



YOUTH 4 WATER PLUS



EARTH DAY²⁰²³ REPORT



***"THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR PLANET IS THE
BELIEF THAT SOMEONE ELSE WILL SAVE IT."***

~ ROBERT SWAN

Overview of Earth Day Celebrations



Youth on the Earth Day

With **5,00,000+** youths driving the passion for Climate Action & Awareness programs around Climate change, **UNICEF Odisha**-led exciting and ambitious **Youth4Water Plus** campaign contributing to **1000 GO GREEN Steps** to celebrate **Earth Day 2023** with a call to **“Invest in our Planet”** is proof that every individual can bring about positive impact in climate action.

Youth4Water Plus Campaign celebrated various activities and initiatives to *promote sustainability & environmental conservation*. Highlights of the Earth Day were **panel discussions, on ground youth activities** and **community radio narrowcasting session**.

One of the main events was **“Way Forward for Inclusive, Youth-led Climate Action: Panel discussion”** with IPCC Lead Author and Gender Task Force Member, **Prof. Anjal Prakash** and youth climate activists **Abhilash Sachdeva, Parbati Murmu** and **Tarulata Sethi**.

Another notable initiative was the **“Growing Sustainability Initiative”**, which involved an online activity led by the Climate Man of Odisha, **Satyabrata Samal**, with **15 youths** demonstrating how to *plant a sapling in a plastic bottle self-watering way*. This initiative aimed to promote sustainable practices and environmental conservation among the youth.

Active Partners of Youth4Water Plus **TataSTRIVE, BGVS, Radio Namaskar** and **Antarang Foundation** organized several events that reached over **1000 young people** and **over 10,000 indigenous tribal youth**, covering **7 districts in Odisha** which included an **oath taking ceremony** to *conserve the earth and save biodiversity* aimed to create awareness and promote sustainable practices among young people and indigenous communities.

Table: Different Activities organised by Youth4Water Plus and its partners

Partners & Activities	Place	Reach
Youth4Water Plus Panel Discussion with IPCC Lead Author & Gender Task Force - Prof. Anjal Prakash	Virtual	604
Growing Sustainability: Youth-Led Initiative that promotes Self-Watering Plants for Water Conservation	Virtual	4397
World Earth Day Celebration by BGVS	Gajapati, Ganjam, Malkangiri, Puri, Nabarangpur, Khordha	2000
World Earth Day by TataSTRIVE at Government ITI Balasore	Balasore	543
Earth Day Celebration by Community Radio	Puri, Khordha	150
World Earth Day Celebration by Sattvic Soul Foundation	Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Paradeep, Cuttack	400
Youth4Water Plus Panel Discussion on <i>Paribartan ki baat, Climate Man ke sath</i>	Virtual	100
World Earth Day Celebration by Antarang Foundation	Kandhamal	10000

Earth Day Celebrations at a glance

1. Panel Discussion in Conversation with IPCC Lead Author and Gender Task Force

A panel discussion was conducted aligning with Global Earth Day on 22nd April 2023 with expert IPCC Lead Author and Gender Task Force, **Prof. Anjal Prakash** along with youth climate activist **Abhilash Sachdeva**, Eco Entrepreneur on promoting Millets, **Parbati Murmu**, Women Indigenous Tribal Activist to protect forest & **Tarulata Sethi**, Young Researcher working on Chilika Wetlands.

The youth discussed on way forward for inclusive, youth led Climate Action in Odisha. The discussion gave a detailed insight and understanding about IPCC 6. IPCC is an International UN body that collects and collate recent advancement of climate change issues.

Messages by Experts

“Climate change is here & now. Science has proved that climate is there and its real. Earlier it was Adaptation! Now the only thing is Mitigation! Mitigation! & Mitigation!”



Prof. Anjal Prakash

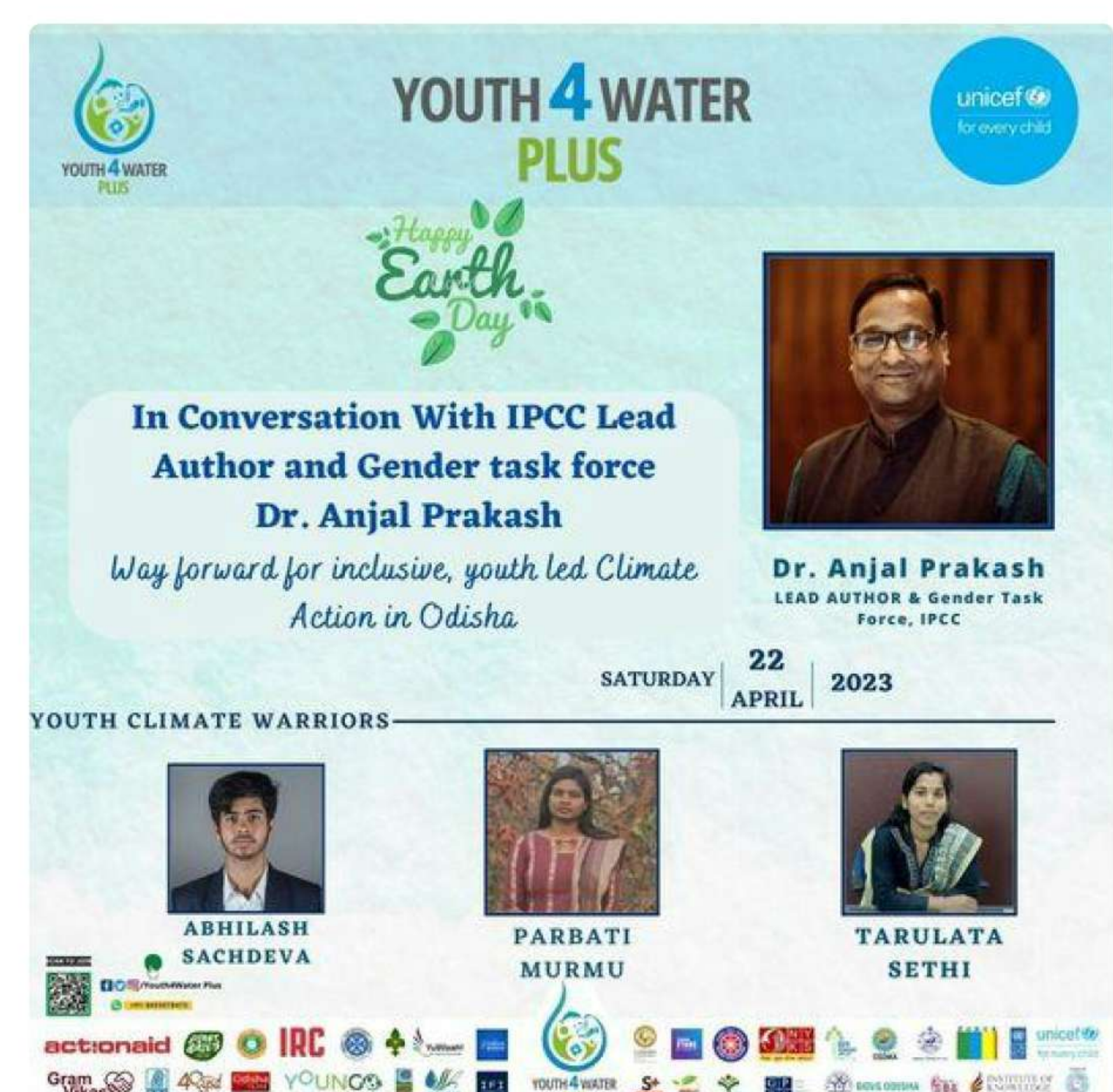
Lead Author & Gender Task Force IPCC 6. Associate Professor (Research) and Research Director, Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad

Key Understandings

- Learned on the process followed by the IPCC report, including immense global intellectual activism and consultation with various indigenous communities.
- Youth have tremendous role to play in climate change as adopters of positive climate action, influencer of public policy.
- Through consultation with indigenous community, youth tribal voice can be considered while creation of report.
- IPCC 6 report is a direct pathway of inclusion.

Watch, Listen & Share:

<https://youtu.be/EmMZNgpChts>



Poster of the event

Messages by Youth

"Who does not see the climate change is really happening? The problem is not globally, it is the problem of mankind. We need to work together to protect our earth."



Abhilash Sachdeva
Youth Climate Activist, Ecopreneur

"An Indigenous tribe in Odisha – Santali – celebrate 'Baha Bonga' festival to worship & conserve forest. Indigenous tribes are rightly called the Forest Savers."



Parbati Murmu
Youth4WaterPlus Advocate, Indigenous Climate Activist

"Due to climate change waterbodies are heating and aquatic animals face a lot of problems & fisherwomen communities face lot of issues on livelihoods."



Tarulata Sethi
Youth Researcher, Working on Chilika Wetlands.

2. Growing Sustainability: Youth-Led Initiative that promotes Self-Watering Plants for Water Conservation

Objective: *"Best out of waste– A step toward greener world."*

Self-watering plants are an innovative and sustainable solution to address the issue of water scarcity, which is prevalent in many parts of the world.

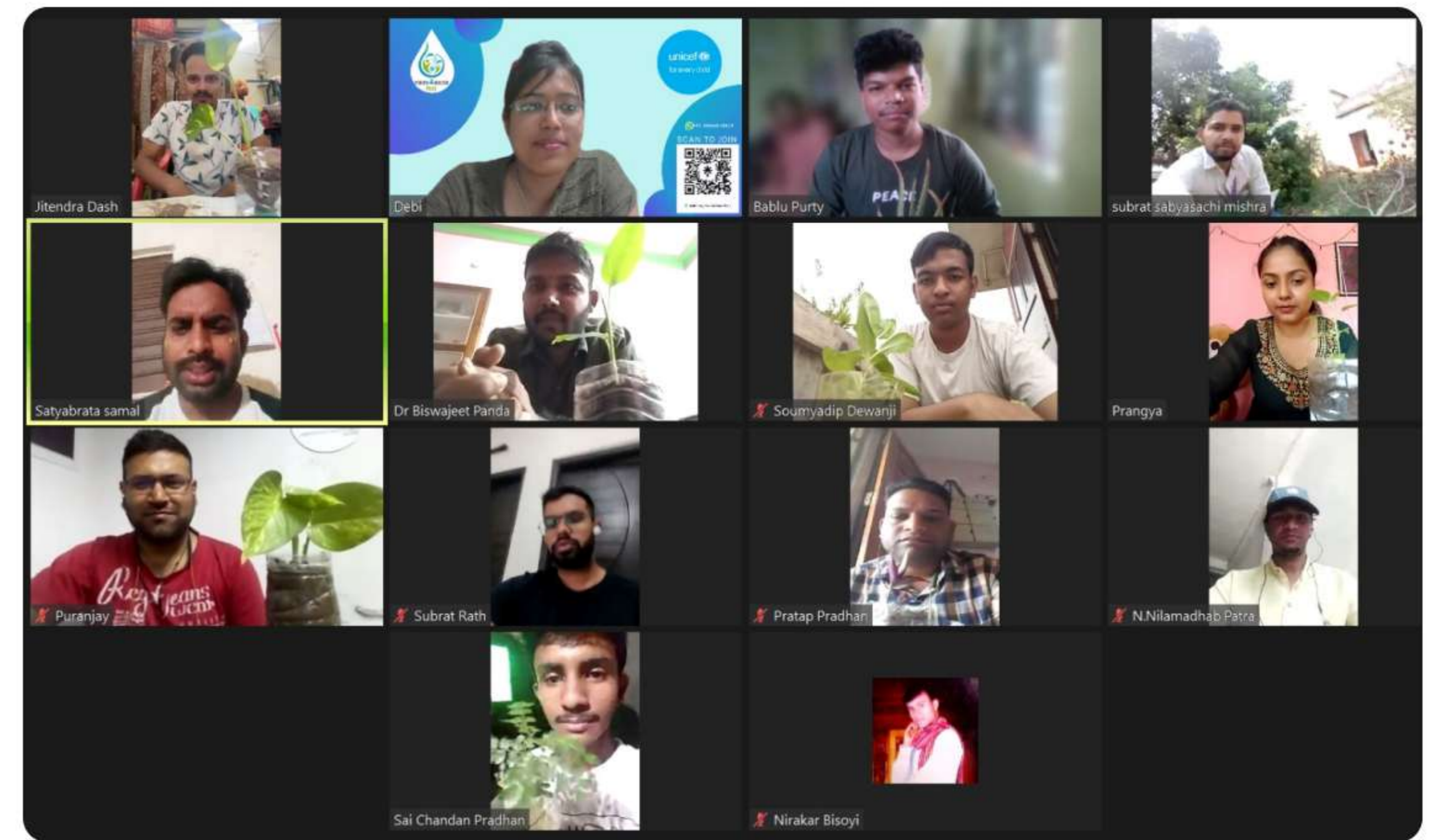
This method of planting allows plants to self-regulate the water supply, which helps reduce water wastage and promotes the growth of healthy plants. Instead of throwing away plastic bottles, they can be reused as planters, reducing waste and contributing to environmental conservation.

With a target of 10k youth, Youth4Water Plus took a significant step towards a greener and healthier environment.

In addition to this, Youth4Water Plus also partnered with BGVS, Tata Strive, and Antaranga which supported the initiative by bringing in 500 youths to participate in the activity. They also shared their photos and videos on social media handles, which helped spread awareness about the benefits of self-watering plants.

Following this, an online activity was organized with 15 youths, with an oath taking to conserve our mother earth and save biodiversity with Climate Man of Odisha, **Satyabrata Samal**.

View photos of the Event:
bit.ly/GrowingSustainability



Growing Sustainability: Online Activity

3. World Earth Celebration by BGVS

Youth4Water Plus active partner BGVS celebrated earth day that helped to promote sustainable practices and environmental conservation.

More than 200 young youth were involved in these initiatives from various schools, anganwadi centres across 30 districts of Odisha.



Pictures of children and youth with self watering plants made using plastic bottles as a part of Growing Sustainability Initiative



4. World Earth Day by TataSTRIVE at Government ITI Balasore

Learners of *Government ITI Balasore* prepared a self-watering plant and potted them in a waste plastic bottle.

Learners were given education on Sustainable Development as it is the need of the hour.

Students also learned about the concept of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

This entire process helped them to get a hands-on experience and an good understanding of the importance of efficient water usage and plant care, they embrace the role of responsible stewards of the environment.

About 80 learners participated in this activity which has reached 543 youth via social media.



5. Earth Day Celebration by Community Radio

Community Radio partners like SoA Radio, Radio Namaskar conducted *narrowcasting session on World Earth Day* at *Puri* and *Khordha* with the aim of mobilizing school students on conservation of our mother earth for environmental sustainability.

This program reached 150+ youth in those districts via social media.



6. World Earth Day Celebration 2023 by Antarang Foundation

Youth4Water Plus active partner **Antarang Foundation**, a non-profit organization committed to empowering indigenous communities on Earth Day celebration at *Kandhamal district*.

Over 10,000 indigenous tribal youth participated in a self-watering plant activity to nurture the environment and cultivate a sustainable future.

Through this empowering initiative, Antarang Foundation provided the youth with the tools and knowledge to take care of their environment and positively impacted.



7. World Earth Day Celebration by Sattvic Soul Foundation

Climate Man of Odisha, Mr. Satyabrata Samal, founder and director of **Sattvic Soul Foundation** celebrated Earth Day with mobilizing youth from different districts.

They organized a drawing and painting competition for rural youth of *Paradip*. They also conducted plogging activity in different districts i.e. *Khandigiri, Paradip,*



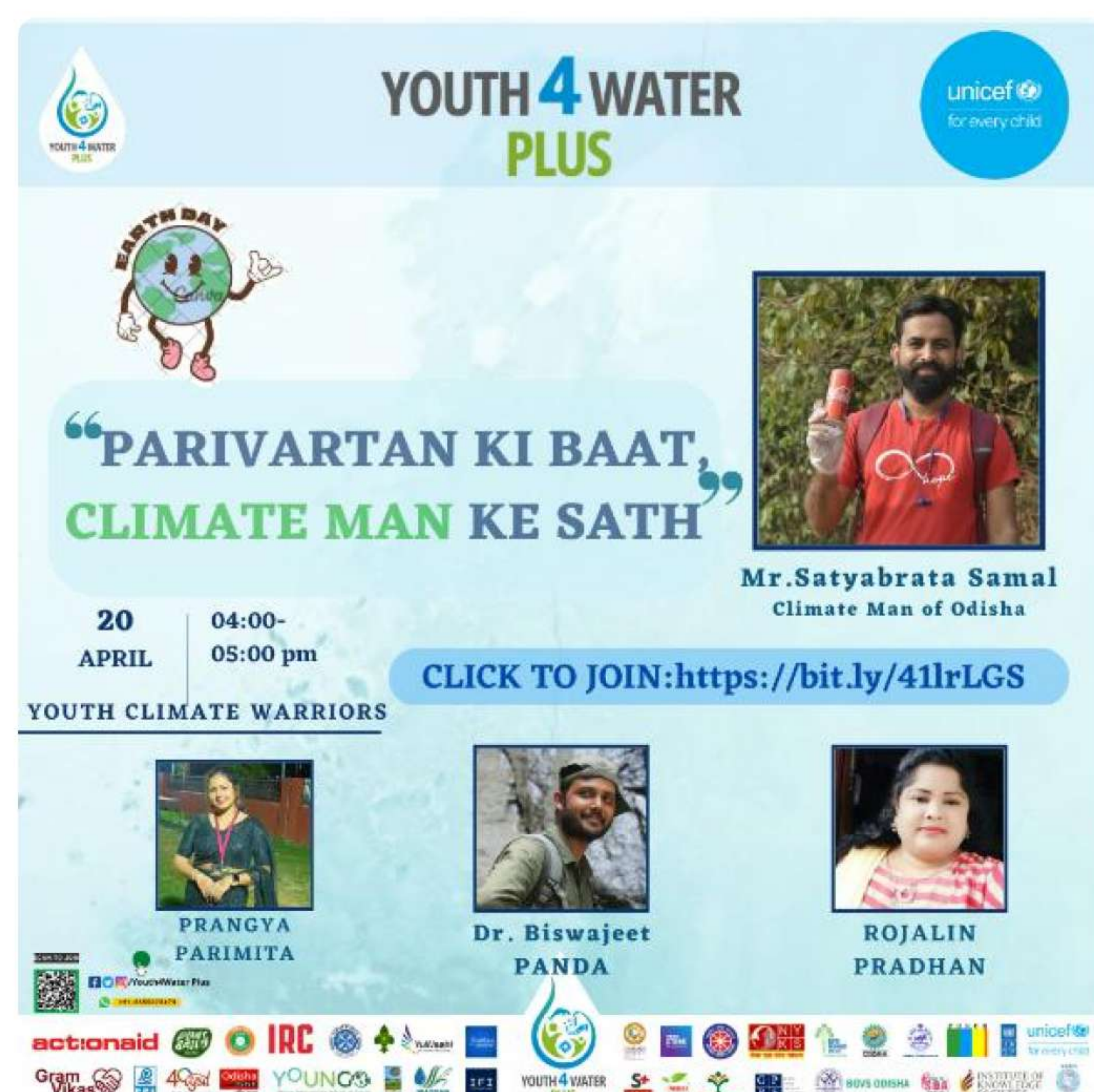
Cuttack, Berhampur and Sikharchandi with mobilized youths on vulnerable, endangered and threatened species like *bee, horseshoe crab, olive ridley turtle* and *tiger* to take significant action towards sustainable environment.

This programme reached over 400 youth from different districts in Odisha.

8. Panel Discussion on “Paribartan ki Baat Climate Man ke Sath”

A panel discussion was conducted aligning with Global Earth Day on 22nd April 2023 with Climate Man of Odisha, founder and director of Sattvic Soul Foundation, **Satyabrata Samal**. the panel also had **Rojalin Pradhan**, Community Radio Mobilizer; **Dr. Biswajeet Panda**, youth researcher on Elephant Ecology; and **Pragayna Paramita Nayak**, expert on Climate Change.

Major highlights of the session were to *Invest in our Planet Earth* and theme focused on *engaging youth of nation to join in the global movement*.



Poster of the event

Lastly, discussing on 'Paribartan Ki Baat, Climate Man ke Sath' youth took pledge to conserve Mother Earth and be a responsible youth for climate Action.

"I love my Mother Earth, I care for my Earth, There is no Planet B, We belong to the Earth, The Earth does not belong to us!"

Key Understandings

- We need to learn from our peers and act together for climate action.
- Despite of the challenge they face, young people have rights, dreams. Their voices need to be heard.
- The urgency of taking action to mitigate the impacts of climate change and how young people can make a difference in this effort.
- Need to prioritize education and awareness-raising among young people about the impacts of climate change and the potential solutions.
- To collaborate and partnerships between young people, governments, and other stakeholders to drive local, national, and global change.

Watch, Listen & Share:

<https://youtu.be/rzvCcSXd1Y8>

Messages by Experts

"Discussing about climate change, Climate change is uncertainty and young people are not only victims of climate change. They are also valuable contributors to climate action, they are the agents of change that shows the massive power they possess to hold decision makers accountable."



Satyabrata Samal

Youth4Water Plus Youth Ambassador, Climate Man of Odisha, Founder & Director Sattvic Soul Foundation

Messages by Experts

"Community radio can be the hot line of climate action that engages the communities and more so its youth. Radio has been around for decades and served people in various domains. It's time when it plays a pivoting role in climate action with its outreach to the masses."



Rojalin Pradhan

Climate Activist, Community Radio Practitioner

"Climate crisis changes whole scenario of biodiversity. Offensive anthropological activities cause wild habitat fragmentation leads to Human-Wildlife Conflicts. Rigorous awareness among tribal to civilised would make a great change."



Dr. Biswajeet Panda

Researcher at Elephant Ecology



Take The Pledge with us:

- I love my Mother Earth
- I care for my Earth
- There is no Planet B
- We belong to the Earth
- The Earth does not belong to us!



Youth4Water Plus

Driving Young People Towards Wash & Climate Action