

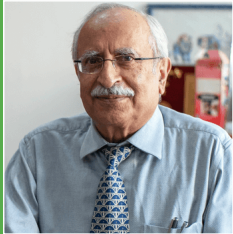


**MOBIUS
FOUNDATION**

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JULY DIARY



“Corona has brought with it a wave of negative outcomes, terrible illness and death, but it also highlighted some important life lessons. A heart full of hope, a positive mind set, and following the advice of doctors will help us live a safe life in the era of ‘ New Normal’ with positivity.” - Mr. Pradip Burman, Chairman, Mobius Foundation

Environment Positive: Viewpoint

Biodiversity and nature are the very basis of our survival and wellbeing on planet earth. This was duly acknowledged and emphasized on the world environment day celebrated worldwide on June 5. The day focused on the theme “Celebrating Biodiversity” and the slogan “Time for Nature” stressed upon the need for urgent action to conserve nature and biodiversity. Reconnecting with nature has become more important when the world is fighting the Covid pandemic currently. The landmark IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) report released in May 2019, draws our attention towards unprecedented nature’s decline in terms of over a million species being driven to extinction. Many scientists are now pointing to the loss of biodiversity as ‘biological annihilation’ and ‘frightening assault on the foundations of human civilization’ which might lead us towards the long-suspected ‘sixth mass extinction’.

Celebrating nature has been the fundamental value for the humanity. Under Indian cultural tradition, nature and wildlife are revered and worshipped as sacred. Nature worship is manifested in several forms such as forest groves, rivers, mountains and even individual trees, animals and almost every element of nature. These are prevalent in many traditional societies all over the world. We need to reconnect with nature and live in harmony with it, to succeed in our fight against the current Covid pandemic and many other such calamities. We need to understand that by protecting nature today, we are avoiding the pandemics of tomorrow. The corona crisis therefore should be utilized to reflect and rebuild our relationship with nature which alone can offer us with the opportunity and solution to “Build Back Better” while we recover from the pandemic. The positive lessons of the Corona Crisis and the new normal of living in harmony with nature and looking at its invaluable contribution in developing resilience and immunity for better health and wellbeing need to be strengthened and sustained.

Dr Ram Boojh
CEO, Mobius Foundation

Highlight of the Month

Locusts are putting 5 million people at risk of starvation - and that's without COVID-19

The most serious desert locust outbreak in 70 years. It comes as many of the countries in the region are already struggling to manage food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. A square-kilometre swarm can consume the same amount of food in one day as 35,000 people. Swarms of locusts have invaded vast swathes of land in India since April 11th this year.

The locusts which entered India were about 10-12 days old and were flying huge distances in search of food. Since the Rabi crop harvesting is over and the Kharif sowing season is yet to begin, they were unable to find any vegetation.



Source: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/locusts-africa-hunger-famine-covid-19>
<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/locust-attack-in-india/article31729025.ece>

Corona virus antibodies may last only two to three months after infection, study suggests

- Coronavirus antibodies may last only two to three months after a person becomes infected with Covid-19, according to a new study published Thursday in Nature Medicine.
- Researchers in the Wanzhou District of China compared the antibody response of 37 asymptomatic people with that of 37 symptomatic people. The researchers found people without symptoms had a weaker antibody response than those with symptoms.
- Additionally, within eight weeks, antibodies fell to undetectable levels in 40% of asymptomatic people, compared with 12.9% of symptomatic people, according to the study's findings.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/18/coronavirus-antibodies-may-last-only-2-to-3-months-after-infection-study-suggests.html>

ICSE Forum 1

World Environment Day 2020 - 4th & 5th June 2020



ICSE International Conference on Sustainability Education
FORUM
World Environment Day 2020 Webinar
Principal's Conclave on
Sustainability Education in COVID Era
DAY 1 SPEAKERS
June 4 2020, 17:30 to 19:30 hrs IST

 DR. RAM BIJU CEO, Mobius Foundation	 MR. ATUL BAGAI Director, UNEP India office
 MR. KARTIKEYA V SARABHAI Founder and Director, Centre for Environment Education (CEE)	 MR. PRAMOD KUMAR SHARMA Senior Director of Education, Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)
 MS. SEEMA BALI Vice-Principal, St. Mary's School, Chennai, India	 MR. BEN GREEN Geography Teacher and Head of Outdoor Education, Kingsley School
 MS. SUMEDHA JANVADEERA Principal, St. Paul's Girls School, Coimbatore, India	 MR. ADITYA PUNDIR Country Manager, Climate Reality India

Logos: ICSE, The Climate Reality Project, CEE, FEE, UN, etc.

The two day International Webinar was organized as part of the ICSE Forum to commemorate the World Environment Day, by Mobius Foundation, UNESCO New Delhi The Climate Reality Project India and other eminent partners. The webinar deliberated on the inter-linkages between COVID-19 pandemic, biodiversity and how sustainability education can be a strategic asset to address both the environment and pandemic challenge. The objective was to sensitize teachers, principals and educators about sustainability concerns and provide an opportunity for partnership between schools and research networks in ESD. The webinar was conducted over two days so as to accommodate the wider views from stakeholders and represent them holistically.

- DAY I: Opening of the International Webinar and Principals' Conclave
- DAY II: International Webinar and the world environment day event

To read the whole report please visit icse2019.org



ICSE International Conference on Sustainability Education
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World Environment Day 2020 Webinar
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Sustainability Education in COVID Era
DAY 2 SPEAKERS
June 5 2020, 17:30 to 19:30 hrs IST

 CHAIRMAN MR. PRAJIB BURMAN	 DR. RAM BIJU CEO, Mobius Foundation	 MS. HUMMA MASOOD National Programme Officer, Gender and Education, UNESCO
 MR. ASHOK PANDEY Chairperson, Council for Global Citizenship Education	 MR. ADITYA PUNDIR Country Manager, Climate Reality India	 MS. DONNA GOODMAN Founder and ED, Earth CAN Institute (ECI)

Logos: ICSE, The Climate Reality Project, CEE, FEE, UN, etc.

Food for Thought

World Zoonoses Day

'We have to act now to avoid even bigger catastrophes'

On July 6 in 1885, Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against rabies, one of the most feared diseases of that time. The bite of an infected animal transmits the rabies virus to humans, leading to an agonizing death without the vaccine.

World Zoonoses Day, held July 6 every year, marks this major breakthrough in the fight against zoonoses — diseases caused by germs that spread between animals and people. And yet, 135 years later, despite tremendous advances in science and medicine, the world is struggling to respond to the novel coronavirus — the latest devastating pathogen to spill over from animals.

"The primary risks for future spillover of zoonotic diseases are deforestation of tropical environments and large-scale industrial farming of animals, specifically pigs and chickens at high density," Gillespie, associate professor in Emory University's Department of Environmental Sciences and Rollins School of Public Health.

Source: https://news.emory.edu/stories/2020/06/esc_world_zoonoses_day/campus.html

Funny Side



Positive Affirmations

Old But Holds Future – Nature Based Solutions

Gorakhpur's use of nature-based solutions for adaptation offers lessons for cities around the world. About a decade ago, city officials began developing a climate resilience strategy with support from the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN). This spurred wider community efforts, led by local non-profit Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG), to leverage nature-based adaptation for vulnerable and low-income communities at the greatest risk.

Farmers switched from mono-cropping to rotating multiple crops in order to improve soil health and drainage. Several adopted organic practices, which reduced harmful run-off in nearby rivers and gave their produce a competitive edge at local markets. A weather advisory group helped farmers use a text message-based early warning system to schedule irrigation and harvesting. Overall, these efforts boosted crop yields and grew farmers' incomes by one-third.

Source: <https://indiadialogue.net/2019/11/05/gorakhpur-uses-nature-to-build-climate-resilience/>

Sustainable Consumerism

"You can do a better product, of great quality, while having respect of our planet."

Italian denim brand Replay has just set new sustainability standards for the rest of the industry.

The sustainable upgrade on the best-sellers is made with organic cotton, recycled fabric and recycled PET bottles, which they've spent both time and money to on replicating the original's 360-stretch fit.

Even better? Though the technology and research has cost the brand, it won't cost Replay's sustainable-minded customers.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/lelalondon/2020/07/13/sustainable-jeans-should-cost-the-company-not-consumer-says-replay-ceo/#17b232db7cd6>



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