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EDITORIAL

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Wishing you a Happy New Year! 2021 begins with hopes of returning to civic normality. 2020 will be remembered for the vulnerability we felt, the connection with near ones and nature, loss of life, livelihood, hope and despair. It also reminded us that the balance of nature is crucial for humans to thrive and that material gains have limitations in keeping us happy or safe. Some adapted to the new culture of work from home, while many suffered the loss of livelihood.

The pandemic gave us an opportunity to reimagine campaigns that can help India build back better. Our new Urban Mobility campaign champions for a clean, equitable, feasible and accessible transport system. The campaign enables a mindset shift that advocates more safe public transport, and encourages cycling and walking. We're asking companies to opt for a flexible remote working policy as this can help reduce emissions and the stress of traffic.

I am also delighted to share that a list of "Green Recommendations" was submitted to NITI Aayog. It included suggestions on clean energy, transport, agriculture and others for a better and sustainable future. The list was endorsed by over 29,000 Indian citizens.

On the sustainable agriculture front, we are working with over 150 small and marginal women farmers in Jamui, Bihar. We are helping them develop organic kitchen gardens to boost their nutritional security. Over 100 families have begun adopting ecological farming. The initial positive indicators reflect that with innovative interventions, the most vulnerable farmer groups can ensure safe food and nutritional security for themselves and others too.

Our work is made possible only by your support and belief in us. Let 2021 strengthen our relationship as India hopes to build back better!

URBAN MOBILITY PAVES THE WAY TOWARDS BETTER



Delhi

The words 'urban transport' often evoke memories of snarling traffic jams, poisonous vehicular fumes, long passenger queues and poor infrastructure. Unfortunately, transport is such an intrinsic part of our lives that we cannot escape it. The lockdown months have shown us what lesser cars can do to improve our air quality.

In the last decade, as India's demand for private vehicles boomed, our demand and consumption of oil also sky-rocketed. Fossil-fuel burning vehicles clearly hold a huge responsibility for our air pollution and the thousands of **deaths** resulting from this noxious air. Every year, air pollution kills approximately **7 million** people across the world through lung cancer, stroke, pneumonia and heart disease. But we have the power to change this reality.

Every citizen has a right to clean, economical, equitable and accessible transport and together we can influence mobility for the better. The new Urban Mobility campaign by Greenpeace India is a long-term plan through which we are attempting to shift mindsets away from the perception of cars being status symbols and prove that there

are viable, sustainable, healthy alternatives.

To begin with, we are advocating a boost in public transport and active transport like cycling and walking; and flexible Work From Home policy for companies. Walking and cycling were part of our everyday routine until urban infrastructure was refocused to cater solely to car users. A flexible, remote-working policy can help reduce traffic which in turn lowers emissions, cuts the need for more roads and increases green cover. Such changes can systematically and steadily contribute to cleaning the air and making our cities healthier and happier.



Bengaluru

This campaign is an opportunity for us to work together to shape a sustainable mode of mobility. Let's rethink, re-imagine and rewrite India's urban mobility reality.



FEEDING INDIA'S FARMERS

Who feeds the ones who feed us? Safe and nutritious food is a basic human right that must be accessible to all, including the small and marginal farmers who constitute more than **86%** of India's farmers. Sadly, climate change fuelled extreme weather events have adversely impacted their livelihoods and left them without food and nutritional security.



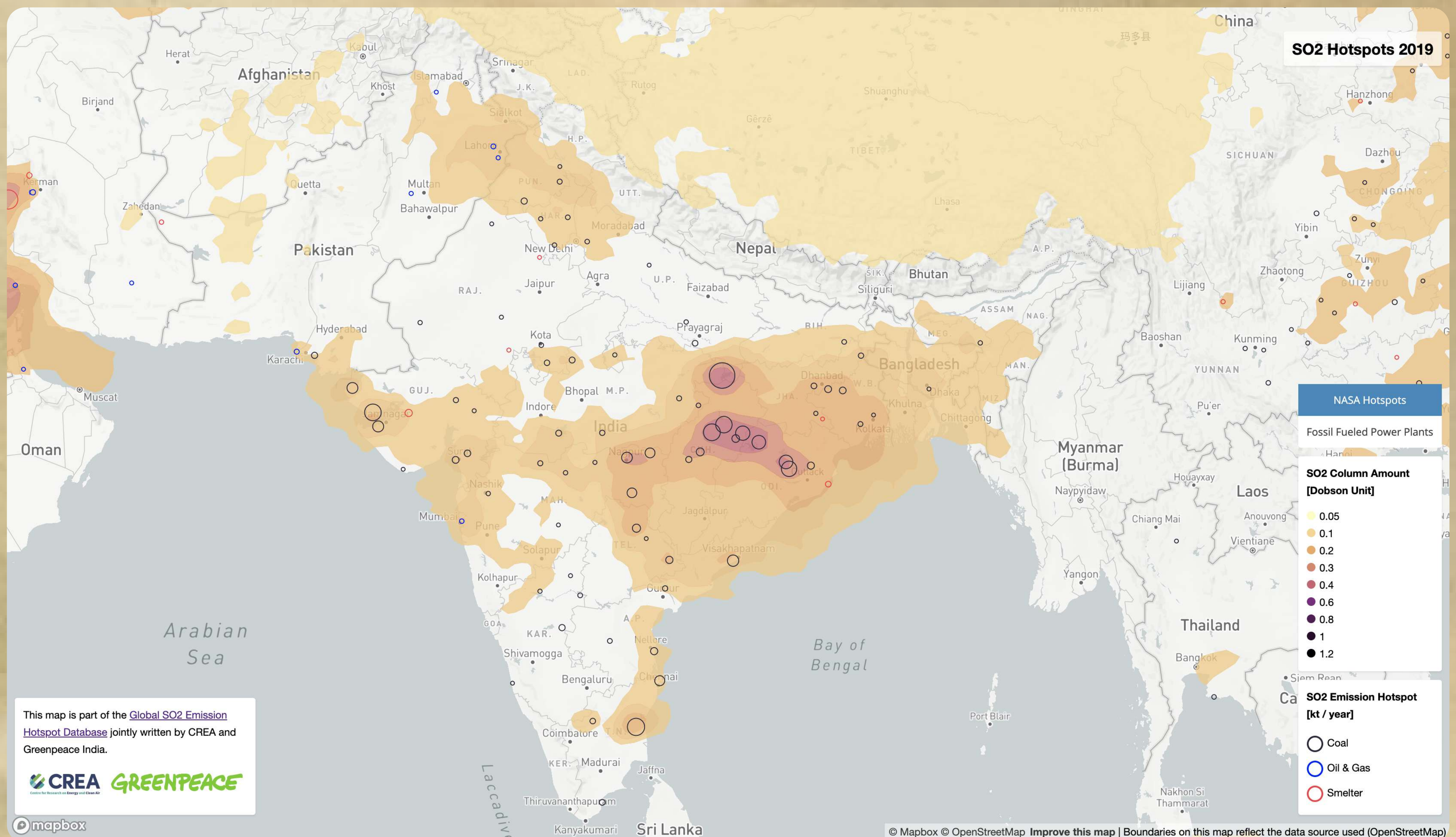
India's small and marginal farmers cultivate around **44%** of farmland and produce approximately 60% of food grains and more than 50% of our fruits and vegetables. Greenpeace India has been working to ensure that the at-risk agricultural biodiversity and indigenous produce knowledge of small and marginal farmers are protected.

Through the "I Grow With Nature" project, over 150 women farmers from backward communities, have begun to develop organic kitchen gardens with over 16 varieties of vegetables and uncultivated food varieties. Organic kitchen gardens are a decentralised and people-powered solution that can provide climate-resilient nutritional security to even the most vulnerable farmer families.



SIREN OF THE AIRPOCALYPSE

Without proof, reality is often ignored. To bring to light the truth of what's in our air, we teamed up with the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) and analysed NASA satellite data of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) emission hotspots. SO₂ is an invisible poisonous gas that causes breathing difficulties and increases the risk of stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and premature death.



In a report titled **'Ranking the World's Sulfur Dioxide Hotspots'**, we revealed that in 2019 India was the top global SO₂ emitter for the fifth year in a row, despite marking a notable 6% drop in levels. Thermal power plants (TPPs) create the biggest SO₂ hotspots, yet only 1% of TPPs adhere to the enforced emission limits. In spite of this, India is transitioning towards **greater** use of coal power which is not only unsustainable but also unjust.

India has been showcasing a fondness for renewable energy, with a target of 175 gigawatts (GW) by 2022. This is on top of a 450 GW target to be achieved by 2030. But this is not enough. The government must stop **funding** TPPs and enforce stricter emission standards and penalties. Keeping our air clean is a Herculean challenge that requires the systematic efforts of all states and polluting sectors together.

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FRENCH SCHOOLS EAT GREENER

What started with the simple observation that children over-consume meat in French canteens, turned into a milestone win after three years of mobilising, protesting and campaigning.

In 2018, Greenpeace France revealed through a survey that 69% of primary school students had no option but to eat meat daily. A meat-heavy diet accelerates the risk of cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The livestock sector also contributes to **14.5%** of anthropogenic emissions globally. With 7 million students between 6 and 18 years affected annually, initiating an early behaviour change in consumption habits is key in the climate change battle.



Greenpeace France campaigned for the introduction of vegetarian menus in school canteens and in November 2019, a law was passed ordering all schools to provide weekly vegetarian meals. The implementation began with a two-year experimentation phase. To map the law's effectiveness, the team studied 15,387 vegetarian menus in schools across 2,820 municipalities in 2020.

The results showed that 74% of primary school students can now eat one vegetarian meal weekly, yet 41% of colleges and 48% of high schools are still resisting change. With this victory comes the lower water consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and deforestation for cattle rearing. It also reduces menu production costs and encourages an investment in local produce.

This is only the first step. Greenpeace France is calling for leaders to ensure the sustainable and widespread application of the law, both for the planet and the health of children.



GLOBAL & NATIONAL NEWS

Hyderabad Faces Climate Wrath

Over the past few decades, Hyderabad has witnessed extreme weather events with an increasing frequency. This October, record-breaking rains wreaked havoc across the city, exposing the faults in the urban infrastructure. **33** lives were lost while around 40,000 families suffered property losses of Rs. 670 crore. Poor urban planning has led to the city's safety nets degrading and this coupled with the impacts of climate change, has worsened disasters. Hyderabad is in urgent need of a disaster management plan that has climate resilience built in.

A Cyclone Years In The Making

When Cyclone Nirav hit the eastern coast of India on November 26th, it left behind over a 1000 uprooted trees, disruptions in network and connectivity, and an agricultural loss of approximately **Rs 400 crore**. However, this extreme weather disaster was not an unexpected event, as a pattern of 2-degree warmer seas over the Bay of Bengal provided the perfect conditions for tropical storms to intensify. Since 1970, our oceans have absorbed 90% of the heat from greenhouse gas emissions.

Russia's Record-Breaking Disaster

Known for its pristine and incredible biodiversity, the Kamchatka peninsula in Far East Russia, recently witnessed the death of 95% of marine life on the surrounding seabed. What was first reported as a change in the seawater colour and a foul-smelling odour, soon left many local residents severely ill. Sadly, despite numerous tests, results provided no clue as to whether the cause was natural or due to human activities. Such events are a clear indication that Russia needs a green and just transition away from an economic model based on extraction and exploitation. It must focus on renewable energy and sustainable jobs for all.



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READY TO REBUILD

29364 citizens signed the Green Recommendations petition demanding a green recovery plan for India. The petition, which was presented to government policy think tank, NITI Aayog on 17th November, put forward suggestions to help our nation rebuild itself into one that is stronger, sustainable and equal. The recommendations highlighted how policies to promote sustainable agriculture, clean energy and transport, traditional water conservation and farmer empowerment can help India move #TowardsBetter. Now, NITI Aayog must dig in its heels and turn these recommendations into policies so we can achieve our climate change reduction targets and build a healthier, safer future.

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Impact Box

Power To The Community!



This October, Greenpeace India officially transferred ownership of the Eco-Frost solar-powered cold storage to the Jivit Mati Kisan Samiti farmer's cooperative of Kedia village in Jamui, Bihar. The facility was installed in August 2016, through a crowdfunding campaign that saw thousands of supporters extend a hand. The cold-storage unit enables Kedia's ecological farmers to store seeds and up to **5 tonnes** of produce. This reduces the pressure of a short shelf-life and allows the farmers to sell when prices are fair. Over the years, the facility has also provided greater food and financial security for the community.

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