



# JUNE DIARY



**“Passing through the lockdown has taught us many things. Let us work with a new resolve to do what matters.”**

- Mr. Pradip Burman, *Chairman, Mobius Foundation*

## Environment Positive: Viewpoint

**C**OVID19 is causing serious humanitarian, economic and health crisis of unprecedented proportion. I am putting the humanitarian crisis at the top, as like most other crises, this pandemic has impacted the poor and marginalized the most. The total lockdown in India, in particular, had resulted in the loss of life and livelihoods of millions of migrant workers. The plight of these hapless victims of the lockdown has put the spotlight on the problem of internal migrants whose number is over 400 million, about 30 per cent of the population. They contribute around 10 per cent to the country's GDP, yet considered outsiders and unwelcome to the cities whom they make prosperous and wealthy. The lockdown sparked a mass exodus of internal migrants returning to their homes to face the economic hardships, food shortages as well as climate and environmental stresses, they left behind in their villages. The World Migration Report 2020, highlights the need to better integrate migration into global climate and environmental mechanisms. Migrant workers need to be covered under social security schemes commensurate to their contribution to the national economy. Both central and state governments need to promote healthy and positive political discourse to avoid prejudiced negative portrayal of internal migrants.

On the positive side, the pause created by COVID 19 could bring some cheer to city dwellers in terms of clean air, clean water, clear sky and thriving nature. Meanwhile, the International Day for Biological Diversity, was observed on 22nd May on the theme, 'our solutions are in nature'. I had the opportunity to speak in a webinar on the topic, 'Nature-based solutions (NBS)' in line with the theme of the day. The NBS mainly use, or mimic, natural processes in a cost effective manner for improved management of our resources based on sound sustainability principles. COVID-19 has triggered looking towards nature from a fresh perspective for better health and environmental outcomes. NBS can be creatively used in economic stimulus packages announced by the government for creating green jobs or enterprises in villages to spur economy and ecology of rural areas. Our people are so innovative, resilient and jugadu (frugal innovator), they can find easy solutions to complicated problems with little resources. I salute these jugadus of country who are on their own without any meaningful government support or stimulus package. Their grassroots skills need to be nurtured and supported to create millions of green environment friendly jobs by using NBS. This will be true to the spirit of 'vocal for local'.

Dr Ram Boojh  
CEO Mobius Foundation

## Highlight of the Month

### Sundarbans shields southwestern Bangladesh, again

Cyclone Amphan would have washed away the southwestern localities of Bangladesh with 10 to 15 feet high tidal surge. But it was the 10,000 square-kilometer Sundarbans, nearly 32 times bigger than the Dhaka city, absorbed the force of the cyclone lessening its power to damage.

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, cyclone Amphan passed heavily on the forest, particularly in the west part in Satkhira district, with gusts of 72 to 148 kmph speed and tidal surges up to nine feet. The Sundarbans has protected again although it cannot be said that the forests diverted the cyclone, it had reduced its damaging power.

Source: <https://tbsnews.net/environment/cyclone-amphan/sundarbans-shields-southwestern-bangladesh-again-84292>

### Killing of rare river dolphins sparks poaching fears in Bangladesh lockdown

Locals in the southeastern town of Raojan found the remains of the 62-inch (157-centimetre) long Ganges river dolphin on the banks of the Halda River, sparking fears fishermen are taking advantage of the virus lockdown to poach the endangered creatures.

Bangladesh prohibits the killing of Ganges dolphins, which are categorised as endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's "Red List" of threatened species.

The Ganges river dolphin is found in the river systems of Nepal, Bangladesh and India and has a population of between 1,200 to 1,800, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

They can weigh up to 100 kilograms (220 pounds) and grow to 2.6 meters (eight feet) long, are known for their long beaks which have 28 sharp teeth on both sides of their jaws.

The Halda river is home to around 170 dolphins, according to HRRL.

Source: <https://phys.org/news/2020-05-rare-river-dolphins-poaching-bangladesh.html>

## Innovation and Technology Matters

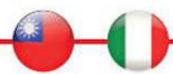
How countries are using technology to fight coronavirus

### Methods in the Madness

Using location data to track infected persons:  
**South Korea, Israel, Taiwan, Italy**



Using apps to help people avoid Covid patients:  
**UK, South Korea, India**  
(app in the works)



AI-powered thermal cameras to spot people with fever:  
**China**



Robots manning quarantine centres:  
**China, Singapore**



Source: [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/software/how-countries-are-using-technology-to-fight-coronavirus/articleshow/74867177.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/software/how-countries-are-using-technology-to-fight-coronavirus/articleshow/74867177.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

## Positive Affirmations

### To be more sustainable, this USC student starts with shirt on her back

Jasmine Sears plans to use her degree in environmental studies to help the fashion industry do more to protect the planet.

The Atlanta native had long been passionate about environmental protection, but she also loved exploring and creating art. Combining the two into a career seemed impossible. Then she found her purpose at USC — right in front of her on a clothes rack. Now she is scrutinizing ways to cut back on waste and promote ethical practices in fashion as she pursues her degree in environmental studies at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

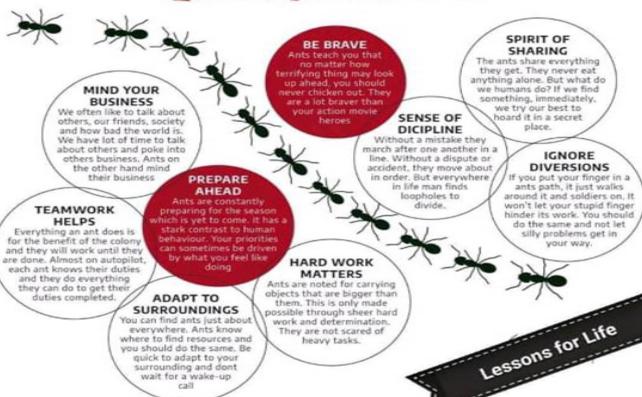
Sears, a rising senior, talks about how the clothing industry can move away from disposable “fast fashion” and embrace eco-friendly practices.

Source: <https://news.usc.edu/166955/jasmine-sears-usc-student-fashion-sustainability-environmentally-friendly-clothes/>

## WISDOM TO BETTER LIVING

### The Ant's Rule Book of Life

Ants make up around a quarter of the earth's animal numbers, with more than a million of them to every human. Humans may think they rule the world, but the tiny ant can tell us how to do it better.



## In public interest by Mobius Foundation

**कोरोना**  
का डर कर नहीं, डट कर सामना करें

**क्या करें ✓**

- शारीरिक दूरी बनाए रखें।
- यार—पार हाथ धोने की आदान प्रादान।
- जपानी कोटोनी के जंदगीनी हिलोंस में धोते।
- व्यक्तिगत रुचावापर ध्यान दें।
- बासीनी के दोलन।
- मीटिंग की सुरक्षित दूरी बनाए रखें।
- साइरक्सा सामग्री विनाश करें।

**क्या नहीं करें ✗**

- हाथ न मिलाएं।
- अपनी ओर, नाक और मुँह को रखें न करें।
- जपाने हाथों की हड्डी लियों में न लाने।
- सार्वजनिक स्थापत्य से न घूमें।
- संपर्क में न बढ़ें।
- नए साल की तरफ अपने नाम लिखने के लिए नाम लिखने के लिए जगह लाने।
- अकालीन पर ध्यान न दें।

समझदारी ही है बचाव

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### How to Reopen the Economy by Exploiting Coronavirus's Weak Spot

We can find a way out of this dilemma by exploiting a key property of the virus: its latent period - the three-day delay on average between the time a person is infected and the time he or she can infect others.

People can work in two-week cycles, on the job for four days then, by the time they might become infectious, 10 days at home in lockdown. The strategy works even better when the population is split into two groups of households working alternating weeks.

Even if someone is infected, and without symptoms, he or she would be in contact with people outside their household for only four days every two weeks, not 10 days, as with a normal schedule. This strategy packs another punch: It reduces the density of people at work and school, thus curtailing the transmission of the virus.

The cyclic strategy should be part of a comprehensive exit strategy, including self-quarantine by those with symptoms, contact tracing and isolation, and protection of risk groups.

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/11/opinion/coronavirus-reopen.htmlt>

## Funny Side: Environment Positive



## Mobius Foundation

4th Floor, Sagar Plaza, Distt Centre, Laxmi Nagar, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092

P: 011-49854523, 011-49433823 | E: info@mobiusfoundation.in | www.mobiusfoundation.in