

GREENPEACE

ग्रीनपीस



3.23

WITNESS

VOL.83



Binu Jacob

Executive Director Greenpeace India

The month of July 2023 was the hottest month ever recorded. Across the globe, we're grappling with scorching heatwaves and devastating floods. This undeniable crisis highlights the pressing need for climate action, justice and adaptation.

While these challenges may seem insurmountable, we must remember the power that resides within each one of us. In the face of adversity, hope should be our guiding beacon. The rapidly urbanizing world has seen over half of humanity residing in cities. The pursuit of urban equity is essential for the sustenance of a good society and this precious blue planet. Enhancing public transportation and enforcing stringent environmental regulations are pivotal steps in addressing air pollution and urban inequities. For this we must prioritize the needs of the vulnerable, ensuring access to clean air, secure housing and quality healthcare.

Governments and corporations must be held accountable for their environmental impact we need policies prioritizing the well-being of people and the planet over profit

It has been more than a year since the country eagerly awaited updated air quality standards, which will push the industrial system towards cleaner and sustainable operations. Unfortunately, the wait continues as we ask the Central Pollution

Control Board (CPCB) to take action.

The month of August is normally the core monsoon time in India and we recorded 36% less rainfall compared to Long Period Average (LPA) based on data from 1971-2020. At the same time, extremely heavy rainfall events (> 204.4 mm of rainfall) were recorded in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam & Meghalaya, Sub Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Bihar, Odisha and East Madhya Pradesh. These climate events are causing hardship and loss of life besides also financial burdens to the citizens and the government.

Each of us as we move about our life we need to think about our actions and inaction that could cause harm to the planet and impact the life of the most vulnerable among us, hope is not passive it is a call for action.



CPCB KYA HUA TERA WADA?

2022



More than **10,000 people** supported and signed the petition which was submitted to the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** for action.

The petition urged the gov. to take action, demanding the CPCB revise the **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** based on the updated WHO air quality guidelines.

We waited, patiently, for CPCB to take action.

The **air pollution levels began to rise** and for the first time in 15 years, WHO updated its air quality guidelines in September 2021 reducing the concentration of safe levels of pollutants significantly.

Our cities' **current concentration of pollutants is way beyond the WHO level**. To urge the gov. to take action, we rolled out a petition across the country for people to sign.

April 22, 2022



288 DAYS
LATER

FEBRUARY
4, 2023

We are back at the
Central Pollution
Control Board, Delhi
to nudge them towards
their pending action.



We waited, again, for
CPCB to **take action**.



234 DAYS
LATER

SEPTEMBER
25, 2023

We are again at CPCB,
Delhi with volunteers
and women from the
cyclists' community to
ask the

CPCB

Kya Hua Tera Wada?

It has been **two years**
since India's wait for
updated air quality
standards.



And the wait continues...

READ MORE

STUDYING THE IMPACT OF BENGALURU'S BUS LANES

Back in 2019, Bus Lanes were introduced in Bengaluru on a few stretches but were eventually removed to pave the way for Metro construction. To understand its impact we conducted a survey and revealed its results through our latest report: *Relying on bus: Studying the impacts of Bengaluru's bus lane on bus use.*



SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS UNLOCKING BENGALURU'S TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS

Bus Lanes & Travel Time



28.1%

of bus users experience reduced travel time.



54%

of long-distance travelers save 30-60 mins.



82%

of respondents had a positive bus lane experience.



86%

support expanding the bus lane system.

Gender-Positive Impact



Majority of new users are

women.

Room for Improvement

1. Expanding bus lanes is crucial.
2. Extend benefits to more users.
3. Crowding and staff behaviour issues.
4. Ensuring safety is essential.



This study is a clear indication of a stronger public transport system and infrastructure. There is a need for investment in better public transportation, like bus lanes, bike lanes, and sidewalks, to reduce the number of cars on our crowded roads and lower pollution.

READ MORE

REVAMPING DELHI'S BUSES: NEB SARAI'S DEBUT 'BUS CHAUPAL'

In our first 'Bus Chaupal' in Delhi's Neb Sarai, women gathered to address bus service inadequacies, women's safety in public transit, and strategies to enhance efficiency and security. Activities encompassed designing 'mohalla bus' routes, optimal bus stop layouts, and essential amenities.



THE JOURNEY FROM CYCLISTS TO TRAINERS

The Pedal Shaale program, organized by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and Council for Active Mobility (CFAM), aims to train individuals as certified cycle trainers. Seven women from our women cyclists' community in Bangalore, mobilised by Greenpeace and other organizations, completed a 6-week training program. This marks a significant achievement in our campaign, as women who initially received cycles from Greenpeace are now certified trainers themselves, training their community members.



NATIONAL NEWS

CUTTING AIR POLLUTION ADDS YEARS TO YOUR LIFE

The Air Quality Life Index's latest data reveals that permanently reducing global PM2.5 air pollution to meet the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline would add 2.3 years to average human life expectancy-or a combined 17.8 billion life years saved. The impact of PM2.5 on global life expectancy is comparable to that of smoking, more than three times that of alcohol use and unsafe water and more than five times that of transport injuries like car crashes.





SHAKTI SCHEME HELPS INCREASE FEMALE RIDERSHIP IN BUSES

Since the launch of the Shakti scheme, BMTC has consistently seen daily bus ridership exceed 30 lakh, with the percentage of female passengers rising to 57% in June. Despite this surge, BMTC's fleet remains steady at 5,557 buses out of 6,688. Mobility experts suggest an optimal ratio of 120 buses per 100,000 population, implying that Bengaluru ideally requires around 15,000 buses. The Shakti Scheme holds the promise of relieving the pressure on Bengaluru's roads, where peak hour speeds struggle to reach 10 kmph.



GLOBAL NEWS

GREENPEACE AFRICA @ THE DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

This July, during the Durban International Film Festival, Greenpeace Africa released a documentary detailing the shocking knock-on impact of air pollution caused by big oil in the South African township Wentworth (an area in Durban) - including chronic poverty, gender-based violence and epigenetic changes which make community members prone to certain illnesses.



30X30: FROM GLOBAL OCEAN TREATY TO PROTECTION AT SEA

On September 14, Greenpeace International released a major new report called *30x30: From Global Ocean Treaty to Protection at Sea*. The report provides a political roadmap to implementing the Global Ocean Treaty, details how threats facing our oceans are mounting—including a brand new analysis of how overfishing in the high seas has dramatically increased—and pleads the case to protect three ecologically and biologically significant areas as part of the first tranche of ocean sanctuaries.

Key Influencers Jane Fonda, Camila Cabello and Simon Pegg lent their voices to support the cause in the beautiful animated short film, which follows the journey of three sea creatures as they escape the threats detailed in the report to find peace and security in an ocean sanctuary.



WATCH NOW

THE SCIENCE IS CLEAR - BUT ARE YOU?

A new record was hit in July: the hottest month in the world ever recorded. From the fire crisis in Greece to the floods in North India, Japan, USA, Spain, South Korea and Brazil, we are in the middle of an extreme climate mess!

The science is clear: extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe worldwide and we need to take action.

**LAST JULY WAS THE
HOTTEST MONTH
EVER RECORDED**

ACT NOW

Impact Box

Delhi finally has a heat action plan!

Months of advocacy work have finally come to fruition as Delhi prepares for a Heat Action Plan. Greenpeace India and Heatwave Action Coalition India submitted recommendations for a Heatwave Action Plan in Delhi. After submitting a follow-up letter and filing RTIs regarding the same, we received a response that the Heatwave Action Plan has been prepared and is under review.



While it is heartening to see the Delhi Action Plan take shape, certain gaps related to its legality and funding must be addressed. As the Centre evaluates the plan, we must ensure that such policies are enforced for the country to prevent human and economic casualties.



[READ MORE](#)

Mr. Vivek

Greenpeace Supporter



I worked for a company where we addressed everyone by first name and were encouraged to ask questions. Greenpeace is similar; I have related well to their tradition of asking difficult questions to influential and affluent institutions. In a working democracy and global order based on respect for people, we need voices that are not afraid, and Greenpeace has been one such voice. It has also fine-tuned its approach to ask questions and take concrete steps, such as working with local communities in India, to solve their issues.

Greenpeace's type of voice seeks balance in an increasingly consumerist monoculture world that does not fully understand how affluent people and institutions manipulate us to serve their questionable interests. The history of change in consumption norms is hardly known to us, and we are made to believe that more is for our good, even needed, for our happiness. Greenpeace seeks to limit wasteful consumption and distribute resources more evenly and fairly. I wish them the very best of times, growth, and success!

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Edited, printed and published by Binu Jacob, Executive Director
for Greenpeace Environment Trust.

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