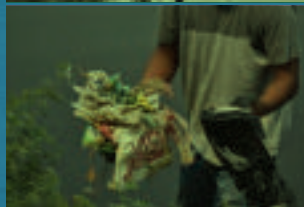


WITNESS^{2.18}

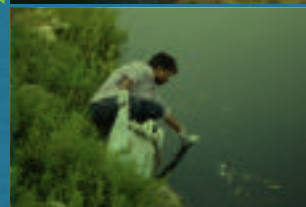
VOL . 63



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



EVERY DAY



EDITORIAL



Ramesh Kumar Singh Malla
Interim Executive Director,
Greenpeace India

For Greenpeace India and our supporters, each day is an environment day as we collectively voice our concern for nature and sustainable living. This year, 5th June was particularly special, as India was the global host of 2018 World Environment Day, with 'Beat Plastic Pollution' as the theme to combat single-use plastic pollution. Among many activities on the day across the country, Greenpeace India volunteers also put up a fight against plastics by cleaning Yamuna Banks (from Yamuna bank metro station to Yamuna rail bridge) in Delhi and exposing the massive contribution of retail giants in propagating plastics. And as the day closed in, government announced to make India free of single-use plastics by 2022!

In early May, after two years of public campaigning and demands for it from Greenpeace and our coalition partners, the Government put up the National Clean Air Programme draft for public consultation, even if for shorter time-frame and with English language only version. The Clean Air Collective, which Greenpeace is a part of, was swift to respond by examining the draft and recommended improvements to make the pollution reduction target more ambitious and multi-sectoral to include polluting sectors like industry and coal thermal power plants.

We stood up in solidarity with the people of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu who suffered death and injury and condemned the use of force and violence from the state against the people who were demanding the closure of Vedanta's Sterlite copper smelter that has been polluting and destroying their environment, life and livelihood.

In closing, I am delighted to introduce Kshithij Nanjaraje Urs, as our new Executive Director of Greenpeace India who joined us on July 2nd. He is a committed and experienced social and environmental justice activist and leader - we are pleased to have him lead the team. And as I say good-bye, I would like to thank you for your continuous support.

THIRTEEN REASONS, HOW?

India finds itself trapped in the midst of an impending Air Pollution crisis. With pollution levels soaring and the Air Quality deteriorating multiple times more than the prescribed safe limits, the future looks bleak, unless we feel compelled to act on a war footing towards addressing the issue. And while the nation still awaits the implementation of the proposed National Clean Air Programme, another study has been in the news for its startling findings and their obvious implications. Around 26.45% premature deaths in India are caused due to air pollution from thermal power plants and industries -reveals the latest study by Louisiana State University (LSU) in collaboration with Greenpeace. The study finds that Delhi tops the list in premature mortality due to industrial pollution. Based on different scenarios, the study has categorically classified 13 steps, which if implemented, can reduce the premature deaths and alleviate air pollution (PM 2.5 levels) by 50-60% across North India during wintertime.

Campaigner Sunil Dahiya says, “Not just the polluting sources in Delhi, even the industrial units in neighbouring areas like Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh contribute to the pre-mature deaths in the capital. Similarly, the power units of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand are affecting Chattisgarh.”

Professor Hongliang Zhang, Author of report said “Based on our results, the policy measures with the largest potential for air quality improvements are reducing emissions from thermal power plants, instituting strong emissions standards for industries, reducing solid fuel use in households, shifting to zig-zag kilns in brickmaking, and introducing stronger vehicular emissions standards in an accelerated schedule. However, a comprehensive set of policies including all of the 13 measures are needed to achieve a 40% reduction in air pollution levels and avoid a projected 9 lakh premature deaths per year.”

Some of these measures were already recommended in the NCAP, like setting up of emission standards for the TPP, which have been flouting the policies since December 2017. Greenpeace has been campaigning for stricter emission standard laws in the country.



DEATHLY FIGURES	
Premature deaths due to air pollution from diff sources	
WORST 5 STATES	
Uttar Pradesh 2.34 Lakh	Total no. of premature deaths in India 10.39 lakh per year
Bihar 1.21 Lakh	
West Bengal 1.03 Lakh	
Maharashtra 91,400	
Thermal Plants	
Maha 10,500	UP 9,500
PREMATURE DEATHS DUE TO DIFF SOURCES	

Source: Times of India, 1st June 2018



TAKE ACTION

SOLAR POTENTIAL OF CHENNAI AND HYDERABAD, UNLEASHED



In the run up to the Paris climate talks in 2015, India announced the goal of having 100 GW installed solar capacity by 2022, of which 40 GW would come from rooftop solar. Simultaneously, the good news is that, solar costs has been falling and installations are growing fast. However, progress in the rooftop segment has been slow, with less than 1861 MW¹ installed as of September 2017. At the current trajectory, India will fall far short of the 40 GW target by 2022. This is despite significant policy incentives at the national level (30% capital subsidy for residential consumers), grid parity for commercial and industrial consumers, and at regional levels in terms of net metering/feed in tariffs.

The city of Chennai and Hyderabad has the potential to be a solar champion, according to the Greenpeace India report, titled, 'Rooftop Revolution: Unleashing Chennai's & Hyderabad's Rooftop Potential.' The report mapped the probable potential of rooftop solar panels in both these cities. The report finds that the total rooftop solar potential of Chennai and Hyderabad is 1,380 MW and 1,730 MW respectively.

Rooftop Solar offers some competitive benefits which make it one of the most viable options for our energy requirements as compared to widely used polluting options. Apart from energy self sufficiency, distributed solar offers grid resilience, avoids energy and revenue losses and broadens the community of direct solar beneficiaries, all critical to building the energy system of the future. Rooftop solar PV assists distribution companies (DISCOMs) by reducing the peak demand during daytime and decreases transmission and distribution (T&D) losses as the power are consumed at the point of generation. And most importantly solar panels generate electricity without creating air pollution.

Some of the major landmarks that have a sizable potential in Chennai are listed below:

- Railway station roofs can hold 3,582 kW
- Metro station roofs can hold 1,696 kW
- Bus Depot roofs can host approximately 938 kW of solar PV
- The Chennai International Airport can host approximately 889 kW of rooftop solar

Some of the major landmarks that have a sizable potential in Hyderabad are listed below:

- Buildings in Osmania University collectively have a potential of over 5,100 kW
- Begumpet & Rajiv Gandhi International Airports can house PV arrays with over 700 kW capacity
- The city's railway stations have a solar PV potential of about 3,187 kW
- All bus depots in Hyderabad can together host nearly 3000 kW of solar
- All metro stations can host 679 kW

TAKE ACTION

¹ https://storage.googleapis.com/planet4-india-stateless/2018/06/REPORT_Rooftop_Hyderabad_Web_10Apr18.pdf

SOLAR EVENT

Following the launch of these reports on the solar potential of Chennai and Hyderabad, two donor events were organised on 21st and 22nd of April in Hyderabad & Chennai respectively, largely to establish the ease of getting solar rooftop. Events saw participation not only from our donors but few Solar champions as well.



During the event our spirits soared, seeing the enthusiasm of Sumeeth - a budding green entrepreneur who displayed his bike 'Ecobird' which works on solar, and the insightful session with Mr Suresh - a solar pioneer. His session was not only informative but his witty anecdotes about life was applauded by all. Last but not least, the donors found the information and details shared by Zoltenergy and EZolar pretty helpful in deciding to take that first step towards getting a solar rooftop. With this we commemorated Earth day in our small way.

In case you want to organise or want us to organise similar events in your city or specific location do reach out to us on - supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org



ILLEGAL LOGGING CONTINUES TO THREATEN LIFE OF ORANGUTANS



Illegal logging activities threaten the life of 1000 orangutans in a forest Sungai Putri, Indonesia. Greenpeace International investigation reveals a major illegal logging operation in a critical orangutan landscape despite efforts by the Indonesian Government to protect it.

Photos taken by Greenpeace Indonesia reveal at least six illegal logging settlements inside the PT Moharison Pawan Khatulistiwa (MPK) concession in Sungai

Putri, a 57,000 hectare peatland forest and one of the last orangutan strongholds in the world.

The logging takes place under the cover of darkness, and ends just before dawn. It is unclear whether the logging is being carried out by MPK, or by third parties taking advantage of roads the company has built.

In 2015, the Indonesian government approved MPK's plans to log in a 48,000 ha concession, much of which is on very deep peatland that was in theory protected by legislation. In the same year, satellite analysis recorded 7,965 fire hotspots across Sungai Putri landscape and surroundings. In 2016 due to major outbreak of forest fire, caused in part by deforestation and peatland development, the government had strengthened its peatland protection laws.

Sungai Putri is also a release site for orangutans rescued from areas torched by fires or destroyed by plantation companies. Despite this, MPK continued to develop the concession, constructing several drainage canals through the peat. In 2017, Greenpeace Indonesia raised this with the Minister of Environment and Forestry, and the Minister instructed the company to stop its operations and fill in the canal. It has yet to do so, and heavy machinery remains in place.

Scientists estimate that the population of Bornean orangutans has halved in the last 16 years. In the past 10 years, International Animal Rescue (IAR) have rescued over 30 orangutans in Sungai Putri and the surrounding area, where they continue to be threatened by hunting, logging and palm oil expansion.

Peatlands hold large clean water reserves and have been identified as one of the largest carbon capture ecosystems in the world. Scientists are confident that such ecosystems can help us tackle climate change and make the Paris agreement a reality if protected.



A protected peatland forest like Sungai Putri isn't just about building a safe haven for the wildlife but also provides respite for the local communities that depend on it and the global climate.

[Read More...](#)

PLASTIC IN THE ANTARCTIC



It's not what we wanted to find. When Greenpeace set sail to the Antarctic earlier this year, we were going to look for the incredible wildlife - tottering penguins, majestic whales, soaring seabirds - that call the Antarctic Ocean home.

But even these incredibly remote waters couldn't escape from the onslaught of plastic pollution. Besides the visible waste from fishing industry - nets, buoys, tarpaulins floating between the icebergs what became evident was the omnipresence of micro-plastics along with hazardous chemicals. Presence of PFAs (polyfluorinated alkylated substances) was found in the snow samples tested from there. These chemicals are used in consumer & industrial products and have link to reproductive and developmental issues in wildlife. The snow samples gathered included freshly-fallen snow, suggesting the hazardous chemicals were deposited from the atmosphere. This once again shows how pervasive the impact of human beings can be even on far away lands.

This is not for the first time plastic has been found in Antarctic but Greenpeace's analysis provides valuable new information to deepen the understanding about the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans - and emphasise why we need urgent action to tackle the problem at source, in order to protect our oceans and marine life.

This revelation comes amid growing concern about the pervasiveness of plastic in our environment. Earlier this month UN warned that plastic has become one of the biggest environmental threats of our generation and more needs to be done to counter this.

[Read More...](#)

TAKE ACTION

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ACTIVITIES

Shout out for the Green Warriors

On the occasion of World Environment Day (WED), where India graciously had accepted to host 'Beat the Plastic', Greenpeace India volunteers took it upon themselves to get their hands on cleaning the once revered yet now dirty Yamuna river, from the perils of plastic. While the Yamuna affects more than 58 million lives everyday, years of littering has made the place look like a dumpyard.

The volunteers planned a cleaning event to highlight the over-consumption of single-use plastic with the motto 'If you can't reuse it, then refuse it' on World Environment Day. And in three hours the volunteers were able to clean the river and its banks (from Yamuna bank metro station to Yamuna rail bridge). Nearly 50 kilograms of plastic waste was collected by the green warriors. The volunteers were encouraged by Mr. R.K Agarwal, Inspector of Delhi municipal corporation and were assisted by Mr. Girish (retd) officer from the Ministry of Horticulture.



Meanwhile, in Bengaluru, the green warriors started campaigning to make the big retailers realise the enormous amount of single-use plastic that they use and how that is making the issue worse. Greenpeace India volunteers took to Twitter to raise their concern on this unsustainable packing methods.

The Volunteers intended to make the retailers realise that their quest for unsustainable profits and greed for market capture, has resulted in investment into product packaging over the last few years, thereby contributing to aggravate the plastic issue to its current level.

Its time when everyone put on their thinking caps and do their best and tackle this big issue of single-use plastic plaguing our earth.

[Read More...](#)

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