



GREENPEACE

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WITNESS

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Binu Jacob

Executive Director Greenpeace India

Strong climate justice work needs to be at the core of global environmental campaigns. Climate change affects everyone, but the poor and the marginalised communities bear a disproportionate burden when they have not contributed to the worsening of the environment in the first place. This needs a system thinking approach as a society and requires extensive work with communities, youth, allies and government bodies to create change.

We recently launched *Unjam Bengaluru*, and as a part of this campaign, our recommendation on Urban Mobility and Sustainable Agriculture was submitted to the different political parties before the Karnataka Assembly election in 2023. One of our campaign objectives is to promote urban planning and sustainable food systems that foster equity in access to urban spaces and infrastructure and address the needs of the marginalised from a climate change perspective.

As the new government assumed power in Karnataka, we achieved a significant milestone as the demand for free buses for women was accepted by the Cabinet. This is just one step in the broader narrative of urban justice. Offering free buses alone is not the solution; we must now address issues of safety and accessibility. While we celebrate this achievement, we recognise that our journey is just beginning.

In light of changing weather patterns and their implications on farming and food, our campaign focuses on promoting food systems that not only mitigate the climate crisis but also help build the resilience of the communities to adapt better. The wisdom of traditional farming and the new science of sustainable farming agree that we need to promote indigenous crops like millet to stem the continuing biodiversity loss and address nutritional security.



Those in positions of power need to think long-term and prioritise climate justice work both at the global level and also nationally. We continue to work with government leaders, community members and other stakeholders to make our cities green, sustainable and equitable.

We cannot achieve this vision alone. Your involvement, whether through signing petitions, supporting our local initiatives, or engaging with our campaigns is crucial. Together, we can reshape our world by working towards climate justice, sustainability, and compassion.

URGING NUTRITIONAL DIVERSITY IN KARNATAKA

Marking the International Year of Millets, government agencies have introduced initiatives, but more efforts are required to address production, distribution and community adaptability challenges. Karnataka, an early adopter in millet distribution, still faces unresolved issues. Greenpeace India has submitted 10 recommendations to political parties before the Karnataka General Assembly Elections in May 2023 to enhance millet availability and promote diverse nutrition for all.



Increase the incentives for millet farmers



Inclusion of millet-based food in Midday meals



Support Women Self Help Groups with local millet processing units



Organise millet food festivals



Inclusion of millets, pulses & other coarse grains in the Targeted Public Distribution System



Revive, Promote & ensure the supply of millet



Establish processing & storage facilities



Procure millet from farmers to promote ecological sensitivity



Restrain from hybrid/biofortified varieties of millet



Create infrastructure & introduce a mandatory minimum price for millet

INCLUDING MILLET IN MID-DAY MEALS IN JHARKHAND



The nutritional security of school children in Jharkhand has become a significant concern as a staggering **67.5% of them** between five months and five years old **suffer from anemia**.

[READ MORE](#)

Greenpeace India recently organized a press conference emphasizing the urgent requirement to incorporate millets into Jharkhand's Midday Meal Scheme, with the aim of addressing this nutritional crisis. Various civil society groups came together to appeal to the Jharkhand Government, urging proactive measures to implement this change.



Also, a comprehensive report titled "**Millets: A game changer for nutritional security and climate resilience in Jharkhand**" was presented, highlighting the nutritional benefits and climate adaptability of indigenous grains. Indian Medical Association, Jharkhand chapter has also endorsed the demand for the inclusion of millet in mid-day meals.

UNJAM BENGALURU

Urbanization and development of fossil fuel-dependent transportation infrastructure are causing tree loss, pollution, and neglect of marginalized communities. We launched the campaign Unjam Bengaluru to revamp our public and non-motorized transport systems. Along with the Council for Active Mobility, submitted 10 recommendations to political parties for the May 2023 Karnataka Assembly Elections. The recommendations prioritize sustainable cities, emphasizing public transport, non-motorized options like cycling and walking, and supporting hybrid work systems to reduce traffic congestion.



11 dedicated bus lanes

14000 buses for BMTC



Free/Subsidised bus passes

Sustainable Transport Fund



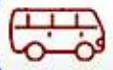
Active Mobility Bill

4000 km of dedicated cycle lanes & footpaths



Parking Policy 2.0

Intermediate Public Transport



Improve the first & last mile connectivity

Transit Oriented Development zones



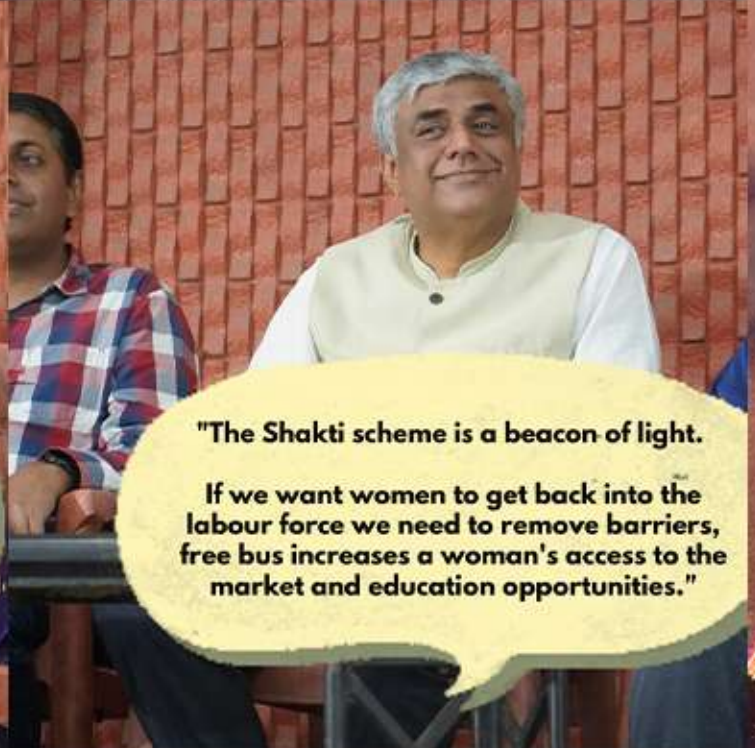
Post-election, we continue to work with communities by conducting multiple focus group discussions to understand their key demands concerning public transport. These include: Lack of adequate buses, bus stops & bus routes and improper facilities for last-mile connectivity.

Armed with the information from the focus group discussions, a public consultation on mobility - ***“Let’s Move Bengaluru”*** was organised with 5 ally groups. We were also joined by a panel of experts on mobility, representatives from women’s cycling groups, transgender community and labourer groups and students. A key point that resulted from the discussions was a need for ***a mindset shift - to change the way we look at public transportation in India.***

READ MORE



"We were earlier forced to work within 2 to 3 kilometres of our house the scheme is definitely helping us access new spaces, but since covid our routes have been discontinued and buses don't ply in our area. This is alienating us from the benefits of this scheme."



"The Shakti scheme is a beacon of light. If we want women to get back into the labour force we need to remove barriers, free bus increases a woman's access to the market and education opportunities."

**Vanarani,
Slum dwellers Association**

Quote translated from Kannada to English

**Prof. Rajeev Gowda
Congress Party spokesperson & Karnataka
Congress manifesto committee spokesperson**

WOMEN'S CYCLIST'S COMMUNITY TAKES THE LEAD!

2 years ago, we began the Power the Pedal project, to build a community of women cyclists who are empowered to reclaim the streets while silently fighting air pollution.

Thanks to our supporters, today we have a community of cyclists with 500+ women. And these women are reclaiming the city to take ownership of their transportation and silently leading the fight against air pollution.



In addition to reclaiming the city, this group of bold women in Delhi also took the initiative to organise a rally and street play to create awareness about the issues they face while cycling on the road. They came together to *demand safe and accessible road spaces for women cyclists and the inclusion of minibuses as a part of last-mile connectivity.*

NATIONAL NEWS

CLIMATE CRISIS: HEATWAVES SWEEPING INDIA

In April, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued heatwave warnings, leading to rising temperatures and resulting in illnesses and deaths. Greenpeace, along with allies, Public Transport Forum and Heatwave Action Coalition India, is creating awareness about the importance of Heatwave Action Plans (HAPs) by submitting recommendations for the same to Delhi Government.

We continued to advocate for the same by delivering a follow-up letter to the *Chief Minister's representative at the Delhi Secretariat* in June. Ten actionable demands were proposed, including the timely release of the HAP, scientific climate projections, early warning systems, support for vulnerable populations, policy integration, funding, healthcare for heatstroke victims, and nature-based cooling systems.



[READ MORE](#)

Our latest report *Spare the Air* is an analysis of air quality data from eleven major Indian cities between 2021 and 2022 indicating that *air pollution is a public health crisis*. The report found that it's not just metro cities suffering under the pressures of air pollution but cities like Bhopal, Cochin, Lucknow and more are breathing toxic air that is *way above the WHO safety guidelines*.

To create awareness about the release of the report, our volunteers in the cities - *Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Patna and Pune* dropped down a banner to highlight their concerns.

SPARE OUR AIR

BENGALURU



PUNE



HYDERABAD

WHAT CAN BE DONE?



Promote **renewable energy**.



Increase **air quality monitoring stations**.



Developing infrastructure of **public & non-motorised transportation**.



Update policies based on the updated **WHO air quality guidelines**.

GLOBAL NEWS

FREE SPEECH WIN: \$100 MILLION LAWSUIT DEFEATED

A California court dismissed a seven-year lawsuit by Resolute Forest Products against Greenpeace International and Greenpeace USA, who were sued for CA \$100 million. This Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) was an attempt by the logging company to silence and bankrupt the environmental activists. SLAPPs are used by powerful corporations globally to suppress environmental advocacy. But Greenpeace continues its crusade to fight the climate crisis.



AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL ANNOUNCES ITS BAN ON PRIVATE JET

One of Europe's busiest airports Amsterdam Airport Schiphol announced it will BAN private jets. This comes after months of protest from Greenpeace Nederlands and Extinction Rebellion Nederland.



VIVA LA REUSEREVOLUTION!

Ten years ago, on April 24, 2013, the Rana Plaza clothing factory collapsed in Bangladesh, resulting in 1,134 deaths. This tragedy, the largest in the fashion industry, should have served as a wake-up call. However, the root cause of the problem—the linear business model reliant on disposable garments—remains unchanged. Greenpeace Germany recently organized a fashion revolution week to demonstrate an Alternative Future. The event featured the projection of Rana Plaza never again, the release of the report 10 years after Rana Plaza fashion labels conceal a broken system, and the largest clothing swap party ever, along with vigils, rallies, and workshops across Germany.



Impact Box

As a result of our advocacy work through *Unjam Bengaluru*, the winning party, the Indian National Congress, included one of our key recommendations in their manifesto: *providing free public transport for women* through the *Uchita Prayana Scheme*. This recommendation was swiftly approved by the Cabinet after the political party assumed office in Karnataka.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

1



Make The Free Buses For Women More Accessible, Safe And Effective

Increase The Number Of
BMTC Buses To 14,000



3



Establish 11 Bus Lanes In
Bengaluru

To make *Uchita Prayana* even more impactful, Greenpeace India has *sent a letter to the Karnataka Chief Minister*, outlining several recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, robustness, and inclusivity of the scheme.

Additionally, we also unfurled a 20-foot LED banner in front of the Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru with our message:

“Bus For Women, Bus For All”

highlighting our call for inclusive, safe and accessible mobility for citizens.





Donor Diary

I have always admired the work of Greenpeace as representing a glorious vision of universal well-being. Its steadfast commitment to making the world inclusive, compassionate, fair, and sustainable is what I am inspired by. I am extremely happy and proud to be a modest supporter of Greenpeace's unstinting struggle to keep policy attention on some of the most neglected social and environmental challenges of our times. Movements like them are immensely valuable to the very existence of humanity and must be supported.

Tara Nair

- Greenpeace supporter for 11 years -

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