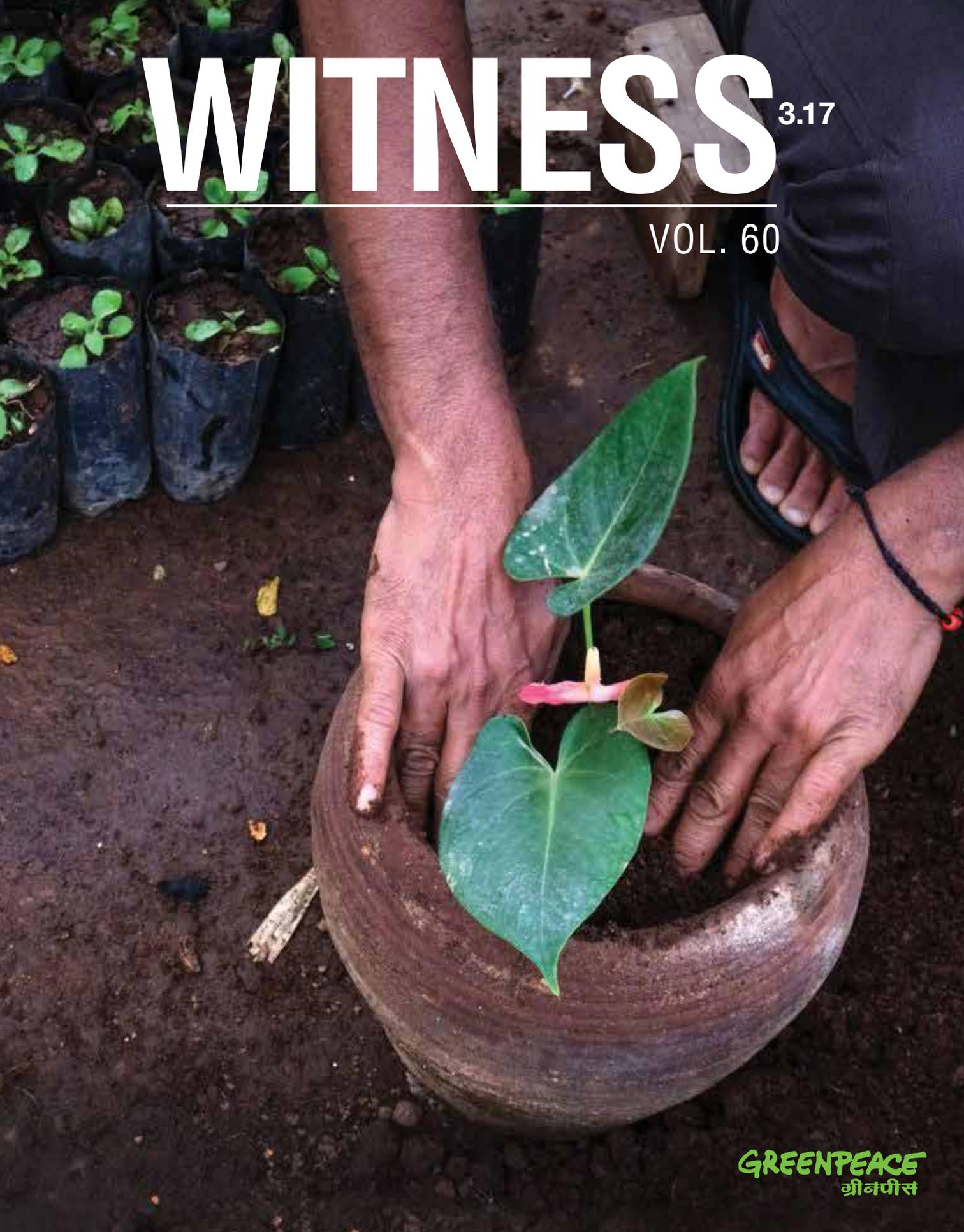
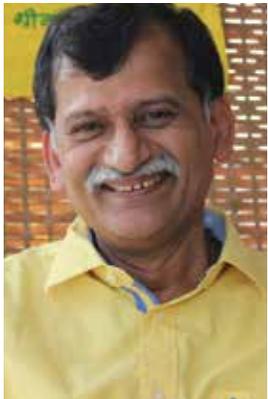


WITNESS ^{3.17}

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EDITORIAL



Ravi Chellam
Executive Director
Greenpeace India

Globally, we live in challenging times. Speaking the truth can prove to be very costly, but it is crucial that we remain steadfast. Gauri Lankesh, a veteran journalist was brutally murdered in Bengaluru on 5th September 2017. From all accounts it appears to be a retribution for her fearless writing. Tragic events like Gauri's murder, does strike at the very roots of our democracy, especially freedom of expression. It is time for all of us to reflect on why voices which speak out against all forms of discrimination, inequities prevailing in our society, destruction of natural ecosystems and displacement of people, especially tribal, poorer and the weaker sections of the population are being harassed and at times even permanently silenced.

Developments in the Narmada Valley, continue to ignore the widespread and sustained protests of the affected communities. The Sardar Sarovar Dam was inaugurated in September and is being touted as one of the world's largest dams. Unfortunately this 'achievement' has not only ignored but trampled on the justified demands for the proper rehabilitation of the affected communities as well as ecological restoration. The peaceful protestors demanded what rightfully belongs to them - land to sow and reap which has now been submerged by the reservoir and their lives are in shambles thanks to our collective and even wilful neglect.

While at the national level these issues are heart wrenching, increasing tensions between North Korea and USA has the potential to compromise global peace. With strict sanctions imposed on North Korea by the United Nations and USA, matters have escalated. North Korea has decided not to slow down its nuclear ambitions. Any kind of war big or small will cause irreparable damage to the earth and all life. While as individuals we have no control on the geopolitics, we should keep in mind Albert Einstein's words, "**Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.**"



Litter your garden with nutrient-rich compost



GB Shaw once said, “There is no sincerer love than the love of food,” and indeed he was true. Our actions and intentions are governed by this basic instinct of hunger and while we strive to achieve this, we have forgotten the art of eating healthy. On July 27th, Greenpeace launched its Waste to Food campaign, which directly links the waste that we produce, to the food that we consume in our day to day lives.

Bengaluru with a population of 84 lakhs (2011 census), generates between 3,000 tonnes and 5,000 tonnes of garbage every day, which ultimately ends up in the landfills to fester. Of the garbage generated every day, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike claims to segregate up to 50%. But beyond the responsibility of municipal corporations if each individual takes the responsibility of segregating and composting the waste at source, it would not only reduce the burden on landfills but will significantly contribute to the health of the soil, which is directly proportional to the food that we consume. The idea of the campaign is to generate the awareness about compost and how that can be used to grow your own food. The larger perspective is to channelise the excess compost available with individuals to farmers who can then return the nutrient-rich compost to the soil. After all healthy soil is the foundation for safer food.



Halla Bol! Resilience at Narmada Valley

Ruhie Kumar & Avinash Kumar

A day after Sardar Sarovar Dam was inaugurated on September 17th, over 5000 people gathered across the Narmada Valley, in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat to show their dissent. This protest dates back to 1985 when an environmental movement was started by activists, adivasis, concerned citizens and spearheaded by environmental activist Medha Patkar, to safeguard the rights of the Narmada River.

Avinash Kumar, Communications Campaigner at Greenpeace India was at Chhota Barda, Madhya Pradesh, directly bringing us news from the ground as people resorted to 'Jal Satyagraha'. On the day of inauguration, 36 people sat submerged in water from dawn to dusk, their feet chapped and tired, waging a war against the cold and the rising water level. With all civic amenities moved out, due to inundation, the future looks bleak to the villagers. In Chhota Barda, the water level gradually rose but the protesters did not budge.

The womenfolk spearheaded the resistance, sang songs of courage, hailed slogans, "doobenge, lekin hatenge nahi" and "halla bol" (we will drown but will not move, and shout out loud). With the Sardar Sarovar Project, nearly two lakh people are facing the danger of displacement. Regardless of the court's long standing orders, proper arrangements for rehabilitation are still not in place.

When asked, why they aren't leaving the village, a dissenter from the crowd said, "The rehabilitation programme has not been fair, and thousands of multitudes are still waiting for a fair judgement."

The dam has been inaugurated, but the movement continues to be strong on ground. The people of the Narmada Valley are not going to give up; their resilience, courage, determination is an inspiration to every Indian today.



NGT pulls up MoEF& CC, Government of India, for lack of action

Coal-based thermal power plants are one of the primary sources of air pollution in India, apart from vehicular and industrial emissions and biomass burning. Ever since the start of 2017, Greenpeace India has been raising concerns over the attempts by power companies to dilute the air pollution emissions standards. Greenpeace with the help of our supporters intervened to ensure that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF& CC) gave priority to people's health and ensure thermal power companies comply with the standards.

In 2015, MoEF& CC had set 7th December 2017 as the deadline for new and existing coal-based thermal power plants to reduce air pollution emissions and high water consumption by them.

The case filed by Greenpeace activist Sunil Dahiya challenges the Ministry for the lack of implementation of emission standard norms for the coal power plants in May 2016.

Following this intervention, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has observed that it may take action against MoEF& CC as well as coal based thermal power plants in case the MoEF& CC continues to drag its feet and delay the implementation of the emission standards by the thermal power plants.

The notification issued by the Ministry, expected these power plants to retrofit their power generating units with pollution control equipment and devices that reduce emission of particulate matter and other gases that are hazardous to public health and the environment. The notification also required these plants to reduce water consumption.



Thai Union victory: Caught in a trap, no more baits for you mate

Our oceans are a vast reservoir of marine habitats and species, but human greed has left it in jeopardy. Overfishing coupled with climate change has exacerbated the loss to biodiversity. Global seafood giants threaten the livelihood of millions of ocean-dependent people. Facing the brunt of this exploitation are the Tuna species -which are among the most overfished predatory fish. But it is time to put a stop.

Each one of us is responsible for our acts, and after 2 years of relentless campaigning, Greenpeace has been able to convince the world's largest Tuna Company 'Thai Union', to clean up its act. One in five cans of tuna sold globally is canned by Thai Union, apart from owning various brands under its name. Ill-treatment and severe human rights violation runs rampant in the industry and has been well-documented in the international media. Following Greenpeace's victory, Thai Union the world's largest Tuna producer has obligated itself to a series of changes in its business line that will not only protect seafood workers but also reduce destructive fishing practices, and increase support for more sustainable fishing. Thai Union has agreed a major package of reform across their global supply chains that will have far-reaching impacts on the oceans and the people working in their supply chains. Through this agreement, Thai Union has committed to reduce illegal and unethical practices and bring more responsibly caught Tuna to market shelves.

The Thai Union and Greenpeace have entered into an agreement that seeks to drive positive change within the industry by addressing four overarching issue (fish aggregating devices [FADs], longlines, transshipment, labour). Greenpeace and Thai Union have agreed to meet every six months to assess the company's progress and implementation. At the conclusion of 2018, an independent third-party will review progress to-date on the commitments.

However, the responsibility towards our oceans doesn't end with the Thai Union's commitments; it rather commences a growing movement to control companies from wreaking havoc on ocean's ecosystem.

Source:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/Global/international/documents/oceans/Thai-Union-Commitments.pdf>



On August 26th, Greenpeace set up a 30/30 ft vertical metal frame, and installed them with 3000 pots, filled with compost in Phoenix Marketcity Bengaluru. The month long event witnessed the transformation of an idea into something tangible- growing plants. The Waste to Food campaign intends to do the same at an individual level, and make people understand the sustainability of composting. Fellow Bangaloreans were asked to sow seeds in the pots and install them in the vertical garden. Greenpeace host Vineeth Vincent, beat boxer introduced our audience to 'how composting wet waste can enable us to grow healthy food'.



Light your house with the power of sun

In the last quarter Greenpeace espoused solar renewable energy as an alternative to coal. This cause was championed by 5,931 supporters through both online and offline petitions. We also organised a gastronomic event for the supporters and donors in Bengaluru. The event kick-started with a workshop by Sunfund, an organisation that caters to the energy needs of consumers by helping them discover their solar savings potential and get competitive offers for solar solutions from India's leading companies. The workshop brought to the floor an interactive discussion on solar rooftop assessment, capacity of solar panels and installation process.

Our chef cooked Italian delicacies with Greenpeace supporters, with appliances powered by solar energy. Following the success of this event, a similar workshop was organised in Mumbai on September 16th, the event concluded with a funny and interactive talk by Brikesh Singh, who has been a part the Greenpeace movement globally, and is also a budding comedian!



Get your hands dirty

On the weekend of September 23rd-24th, Greenpeace organised a composting event at their Bengaluru office as part of the Waste to Food campaign. The workshop was primarily focused on enhancing supporters' know-how on segregation and composting and was conducted by Savita Hiremath, a member of the Solid Waste Management Round Table (SWMRT). The donors and supporters raised various concerns regarding community and individual composting. This session was followed by a scrumptious organic lunch.

Love for nature in the form of poetry

The following day we looked for inspiration outside and Greenpeace lovers landed in Phoenix Marketcity to spend an evening indulging in poetry. It became an instrument for propagating love for nature and the environment. The poets found solace in nostalgia, anger in a deteriorating city, helplessness in our attitude, but in this desperation, they all looked forward for a change, that can only come with individual effort.

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Greenpeace India Office

Chennai:

No. 49/23, 2nd Cross Street

Ellaiamman Colony

Chennai 600 086

T: 044 4206 1559

Bengaluru:

5th Floor, Shubharam Complex,

Old No. 22/1, 22/2, New No. 144, 144/2,

MG Road, Bengaluru 560 001

T: 080 4282 1010

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