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By RNB Global University

Global Issues

World Environment Day Highlights Deadly Cost of Plastic



On June 5th, World Environment Day will be hosted in India under the banner of "Beat Plastic Pollution," aiming to raise awareness and civic engagement alongside creating a global movement to reduce the amount of plastic in the environment.

Plastic bags and bottles comprise a major part of the rubbish that clogs this delicate mountain ecosystem when scores of Hindu devotees' flock to the Amarnath cave in Kashmir to worship a representation of the god Shiva.

World Environment Day addresses four main campaigns. First, it seeks to decrease the amount of single-use plastic items. Second, it will try to improve plastic waste management, since plastic takes hundreds of years to degrade, poisoning the soil and even getting into the food we eat. Third, it aims to phase out microplastics because recent studies show that 90 percent of bottled water and 83 percent of tap water contain plastic particles which affect blood, stomach and lungs. Finally, this global platform intends to coordinate further research in order to create alternatives to plastic.

As synthetic polymers can be transformed into cheap, lightweight and durable products, demand for plastic is growing worldwide, rising from 5 million tons in the 1950s to over 300 million tons in 2017. The UN has estimated that more than 5 trillion plastic bags are consumed annually while 17 million barrels of oil are used to produce plastic. At the same time, 50 percent of this plastic is for single-time use, making the share of plastic in human-generated waste 10 percent.

Fortunately, an increasing number of individuals avoid consuming single-use plastic items and volunteer to clean the environment. However, individual action alone is not enough to solve this global problem. As the source of the problem lies in "manufacturing, distribution, consumption and trade systems for plastic," the whole "global economy needs to change". Subsequently, active involvement of governments who will implement competent legislation regarding production and management of plastic items is needed.

Editorial team

Inspiring Story

The Tiger



A teacher and his student were walking from one village to another, when they suddenly heard a roar behind them. Turning their gaze in the direction of the roar, they saw a big tiger following them.

The first thing the student wanted to do was to run away, but since he has been studying and practicing self-discipline, he was able to halt himself from running, and wait to see what his teacher would do.

"What shall we do Master?" Asked the student.

The teacher looked at the student and answered in a calm voice: "There are several options. We can fill our minds with paralyzing fear so that we cannot move, and let the tiger do with us whatever pleases it. We can faint. We can run away, but then it will run after us. We can fight with it, but physically it is stronger than us."

"We can pray to god to save us. We can choose to influence the tiger with the power of our mind, if our concentration is strong enough. We can send it love. We can also concentrate and meditate on our inner power, and on the fact that we are one with the entire universe, including the tiger, and in this way influence its soul."

"Which option do you choose?"

"You are the Master. You tell me what to do. We don't have much time." The student responded.

The master turned his gaze fearlessly towards the tiger, emptied his mind from all thoughts, and entered a deep state of meditation. In his consciousness, he embraced everything in the universe, including the tiger. In this state the consciousness of the teacher became one with consciousness of the tiger.

Meanwhile the student started to shiver with fear, as the tiger was already quite close, ready to make a leap at them. He was amazed at how his teacher could stay so calm and detached in the face of danger.

Meanwhile the teacher continued to meditate without fear. After a little while, the tiger gradually lowered its head and tail and went away.

The student asked his teacher in astonishment, "What did you do?"

"Nothing. I just cleared all thoughts from my mind and united myself in spirit with the tiger. We became united in peace on the spiritual level. The tiger sensed the inner calmness, peace, and unity and felt no threat or need to express violence, and so walked away."

"When the mind is silent and calm, its peace is automatically transmitted to everything and everyone around, influencing them deeply", concluded the teacher.

-By Remez Sasson

Top 5 Indian Scientific Breakthroughs in 2017-18



17-18 has been a great year for India in terms of scientific discoveries, inventions and spatial achievements. Let us discuss these in detail.

1. World's Lightest satellite designed by Indian teen launched by NASA (2017)

Rifath Sharook, an 18-year-old from Karur in Tamil Nadu, made history by designing the world's lightest satellite, 'KalamSat', which was launched by NASA in June. He honored the former Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam by naming this satellite after him. The satellite is 64-grams in weight and made of reinforced carbon fibre polymer. It is reportedly the first time that NASA has carried out an Indian students' experiment.

2. TeamIndus', an Indian startup chosen to land a spacecraft on Moon (2017)

Bengaluru-based 'TeamIndus', India's first private space startup was selected by Google Lunar XPRIZE among the five international finalists for a \$20-million award to land a spacecraft on Moon in January. The company is building the world's first private mission to land a robot on the moon that travels at least 500 meters and sends high-definition video and images back to Earth. TeamIndus has also entered into a contract with ISRO to launch its unmanned spacecraft.

3. ISRO launched 104 satellites in one go creating a world record (2018)

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) had successfully launched 104 satellites in one go, breaking the world record in February 2018. This was the first launch in which the maximum number of satellites were launched from the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which carried a 714-kg Cartosat-2 series earth observing satellite and 103 co-passenger satellites together weighing 664 kg.

4. Chandrayaan-2 (2018)

India, again plans to land on the Moon in a big way with the ambitious Chandrayaan-2, which will include an orbiter, lander, and a small rover. If India succeeds in this plan, Chandrayaan-2 will be the first-ever mission to land a rover near the unexplored lunar south pole of the moon. 'Chandrayaan-2' is expected to be launched around October-November this year.

5. Discovery of a new planet 600 light years away (2018)

The Indian scientists of Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, has discovered a new planet which is 600 light years away. This exoplanet is smaller than Saturn but bigger than Neptune. It was found around a Sun-like star and completes a round around the star in about 19.5 days. With this discovery, India has joined a group of countries which are successful in discovering planets around stars.

Indian Festivals in May

There are a few festivals celebrated in the month of May. Some of these are:

May Day (1st May 2018) - This day is also known as International Worker's Day or Labor Day. It is celebrated as a day of organized labor by the worker's unions and socialist groups. There are no social and cultural connotations attached to the observance of this day. It is, however, observed as a public holiday and as a mark of respect to the working class. On this day, demonstrations and processions are organized by worker's union groups and socialist groups.

Mother's Day (14th May 2018) - This day is celebrated all over the world to show gratitude towards the services which are provided by mothers to their children. Although we cannot do anything which could repay those services, but people all over India try to make their mothers feel special on this day.

Ganga Dussehra (24th May 2018) - This festival is dedicated to river Ganga. It is a celebration of "the coming down of the River Ganga on Earth". Haridwar is one place where devotees gather and bathe in the River Ganga that passes through here. People also take bath in places like Prayag in Allahabad, Garhmukteshwar, Rishikesh, and Varanasi.

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