WITNESS<sup>4.24</sup>

**VOL.88** 

#### DEVELOPMENT AT WHAT COST?







## **EDITORIAL**

#### Binu Jacob Executive Director Greenpeace India

A s we reflect on 2024, it feels like a lot happened and still this sense so much more could have been done. Communities across the world have faced devastating impacts of climate crisis and geopolitical strife. From frequent heatwaves and catastrophic floods to political unrest and deepening inequalities, 2024 had it all. It was a stark reminder of the urgent need for an intersectional climate justice movement. As citizens of this planet, we must remember that this is our only home, and

it is our duty to wholeheartedly protect it. If not us, then who?

Human greed is pushing ecosystems to the brink, exploiting communities, and widening the gap between the people who exploit and the exploited. But even in these moments of uncertainty, people have risen and acted to adapt and even mitigate climate challenges. But much more needs to be done by powerful corporations and governments across the world.

At Greenpeace India, we are driven by the mission of hope and justice. We work with communities to understand their challenges and also act with them on their innovative and almost selfless solutions for change. We contribute by bringing science, research, and delivering the message to the larger world to act. Pushing for policy changes to strengthen public transport and reducing air pollution At the same time acutely aware that unless mindset is not changed, good policies are implemented and then revoked.

As we move into 2025, we know the road ahead will not be easy. But history and experience have shown us that collective action can shift the tide. Every petition signed and conversation sparked are the building blocks of change. The climate crisis is not a distant threat, it is here and now. And it is up to all of us to stand together, to resist, reimagine, and rebuild.

We are grateful to have supporters like you on this journey. Your support, solidarity, and courage fuel our work, and together, we will continue to fight for a greener, fairer, and just world.

# 2024: A YEAN N HIGHE HIS



# द्वार सं.-5 IAT H WWW





#### **GREENPEACE INDIA PRESENTS** CITIZEN'S DEMANDS TO DELHI GOVERNMENT

• n 16th January 2024, Greenpeace India submitted a petition signed by 13,420 citizens demanding 4000 new buses, including Mohalla buses, and a dedicated bus transport fund to improve bus transportation infrastructure. The petitions focused on ensuring the safety of bus shelters, depots, and bus lanes.



FEBRUARY

### **PEOPLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

W th the rising extreme weather events across the country, the need for understanding the nuances of these issues is essential. To launch the Climate Justice campaign, Greenpeace India conducted a series of events and exhibitions in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Through the Museum of Memories, we displayed 26 exhibits of everyday articles that tell a powerful story of people's struggles while facing the climate crisis.

The campaign also included an art installation by artist and activist Siddesh Gautam, also known as Bakery Prasad, a Virtual Reality (VR) Film that documents the life of Badal Das, a farmer and fisherman from Sundarbans, roundtable



discussions focusing on community experiences and role of policy and state in climate justice movement, and photo exhibition that includes the works of noted photographers Palani Kumar, Supratim Bhattarcharjee and several community women, revealing stories of people living in vulnerable coastal regions.

Arivu, a groundbreaking Indian rapper, singer, and social activist, performed alongside the Ambassa band at a free concert during the People For Climate event. Sounds of Solidarity by Arivu and Ambassa brought powerful music while raising voices against systemic injustices to the audience.







# MARCH

### NEW DELHI RANKED AS THE MOST POLLUTED CAPITAL CITY

A ccording to the *World Air Quality Report 2023*, New Delhi is the capital city with the worst air quality. India has been ranked as the country with the third worst air quality. 12 out of the 15 cities with the most hazardous air are in India. Vehicle emissions continue to play a significant role in exacerbating air pollution, accounting for 40% of PM2.5 emissions in the nation's capital. The findings of the report are a wake-up call to move beyond outdated fossil fuels, both for our health and for the planet.





#### **GREENPEACE SURVEY REVEALS, INDIANS SUPPORT CUTTING PLASTICS**

A global survey conducted by Greenpeace across 19 countries indicates overwhelming public backing for measures aimed at ending single-use plastics and promoting reuse-based solutions. In India, 8 out of 10 citizens support cutting plastics production to save the country's biodiversity and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The survey also reveals unwavering support for ambitious action on plastics worldwide, especially in regions of the Global South where plastic pollution levels are notably high. The world needs the Global Plastics Treaty now more than ever.





of Indian respondents support cutting the production of plastic to stop plastic pollution



of Indian respondents believe that the **Global Plastics Treaty** should include targets that oblige governments and corporations to transition away from single-use plastic packaging to reusable and refillable packaging

PLASTIC

## 80%

of global respondents advocate for protecting biodiversity and the climate by reducing plastic production.

of global respondents endorse **transitioning away from single-use plastic** packaging to reusable and refillable alternatives.







of global respondents support a ban on single-use plastic packaging.

(Source: People vs Plastics: Global Support for a Strong Plastics Treaty)



#### MELTING FUTURES: ACT BEFORE WE MELT AWAY

On May 19, Greenpeace India unveiled an ice sculpture at the Select City Mall, Saket, Delhi, that melted under the hot sun, sending out a strong message on the impact of heatwaves and the disproportionate impact of heatwaves and other extreme weather events on the marginalized communities. Through this activity we demanded that the **National Disaster Management Authority declare heatwaves as a notified national disaster,** allowing it adequate funding and policies that can help build resilience of the communities in the face of the crisis.





### **MUSEUM OF MEMORIES X DELHI**



#### Salwar from last Eid

On Eid, Renu Khatoon carefully selected a special salwar suit. However, on May 1st, a devastating fire, triggered by extreme heat, engulfed her home, destroying all her belongings, including the newly purchased suit. Discovering them in their charred state was heartbreaking, yet she couldn't bring herself to discard the suit. Now part of the Museum of Memory, it serves as her Object of Memory, symbolizing the profound loss caused by the fire.



#### Bearing the Brunt

In May 2023, extreme heat and drought devastated Sarovar Yadav's farm in Bihar, leading to crop failure and the loss of two cows to heatstroke. Heartbroken, he kept the rope used to tie them as a reminder of the tragedy.

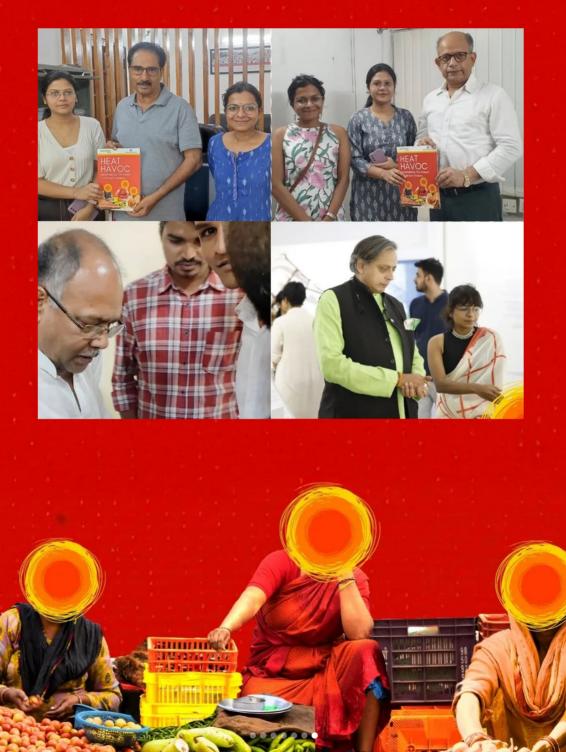
As a part of Greenpeace India's Climate Justice campaign, People for Climate, a Museum of Memories was hosted in Delhi with over 50 real objects that tell stories of devastation, resilience, and hope in the face of the heatwave crisis. Through this exhibit, we were calling for immediate government action to address the intensifying heatwave crisis by declaring heatwave as a notified national disaster.



#### **GREENPEACE INDIA & NATL. HAWKERS FEDERATION RELEASE HEAT HAVOC REPORT**

G reenpeace India, in collaboration with the National Hawkers Federation, has launched a report, **Heatwave Havoc: Investigating the Impact on Street Vendors**. The report captures the experiences of over 700 street vendors as India grapples with heatwaves every year. The findings highlight the severe challenges and critical effects that extreme heatwaves impose on street vendors' livelihoods in Delhi. After the release, we held meetings with various MLAs, MPs, and other stakeholders to discuss the effects of heat on marginalized communities and why it is imperative to declare heat waves a national disaster.

## **Click Here**





#### **BIG WIN: CAMPAIGN GAINS PARLIAMENT SUPPORT**

O ur climate justice campaign gained significant momentum, drawing attention from key policymakers. We have engaged with **nine Members of Parliament (MPs), one Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), and a former MP and party spokesperson** to recognize heatwaves as a national disaster. This milestone highlights the impact of collective advocacy, and we remain committed to ensuring that necessary policies and resources are put in place to address this escalating crisis.

## A STEP TOWARDS CLEAN AIR

A s air pollution continues to rise, the opportunity to breathe fresh air under clear blue skies has become increasingly rare. In the lead-up to the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on September 7, Greenpeace, in collaboration with the United Nations, launched the **A Breath of Fresh Air Movement to raise awareness and drive action for cleaner air.** 

# AUGUST

People across the world joined the movement by sharing photographs that represented clean air to them, adding their voices to the global call for #CleanAirForAll. The campaign highlighted the urgent need for clean air to protect public health, strengthen communities, and ensure a sustainable future.

#### Clean air is important for my kids' health.

-from a mother

# SEPTEMBER

### Click Here

#### **WOMEN & PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN MUMBAI**

**G** reenpeace India's latest report, *Fare Free Future: Women's Perspective on Public Bus Transport in Mumbai*, calls for fare-free, accessible, and efficient bus services. Based on survey insights, the report highlights overcrowding (92%), safety concerns (48%), long wait times (84%), and lack of clean public toilets (57%) as major barriers for women commuters, particularly those from low-income groups. A fare-free bus scheme, successfully implemented in Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, has boosted female ridership and improved access to education, jobs, and essential services. The report underscores strong public support for such a policy and urges political parties in Maharashtra to prioritize safer, affordable, and gender-sensitive public transport solutions - an issue that could influence voting decisions in the elections.

### BENGALURU, KARNATAKA: 29,000 CITIZENS SUPPORTED THE DEMAND FOR BUS LANES IN THE CITY.

O n September 12, Greenpeace India, along with Garment Community women members and students, visited the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) office to submit a memorandum outlining our demands for a Comprehensive Mobility Plan, accompanied by the 29,000 signatures collected in support.







#### ADVANCING INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

**G** reenpeace urges political parties of Maharastra during state elections to include a fare-free bus scheme in their manifesto for women and transgender individuals, following the lead of states like Delhi and Karnataka in India. A dedicated fund is crucial to ensure accessibility and safety. Additionally, expanding public bus services with exclusive lanes, women-only buses, and better infrastructure - such as shelters and CCTV - will improve mobility, cut pollution, and support sustainable urban transport.



### FASHION AS A TOOL FOR ADVOCACY

Initiating conversations on women's safety and freedom of movement with Prapti Elizabeth, Indian satirist, actor and content producer on Instagram.

FARE

FUTURE

## FARE FREE FUTURE

## MUSEUM OF MEMORIES X BENGALURU

A fter travelling to Chennai and Delhi, the Museum of Memories exhibition arrived in Bengaluru as a digital museum, hosted by Greenpeace India and the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP).

# NOVEMBER

Titled *Climate at the Margins: Gender, Class, and Caste Vulnerabilities,* the exhibition brought real people and their stories of loss, survival, and resilience in the face of the climate crisis to the forefront.

Designed by Sabari, popularly known as Meancurry on Instagram for his quirky humour and art, the exhibition's highlight was a digital museum of everyday objects that told powerful stories of people who endured extreme weather events across India.

Journalist and filmmaker Bhumika Saraswati led a workshop on creatively documenting how extreme heat intersects with gender, caste, and identity. The two-day event also featured Story Circles, where community storytellers shared experiences of loss, hope, and resilience, along with an immersive VR video showcasing the beauty and fragility of the Sundarbans through the story of local fisherman Badal Das.





# DECEMBER

#### EXPOSING THE INVISIBLE THREAT: NO<sub>2</sub> POLLUTION IN BENGALURU

**G** reenpeace India's latest report, **Beyond North India:** NO<sub>2</sub> **Pollution and Health Risks in Seven Major Indian Cities,** highlights dangerously high NO<sub>2</sub> pollution in Bengaluru and other major cities in South India. Linked to traffic and fossil fuel combustion, NO<sub>2</sub> poses severe health risks. While the WHO recommends a 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> annual limit, India's NAAQS allows 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The report underscores that air pollution is not just a North India issue, with transportation being the biggest contributor. Rising private vehicle use continues to worsen air quality and endanger public health.

# A WORD FROM ACROSS THE MORE ACCOUNTS OF A CROSS THE MORE ACROSS THE



Spanish actor Alba Flores held a banner reading 'Ratify The Ocean Treaty' while snorkelling close to Santiago Island, part of the Galápagos Islands. The Arctic Sunrise was on a six-week expedition around the Galápagos islands to highlight the power of marine protection by documenting the success of the Galápagos Marine Reserve through the incredible wildlife and habitats of the sea near the Galápagos.

On March 8th 2024, Greenpeace Belgium demonstrated in the streets of Brussels with another 15,000 people to stand for ecofeminist values.





Ten Greenpeace activists protested on the Baltic Sea close to Rostock / Warnemünde against potentially environmentally damaging Russian oil exports using dilapidated tankers.

Greenpeace UK activists held a rally outside the Scottish Court of Session in Edinburgh as Greenpeace's judicial review into Rosebank and Jackdaw begins. Campaigners argued that the companies and the previous government unlawfully ignored the impact of emissions caused by burning the oil and gas extracted from the Rosebank and Jackdaw fields.





Activists from Greenpeace International, Nordic and Germany, projected messages from people opposing deep-sea mining onto the Svea Glacier in Spitsbergen.

Greenpeace was at the 29th UN Climate Conference, COP29, Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024 to hold governments to account for making fossil fuel polluters pay for the climate crisis they have created, and put fossil fuel phase-out plans at the heart of national climate action.





Singer-songwriters Jacob Collier and AURORA performed a mash-up of their two songs, 'A Rock Somewhere' and 'The Seed' in front of Sveabreen Glacier in Svalbard. The creative performance was delivered in partnership with Greenpeace International from the organisation's ship Arctic Sunrise to highlight the urgent need to protect the oceans and stop deep sea mining.

Environmental activists in kayaks show the message "No more plastics" in a crocodile shape in Nichupté Lagoon in Cancún, Mexico.



# GREEN PEACEE AT SEA





The Greenpeace sailboat Witness at the meeting point of the waters from the Amazon River and the Atlantic Ocean. The team conducted the Protect The Amazon Coast Expedition to document the potential impacts of oil exploration on the Amazon coast. The region is home to unique biodiversity, including the Great Amazon Reef System and vast mangroves, which are essential to local communities in terms of food and income. However, the oil industry is advancing in the area posing a threat to the region.

The Arctic Sunrise entered the Arousa estuary accompanied by hundreds of boats belonging to various brotherhoods of the estuary to demand, together with the traditional artisanal fishing, shellfish harvesting and extensive aquaculture sector, greater protection for the oceans and the regeneration of the Arousa estuary.





The Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior while on an expedition to the Indian Ocean for fisheries investigative work as part of the Protect the Oceans campaign.

Greenpeace's sailing vessel, the Witness, while on an expedition in the English Channel to document industrial fishing activities in several French marine protected areas (MPAs).





Aerial view of the Arctic Sunrise deck with a 'ghost net' that was retrieved from the Sargasso Sea on display and a 'Protect the Oceans' banner.

A banner action was conducted in the International Waters of the Indian Ocean during the Rainbow Warrior ship tour in Colombo.



## HOPE IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CRISIS

We are living in times of great uncertainty. But one element remains the same as the crisis keeps unfolding-

#### Hope. Umeed. Asha. Nambikkai.

Hope lives in the cities advocating for inclusive and sustainable transportation, in the water bodies protected by coastal communities, in the solar panels lighting up villages, and in the voices of youth demanding climate justice. It is in the collective action of people who believe in a better world - who advocate for equitable policies.

As hope continues, we have the choice to believe that change is possible, to act in the face of adversity, and to stand together for a future that is just, green, and full of possibility. Because giving up is not an option.

E FOR NATURE

GREENPEACE



Greenpeace does not solicit or accept funding from government, corporations or political parties.

Greenpeace is fiercely independent and survives on donation solely from individuals like you.

#### **Supporter Services**

Email: supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org Phone: 1800 425 0374 | 1800 425 4594 (Monday to Friday,10:00am to 06:00pm)

#### New address/ email/ phone number?

Email your current contact information to supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org

#### If working for a cause and increasing awareness is what you are looking for, then write to us: careers.india@greenpeace.org

www.greenpeace.org/india

www.instagram.com@greenpeaceindia www.facebook.com/greenpeaceindia www.twitter.com/greenpeaceindia

#### **Greenpeace Office-**

#### **Bangalore:**

Greenpeace Environment Trust #142, First Floor, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Domlur 2nd stage Bangalore Karnataka- 560038

#### Chennai:

No. 49/23, 2nd Cross Street, Ellaiamman Colony, Gopalapuram, Chennai-600 086 T: 1800 425 4594 (Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 06:00pm)

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







100% Recycled Paper