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PEOPLE'S COMMISSION & PUBLIC INQUIRY COMMITTEE

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AND WE CLAPPED?

News, Views, and Perspectives on Governance in Post-Pandemic India

Open Letter to the WHO on Pandemic Agreement

*Sub: Supporting WHO's Call to BRICS: Equity, Accountability, and
Pandemic Solidarity*

As BRICS prepares to meet this September, India once again occupies an important place in conversations about the future of the global south and the kind of leadership it wishes to offer the world. These conversations are increasingly framed through the language of economic influence, technological capability, strategic partnerships, and geopolitical power. While important, they also risk pushing aside the questions that continue to shape the everyday lives of millions of people: the protection of public health, human rights, the strengthening of public institutions, and the responsibility of governments towards the people they serve.

It is for this reason that we felt compelled to write to you. To stand in solidarity with the values your letter powerfully affirms. For the political conviction WHO has demonstrated over the years since the pandemic. Your appeal reminded world leaders that international cooperation cannot lose sight of its most fundamental purpose: protecting human life through solidarity, equity, and our shared

responsibility towards one another.

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The People's Game in an Age of Control

Eight days since Spain secured victory against Argentina in the Men's FIFA World Cup 2026. And what stood out

was not just the beautiful game they played, but the collective spirit they embodied and played throughout. The world is still in celebration. Spain winning the match was a political affair, in fact.

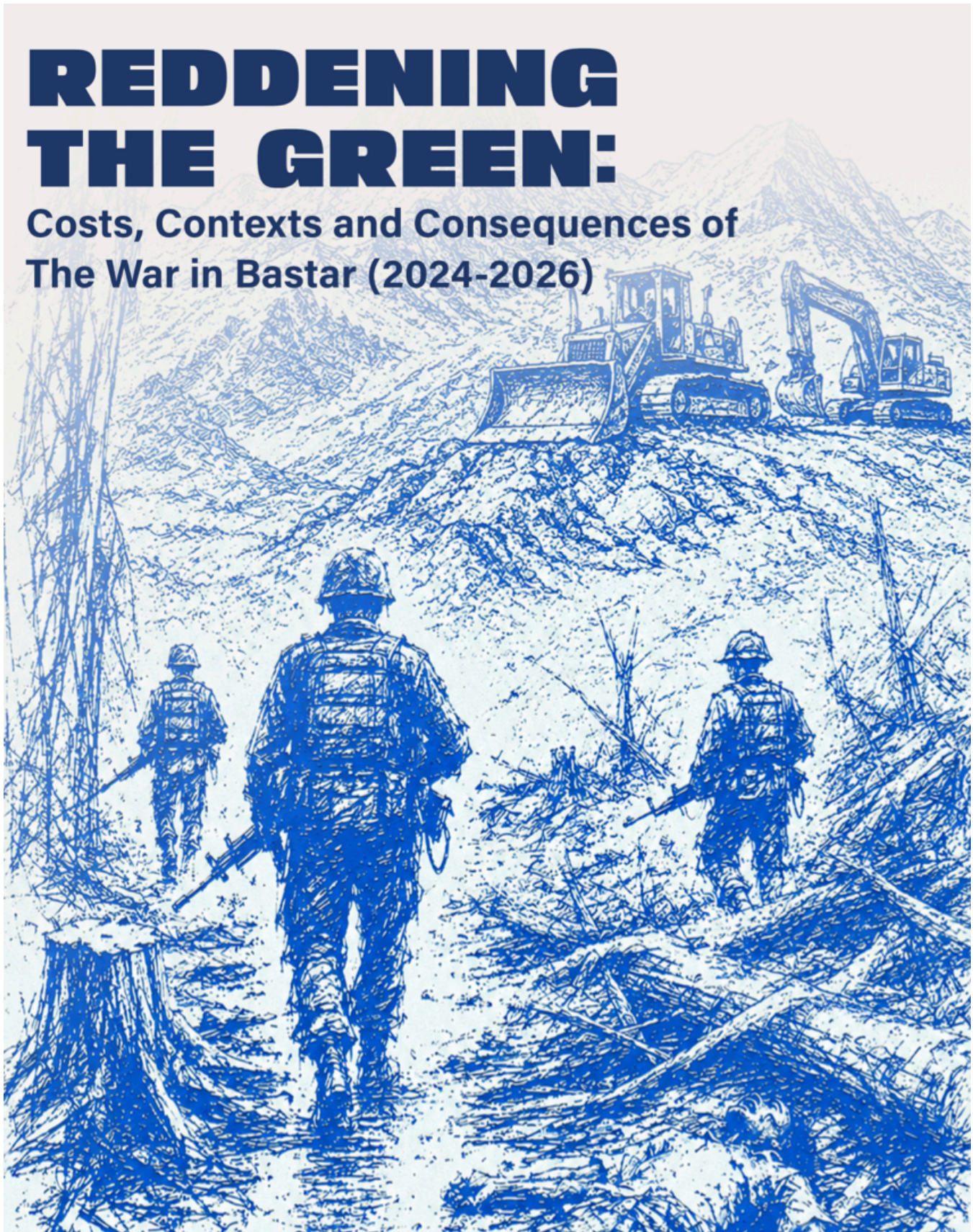
Yet the celebrations cannot erase the disappointment that defined this year's FIFA World Cup. While FIFA has long been criticised for inequality, corruption, and commercialisation, the 2026 tournament, hosted by the United States, exposed these contradictions in particularly stark ways. The tournament increasingly felt removed from the people who have always defined football. **Instead, it became a tightly controlled, institutionalised spectacle where inequality was visible both on and off the pitch.**



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This Issue's Reads:

PEOPLE'S UNION FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS (PUDR) - REPORT, 2026



The report contextualizes Operation Kagaar within ongoing legal and economic measures in pursuit of mining and other development projects, which thwart the

constitutional and statutory rights of autonomy and self-governance of Adivasis under the Fifth Schedule, Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act and the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

While these constitutional and statutory rights have never been sufficiently secured in post-Independence India, the period since the COVID-19 pandemic has witnessed a drastic overhaul in the regulatory regime governing mining, forests and environmental protection in the interest of 'ease of doing business'

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Why This Work Needs Your Support

PC-PIC continues this work because the answer to the question of who India is being governed for cannot emerge from television studios. It must emerge from public testimony. Over the last four years, these collective processes have helped organise and document public hearings among forest peoples, Adivasi communities, fishworkers, hawkers, ragpickers, sanitation workers, informal labourers, displaced communities, and urban working classes across India. These testimonies are not charity archives. They are political memory.

This work needs support because official history often erases the voices of those who suffer the most. Independent people's documentation, public hearings, field investigations, legal follow-up, political education and citizen outreach require resources. Supporting this work means supporting the right of ordinary people to speak, remember, question and organise.

And if India deserves citizens, not obedient beneficiaries, then this work must be sustained.



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