



## **COVID-19 AND ITS MIXED IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT**

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Corona the curse of this century is going to weaken day by day but its effects will stay for a long time. Many people lost their lives and job. In late 2019 when the final reports of an unknown respiratory infection emerged from Wuhan, China, nobody knew it will be greatest challenge to humans of this century. Corona virus is related to those viruses that had caused outbreaks of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) from 2002-2004 and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2012. Total number of corona infection worldwide is 77,404,342 and deaths around 1,703,478. Total number of recovered persons are around 54,305,845. India added 24,337coronavirus infections on 21<sup>st</sup> December this number is about 8.5%lower than previous day.

It is human activity that enabled the virus to jump to people and specialists are warning that if nothing changes, many other pandemics of this nature will follow. Changes in the environment are usually the result of human activities. According to UNEP 60% of human infectious diseases originate from animals. Everyone knows that human activities have disturbed ecosystems worldwide less well known fact is that our activities have also increased infectious diseases transmission between humans and animals. We have pushed virus in to our food chain.

Actually this virus is an old virus in new packet which we had faced earlier. According to a recent study around one fifth of the world has an underlying health conditions that the virus can exploit. Those individuals would go on to develop severe infections with diseases like cardiovascular, chronic kidney infections diabetes and respiratory disorders, in this way about 4 percent of the world's population would require hospitalization if infected. According to UN chief this is most challenging crisis since Second World War, he further added that human crisis demands coordinated, decisive, inclusive and innovative policy action from the world's leading economies and maximum financial and technical support for the poorest and most vulnerable people and countries. Scientists believe it to be 21<sup>st</sup> century's biggest blunders by heads of governments making choices based on incomplete information sharing false information with other countries. Environmentalist believes that there is a correlation between Pandemics and environment. People who have recovered have bad impacts on health. People who lost their dear ones are trying to recover from mental trauma. Besides having bad effects on human lives Covid-19 has much positive impact on our society. While

the fear of naval Corona virus pandemic is still spreading air pollution and noise pollution are significantly decreasing. People are trying to stay inside to avoid chances of contamination. In the mean time sighting of migratory birds and endangered species of animals were daily updates on social media. The virus may be claiming lives all across the globe, captured people inside their house it seems to have certain positive effects in India as well as abroad.

It's going to be big opportunity for India. The post Covid-19 scenario for India does not look as grim as most people deem it to be according to leading economists of the country. At the beginning of Corona crisis the state fuel retailers in Delhi sold around 17% less Petrol and 25% less Diesel in March as compared to March 2019. Economists expect Diesel and Petrol prices to drop further as crude oil prices hit a 13 month low in India. The falling rates of crude oil will leave more liquid cash in the hands of the vehicles owner to the hands of the 2020. However economists also state that there is a good chance that the state and central government will increase the duty on fuels to make for the revenue deficits.

As all of us facing this crisis there is greater sense of togetherness. A sense of unity in tackling the crisis. Crime incidents have reduced. In many parts of the country including Delhi there is sharp around 42% drop in crime rates. Similar drop in crime rates has also been witnessed across major cities like Kolkata Chennai and Mumbai. Prime minister decision of complete lockdown for 21 days and strict actions by local law enforcement has contributed significantly to the steep decline in the crime rates in several cities and towns. Air becomes

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cleaner with green environment Green house gas emissions and pollution levels across the country had fallen significantly. Major cause of Pollution is industry, construction and transportation which were paused. Around 17% fall in fossil fuels are noticed which made environment clean. Green house gas emissions and pollution levels across the country had fallen significantly. According to a recent report climate change has been observed all across the world which may be due to change in solar cycle. Some call it back of ice era.

Around one year ago Delhi was struggling for breathing fresh air. During lockdown Delhi was enjoying one of the lowest air pollution level seen in the past decade or lower. The same is true for Mumbai and Kolkata. But at present India's capital Delhi is battling a winter rise in case as temperature lowers and air pollution rises to dangerous level. The city confirmed more than 8,500 on 21<sup>st</sup> November alone its highest daily report yet. According to experts as northern India faces a winter season and dangerously high level of air pollution two factors that could significantly worsen efforts to control the virus. According to Randeep Guleria Director AIIMS India must cut pollution to avoid Covid disaster. Air quality index show that pollutions level is 14 times greater than the WHO safe levels.

Our governments is exceptionally aware according to TOI (22 December) report about 10% population has gone under Covid-19 test in UP alone. It is era of internationalization and globalization of business.Covid-19 crisis turned it to stay home to enquire about the health of dear ones surrounding you leaving home only to buy locally and boosting the local community.

This lockdown period has inspired family time to millions of citizens living in metros rarely finding any time. Now a day people rarely leaving their homes and are spending quality time with kids. This period became golden time for wild life. Sighting the leopard on streets on Urban Maharashtra, flocks of flamingos in Navi Mumbai are examples that nature is healing itself while people restrict their movement outdoors and vehicles at garages and depots. Migratory birds are returning to lakes and water bodies which they once left due to pollution and human interference.

Covid-19 is changing how we live and is subsequently profound impact on the environment. An immediate effect the virus has had on the climate is reduction in global carbon dioxide emissions. This was observed first by NASA as satellite images showed a dramatic decline in pollution level. The actions taken by

authorities to check the spread of virus have revealed what measures are possible in an emergency and many experts are urging governments to apply the same restrictions to the climate emergency. Environmentalists believe that the pandemic exposes how we can do things differently. However there are valuable lessons to be learnt from our response to the outbreak of COVID-19 and these can be applied to the climate emergency.

Over the past few months media platform have been saturated with unsettling deaths, illness and economic destruction. Undoubtedly Corona has adversely affected many live globally, but surely every dark devastated cloud has a silver lining. As we know all of us are globally facing this crisis there is a greater sense of togetherness. Communities are coming together to ensure individual's moral kept high. Many actors' players and celebrities shared their talents to entertain the masses via online platform. This reduced the negative effects of difficult time. People are taking extra precautions to maintain their health, hygiene and immunity. As the Corona infection is related to immunity of the body, maintaining immunity became demand of today. People adopted less food wastage habit due to social distance pressure and long lock down. People have to manage their food items for long duration. It has created a big consciousness for storage of food items and less food wastage. Corona period brought mixed emotions in society. On one hand we saw attacks on Corona warriors on the other hand a new kind of human relationship is established to raise awareness of most vulnerable and deprived during lockdown.

According to UN chief this is most challenging crisis since Second World War, he further added that human crisis demands coordinated, decisive inclusive and innovative policy action from the world's leading economies and maximum financial and technical support for the poorest and most vulnerable people and countries. US Britain and Russia along are collaborating India in manufacturing vaccines which is probably to be administered from January 2021.

Government was in touch with a number of local and international vaccine makers informing them about our requirements and finding out about their production capacities. In the mean time Europeans nations have begun to impose travel ban on the UK after it reported that its more infectious corona virus variant is now out of control most experts think there is no need to be panic over it. But the new mutation has made changes to the virus spike protein which some experts fear may render many vaccines ineffective. Scientists fear the second

wave of infection by a variant of SARS-COV-2 Virus currently termed 501.V2 Variant which is 70% more transmissible. Our Government has also banned UK flights. Several experts say that it would take years not month for the virus to evolve enough to render the current virus impotent. Any way UK's new Corona virus strain triggers global alarm and this is 2020 and people have got used to expecting the unexpected.

Many efforts at the government level as well as individual level are taken to support the vulnerable and elderly. People are also cooperating within their neighbourhood to look out for one another. Overall there is much good being done at basic level despite the global suffering, as we realize we are there for each other. Humanity is at its best. Let's hope once the crisis is over we can continue to recognize and prioritise what is important "Our health Our Planet and most of all each other "

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