women farmers. Earlier, we worked on the issue of agriculture, but now, we have ensured food and nutritional security of marginal farmers,' explains Ishteyaque. 'We are training women farmers. We are connecting small and marginal sustainable farmers with consumers, wherein the consumer supports the farmer in producing sustainable and safe food. In fact, the Circles of Solidarity campaign is another shape of the farmer-consumer connect. We will also reach out to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO) and farmer members to create connect

*between farmers and consumers. We will work together with organisations like the Azim Premji Foundation for this.'*

*'Another campaign in the anvil,' says Ishteyaque, 'is to engage with sustainable farmers to study the impact of extreme climate conditions during covid. This will lead us to initiate a climate observatory, which will combine modern science and traditional practices to study the links of how they flow into each other. This is mainly to study how to make agriculture resilient given that modern science is not helping. This idea will evolve organically.'*



One of the women farmers from Kedia village next to her organic kitchen garden, a project part of the Greenpeace Bihar Living Soils campaign



One of the women farmers from Kedia village cooks produce grown in her organic kitchen garden, a project part of the Greenpeace Bihar Living Soils campaign

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: BIHAR LIVING SOILS

## FARMERS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

There is indisputable evidence of the linkage of Air Pollution to the health of the individuals. One of the biggest reasons for increasing air pollution levels over the past years in cities is the unsustainable transportation we use. According to the Airpocalypse-IV report, about 80% of Indian cities are vulnerable to air pollution and exceed the national air quality standards. The 'cost of toxic Air' report estimates one million deaths each year in India due to air pollution generated from burning fossil fuels and costs 10.7 lakh crore or 5.4% of India's GDP every year. A paradigm shift in the current transportation sector is the need of the hour.

Manoj, along with two more representatives of Jivit Mati Jaivik Jamui Abhiyan (Living Soils Organic Jamui Campaign) was part of the delegation that was consulted by the Deputy Chief Minister cum Finance Minister, Principal Secretary, Agriculture and other concerned officials.

Banarasi Das, another organic farmer from Jamui's Tari Davil Village elaborated on the recommendations they shared with the decision makers: "We are small farmers and are facing multiple challenges related to fair pricing, availability of good quality native seeds and on the top of everything, the changing weather pattern and extreme weather events." Thus, Kedia farmers have divided their recommendations into three sections. The first one is linked to increase in farmers' income through increased government procurement of grains and pulses from farmers in Bihar at the minimum support price (MSP). To cater to over 176 million Public Distribution System (PDS) cardholders, the government needs over 80 to 90 lakh tonnes of grains annually. We have asked to procure this quantity from Bihar farmers. We have also requested the government to introduce institutional procurement of millets

and other coarse grains, pulses and oilseeds at the MSP. This will increase farmers' incomes and will also encourage them to grow more diverse crops.

The second section of their recommendations details the need to allocate reasonable budgets for climate resilient and biodiverse ecological agricultural practices including mixed and multiple cropping, adding millets, oil seeds, native and ecologically adapted varieties of vegetables and uncultivated/forest food in the crop mix. "We have also recommended creating an Environment Services Fund for incentivising sustainable farmers. Our recommendations also include assisting small and marginal women farmers in developing their organic kitchen gardens through Jivika and ATMA to better their food and nutritional security while equipping them in organic farming." Manoj Tanti said.

"Through the government's flagship Ankuran Poshahar Vatika (Nutrition Gardens) scheme, the government can also help school children learn organic farming and grow safe and nutritious fresh vegetables for their midday meals," he added.

The third set of recommendations deal with higher government investment in creating decentralised infrastructures for soil and water conservation. "We cannot survive without healthy soil and water, hence we have asked the government to assist farmers, especially, small and marginal and women farmers in building infrastructures to conserve these sources of life and livelihoods for more than 76% of Bihar's population. These infrastructures will equip farmers to fight the climate crisis and protect the food security of Bihar and the nation from the vagaries of extreme weather conditions." Manoj concluded.

Blog Post by Ishteyaque Ahmed



The life we lead

Impacts the air we breathe

This air – amniotic sac of the earth

This earth – a hotbed of toxins

These toxins, we do not need



## AIR POLLUTION IS ON THE RISE, PAY HEED

Despite long periods of pandemic-triggered lockdowns, Greenpeace India's reports on air pollution suggest that pollution levels have increased. *'If we want to achieve clean air, we need to phase out fossil fuels in the energy and transport sector,'* confirms Avinash. *'Through our analytical reports on air quality, we have asked to phase out fossil fuels for sustainable air. For, though we might have clean air now, it's not a permanent solution for the human race to carry on the way we are. We have also demanded green recovery – if the government is serious about covid recuperation, our inputs must be taken seriously.'*

## ANALYSIS FOR CLEAN AIR

*'Among the significant analyses on air pollution is our "Ranking the World's SO<sub>2</sub> Hotspot" report,'* says Avinash. *'The report revealed that India emitted 21% of global anthropogenic (human-made) SO<sub>2</sub> emission, which is nearly double that of second-ranked global emitter. Our "Cost Estimator" report revealed that 1,800 deaths per million estimated is due to PM<sub>2.5</sub> air pollution in Delhi. Greenpeace India's analysis of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data assessing the "Air Quality in Major South Indian Cities" shows that despite the improvement in air quality in the year 2020, the three major southern cities of Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai, the air quality in all three cities remain higher than the prescribed World Health Organisation (WHO) standards. According to a new online tool "Cost Estimator by IQAir AirVisual and Greenpeace Southeast Asia", health damage from air pollution is expected to cost 1-5.8% of the GDP of major metropolitan cities of the world in the first half of this year, and of all 28 cities cited, Delhi bears the highest economic cost of air pollution as a percentage of GDP due to the impacts of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> pollution. The report on "Air Quality in the World's Top Ten Polluted Indian Cities" shows that despite the drastic improvement, pollutants are more than 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of the WHO's prescribed standards.'*



Brick Kilns in Western Uttar Pradesh. © Saagnik Paul / Greenpeace

**With clear indicators for demanding improvement in air quality, Rohin elaborates the key findings of Greenpeace India's air pollution reports for the year.**

**22 out of 30 most polluted cities in the world belong to India, Delhi shows marginal improvement: IQAir (the Swiss air quality technology company):** The annual data compiled by IQAir in the form of the 'World Air Quality Report, 2020' shows that Delhi's air quality improved by approximately 15% from 2019 to 2020. Despite the improvement, Delhi ranked as the 10th most polluted city, and the top polluted capital city in the world. In 2020, all Indian cities monitored observed air quality improvements as compared to 2018, while 63% saw improvements as compared to 2019. However, India continues to feature prominently at the top of the most polluted cities ranking, with 22 of the top 30 most polluted cities globally.

**1,800 deaths per million estimated due to PM2.5 air pollution in Delhi, reveals a new finding by Greenpeace and IQAir:** According to a Greenpeace Southeast Asia analysis of IQAir data from a live Cost Estimator, PM<sub>2.5</sub> air pollution claimed approximately 54,000 lives in India's national capital in 2020. Globally, approximately 1,60,000 deaths have been attributed to PM<sub>2.5</sub> air pollution in the five most populous cities. A cost estimator is an online tool that tracks the real-time health impact and economic costs of air pollution in major world cities. To show the impact of air pollution related deaths on the economy, the approach used by Greenpeace is called "willingness-to-pay", a lost life year or a year lived with disability is converted to money by the amount that people are willing to pay in order to avoid this negative outcome.

**Air quality in major south Indian cities shows improvement; need for climate-resilient mobility infrastructure felt:** A new Greenpeace India analysis of CPCB data has revealed that the November 2020 air quality in three major southern cities including Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai was comparatively better than that of November 2019. The reduction in PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions ranged from 16 to 37 per cent. However, the air quality in all three cities still

remains higher than the prescribed WHO standards (25µg/m<sup>3</sup>). In Bangalore, the average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> this November recorded was 33.49µg/m<sup>3</sup> as compared to 40.33µg/m<sup>3</sup> in November 2019, which implies that the average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> reduced by 16.96%. Bapuji Nagar and Jayanagar remained hotspots with an average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration of 42µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 39µg/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively. According to the analysis, Bangalore only observed 12 such days in November 2020, where the PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration remained under the prescribed WHO standards. BTM layout in the city was the least polluted area with an average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration around 20µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

**Top SO<sub>2</sub> Emitter, India register 4-year dip in emissions:** For the first time in four years, India's sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions recorded a significant decline of approximately 6% in 2019 as compared to 2018, this being the steepest dip in four years, reveals an annual analysis from Greenpeace India and the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Despite this dip, India continues to occupy the top emitter's position for the fifth consecutive year. The report ranks the world's biggest emitters of sulphur dioxide, a poisonous air pollutant that increases the risk of stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and premature death. In 2019, India emitted 21% of the global anthropogenic (human-made) SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which is nearly double that of second-ranked global emitter, Russia. China occupies the third position.

**Despite a strict lockdown, Delhi's economy estimated to lose 5.8% of the city's annual GDP due to air pollution in the first half-year:** According to a new online tool by IQAir AirVisual and Greenpeace Southeast Asia [1], health damage from air pollution is expected to cost 1-5.8% of cities GDP in the major metropolitan cities of the world in the first half of this year. Of all 28 cities studied, Delhi bears the highest economic cost of air pollution as a percentage of GDP due to the impacts of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> pollution. Air pollution in the city is linked to the loss of an estimated 24,000 lives in Delhi in the first half of 2020, despite a strict Covid-related lockdown. The counter also reveals that over the last six months, air pollution took a major toll on

# CLIMATE AND ENERGY: AIR POLLUTION

the city's economy, at a cost of approximately US\$3.5 billion (Rs 26,230 crore) – an equivalent of 5.8% of Delhi's total annual GDP. Similarly, in Mumbai, since January 1, 2020, air pollution from PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> is responsible for the loss of an estimated 14,000 lives and a cost of US\$2.1 billion (Rs. 15,750 crore). It is also estimated that the major metropolitan cities would face a cost of 3-6% of the cities' GDP. The estimation is also expected to grow bigger in the upcoming winter season.

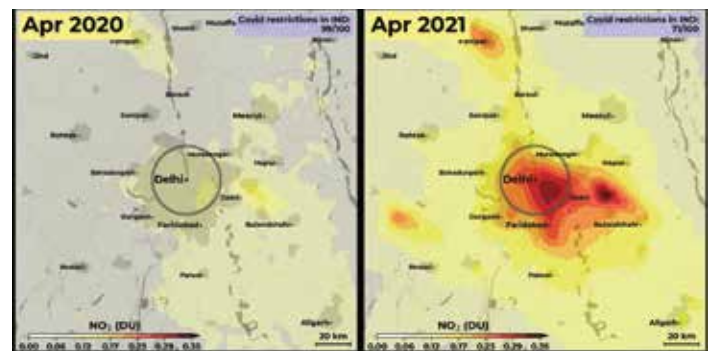
**Air Quality in the world's top ten polluted Indian cities improves drastically, yet, more than 25µg/m<sup>3</sup> WHO prescribed standards:** Greenpeace India's analysis of CPCB data reveals large scale reduction in air pollutant concentration during the first ten days of the lockdown period. PM 2.5 concentration in Delhi-NCR has reduced significantly – 55% to 67%. Earlier, a February report on "World Air Quality Report 2019" published by IQ Air Visuals revealed that 6 out of the top 10 most polluted cities are located in India. Ghaziabad, which according to the report happened to be among the most polluted cities in the world, has witnessed 65.75% reduction in PM 2.5 concentration from March 24 to April 4, 2020 in comparison to the same period in 2019. Similarly, Delhi's PM<sub>2.5</sub> dropped by 57.64%, Noida by 65.10%, Gurugram by 56.04%, and Greater Noida by 68.83%.

## ON GROUND FOR CLEAN AIR

While the air is still precarious with toxins through a raging pandemic, Greenpeace India campaigners, along with a treasury of volunteers and support organisations, pulled off on-ground actions for clean air.

'Among our actions for on-ground visibility, was the Clean Air for Blue Skies Day, for which we mobilised volunteers from 35 cities,' says Abhishek. 'In Delhi, we organised a photoshoot drive in three locations including India Gate, Laal Qila and Qutub Minar, wherein, ten volunteers dressed in traditional attire held placards demanding clean air. This photoshoot enabled us to create a visual, which was used by many Greenpeace allies. Integrating our online volunteers with this activity, we requested them to wear blue, hold posters for clean air, and post their

pictures on Instagram. Forty volunteers participated in the online activity, and they in turn challenged their friends to do the same.'



NO<sub>2</sub> pollution across India pre and post lockdown: Greenpeace India Airpocalypse Report. © Greenpeace



Protest Sign at India Gate in New Delhi. © Saagnik Paul / Greenpeace



Clean Air Now Action in New Delhi. © Greenpeace

## CLEAN AIR IN PERSPECTIVE

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.

Binu Jacob, Executive Director-Greenpeace India  
Excerpted from his message in the Witness Report dated July 30, 2020

GREENPEACE  
कीमती ल

# CLEAN AIR for CHENNAI

#NCAP4Chennai

CHENNAI

#CLEAN AIR NOW!

GREENPEACE

Use your mind  
To strengthen your heart  
Your lungs, your bones, your feet ... in fact all your  
body parts.  
Use your feet  
To walk  
To pedal  
To ascend a mode of public transport.  
Use your will  
To give Mother Earth a breather.  
Breathe easy.  
Stay well.  
Stay alive.

# CLIMATE AND ENERGY: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

## STAY ALERT TO SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

What does it take to clear the air, to breathe the luxurious richness of life's natural elixir? A change in mindset. A renewed mindset for sustainable mobility. *'While our air pollution reports make it abundantly clear that pollutants are deteriorating air quality despite pandemic-related lockdowns, and we are demanding policy changes by targeting governments and corporates, we need to concentrate on getting the common citizens to change their mindsets,'* explains Avinash. *'We came up with the Sustainable Mobility campaign to change mindsets given that people don't seem to care about policies for clean air, and will not act for it. We have a national clean air programme in place, but citizens too, must demand it.'*

## LISTEN FOR CHANGE

*'When we decided on our Sustainable Mobility campaign, we realised we first needed to understand the prevailing mindset around mobility,'* says Avinash. *'So, we came up with a listening exercise and reached out to different communities – slums, car users, and building committees among others. We had many queries, and importantly, wanted to learn why people must use a car in the first place. Was it to enhance one's social status, or some other need?'*

## CHALLENGES OF THE SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY CAMPAIGN

*'Even as the pandemic raged, extreme climate conditions including cyclones and cloud bursts wreaked havoc, and people had to leave their homes. All this at a time when the government suggested that people stay home; but, given the climate crises, people were left with no homes,'* says Avinash. *'This is why we need government actions to ensure that such drastic climate changes impacting people, don't occur.'* Given the circumstances, Avinash also faced the challenge of being the sole Greenpeace campaigner for climate and energy. *'We also want to start work on extreme weather events, but there's a shortage of resources. Also, we were not able to conduct offline activities, which limited the scope of our campaigns,'* he says.

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY CAMPAIGN

Despite the limitations of on-ground reach, the campaign extended to various inter-sections of society, creating the narrative of mindset change for sustainable mobility. *'Our biggest achievement was that we extended the scope of our campaign to various gender segments, and this was a big hit,'* beams Avinash. *'Women, especially those who belong to the lower strata face the issue of accessibility to public transport, given the way women and men travel. We worked with a feminist media platform to initiate the Power to Pedal campaign. This campaign targeting women garment workers in Bangalore and house helps in Delhi has triggered willingness among women to cycle to work – this is a huge mindset change. The Power to Pedal campaign not only enables these women to save money, but to look at public spaces as equitable for men and women, also people from across the social strata. So far, all public infrastructure is for the elite using cars, and not for women who cycle to work. Public spaces need to be equitable, and can't just cater to the car user and the elite. This narrative should gain strength, wherein these women who have adapted a sustainable way to travel, make demands for equal spaces. Also, car users and the urban middle class must understand that if a city has polluted air, toxins don't discriminate; yet, the poor are more vulnerable. We aim to drive this narrative.'*

*'As part of our Carzilla campaign, we engaged with audiences in traffic signals and markets. We curated the Clean Air Blue Skies Day, wherein our volunteers did a photo op,'* says Avinash.

*'Another big achievement during the lockdown,'* he adds, *'was mobilizing the support of 20 lakh citizens to oppose the Environment Impact Assessment Draft notification 2020 put forth by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The Draft tried to weaken environmental norms, and we put a break on it.'*

## WOMEN FOR DETOX CITY

Through the pandemic, actions for sustainable mobility became imperative, with several activities going online. Rohin elaborates the thought behind the sustainable mobility Detox City campaigns during this period.

**Carzilla:** The Covid-19 necessitated lockdown and the subsequent slow resumption of transportation and related services have called for introspection and the need for an overhaul of transportation systems. Globally, various cities have initiated efforts to embrace a 'new normal' for transport, focusing on including pedestrian and cycling facilities in their transportation systems.

India's urban public transport sector cannot afford to go back to the 'old normal' and grapple with the issues of congestion and air pollution. To highlight this, Greenpeace India organised a car ramp-walk at the Community Centre, New Friends Colony. Greenpeace volunteers discussed the experiences and challenges of mobility with urban dwellers.

**Cyclists' Dream City:** How would you feel if your daily commute were to be a challenge, often arriving at your workplace late, and losing part of your already meagre wages? How would you feel if the basic bus charge seemed unaffordable? We listened to the captivating and heart-wrenching stories of low-wage women labourers employed in the textile manufacturing district of Bangalore, and their fight to reclaim what is theirs. It was surprising to see that nearly 150 garment workers responded to our call, and were sitting together discussing how they travel to work. We listened to their personal stories, also the histories of labour and environment in Bangalore. We learnt that their modes of commute are diverse. They walk – sometimes even 3 kms at a stretch, they use factory transport, which they pay for, and sometimes, they ride BMTC (government) buses or even autos. Many of them talked about how unaffordable and unreliable most of these means of transport are, and often, it meant they got to work late and lost wages. Their roleplay depicting their efforts and scramble to get to work on time in the mornings left us breathless.

Amidst this sharing, a question about why they don't cycle to work got them totally animated. Some giggled nervously, others looked incredulous, yet others were excited. It set off a series of hilarious stories on learning to cycle, falling and stealing cycles from siblings. Some felt angry at not being allowed to cycle because they were women.

They were hopeful that cycling would make them free, give them a sense of control over their time, help them avoid long walks, and avoid haggling with auto drivers who often refused to take them to their factories. They hoped that cycling would save them their travel expense, and make their road to work a little easier. Many of these women who had never cycled in their lives signed up for cycling workshops, others offered to be teachers.

Listening to their stories, we were struck by the invisibility of nearly 5 lakh women, and their long and winding road to work. Their excitement about cycling was not just about the affordability of this mode of transport, but also their commitment to being agents of change in the city. A commitment that showed that as low-wage earning communities, their preoccupations were not just about survival, but also about a better, cleaner, quieter, happier city with better air, and streets that are safe and accessible to women.

**Case for Feminist City:** Urban mobility affects every facet of life in the city including safety, access to opportunity and independence. Unfortunately, urban and mobility planning have largely been gender blind with limited understanding of the interrelationships between gender, socio-economic inequities and violence. If safety determines access to the city for half the urban population, then, any urban mobility policy that doesn't integrate safety in its formulation will be a failure.

Sustainable urban mobility policies that focus on the promotion of Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) infrastructure, such as provision for pedestrians and cyclists and emphasis on low-cost public transport, particularly bus transport, need to critically integrate a feminist perspective. This is essential to ensure that NMT policies are equitable, inclusive, and successfully executed.



# CLIMATE AND ENERGY: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

In a 2015 report on promoting low carbon transport, a gender-sensitive transport planning was advocated to achieve the goals of sustainable mobility. Research indicates that far more women in the city rely on walking than the men do. Also, women tend to be highly dependent on public transport. Even if a household's income increases, it was found that the men switched to using private vehicles while women continued to use public or paratransit modes of transport. This indicates that women are already the dominant users of non-motorised transport forms such as walking and are highly reliant on public transport systems, especially bus services. This requires sustainable mobility policies that integrate planning with safety, convenience, and comfort for women and girls.

The problems with planning sustainable urban mobility, which focuses on NMT is multi-fold. Firstly, transport planning seems to be dispersed among different, siloed agencies without integration with the larger urban planning processes in the city. Secondly, within urban transport planning itself, NMT planning has been largely ignored or paid mere lip-service. Thirdly, there seems to be an utter and complete lack of a feminist perspective in thinking about mobility design and planning that is inclusive of girls, women and gender minorities.

It is important to note that our reference to women includes cis-women, transwomen and feminine-presenting people affected by misogyny.

## ACTIONS FOR URBAN MOBILITY

'Through the year, we organised various on-ground actions for our urban mobility campaign,' says Abhishek. 'We worked with various stakeholders, and organised events to change mindsets of people regarding urban mobility.'

**Stakeholder Mapping:** Our mobility projects concentrate on changing mindsets to create impact. In order to accomplish this, we have mapped our stakeholders, and conducted meetings with resident welfare associations (RWA), the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), and other stakeholders.

**Building Core Volunteers:** We have built a core volunteers' team to implement and drive the urban mobility campaign.

**Identifying Allies:** We have identified allies in south Indian cities as well, to engage in mobilisation.

**Listening Tour:** We conducted a listening tour activity in three places. Cops attached to the Delhi traffic police station, Nehru Place participated in this event, which was significant. We have captured insights from traffic police, auto-walas, also cycle, car and bus users.

**Carzilla Ramp-Walk:** We organized a Carzilla ramp walk, also webinars, roundtable discussions, and focus group discussions (FGDs) with the community and RWAs. As a result, we were able to mobilise 16 new ally groups across urban cities, who went on to participate in, and support the global climate strike.

**Power the Pedal:** As part of our power the pedal initiative aimed at enabling women engaged as garment workers and house helps to cycle to work, we tested suitable bicycle designs. We accomplished this by listening to the community, and capturing insights and stories of the women who are making a sustainable commuting choice. There's no sustainability without equity. Testing is ongoing, and there are many follow-up tactics in the anvil.

**Carfree Day:** Marking Carfree Day, we organised events in Delhi and Bangalore. We were able to mobilise 20 volunteers for this activity, with the media covering our Bangalore event.



A Greenpeace volunteer conducts the bus user survey in Delhi as part of the "Bustling Through the City" report © Greenpeace

# CLIMATE AND ENERGY: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

## NARRATIVE SHIFT FOR POLICY CHANGE

*'Towards our ongoing campaigns for clean air and detox cities, we are moving from concentrating the narrative on policy makers alone, to include citizens,' says Avinash.*

*'Our reports on air pollution have created public outrage, and we have mobilised around 30,000 people who ask for policy change, all voices demanding green recovery. As a result, the government has started talking about sustainable mobility, clean air and clean transport. The government hasn't credited Greenpeace for this mindset for sustainable mobility, but, it is moving towards the clean air, clean transport narrative, which is good. We have miles to go, but the seeds have been sown.'*



## ROAD AHEAD: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY. CLIMATE AND ENERGY

'With our narrative for sustainable mobility, women are headed towards claiming public spaces,' says Avinash. 'Also, public transport users will demand and reclaim the city. If we want climate change, we need to decentralise the city and economy. We need to phase out fossil fuels, and this is the perfect time to make our campaign inter sectional and diverse. We can go on to address livelihoods, gender-caste-class biases, climate, and public health.'

Can you imagine being stuck in traffic for ten days straight? This seemingly bizarre reality is the fate of car users in Mumbai, Bangalore 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. Through our new Power the Pedal initiative, 500 women from Bangalore's vulnerable garment worker community, will now commute to work on cycles. 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. 2,217 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.

Excerpted from the Witness Report dated May 10, 2021

**ACTIONS:**  
**CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY. BIHAR LIVING SOILS.**  
**CLIMATE AND ENERGY. SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY.**

No virus  
Nor fungus  
No cyclone  
Nor earthquake  
Can quell the spirit of a changemaker  
To rise above adversity  
And make this world a better place for you and me  
For humanity.

# ACTIONS: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY. BIHAR LIVING SOILS. CLIMATE AND ENERGY. SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY.

## IMPACT GREENPEACE

Even as the pandemic raged and lockdowns restricted movement, Greenpeace India rose above the crisis, and created a buzz for sustainable agriculture and sustainable mobility via sharing and caring, collaborations and ideations. All this, with an undying resilience to face calamities in the eye.

Abhishek, Rohin, Ishteyaque and Avinash, along with Greenpeace India's partner organisations, volunteers and fellow campaigners curated innovative on-ground activities to support the organisation's core campaigns for the year.

Abhishek gives an overview of the impact actions.

## CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY: COVID19 RESPONSIVE WORK

- Greenpeace India's Covid-19 relief work in Delhi supported three partner organisations including Goonj, Samadhan Abhiyan and Dilip Panday's community kitchen during the first and second phase of work. Samadhan Abhiyan supported 5,000 people by providing 10,000 meals per day. Goonj supported 1,500 people. The programme supported a total of 14,500 beneficiaries with 2,000,00 meals being distributed during the months of April and May. Food for the relief work was procured from 21 farmer groups in Urban Kyari.
- Greenpeace supported Wings Foundation, Mumbai and Sajha Manch, Delhi to distribute dry ration kits for the community kitchen, benefitting 15,000 people.
- In collaboration with Fridays For Future (FFF) and Bring Back the Green (BBG), Greenpeace, along with its volunteers, launched a month of digital climate action, which included weekly webinars, green action campaigns and challenges.
- Twelve online induction programmes were conducted for 50 new volunteers.
- Greenpeace organised two webinars on agriculture and climate, and mobilised volunteers to participate in more than 10 webinars organised by the organisation's allies.

## MEDIA FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

- We worked with communities in Delhi and Bangalore to conduct virtual weekly mental health workshops.
- With the help of our partners, we mobilised the media channel ETV Bharat to cover our Circles of Solidarity work. The report covered mental health workshops as well as organic ration distribution.

## VOLUNTEER-LEAD COVID RESPONSE WORK

- The volunteer-driven Covid support WhatsApp group comprising 150 members verified and provided essential and emergency contacts to support the affected communities.
- The Instagram page "youthforchangeindia" also provided necessary contacts on social media.

## VOLUNTEER-LEAD INITIATIVES FOR CLIMATE STRIKE, YOUTH MOVEMENT AND SCHOOLS

- To mark digital campaigns for global climate strikes demanding climate action, we mobilised approximately 50 volunteers in September.
- We have strategically engaged with youth movements. We regularly participated in FFF meetings, and gave inputs. We motivated youth to get involved in our campaigns, and the youth town hall saw 4 state representatives from FFF.
- We also worked with these youth groups to create activities with schools. For the first time, we engaged school kids in an online webinar. We were also able to conduct two workshops for school children, centred on the Circles of Solidarity project.
- We coordinated the Shoes Strike on the occasion of climate strikes along with FFF Delhi. Together, the team collected 1,000 shoes.
- We have facilitated virtual gatherings with volunteers sharing their life journeys and skills via informal discussions around mental health, thus promoting the concept of 'feel, think, and act'.

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- We have conducted 10 volunteer induction activities, inviting 170 fresh volunteers on board, even while ensuring gender balance and diversity.

We organised a clean-up and plantation drive at Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna, (Bangalore City Railway Station), Bangalore.

Our volunteers organised an open mic and fundraising master class.

In fact, we involved our volunteers in a crowdfunding campaign for the first time. Our volunteers raised around Rs. 2 lakhs, and reached out to around 18,000 new audiences through social media.

*'These activities apart, a series of macros and posters were shared, and our drive for a sustainable future went online too, spreading the impact of our campaigns,' adds Rohin. 'Our online campaign tools included cyclist photo stories, and social media buzz around Carzilla. Our online initiative for Organic Kitchen Garden stories included live conversations with nurses, women farmers' collectives, cross-country cyclists, relief riders, feminist city advocates, and our tree plantation drive in Bangalore.'*

## VOLUNTEERS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

With campaigners, volunteers, partner organisations and fresh blood joining hands for sustainability, the year 2020-2021 saw high impact actions endeavouring to avert further climate crises. Greenpeace India's volunteer campaigners act for mindset change, and how!

**Bridge Towards Better, a Floating Banner on Devi River.** In September 2020, a volunteer-driven action to support the narrative for Green Recommendations brought the Devi River in Odisha alive with a larger-than-life floating banner sporting the message #TowardsBetter. With the ravages of climate change resulting in erratic warming, also rainfall and wind patterns, crop productivity, livelihood development and poverty eradication efforts in the state have been adversely impacted. Greenpeace India has set the dialogue for sustainable agriculture and sustainable mobility in motion by engaging

experts, thinkers, farmers, consumers and leaders through a series of webinars that discuss the existing systems, the problems and possible solutions. The pandemic, a disruption in the world's normal routine, is a rare opportunity to spark change via the #TowardsBetter campaign.

**Lake of Vitality:** Resplendent with sparkling waters and life forms thriving on her new-found vitality, Lake Sanjay, once a sewage-filled breeding ground for dengue virus causing mosquitoes, wears a refreshed avatar. This revival, a welcome transition from the cesspool of toxic waste, a result of years of negligence of the rain-fed lake. Citizen activists Vivek Shrivastava and Mohit Relan, took on the challenge and transformed the lake over 10 months. Cleanliness and plantation drives turned the shrunken hyacinth-laden lake into a thriving ecosystem. This was possible thanks to residents, Greenpeace volunteers, allied organisations, and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

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Over a long journey of 10 months, we managed to clean Sanjay Lake with the support of Greenpeace, concerned authorities and other organisations. I have worked as an ally with Greenpeace, supporting various events, and I thank the organisation for this.

- Vivek Shrivastava, Volunteer

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**My interest in Geography and professional experiences as a product developer led me to the realisation of how serious and urgent the climate change and sustainability issues are, and that I have to be part of the solution to bring change. Then in mid-2020, due the lockdowns and WFH mandates, I started to get more free time, and decided to take some action, and applied to join Greenpeace as a volunteer.**

**During the year 2020-21, I was part of three campaigns – Green Recommendation, Circles of Solidarity and Cycle Yatra. I joined as novice volunteer, and soon after, the whole journey took an online mode.**

# ACTIONS: CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY. BIHAR LIVING SOILS. CLIMATE AND ENERGY. SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY.

I soon became involved in Greenpeace India's online awareness programmes, and got involved in campaign mobilisation and proposal making. Working with the volunteer community made me realise how closely knit, but democratic the environment is. Soon, I started getting actively involved in most of the discussions and activities, continuously figuring out ways to make people aware of the current challenges, and provide necessary support. I have grown from just being a professional, to a more conscious, socially active and action taking individual.

- Atul Nandan, a New Delhi based operations professional

I ended my 3-month long internship having participated in outreach to 300+ volunteers for crowdfunding, internships and programme participation. I also worked as an Intern Coordinator in 4 states with 50+ interns. I was responsible for briefing, project guidance and implementation. After these 3 months, it was a no brainer to continue my association with Greenpeace in whichever way possible. And that's when I became a changemaker and began my journey as one.

During the rest of the months as changemaker, in between my modelling career and full time job as the National Project Manager for Adnil SchoolWorld Resource Centre; I have always made time for my Green family. I have co-organised online inductions across India during the nationwide lockdown. I have been a speaker at Greenpeace India "Youth in India as drivers of Social Change" event. I have also conducted a master class on Campaign Fundraising for all volunteers. I am grateful that now, when I join volunteer meetings, those who haven't worked with me also know who I am or more importantly, what the Circles of Challenge is about. I have been trying to encourage young students to find what they are good at, and use that unique strength in mobilising more people for our movement. My experience at

Greenpeace has been unreal, and I know it's an association that will continue wherever I go. I now look at my volunteering and mentoring position as a unique opportunity to learn and unlearn at the same time, pushing the environmental movement in India to better the world we live in.

- Anusuiya Radhika Dev Sarmah, Volunteer



Greenpeace volunteers who conducted the bus user survey in Delhi as part of the "Bustling Through the City" report. © Greenpeace



Greenpeace volunteers conduct a plantation drive in Bengaluru. © Greenpeace



Greenpeace volunteers conduct a clean up and plantation drive in Bengaluru. © Greenpeace

The year 2020 reminded us that the balance of nature is crucial for humans to thrive and that material gains have limitations in keeping us happy or safe. Some adapted to the new culture of work from home, while many suffered the loss of livelihood. The pandemic gave us an opportunity to reimagine campaigns that can help India build back better. Our new Urban Mobility campaign champions for a clean, equitable, feasible and accessible transport system. The campaign enables a mindset shift that advocates more safe public transport, and encourages cycling and walking. We're asking companies to opt for a flexible remote working policy as this can help reduce emissions and the stress of traffic. I am also delighted to share that a list of "Green Recommendations" was submitted to NITI Aayog. It included suggestions on clean energy, transport, agriculture and others for a better and sustainable future. The list was endorsed by over 29,000 Indian citizens. On the sustainable agriculture front, we are working with over 150 small and marginal women farmers in Jamui, Bihar. We are helping them develop organic kitchen gardens to boost their nutritional security. Over 100 families have begun adopting ecological farming. The initial positive indicators reflect that with innovative interventions, the most vulnerable farmer groups can ensure safe food and nutritional security for themselves and others too. Our work is made possible only by your support and belief in us. Let 2021 strengthen our relationship as India hopes to build back better!

Binu Jacob, Executive Director-Greenpeace India  
Excerpted from his message in the Witness Report dated January 19, 2021



*With hearts set on the Bring back Better narrative, Greenpeace India's campaigners and behind the scenes staff in this peoples' organisation, wear their attitudes for a sustainable world, high. This attitude of sharing and caring, especially through a trying pandemic, is infectious.*

**Mohammed Saifullah, Programme Co-ordinator:**

This year, I have been involved in the farmer and consumer activity #Towards Better. For me, 2020-2021 has been very helpful at Greenpeace. My brother lost his job due to the pandemic, and his family too, is dependent on my salary.

**Narendra Dubey:** Greenpeace is like a guardian organisation – it doesn't think just about the employee, but the employee's family too. During this pandemic, Greenpeace has provided me the facility to work from home and spend time with family too. The organisation has shown an attitude of togetherness during this critical time, and has not fired anyone during this period.

**Ajit, Web and IT Specialist:** Overall, the year 2020-2021 came with a lot of ups and downs for all of us. Many of us, also our family members, have been affected by this pandemic. But, we continue to work with a positive attitude. We put our work on priority, and helped the organisation work towards noble causes.

**Avinash Kumar Chanchal-Senior Campaigner**

**Climate and Energy:** I too, had personal losses during the pandemic and faced depression. Continuing to work during the pandemic is also a privilege. When I thought of how privileged I am, it gave me motivation to do the best for the organisation.

**Raghu Kumar:** The pandemic has had a major effect on our lives. The big change has been the role of technology during this period – we have had to interact face-to-face via video conference with staff and others. The pandemic has impacted mental health, and caused stress. I have been able to balance personal and professional life.

**Prabhakar Behera:** The floating banner across the Devi river in Odisha provided a creative photo opportunity moment, and connect to many fishermen communities. The activity helped motivate the fishermen to stand for environmental

protection. It involved initiatives to drive change by engaging people around us, and connecting them with Greenpeace. As a result, the fishermen too, are looking forward to being associated with Greenpeace in future, especially if value add initiatives are implemented. This has especially been important for fishermen given that they have had no alternate sources of income during the pandemic. Personally, it has been very difficult to do production work because of covid-19 protocols, and the rains here.

**Ishteyaque Ahmed - Senior Campaigner,**

**Sustainable Agriculture:** For me, the biggest challenge has been that I have not been able to be on the field with the people, the farmers. Communication over phone calls and zoom is partial, and one cannot see and sense peoples' expressions fully. Also, zoom doesn't work with farming communities. But through it all, I learnt new internet jargons like brb (be right back) ... Also, when I communicate online, I have to take so much more care. Also, in the village, we celebrate everything, even a good meal, or the sighting of a bird. We take joy in the small things in life and that creates a lot of excitement, and is now missing ... Also, there has been so much gloom and death in Bihar, not so much from covid, as from other ailments which have been ignored ... Through it all, our living soils campaigns have given hope to thousands of farmers and daily wage earners.

**Rohin Kumar – Communications Officer:** To start off with, no one had an experience of how to deal with the pandemic, and its repercussions on the people and our work. It brought us to an emotional low, and also taught us to reach out and drive our narrative for sustainability with various stakeholders whole-heartedly chipping in.

**Bhanupriya, Senior Accounts Officer:** It has been a challenging and stressful time because of Covid. Greenpeace has made working easy with the WFH facility by providing necessary infrastructure at home – this has helped me focus on my work. Team members too, have supported me, and it has been very encouraging. It is amazing that Greenpeace has been able to mobilise regular donors, and raise donations with the efforts of the fundraising team despite the pandemic in 2020-2021.



International Day for Clean Air for Blue Skies

### जलवायु परिवर्तन से भी क्रिकेट हो रहा प्रभावित

हरित संरक्षणवादी / योगेश्वर

एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु दिवस को लेकर हरियाणा के पंच के प्रेसकॉन्फ्रेंस में जलवायु परिवर्तन से क्रिकेट को भी प्रभावित हो रहा है, विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार कहा गया है। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से क्रिकेट को भी प्रभावित हो रहा है, विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार कहा गया है।

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### Five highly polluted Jharkhand cities not in NCAP list

World Observer  
Clean Air Day today



The pollution levels in five highly polluted cities in Jharkhand are not included in the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) list. The cities are Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bokaro, Dhanbad, and Jharia. The NCAP list includes 102 cities across India, but these five cities are excluded. This is because they are not in the list of 102 cities that are included in the NCAP list.

### रिपोर्ट का दावा-बढ़ते तापमान से क्रिकेट को है खतरा

एक प्रेसकॉन्फ्रेंस में जलवायु परिवर्तन से क्रिकेट को भी प्रभावित हो रहा है, विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार कहा गया है। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से क्रिकेट को भी प्रभावित हो रहा है, विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार कहा गया है।



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### 'Polices from fossil fuel to renewables a must'

Lucknow (PNS): The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on Monday (September 7) must be a moment for all of us to acknowledge that human activities such as burning fossil fuels in transport, and the energy sector are the major sources of air pollution. The governments and local authorities after COVID-19 must envisage policies for transitioning from fossils to renewables.

This was stated by Avinash Chanchal, climate campaigner at Greenpeace India. He pointed out that public investments should focus on tackling climate change and expand the dimensions of sustainability from the environmental perspective to protect public health. He said that reports until July have highlighted how Lucknow has suffered from air pollution in terms of ecology, health and economy. He added that in recent years, air pollution has become one of the most pressing issues globally making it the third-largest cause for premature death.

Air pollution is a public health emergency. In order to raise public awareness about how clean air is important for health, productivity, economy and environment, last year the United Nations General Assembly during its 74th session adopted a resolution to organize International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.

राज्य के सभी प्रदूषित शहरों को राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु कार्यक्रम में शामिल किए जाने की जरूरत

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## Car Free Day

### Polluted air hurting Indian cities' economies: Hyd, B'luru, Chennai may lose over 4% GDP

The study says health impacts of air pollution affects the economy in different ways.



AIR POLLUTION

### 24,000 pollution-related deaths in Delhi in first half of 2020: Greenpeace

According to a new online tool by IQAir AirVisual and Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Delhi lost Rs 26,230 crore, equivalent to 5.8 percent of its annual GDP, over the last six months due to air pollution.



### Commuters in Bengaluru spend long hours in traffic jams: Greenpeace India

Bengaluru has the second slowest average traffic speed in the country. This means commuters spend long nearly 243 hours, i.e. 10 days, three hours in traffic each year.



#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Bengaluru surpassed 80 lakh vehicles in 2019, overtaking Mumbai, Chennai & Kolkata, coming only second to the National Capital Delhi with 1.3 cr vehicles.
- According to Greenpeace India analysis in 2018, at least 550 million Indians, including 30 million children under the age of 5, live in areas where air pollution levels exceed national standards.



### Air pollution increases risk of COVID-19, deaths: Study



Children ride a cart as smoke came out from it which lead to air pollution (ANI)

**BENGALURU** : Air pollution in Bengaluru is linked to the loss of an estimated 6,300 lives in the first half of 2020 and 3.7 per cent decline in the city's annual GDP despite strictly enforcing COVID-19 related lockdown, a study has revealed. According to a new online tool by IQAir AirVisual and Greenpeace-Southeast Asia, research shows that long-term air pollution exposure increases the risk of severe COVID-19 infections and death. 'Air pollution in Bengaluru is linked to the loss of an estimated 6,300 lives in the first half of 2020 despite a strict COVID-related lockdown,' the two organisations claimed in a statement. It is also revealed that air pollution took a major toll on the city's economy at a cost of approximately ₹6,973 crore over the last six months, an equivalent of 3.7% of Bengaluru's total annual GDP, the statement said. The study claimed that the health damage from air pollution is expected to cost 1-5.8% of cities GDP in the major metropolitan cities of the world in the first half of this year. Of all the 28 cities studied, Delhi bears the highest economic cost of air pollution as a percentage of GDP due to the impacts of PM2.5 and NO2 pollution. While some cities have seen a temporary return of blue skies as a result of COVID-19 related restrictions, these gains were

### World Car-Free Day: Age old cycle is best



**World Car-Free Day** (September 22nd) will be celebrated in Bengaluru on the morning of Tuesday. The public is urged to use their own two-wheeled vehicles and cycle to reach their destinations. The city's traffic police will be on duty to ensure smooth traffic flow. The event is organized by the Bengaluru Traffic Police, in collaboration with the Bengaluru Metropolitan Corporation (BMC). The event is being organized to raise awareness about the benefits of using two-wheeled vehicles and cycles. The event is being organized to raise awareness about the benefits of using two-wheeled vehicles and cycles. The event is being organized to raise awareness about the benefits of using two-wheeled vehicles and cycles.

### दिल्लीमा 2020नी एउधमातमा छ महिनामा वायु प्रदूषणले झारसे 24,000 जीवितमा मृत: ग्रीनपीस

एन पि सिएन 28 फुन एउधमातमा दुईदिने वायु प्रदूषणले झार सकेको बायो सुसमात छ

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Despite drop in emissions, India still world's highest sulphur dioxide producer

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 09, 2020 16:52 IST  
UPDATED: OCTOBER 09, 2020 01:53 IST

SHARE ARTICLE



In 2019, India emitted 21% of global anthropogenic (human-made) SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, nearly double that of second-ranked global emitter, Russia. (For representational image) | Photo Credit: B. Rajesh

**Data from NASA places Russia and China next on polluters' list.**

For the first time in four years India's sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions recorded a significant decline of approximately 6% in 2019 compared to 2018, the

For the first time in four years India's sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions recorded a significant decline of approximately 6% in 2019 compared to 2018, the steepest drop in four years, according to a report from Greenpeace India and the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

However, India continues to occupy the top spot among emitters for the fifth consecutive year.

**Also read: India largest SO<sub>2</sub> emitter in world: Greenpeace**

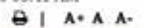
The report ranks the world's biggest emitters of SO<sub>2</sub>, a poisonous air pollutant that increases the risk of stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and premature death.

## India's sulphur dioxide emissions came down by 6 per cent in 2019: Report

Along with China and Russia, India contributes over 21% of global emissions of the gas.



Published: 09th October 2020 03:41 AM | Last Updated: 09th October 2020 03:41 AM



For representational purposes

**By Express News Service**

**BENGALURU:** India's sulphur emissions fell by 6% in 2019 from 2018, the first time levels declined in four years, owing to a reduction in the use of

By the end of the first quarter of 2020, the pandemic hit and in April 2020, for the first time ever, donor acquisition came to a standstill for almost a month. In May 2020, once we were able to put the systems in place we started tele-fundraising. The team lacked telecalling experience (as they were hired and trained for face to face fundraising) and it was extremely difficult to conduct fundraising in pandemic times. As the pandemic eased a little, our fundraising teams started face to face operation in October 2020. On the Retention front, following the onset of the pandemic, Greenpeace India reinitiated the Circles of Solidarity which supported vulnerable communities through ration kits. This campaign was well received by our supporters/donors and the campaign effort and reach was boosted through collaborations with several influencers such as Celina Jaitley, Suhasini Mulay, T.M. Krishna and Delhi MP - Dilip Pandey among others.

In 2021, we started face to face fundraising on a low profile as Covid-19 infections were still a concern, though lockdown restrictions had eased comparatively. It was a challenging time for all, as many of the staff experienced either their family members, relatives or the prospective donors they interacted with, dealing with Covid infections. The face to face fundraising team focused on outreach venues like shopping malls and commercial places, where we faced a limited turnout of people. We have also explored public places like parks and street food venues. But during the second phase of lockdown restrictions, we stopped our face to face operations and experimented with new ways of fundraising - LinkedIn appointments and fundraising through zoom calls, besides telecalling.

Greenpeace Environment Trust	
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2021	
PARTICULARS	2020 - 2021
<b>Income</b>	<b>Rs</b>
Domestic Donations Received	86,179,922
Interest Income	1,988,875
Other Income	11,175
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88,179,972</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Climate & Energy	487,156
Sustainable Agriculture/Food for Life	2,131,611
Mobility	119,690
PROGRAM SUPPORT EXPENSES	
Outreach Event	1,804,491
Media & Communication	1,752,484
Public Engagement	1,911,855
Strategic Program	2,325,911
Covid response work	1,301,011
Donation - Prime Minister's National Relief Fund	2,211,635
PUBLIC AWARENESS & FUNDRAISING	
Fundraising Fees & Expenditure	46,917,011
Depreciation	276,006
Organization Support Expenses	7,383,073
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68,621,934</b>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	19,558,038

<b>Greenpeace India Society</b>	
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2021	
<b>PARTICULARS</b>	<b>2020 - 2021</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>Rs</b>
Domestic Donations Received	5,58,91,180
Interest Income	48,36,045
Other Income	15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,07,42,225</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	
Climate & Energy	35,06,796
Mobility	7,04,504
<b>PROGRAM SUPPORT EXPENSES</b>	
Media & Communication	12,60,527
Public Engagement	4,57,231
Strategic Program	17,02,261
Covid response work	13,63,466
Donation - Prime Minister's National Relief Fund	24,72,523
<b>PUBLIC AWARENESS &amp; FUNDRAISING</b>	
Fundraising Fees & Expenditure	1,47,21,736
Depreciation	3,06,504
Organization Support Expenses	40,66,007
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,05,61,555</b>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	3,01,80,670

Greenpeace is a global organisation that uses non-violent direct action to tackle the most crucial threats to our planet's biodiversity and environment. Greenpeace is a non-profit organisation, present in 40 countries across Europe, The Americas, Asia and the Pacific.

It speaks for 2.8 million supporters worldwide, and inspires many millions more to take action every day. To maintain its independence, Greenpeace does not accept donations from governments or corporations but relies on contributions from individual supporters and foundation grants.

Greenpeace has been campaigning against environmental degradation since 1971 when a small boat of volunteers and journalists sailed into Amchitka, an area north of Alaska, where the US Government was conducting underground nuclear tests. This tradition of 'bearing witness' in a non-violent manner continues today, and ships are an important part of all its campaign work.

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