Our common world
What we must not forget
And why we must change the future

Sunita Narain
**DTE: reporting biggest science-health-economic-politics story of our generation**

- 500 days; more than 100 journalists
- Tracked events as they happen
- Started reporting in December 2019 – when hushed whispers were coming from Wuhan
- Its about the event as it happens; its science; the human story and millions of tragedies; the virus, its mutations; economic collapse; the need for global cooperation and the reality of global chauvinism and inequity
- Its about the story that needs to be told and not remembered
HOSTAGE
Zoonotic diseases are rapidly evolving and widening their realm of spread

Vizag gas leak: the result of ignoring safety protocols

Female health workers: invisible, underpaid and stigmatised

16-31 May, 2020

TESTING ON TRIAL
Widespread and varied testing alone cannot help overcome the pandemic. A robust health infrastructure holds the key

Cyclone Amphan: a new storm surge in the Bay of Bengal

Lockdown meltdown: governments dilute laws to favour the industry

1-15 June, 2020
16-30 November, 2020

Know Your Virus

Air Pollution
New commission to manage Delhi and adjoining states

US Elections
What new leadership means for global climate regime

Agriculture
India to release varieties of coloured cotton

16-30 April, 2021

At Risk

Africa
Inequitable global distribution of vaccines will only prolong the pandemic for every country

India
The government must redefine public sector units to meet COVID-19 vaccine requirements
16-31 May, 2021

INDIA'S COVID-19 EMERGENCY

DEAD GIVEAWAY

1-15 June, 2021

COVID HITS HOME
The pandemic’s spread to rural India will have huge economic ramifications for the country in the months to come.
SET IT RIGHT
Epidemiology, not geopolitics, should guide the world’s COVID-19 vaccination drive

16-30 June, 2021

FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE OR LAST RESORT?
Used indiscriminately during the pandemic’s second wave, life-saving steroids can have lethal side effects

1-15 August, 2021
Must not forget

• **We are as strong as the strongest link**: we live in an independent world (COVID or Climate Change)

• **We need more democracy not less**; we need to have institutions with high level of public trust and credibility – this needs independence; it needs the ability to speak truth to power. It needs more information, not less

• **We need to correct our dystopian relationship with nature** – species jumping across nature-human barriers – is also about how we manage our environment and how we grow our food. Resilience is about respecting nature
Must not forget

- **Personal tragedies and pain** – haunting memories of the dead; scale of human suffering
- **Personal efforts/sacrifices** and endurance of every doctor, nurse, municipal worker; at the frontlines
- **Haunting faces of the fleeing informal workers** (migrants) who left because cities (we) turned out backs on them; whose livelihoods collapsed; their personal stories of suffering and of endurance
- **Human empathy** – people who cooked for others; took care of their neighbours and strangers
Must not forget as we rebuild

• Fix the inequity, which leads to the disproportionate impact on the poorest;
• Fix the health care system so that it can meet the needs of all; urban planning so that it can provide housing and (clean) water and sanitation for all
• Fix our air pollution so that we do not have clean air/hear the birds/blue skies only when economies lock down
• Fix the system for the future – today
• And yes, the do not forget the human enterprise and scientific innovation that has brought us the vaccines super fast. But also remember that we will lose the deadly war against the virus, variant and vaccines if we do not reach all; at affordable rates and fast
Mirror to our world, warts and all

• Biggest story of our generation
• Our effort is to chronicle our present so that we can change the future
• Record of history – as we make it today

• We need renewal and re-engineering and this is why We Must Not Forget.
• **We must learn and we must change**