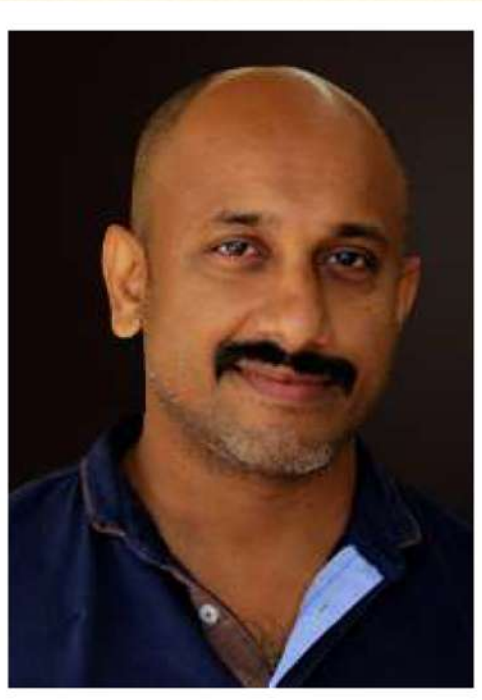


WITNESS

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EDITORIAL

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Have you really ever witnessed the arrival of the monsoons in India? Living in the plains, especially if they are concrete jungles, with our jobs and lives to live, it is often natural to completely miss this magical phenomenon.

This year I consider myself fortunate that way. For I happened to be on top of a hill in the Western Ghats, as this year's monsoon was weighing in. I was surrounded by the clouds that generally appear so high up in the sky, from the streets where I live. And standing on that hill-top, getting drenched from the misty rain, staring at the endless cloud formation around me, with the lush green Ghats at its feet, I felt so humbled by the sheer beauty and enormity of what we know as the South-West Monsoons - the phenomenon that keeps the subcontinent alive, keeps us alive.

Standing on that hill, in that beauty, it was proving difficult to imagine in that moment, the kind of ferocity and hardships these same clouds could bring on lands and on people in many parts of the country. Yet, I knew it would. And I also knew how essential the monsoons are. It was one of those inexplicable feelings, where someone is left with no satisfactory answers.

At a time when the monsoon has become erratic in the subcontinent, with more and more instances of too-much or too-little rainfall in places, wrecking havoc to agriculture, lives, livelihoods and livestock, it becomes all the more necessary for all of us to do our duties to keep climate change at bay.

That is what Greenpeace has been doing for a long time now. Through small acts of courage from ordinary individuals, backed by science, we will continue our contribution to building a society that will withstand the test of time. While playing our part in keeping this change going, together we will emerge as an important piece in the puzzle of life.

I'll also take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support for our work that makes it possible! With people like you by our side, we will be taking more actions over the coming days to make transport sustainable in our country and ensure that diverse, climate conscious cultivation & consumption is the naturally accepted norm in our society.

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN THEIR QUEST TO RECLAIM THE STREETS

Power The Pedal is our ongoing campaign where we have partnered with women from lower-income communities to access safe transportation through cycling. As women continue to demand what is rightfully theirs - **access to safe, empowering, and accessible transport - through cycles** - these cycles also experience considerable wear and tear.



To ensure women have access to constant servicing and maintenance we conducted cycle repair and maintenance workshops for major and minor issues like tyre air pressure, punctures, chain bending and much more. Even with heavy rains, the team conducted these workshops and women showed up with their cycles. It was also a good place to understand their experience with the cycles and collect feedback for the next batch of cycles manufacturing and distribution. Through these workshops, more than 100 women could repair their cycles to get back on the road to reclaiming their rights.

FLEXICITY: Does Flexible Work Improve Air Quality?

We conducted a comparative study of air quality and mobility patterns before, during and after the COVID-19 Lockdowns (2020) in Bengaluru and their correlation with hybrid work systems in the city. The study is intended to analyse the contribution of vehicular emissions to Bengaluru's air quality and recommend mitigatory measures in the form of flexible, hybrid work systems.



We find that Bengaluru's air quality significantly improved during the lockdown, when remote working was enforced, keeping vehicles off the road. Post the lockdown as travel for work resumed, air quality began dropping, reverting to pre-lockdown levels of pollution.

Read more about Bengaluru's growing pollution problem and how flexible working can help improve air quality in our report - **FLEXICITY** - on our website.

CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES: HEALTHY AIR FOR HEALTHY PLANET

Every year on 7 September 2022, International Day for Clean Air for Blue Skies is observed to foster international cooperation for reducing air pollution and improving the air quality. This year, we participated in a Townhall where doctors, experts and Delhi Government's environment adviser and women from our Power The Pedal community participated and discussed the importance of clean air. Kusum from our Power The Pedal cyclist community shared her experience and challenges of cycling in the city due to the pollution and lack of space for cyclists. An art exhibition was also organised that highlighted the inequality of the air pollution crisis.

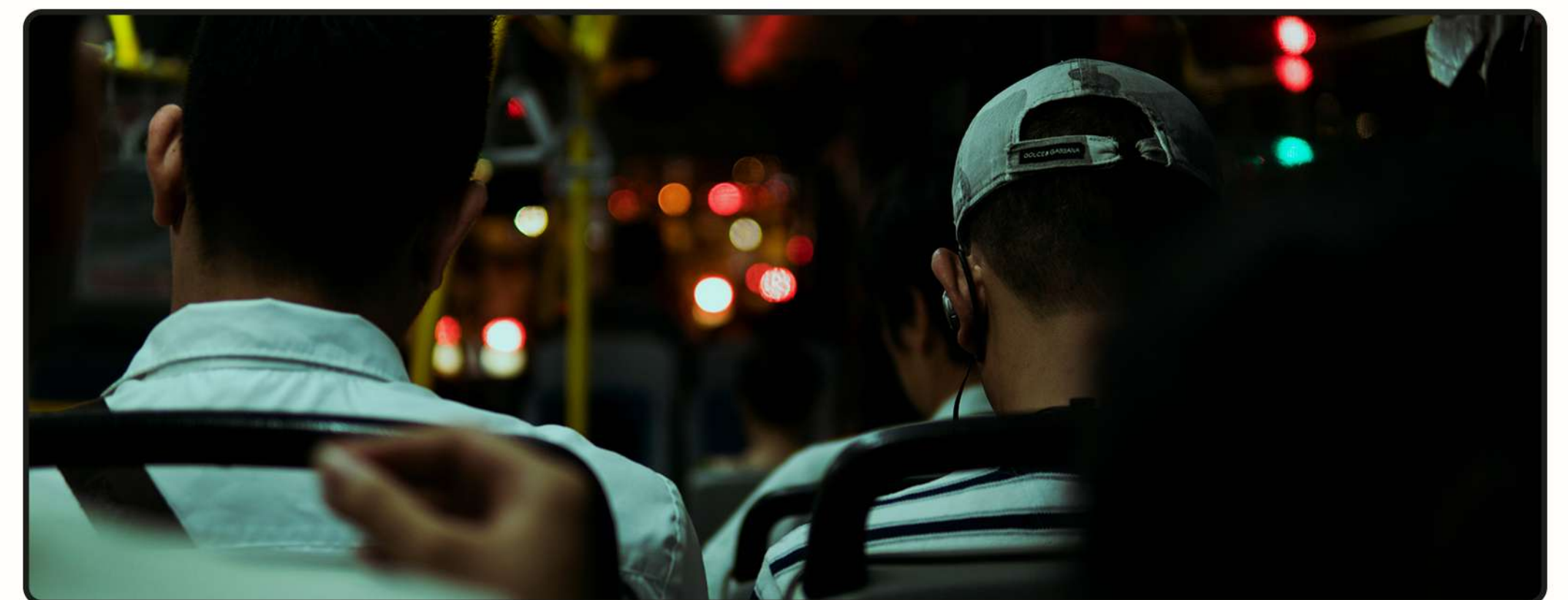


Additionally, we also released a report **"Different Air Under One Sky: The Inequity Air Research"**, where we investigated air pollution in 7 countries by assessing people's access to air quality monitoring stations and the exposure to air pollution experienced by vulnerable sections of the population. The report highlights that over 99% of the population of countries included in this research are breathing polluted air. India has one of the worst air quality with the greatest proportion of people exposed to PM2.5 concentrations, more than five times the WHO annual average guidelines. Head over to our website to know more about how clean air has become an issue for equity and justice.

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Protect Bengaluru's Bus Lanes!

As we continue our work to protect Bengaluru's Bus Lanes, we interacted with people in the city to understand their requirements -



"I am a labourer, I cannot afford to hire a private auto rickshaw to commute to places. If the bus lane is getting implemented I can save a lot by using public transport. It is any day more affordable than a private vehicle"

"If the bus priority lane corridors get implemented I will be happy to take a bus instead of riding my own scooter to college. It is so much stress to ride your own vehicle."

- Aslam Altaaz, Bangalore

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH DIETARY DIVERSITY

Diverse, indigenous and traditional food systems hold the key in the fight against malnutrition, hunger and climate change. Jharkhand has traditionally been rich in biodiversity and its indigenous practices. However, climate change-induced events have significantly influenced the rich vegetation, forest cover and farming patterns of the indigenous communities. The subsequent delays in farming cycles and decline in wild foods have led to communities switching from multi-cropping to monocropping systems thereby changing local food habits.

Dietary diversity, specifically in the context of Jharkhand is pertinent as the tribal population accounts for nearly 26% of the state's population. Historically, indigenous communities have been dependent on uncultivated greens and fruits as their source of food and micronutrients.

To highlight the dietary diversity of Jharkhand, we collaborated with Ajam Emba to organise **Swadish - a Chef's Table that celebrated indigenous food prepared by indigenous chefs**. The event showcased the importance of including millets, pulses and thousands of edible plants in the traditional food system to ensure food and nutritional security of the people while protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

The lively occasion had Indigenous chefs, tribal activists, agriculture experts, economists, social scientists and CSOs of different states who are working on the inclusion of millets as participants. Economist and Social Activist Jean Dreze, Elina Horo from Indigenous Women Forum UNO, Archana Soreng - Member of UN Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, and Tribal food expert Subhadra Khaperde are few of the guests who graced the event by sharing their experiences and support for diverse food systems.

Like in Jharkhand, the indigenous food in every Indian state is rich in its own way and has the power to help us minimise the impact of the climate crisis. Hence, we than using methods such as fortification. In our recent meeting with the Jharkhand Government in Ranchi on Rice Fortification, we amplified the need for Dietary Diversity. Greenpeace India along with representatives of ASHA, health experts and Right to Food (also part of fact-finding) were invited by the Jharkhand Government for a seminar on Rice Fortification. Here, Dr Vandana Prasad, a renowned public health expert, interacted with the government officials to raise concerns about the FSSAI guidelines required for fortified food products and highlighted the cases of violations from the ground during fact-finding.



"It is high time that we approach nutritional security with a holistic approach. The country is witnessing drastic impacts on food systems because of climate-induced extreme weather events. In such a scenario, it is also necessary that we transition from mono-cropping to multi-cropping and indigenous grains, leafy vegetables and locally grown food is included in PDS. It will encourage farmers to grow diverse crops, and hence, would be a leap in the fight against climate change."

- Rohin Kumar, Senior Agriculture Campaigner, Greenpeace India.

This meeting helped us put forth our concerns to the officials regarding rice fortification, results of the pilot project, scaling up of the fortification projects and accountability for the results of the project. While we did not receive proper responses to our questions, we will continue to engage in conversations with officials to understand research done on the outcomes of this project and what other steps the government will take to incorporate dietary and nutritional diversity. Furthermore, to continue our conversation with the officials, we have introduced a petition demanding that the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food And Civil Supplies introduce iron-rich, resilient, native varieties of rice, millets, veggies and pulses into the Public Distribution System to strengthen nutritional security and fight climate change.

Access to a diverse diet is everyone's right

CELEBRATING BIHAR PRITHVI DIWAS

Under the Bihar Living Soils campaign, we are focusing on establishing new traditions in the community's culture like embedding campaigning for their rights as a part of their life. To this end, every year since 2020, Bihar Prithvi Diwas (Bihar Earth Day) is celebrated in collaboration with Jivit Mati Kisan Samiti where Rakhis are tied to different elements of nature and the tools used for organic farming. This year, we were excited as Panchayati Raj Institutions also joined us in the celebration. For the very first time, a District Magistrate inaugurated our cultural event by tying a Rakhi to a model representing the Earth and a Neem tree in Kedia. Various other cultural activities took place that made for an interactive and interesting event. The District Magistrate was impressed with the BLS Model and announced that he will organise student visits and a training centre at Kedia to promote organic farming.

CLIMATE COMMONS: A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY TO DRIVE CHANGE

Climate Commons, a collaborative initiative by Jaaga, BeFanatastic, Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Indian Music Experience and Greenpeace, focuses on creating a community that is invested in understanding the reality of climate change and humanity's role in accelerating global warming.

The first conversation in our Climate Commons series focused on reflecting on Climate Change in relation to P. Sainath's classic text on rural poverty in India. Considered a landmark for its depth and intimacy, "Everybody Loves a Good Drought", lays bare the realities of income inequality in the country and the various challenges to attempting to bridge this gap.

REGISTER TODAY

AN OPEN LETTER ON BENGALURU FLOODS

In early September 2022, Bengaluru experienced unprecedented rains and floods. Many parts of the city were ravaged, displacing citizens and causing damages worth hundreds of crores. While steps were taken in the immediate aftermath of the floods to provide relief and shelter to those affected, [**Greenpeace India wrote an open letter to the Chief Minister of Karnataka**](#) as concerned citizens witnessing the devastating impact of extreme weather in Bengaluru.

Through the open letter, we provided suggestions that would help make Bengaluru a climate-resilient city that is sensitive to its natural ecosystems and rooted in inclusion and sustainability.

Our key demands:

- The government must cease plans to construct the proposed three-layer highways owing to their unsustainability and limited purpose and must instead reinvest and focus on its public road transportation system.
- ITeS, BPO and other companies and tech parks in Bengaluru should be encouraged to adopt flexible work policies and should also incentivise employees who commute via cycles or public transportation.
- The Karnataka state and local governments should provide adequate funding and support to implement localised climate action plans with a clear timeline and in close consultation with citizens.

READ MORE



GLOBAL & NATIONAL NEWS

PLASTICS - AN ISSUE OF CONSUMPTION

On July 1, 2022, the Indian government's [ban on selected single-use plastics](#) came into effect. While it's a welcome step toward curbing plastic pollution, plastic is not a waste problem but a consumption problem. Most products that we consume come wrapped in multi-layered plastic packaging. Corporations need to move away from plastic and look for alternatives that will not pollute the environment. We also need to break away from our habituated consumption patterns that continue to pollute our environment, and consequently, affect our health.

As a response to the Plastics ban, we engaged with our community to create a culture of upcycling and reuse of plastics. A series of sewing workshops were organised in Delhi with our women cyclists community and students of Vivek Modern Public School where they learnt to sew and design bags from old clothes.

"In my opinion, banning plastic is not enough, the government should introduce some alternatives too. Further, the alternatives should even be cost-effective to the manufacturers and business entities too. The business entities get plastic at a very cheap rate which also needs to be tackled with, a systemic alternative to plastic must be put in place to tackle the whole situation of plastic pollution."

- Prashant, Advocate and volunteer with Greenpeace India, discussing the Plastics ban in India with Greenpeace India.



UN OCEAN TREATY TALKS COLLAPSE - THE OCEAN CRISIS DEEPENS

The seas provide half of our oxygen, food for a billion people, and a home for some of the most spectacular wildlife on Earth. But the impacts of climate change, pollution and destructive industries mean they're in more danger than ever. The UN Ocean Treaty would have been a step towards protecting our oceans but unfortunately, the two-week negotiations involving 168 countries, to agree on a [UN treaty for protecting oceans failed on 27 August 2022](#). The negotiations have now been suspended and would require a further round of discussions. An emergency meeting must be conducted in 2022 to deliver on the commitment to finalise a Treaty.

Impact Box

Living Soils: Students of a Bihar Govt school show the way!

We are working with three schools in Jamui, Bihar to grow organic kitchen gardens, encouraging students and their families to adopt ecological agricultural practices. The Sakhikuda Government School in Jamui District is one of the schools where children have adopted organic farming methods. Here, they are growing green leafy vegetables, tomatoes, beans, brinjal, pumpkin, okra, chillies, cabbage and more.

This is the organic revolution we need – where communities, especially the most vulnerable, are empowered to take charge of their own dietary diversity and access nutritious produce.



[READ MORE](#)



DONOR DIARY

I am striving for a thriving ecosystem that is equitable and enjoyable to all its inhabitants—wildlife, forests, and humans. Rising carbon emissions and global warming are threatening the quality of life and causing destruction and catastrophes frequently everywhere. It will only increase in the future, and I urge global leaders and citizens alike to think of and implement sustainable development in their regions. Organizations like Greenpeace are providing the right solutions and campaigns toward this goal. It's important we all come together to save our planet in our little ways.

MEGHA KAULGUD

Greenpeace India supporter
for 10 years

TAKE OUR QUIZ



Who took a zero-carbon voyage from Europe to the United States to raise awareness of climate change?



What country has the most islands, 270,000 in total?



Pink Ladies and Granny Smiths are types of what fruit?



How many keys does a classic piano have?



Which one of the following trees is considered to be an environmental hazard?



Scan the code, click the answers and win exciting prizes!



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