



GREENPEACE
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EDITORIAL

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As another year ends, I would like to express my solemn gratitude to our supporters, donors, allies, communities & volunteers for believing in us.

This quarter was marked by volunteers' energy. They collected responses of hundreds of public bus users in Delhi, which would serve as important feedback for improving the experience of public transport. It was followed by the [Bustling Through The City](#) report which clearly made the case for increasing bus fleets in the national capital.

The teams also organized bicycle training workshops for low wage women workers from Delhi and Bengaluru. We are pleased that bicycle manufacturer, Hero Cycles, custom-designed these bicycles to ensure comfortable rides for the women. These women are championing the cause of sustainable mobility, clean air and equitable transport in cities. The cycles will be handed to the women in phases in the new year.

In the [Food For Future](#) campaign the state government of Bihar taking leads from our Jamui work has now decided to roll out Organic Kitchen Gardens in all the 534 blocks of the state in the next 4 years. The district administration of Jamui in collaboration with Jaivik Jamui Abhiyaan and Greenpeace also felicitated farmers on the National Farmers' Day for their exemplary work on kitchen gardens at their homes and the ICDS centres. The team is gearing up for a dietary diversity report and food celebrations in the upcoming year.

Let us together continue working towards building a sustainable and equitable world. Wishing you all a happy and peaceful year ahead.

THE CASE OF VANISHING NUTRIENTS

For the sake of our health, we shell out heaps of money on food, diets, fitness and supplements among other things. But is our food truly nutritious? According to research, the nutritional values of our food have drastically declined in the last 30 years.

Scientists from the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) have blamed this decline on three key factors; unhealthy soil, air pollution and poor seed quality. Unlike air pollution, soil degradation might be less visible, but is equally dangerous. The damage to our lands occurs slowly but surely, as we continue to pump toxic fertilizers and pesticides into the soil.



In December 2021, Greenpeace India celebrated World Soil Day highlighting the theme, 'Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity.' Soil salinity is one of the biggest drivers of soil degradation in our country. By 2050, an estimated 50% of our agricultural land will be highly-salinized. This permanent damage of the natural soil ecology is threatening our food and nutritional security.

But there is a way to fight this. By increasing the presence of Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) through ecological fertilisers, we can effectively reduce these risks. This will not only improve soil productivity but also transform our farmlands into carbon sinks, which will help absorb CO2 and mitigate the climate crisis.



As part of World Soil Day celebrations, Greenpeace India and Jeevika conducted a Living Soils Yatra in Jamui. 12 cyclists travelled from Jamui to Sagdaha village and planted 50 saplings to boost soil fertility. After receiving earthworms to make organic carbon-rich vermicompost, farmers pledged to not use harmful chemicals in their agricultural processes.



By 2030, India's population is poised to reach **1.5 billion**. However, if 50% of our land is not cultivable, then we may be faced with a food crisis we cannot overcome. Feeding India's vast numbers is only possible through sustainable farming practices. Our decisions today will decide our future.

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SPEAK UP FOR YOUR CITY

When was the last time you took a deep breath outdoors without being worried about what was in the air? Our cities are shrouded in a blanket of toxins that grows thicker as more and more fossil fuels are burnt for transportation, energy and manufacturing. This is the greatest accelerant of the ongoing climate crisis.

Greenpeace India's DetoxCity campaign is focussed on transforming the transportation systems in India cities. The growing urban air pollution levels in India show that to fix the many health, environmental, social and economic problems that stem from unsustainable transportation systems, we need to rethink our city planning. But to fight the problem we need to understand it first. So as a start, we have been holding discussions with car users, cyclists and public transport commuters to learn about their mobility needs and preferences.



Together with our allies, Reclaiming The Bus campaign, Delhi Bus Yatri Union and Sustainable Urban Mobility Network (SUM Net) India, we conducted a survey of 500 bus users in Delhi from August - September 2021. The resulting report 'Bustling Through The City', had some eye-opening insights about the state of the capital's bus transport network.

While most respondents preferred the bus even during the pandemic, they felt there was substantial room for improvement. Some of the recommendations include; increasing the bus fleet with electric buses run on renewable energy, making buses

equitable through safety measures for women and transgender commuters and creating 'low-floor' buses to make boarding and deboarding accessible.

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) is the capital's most popular transportation system, with over five million passengers every day. Though relatively affordable, these recommendations when implemented will make the system substantially more sustainable and efficient.

As part of the campaign we are also working on building cyclist communities that will champion the cause of sustainable mobility in our cities. Through Power the Pedal, we've been working with low-wage women labourers in Bengaluru and Delhi who are leading this change on the streets. The women have helped us design the cycle that suits their needs and attend regular Greenpeace India workshops that train them on using and maintaining the machine.



"My cycle gives me the freedom to travel, without being dependent on buses and autos or my husband. First I was afraid of traffic but now I have the confidence to cycle anywhere."

- Luxina, Cyclist from Badshah Pur, Gurgaon

At the end of the first phase, Power the Pedal would have worked on building a community of 500 trained, proud women cyclists who are determined to reclaim urban spaces that have been systemically denied to them. The cycles will take them closer to having equal access to the city streets that will help them work, travel, earn, study and live their lives while being ambassadors for sustainable cities.

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ALL ON THE LINE

In the first half of 2021, India experienced two cyclones, a glacier collapse, heatwave, forest fires and multiple floods, all this while we battled the deadly pandemic. Ample research has linked the increasing frequency of extreme weather events to human-induced climate change. We cannot continue with business as usual anymore and the world must take drastic action to phase out fossil fuels and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

In November, world governments gathered at the COP26 (Conference of Parties) to discuss the climate crisis. Held in Glasgow, COP26 was eagerly awaited as it was the deadline for governments to declare their plans to contain global warming within 1.5°C.

India made several commitments at COP26; to increase the non-fossil energy capacity to 500GW (gigawatts) by 2030; to reduce total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes; to reduce the carbon intensity of the economy by 45% by 2030; and to reach net-zero by 2070. India also promised to fulfil 50% of its energy requirements from renewable energy sources by 2030. Now, we need to ensure all these promises are put into action.



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Climate change has impacted us all, and the vulnerable communities are as always the worst affected. But what 2021's extreme weather events have proven is that climate change is not a distant problem. It is here, it is now and we cannot afford any further warming of our planet.

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GLOBAL & NATIONAL NEWS

The Chips Fall

In a massive victory, India has revoked the patent for a potato variety grown exclusively for PepsiCo Lay's potato chips. Earlier in 2019, PepsiCo sued 11 farmers in Banaskantha, Gujarat for cultivating the FC5 potato variety, which is used for making Lay's chips due to its lower moisture content. ASHA led the case and argued that Indian laws don't allow corporates to patent seed varieties. This is a big victory for India's farmers as it asserts their right to cultivate crops without patent threats from big corporations.

Keeping Families Afloat

While vulnerable communities struggle to maintain their livelihoods during the pandemic and feed their families nutritious meals, a group of women farmers in Jamui district in Bihar, are leading the way towards a resilient food system. Having set up home organic kitchen gardens in 2021, over 150 women farmers from Jamui have been growing and sharing over 15 varieties of crops that are ensuring their nutritional security even during the difficult lockdown months.

Spreading the Word

Once a farming village that was reeling under the impacts of toxic fertilisers and pesticides, today Kedia has transformed into a beacon of hope to many. The story of Kedia's transformation from failing farmlands to a thriving organic village is being used as a model by other communities who are attempting to emulate it and move away from harmful agricultural practices towards the ecological way.



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2021 WRAPPED

2021 was a rollercoaster of a year. From the second wave of the pandemic to devastating extreme weather events, we were tested at every turn. Through it all, our supporters and allies stood by us as we fought for the climate and responded to communities in need. Here's a look at some of the things we accomplished together in 2021.



Greenpeace India : 2021 in pictures

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Impact Box

Laying the Groundwork

The Department of Education and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme Committee jointly organised orientation sessions for 1668 principals of government schools in Bihar for the new PM Poshan programme. Greenpeace India's Bihar Living Soils team was invited to talk about organic school kitchen gardens with the principals and authorities. The sessions evoked positive responses and motivated the authorities to organise a series of interactions with students. The state coordinator of the programme also visited Jamui and expressed his commitment to scale up the organic kitchen gardens.

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