

WITNESS 2.21

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EDITORIAL

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While writing this note, it is observed that there is a fall in the number of new Covid-19 infections in the country. It's obviously too early to claim that the worst is over but humanity will look towards hope.

As bad as the situation is, it also provides us with that rare opportunity to re-evaluate our priorities in life. As part of Circle of Solidarity 2.0, we facilitated in establishing linkages between small-sustainable farmers and home-quarantined families & lactating mothers from unorganised sectors. This helped them access nutritious safe food in the absence of a steady income.

In our sustainable agriculture campaign, we are focusing on climate-resilient practices. This quarter, a series of knowledge co-creation sessions were organised. Our efforts to create organic kitchen gardens (OKG) with women farmers have helped vulnerable farmer families to ensure continued access to fresh vegetables through the pandemic.

Just like on 'normal' days, public transport workers upheld their responsibility of providing transport to essential workers, even during the lockdown. On top of this, they are highly exposed to Covid-19. Unfortunately, their service is not recognised. We thank public transport, frontline and all other workers in public service. This thanking must be an engaged effort and not just words, as powerful as they may be. The Power to Pedal initiative of empowering women garment workers through bicycles has already kicked off and will gain momentum soon.

Greenpeace India envisions and works towards an equitable and sustainable society. We will continue to do as much as we can in our limited capacity. We thank our supporters for always believing in us.

A SPACE FOR ALL

There are many luxuries that we take for granted as over time they evolve into habits intricately weaved into our life. It could be hopping on your bike for an errand, hailing a cab to work, or ordering in when you're low on supplies. Today, Covid-19 and safety concerns dictate the way we travel but for those with limited financial means, options are a luxury.

India's urban poor wrestle with multiple mobility challenges daily, from being packed into crowded transport to walking long distances, navigating traffic and spending most of their salary on transport. The needs of millions of low-wage earners in our cities are neglected as private vehicles occupy the streets.



Greenpeace India's Detox City campaign aims to transform urban mobility so our cities are centred on sustainable, healthier and equal transport. To understand in-depth what the citizens of India seek from urban mobility, we are conducting focus-group discussions with people from lower, middle and upper-middle-class communities.

Cities account for **70%** of global GHG emissions and transport is one of the biggest contributors to air pollution. That's why we need better infrastructure for sustainable mobility options like public transport, cycling and walking.

We're also working with the garment factory women labourers from Bengaluru to overcome their mobility roadblocks. Through Power The Pedal, 10 women have received cycles

“

Every day I cycle to work. It saves money and the environment too so I'm encouraging my neighbours and others to start cycling too.”

- Parvathi



in the pilot phase. This gives them their own safe, affordable, independent and sustainable mode of transport. As the project picks up speed, 500 women will receive cycles in Phase 1, followed by 5000 in the next phase.

Public transport workers not only contribute to clean air by driving sustainable mobility but also provide an essential service. Sadly, they rarely get any recognition for their contribution to our community. Let's raise our voices to thank these brave workers for making our cities better.



CIRCLE OF SOLIDARITY 2.0

One Earth, One Community

Sometimes the real heroes are those behind the scenes, who ensure everything runs smoothly. India's farming community reprised this role during the pandemic. Despite facing the lockdown, the wrath of climate change and other obstacles, sustainable farmers rose as heroes.



230 million Indians fell into poverty in 2020. Unexpected job loss, forced **63%** of India's informal workers to survive on just two meals a day. Together with sustainable farmers and our allies, Greenpeace India reinstated the Circles of Solidarity 2.0, to support vulnerable families.

Over 3 months, 700+ ration kits were distributed. The beneficiaries included cleaners, drivers, store-keepers, lactating mothers, Covid-19 patients and others. We supported 170 families from Delhi's Zamrudpur community, 380 women from Bengaluru's garment labour union and 190 Irular and Narikuravar tribal families from Tamil Nadu.

Through the spread of ecological agriculture, we can build economic and ecological resilience. To strengthen the movement, we conducted a series of knowledge co-creation sessions on sustainable farming In Bihar this quarter.

As part of our global response, we facilitated the procurement and distribution of 30 oxygen concentrators sent by Greenpeace East Asia to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu each. Only when we act as one can we overcome global crises like the pandemic and climate crisis.

Allies - Delhi: Urban Kyari and Samadhan Abhiyan; Chennai: Organic Farmers Market (OFM); Bengaluru: Sahaja Organics and Cividep

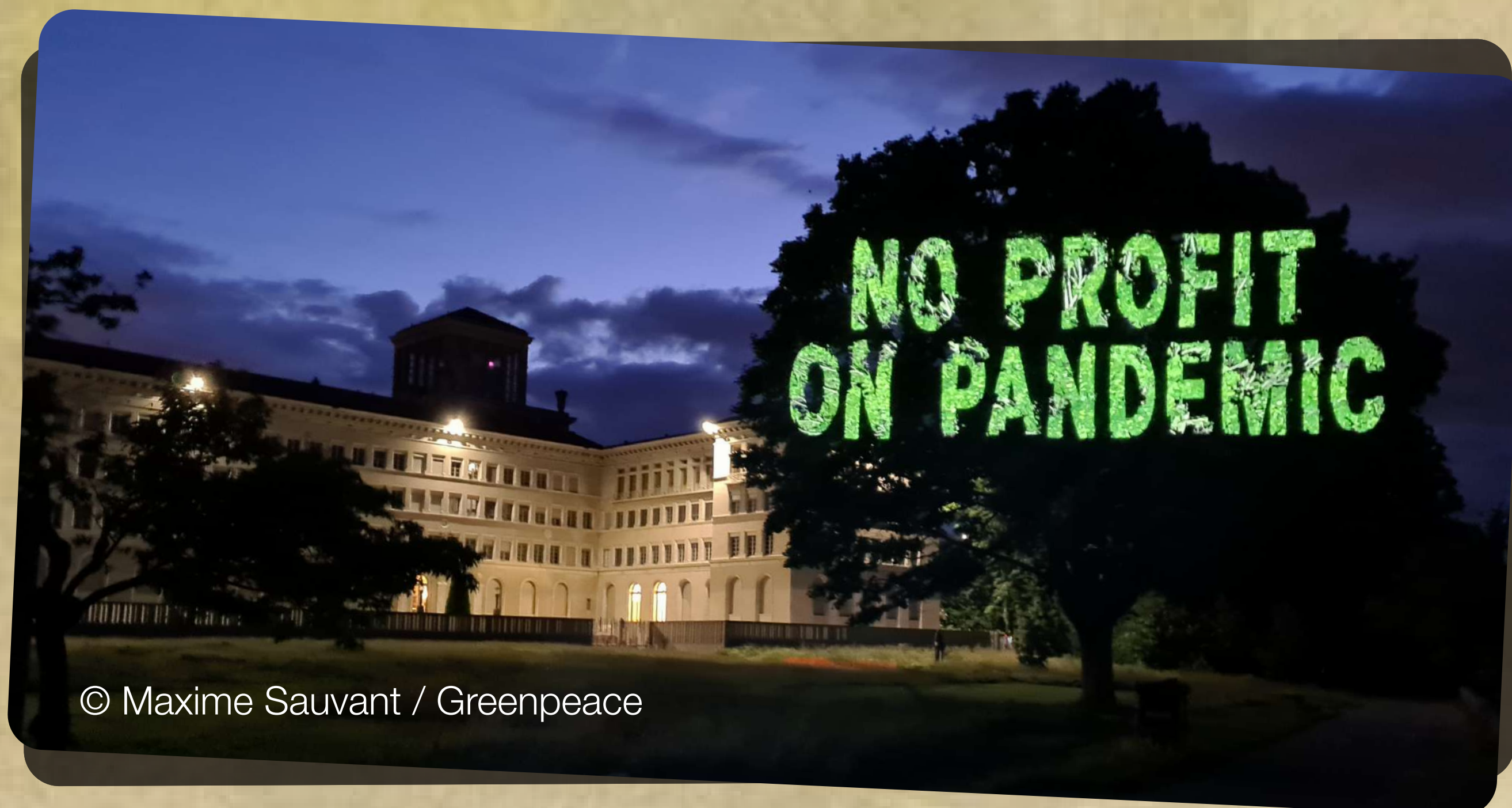


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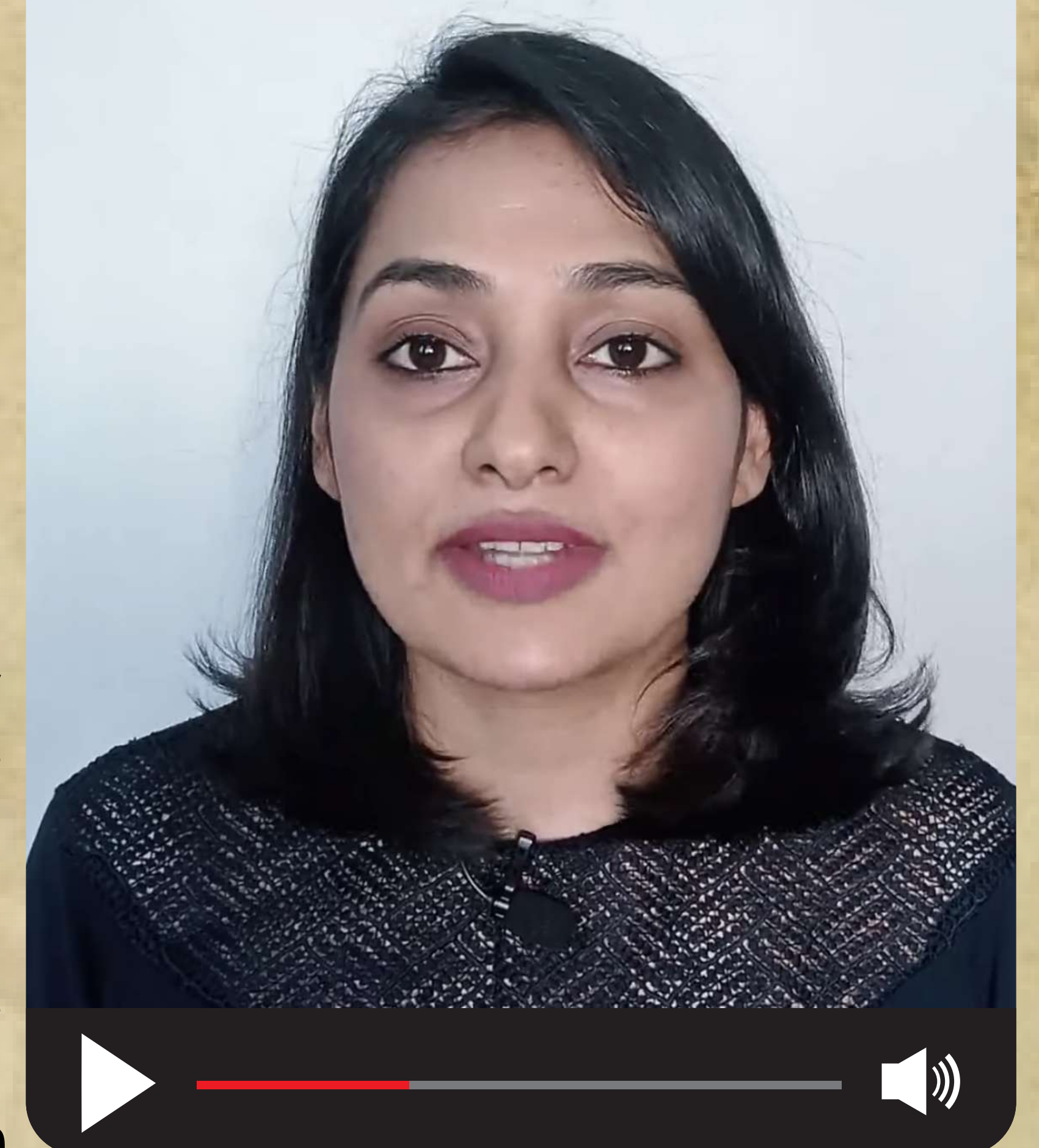
No One Is Safe Until Everyone Is

All around us we see society inching back to normalcy. India has fully vaccinated **5.5%** of its population since 16th January 2021. In order to vaccinate everyone by the end of 2021, India will need to administer 15 to **20 million** doses every day. At our current **rate**, hitting this target is impossible.

India, like many other low-income nations, is facing a **shortage** of Covid-19 vaccines. Several big pharmaceutical companies are **blocking** the sharing of vaccine knowledge with the support of the world's richest nations. Unfortunately, in the midst of a global pandemic, profits are being put over people.



we don't have time as we are losing lives by the minute.



India and South Africa have asked the World Trade Organisation (WTO), to temporarily waive all Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) on Covid-19 vaccines. This will allow sharing of vaccine intellectual property, patent rights, health products and technologies so that production and distribution can be increased everywhere.

Time is ticking as new Covid-19 variants emerge. In June, Greenpeace India wrote an open letter to the WTO Director-General with the support of over 4000 Indian citizens, asking for a timely TRIPs waiver. Over 100 WTO member countries backed India and South Africa's proposal but discussions drag on.

Such a global crisis calls for the world to show solidarity, especially to the vulnerable. The pandemic and climate crisis are interconnected, inequality emergencies and world leaders must respond with this in mind.

ADD YOUR NAME

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

May 2021 will forever be remembered as the day fossil-fuel giant, Shell was first held legally accountable for its crimes against the climate. In a historic verdict, a Dutch court ruled that Shell is liable for damaging the environment and contributing to climate change. Ranking high among the world's ten most polluting companies, Shell has been violating human rights for decades.

Shell must now completely overhaul its business model in order to cut its CO2 emissions 45% of 2019 levels, by the year 2030. This reduction is essential in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C as set in the Paris Agreement. Without big and quick steps, irreversible climate change grows more likely each day.

The case against Shell was brought by Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Greenpeace Netherlands, five allied organisations and 17,379 Dutch citizens. The verdict is a win for the millions of people facing the consequences of the climate crisis. Shell cannot continue to prioritise profits over people and the planet.

This is the first time that a major fossil fuel company is being held accountable for its contribution to climate change, making the win truly monumental. While Shell has said that it will appeal the decision, this verdict is a clear message to the polluting fossil fuel sector; Keep Coal In the Ground!



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GLOBAL & NATIONAL NEWS

Time to Own Up

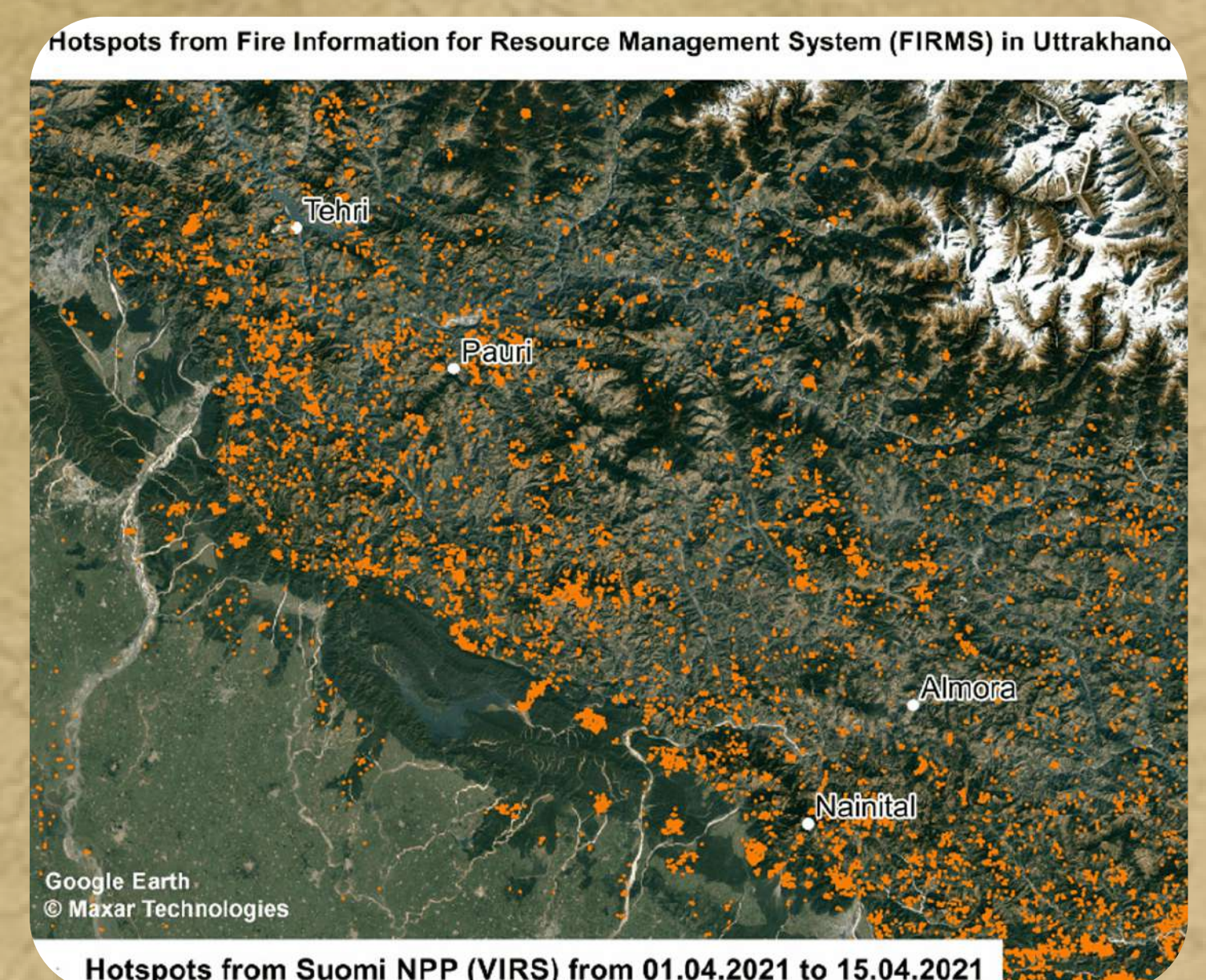
While the UK government claims that the country is a leader in tackling plastic pollution, less than **10%** of UK household plastic packaging is recycled in the UK. Greenpeace UK released a video titled “Wasteminster: A Downing Street Disaster”, calling on the government to fix the UK’s plastic crisis and stop dumping waste on other countries.

It’s Getting Hotter Here

In May 2021, two cyclones ‘Tauktae’ and ‘Yaas’ hit the western and eastern coasts of India respectively, destroying homes, claiming around 200 lives and racking up economic damage worth well over **15,000 crores**. Over the years, a rise in the Arabian Sea water temperature has led to an increase in the unpredictable nature and rapid intensification of cyclones. World leaders must take serious steps to keep global warming below 1.5°C.

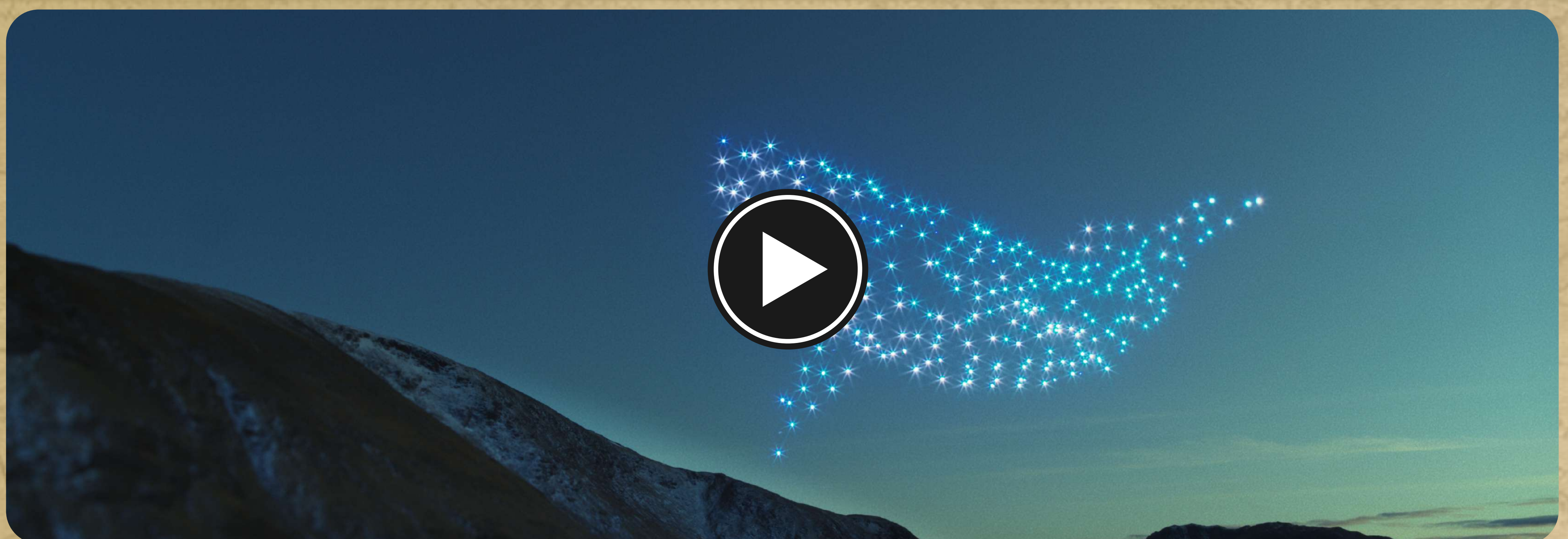
The Fire Never Goes Out

The forests of Uttarakhand have not stopped burning in the last six months. The state saw **989** fire incidents from October 2020 to April 2021. The ‘forest fire season’ which occurs between winter and monsoon, is now increasing. While forest fires are a recurring phenomenon in the state, their frequency has also been rising, spurred on by climate change and scarce rainfall in the Himalayan regions.



Message In The Sky

With multiple crises looming, world leaders gathered at the G7 summit to discuss climate, vaccines and more. Greenpeace UK urged leaders to take faster and more ambitious action against the pandemic and the climate through a thought-provoking action. In one of the largest drone shows ever produced in the UK, 300 drones were choreographed to create 3D displays of wildlife along with the message “ACT NOW”.



FOR THE FUTURE

In honour of Earth Day 2021, we shone a spotlight on the voices of three ecological crusaders who showed us how living sustainably can help 'Restore Our Earth'. We featured the stories of Soumya Manthena - Sustainable Lifestyle Blogger at Green Feet Clean Feet, Dr Meenakshi Bharath - Gynaecologist and Environmentalist from Bengaluru and Sangeeta Devi - a proud owner of an organic kitchen garden in Bihar.

Impact Box

Strengthening Community Ties

In November 2020, Bihar Jeevika and Greenpeace India assisted over 150 women farmers in establishing food and nutritional security by growing organic kitchen gardens (OKGs) with over 20 crops. Despite many facing job-loss during the pandemic, this allowed them to stand resilient and even share their produce. The project's success has inspired the government to pilot it with over 5000 families in Jamui, Bihar.



IN MEMORIAM

On 21st May, legendary Chipko movement pioneer, Sunderlal Bahuguna passed away after a prolonged treatment for Covid-19 at AIIMS, Rishikesh. The Padma Vibhushan awardee had dedicated his life to protecting the environment and was an inspiration to generations of environmentalists across the globe. You will be missed, sir.

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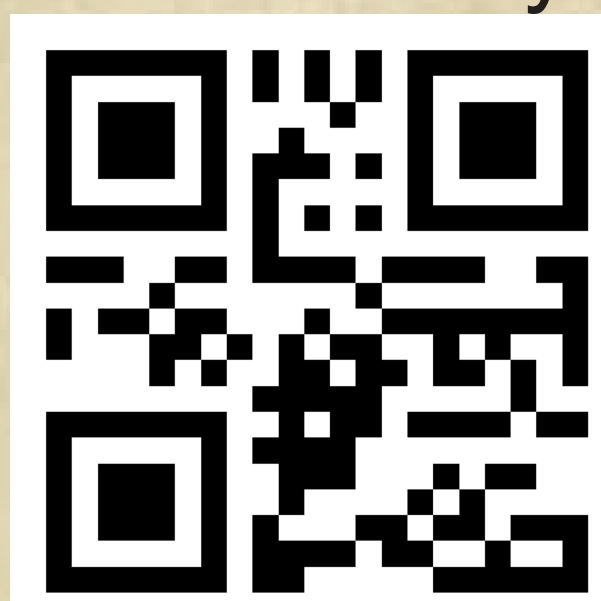
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