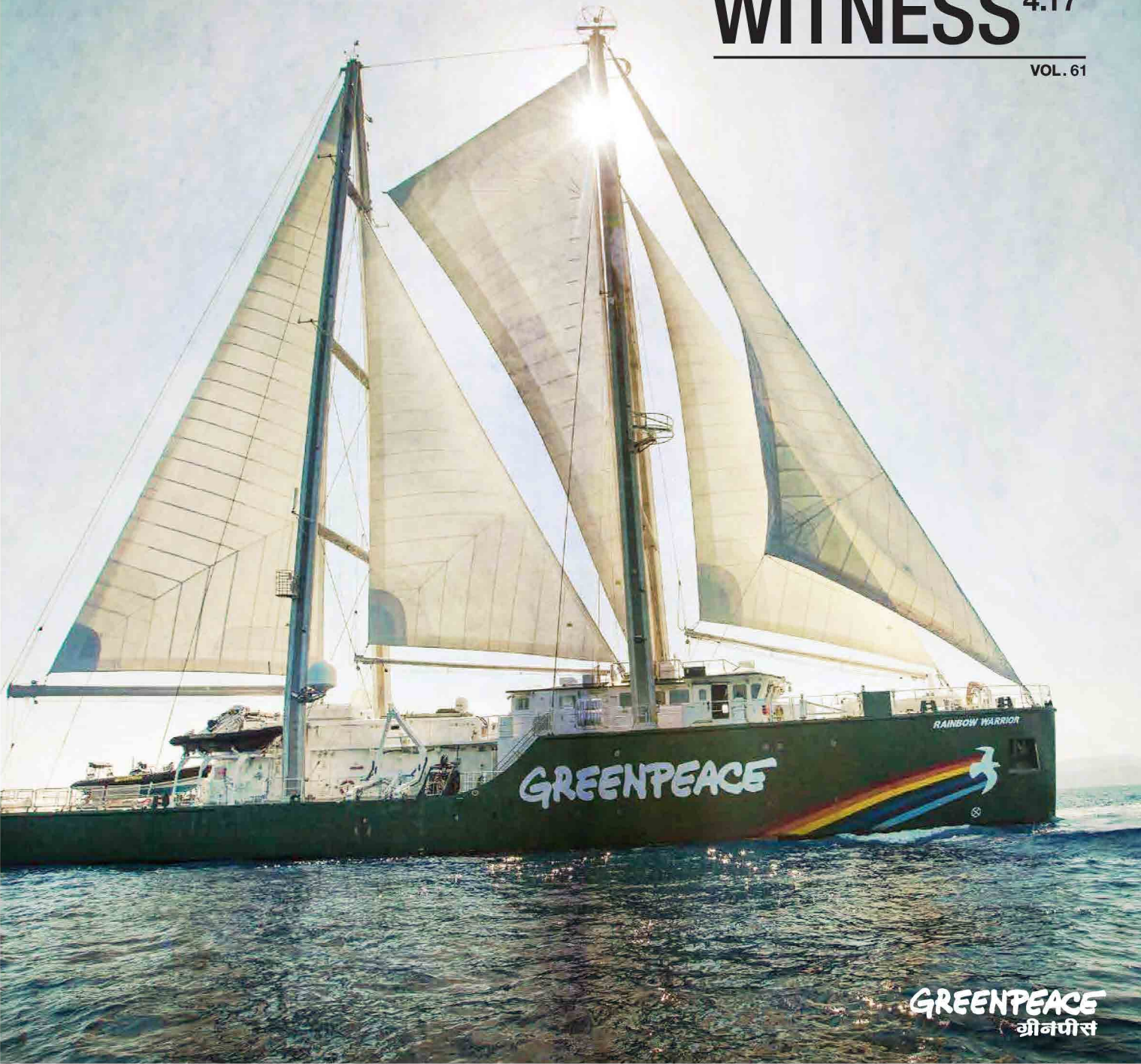


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Ravi Chellam
Executive Director, Greenpeace India

EDITORIAL

The last quarter ended with mixed emotions. It began with the euphoria of welcoming our legendary ship Rainbow Warrior to Indian shores. During its time here, it hosted various events not only for our staff but also for supporters, volunteers, conservationists and the public. This delightful experience was rapidly overshadowed to a large extent by the air pollution and smog crisis across many parts of our country, especially our national capital. A crisis so severe, that it is jeopardising our health and our future. As the crisis worsened, people suffered, international matches were stalled, life was disrupted across vast swathes of our country, while the administration failed to tackle the root causes of pollution.

Despite this grave situation coal-powered Thermal Power Plants remained non-complaint to the notified emission standards set by the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, and continued to compromise the country's environmental quality and its citizen's health. Greenpeace has been campaigning for alternatives/renewables as a major option to curb pollution and to reduce our dependence on coal. While people, especially children and the economy suffered in India due to the smog crisis, world leaders congregated at the United Nations Environment Assembly, to "dialogue on the importance of tackling health risks from air and solid waste pollution through multi-sectoral approaches."

In many ways the most significant development during this quarter was the outpouring of personal stories and complaints about sexual harassment, #MeToo played a significant role. This has largely been from USA but it is still a watershed moment and hopefully when all of us, world over, recognise and act to put an end to this scourge.

It has been a pretty successful year for us with some significant victories but at the same time the challenges just seem to multiply. It is evident that by engaging and mobilising people, to understand and fight for their rights, towards a more sustainable and healthy future, is an effective approach to beat back the threats which largely emanate from the powerful elite.

I take this opportunity to wish all of you the very best for 2018 and express my gratitude for the support and inspiration that you continue to give us. I also bid goodbye, as I finish my two year tenure as Executive Director. Take care, keep well and stay safe.



SAILING THE COAST WITH THE MAST OF CHANGE

In the last quarter we along with our donors, supporters and volunteers witnessed the wheel of change Rainbow Warrior, ashore India. The Rainbow Warrior has a long history starting from 1977 when it was bought as a trawler, demonstrating anti-whaling and anti-nuke policies around the world. Fast forward 40 years, the trawler has metamorphosed into a ship bearing witness and taking actions against environmental crimes.

The current Rainbow Warrior has been in action since October 2011. It is the

third ship carrying the same name, promoting clean green energy, defending the forests and protecting the oceans.



The ship arrived in Goa on 22nd October where the crew and employees interacted with many environmental groups. The Rainbow Warrior then toured to Mumbai and arrived on 25th October. This is where we opened the gates for our donors and supporters to be a part of this legacy. A

photo-exhibition, photography workshop by wildlife photographer and filmmaker Kalyan Varma, workshop and discussion on easy usage of solar power were amongst the various activities which were hosted on Rainbow warrior.

Apart from organising different discussion on climate change we also organised a fully organic lunch prepared using vegetables brought from the revolutionised village of Kedia in Jamui district of Bihar. The lunch hosted celebrities like Prahlad Kakkar and Raveena Tandon, documentary filmmaker Anand Patwardhan, Suhasini Mulay, Meyang Chang and human rights activist Vrinda Grover. Mr. Sanjay Bhatia, Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust also expressed his support and pledged for more sustainable ports.

With this the rainbow Warrior set assailed for Kochi, where the session started with an introduction by Ravi Chellam, ED Greenpeace India, and was succeeded by VJ Jose. Jose spoke about the problems associated with rivers and factories that take the life-givers for granted. The day was concluded with a ship tour for donors by Rajesh Krishnan, an ecological farmer.



THANK YOU FOR BEING ONBOARD WITH US!

THE GLOBAL SHIFT

There has been a strategic shift towards renewables as the world realised the implications of climate change with increasing number of extreme weather events and 195 nations joined hands to forge a war against climate change through Paris protocol. Its well known that a key driver of climate change has been burning of fossil fuel, especially coal. There has been a dramatic drop in coal projects under development in 2016, due to shifting policies and economic conditions in China and India. Simultaneously, ageing coal fleets in Europe and North America are being phased-out, paving the way for alternative power sources. According to a report by UN Environment, the Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre, and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, clean energy provided 55 per cent of all new capacity added worldwide in 2016, and the total investment was about double the amount for generators driven by fossil fuels.

Here's a Greenpeace report 'Global Shift' that states the following.

- From January 2016 to January 2017 the amount of proposed coal power in the pre-construction pipeline fell from 1,089,671 MW to 569,601 MW, a decline of 519,970 MW or 48%. Of this decline, 90% occurred in China and India, which accounted for 73% and 17% respectively.
- Both China and India experienced severe overbuilding of coal power capacity, leading to low capacity factors.
- In India the shrinking of pre-construction coal power pipeline was driven by the tightening finances from various banks.
- Entities that have completed or are planning complete coal phase-outs include, Austria (2025),

Beijing (2017), Belgium (2016), Berlin (2030), California (2014), Canada (2030), Connecticut (2021), Delhi city (2018), Finland (2030), France (2023), Hawaii (2022), Massachusetts (2017), New Mexico (2030), Netherlands (2030), New York state (2020), New Zealand (2022), Ontario (2014), Oregon (2020), Portugal (2030), Scotland (2016), Sweden (2030), United Kingdom (2025), Washington state (2025).

- Other entities, already coal-free or nearly coal-free, have halted development of new coal power capacity. They include, Albania, Belarus, El Salvador, Ghana, Latvia.
- The rapid reductions in the cost of solar power have led to dramatic cuts in plans for coal plants, as developers fear to lose large sums of money on 'stranded assets'.
- On March 28, 2017, India's state power company, NTPC, announced that it would likely cancel the 1600 MW expansion plans for two supercritical units at Kudgi Thermal Power Station.
- Further decline in coal power expansion is due to the fact that power demand has not kept pace with expanding capacity, which grew from 71,121 MW in March 2007 to 211,562 MW in January 2017, leading to falling capacity factors and poor economics for coal plant operators.
- Projects newly shelved or cancelled included four of India's Ultra Mega Power Projects in Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Odisha, as announced by the government in June 2016.

While there has been enough policy intervention to move toward global renewables, the question we need to ask is where does India stand in terms of implementation?

*Continued in the next page - Ray of Light...





RAY OF LIGHT FOR SMOG-RIDDEN CAPITAL

On 7th December, hundreds of children, mothers, civil right organisations, supporters and volunteers marched towards the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to ask the uncomfortable question of non-compliance of emission standards set by the ministry in 2015 for the Thermal Power Plants (TPP). More than 300 coal power plants across the country are still violating the notified emission standard norms. Greenpeace has been relentlessly driving the Clean Air Nation campaign for several years, and has been questioning the ministry time and again on the TPP emission, which are not being implemented despite repeated interventions.

A Greenpeace India's report 'Out of Sight' released in 2016, identified air pollution hotspots in India visibly linked to thermal power plant clusters. An updated study identifies that emissions have increased by approximately 32% across the country in the last five years as revealed by satellite data. Despite the maddening smog crisis that is engulfing the country and particularly clutching the national capital under its grip, the thermal power plants have still failed to adhere to the regulations. The new norms limit emissions of particulate matter (PM), sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury and calls for reduced water usage by coal-powered thermal power plants.

December 7th being the deadline for the implementation of the TPP standards, Greenpeace along with Help Delhi Breathe, My Right to Breathe, Jhatkaa, The Climate Agenda, URJA and many other groups representing people across India, presented a letter to the ministry. The ministry accepted the letter and assured a follow-up meeting on the TPP non-compliance issue.

We've been working to highlight the damage air pollution does to public health since 2012. Asking authorities to come up with a comprehensive plan to tackle the grave issue of air pollution. After 5 years of relentless effort on 18th December we saw a ray of light- Environment Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan announced that the government had formulated a National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) "to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner". We will continue to work along with your support to ensure that NCAP lives up to its name and continue to fight against all forms of air pollution.



WHAT BEYOND PLASTICS?

Affordability of plastics has made them indispensable; making us avert the problems that plastics are associated with. Up to 12 million tonnes of plastic, often single-use items including packaging, enter the sea every year. Globally 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic was produced in 2017. That's a lot of non-biodegradables affecting every living species. According to a Greenpeace report, "More than 1300 different species are known to have suffered from entanglement or ingestion of marine debris including seabirds, turtles, seals, sea lions, whales and fish. The scale of contamination of the marine environment by plastic debris is vast. It is found floating in all the world's oceans..." But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Greenpeace is a part of the greater [#breakfreefromplastic](#) movement, which has a participation of over 900 NGO's from all over the world, who have come together under the common vision of a world free of plastic pollution. The Break Free From Plastic movement is demanding that the main culprits, including fast-moving consumer goods companies such as Nestlé, Unilever, Procter & Gamble, Coca-Cola, and PepsiCo, to phase-out and eventually stop producing single-use plastic and that policy-makers legislate against it. The 'Our Ocean 2017' conference brings together representatives of governments, civil society, science, finance and businesses from around the world to discuss ocean protection.

The Break Free From Plastic movement, including Greenpeace, is calling on local communities across the globe to join the movement and use the brand audit methodology when participating in beach clean-ups to help identify the main global polluters. An eight-day beach clean-up or 'brand audit' was successfully carried out in the Philippines involving a large number of volunteers this September. Now, brand audits have started in other countries, including Croatia, Spain and the Netherlands.

"The newly devised brand audit methodology, tested in several countries, is revealing that the worst plastic polluters are some of the biggest companies in the world - those are clearly the ones who need to take responsibility", said Dr. Sandra Schöttner, Oceans & Plastics Campaigner, Greenpeace Germany.

A FULL-QUORUM FOR A SMALL HAMLET IN MAHAN, INCHING CLOSER TO COMMUNITY FOREST RIGHTS

For Greenpeace, Mahan is a success story that not only resonates our ardent effort to break free from coal, but also support indigenous communities in their fight to protect their forests and livelihood, due to coal mining activities. The bigger challenge that they still face is the implementation of Forest Rights Act. Mahan Sangharsh Samiti (MSS) along with Greenpeace has been instrumental in making more and more people aware of their Community Forest Right under the FRA. This Act permits the forest dwellers to take decisions regarding the management and governance of their forests collectively and given them ownership over their forest land, something that was denied for centuries.

Following up with this empowerment tool many meetings and consultations were conducted and MSS decided to initiate the process of recognising CFR in Budher village as it had a better chance to fulfil the quorum required from Gram Sabha under FRA. A successful mobilisavtion drive in Budher was achieved and villagers filed the CFR in their Gram Sabha, on 3rd of October.

Yet again people's power has made this possible for all of us.



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