

World lockdown due to Covid -19 and its impact

Dr . Irfan Jamila

Sr. Assistant Professor (Dept of Zoology)
Govt , Women's College , M.A.Road , Sgr
Cluster University, Srinagar, UT J&K, India.

Coronavirus disease is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus which has affected human health who are either sick or are being killed due to spread of this disease around the globe . This, is a new viral disease affecting humans for the first time for which vaccines are not yet available. The virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes . Common symptoms of this infection are fever, cold, cough, muscle pain , breathing problems and leading to pneumonia. Disease outbreaks affect every sex differently . The pandemic is deepening preexisting inequalities exposing vulnerabilities in social , political and economic systems which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic . This virus is spreading exponentially region wise. Countries are banning gatherings of people to the spread and break the exponential curve .

The world wide disruption caused by pandemic Covid 19 is a crisis that has resulted in numerous impacts on the environment . The dire lockdowns undertaken to stop Covid -19 have fast forwarded us into an unlikely future –one with almost impossibly bold climate action taken all at once ,no matter the cost . The Covid -19 sweeps the globe ,social distancing are noticeably impacting the environment . The streets are deserted after authorities implemented a strict lock down and extensive travel restrictions .The severe decline in planned travel has caused many regions to experience a drop in air pollution . Short term air pollution which lasts for a few hours or a few days in the atmosphere has dropped and that is considered positive news .Pollution and green house gas emissions have fallen across continents as many countries face the spread of Coronavirus and it has resulted in fleeting change . As industries ,transport networks and businesses have closed down ,it has brought a sudden decline in carbon emissions .The lock down has caused industrial activity to shut down and cancelled flights and other journey ,slashing green house gas emissions and air pollution around the world . With many factories and business closed , combined with fewer cars on the roads and fewer planes in the sky ,our natural environment is recovering slowly . It took weeks for skies in polluted cities to clear as emissions dropped .People in smog chocked towns in India shared photos of the suddenly visible Himalayas which had been obscured by pollution .In Europe satellite images show nitrogen dioxide emissions fading away .In China emissions fell 25% at the start as people were instructed to stay at home , factories shuttered and coal use fell 40% at China's six largest power plants since the last quarter of 2019 . Global oil demand declined drastically and prices cut down sharply as industrial and transport sectors came to halt worldwide . According to the Executive Energy Agency ,the drop in oil prices during the Coronavirus recession could be a good opportunity to get rid of fossil fuel subsidies .Lockdown has given water bodies some breathing space .

Low air pollution levels have also improved water quality .There is less pollutant particle deposition on water . The endangered Ganga River Dolphin was seen frolicking in the new pollution free Ganges in Meerut .The quality of water in the Yamuna has improved. The month of March is a good time to look at ice in the Arctic as it is the time when sea cover is at its annual peak .Generally the trend is down.

Lockdown has its impact on the economic growth of the country especially in the field of agriculture .Farmers play a key role in providing food supplies to the population during and after the lockdown .Hence he

is a very important warrior who provides us food security during the crisis time .Due to non-availability of labour harvesting has come under severe stress . Online grocery shopping has grown substantially during the pandemic and direct sell delivery systems are on the rise .Small scale farmers have been embracing digital technologies as a way to directly sell produce and community supported agriculture .Unemployment caused by the Covid -19 pandemic facilitated the recruitment of labourers for Pakistan’s 10 Billion Tree Tsunami campaign to plant 10 billion trees .In Brazil satellite imagery showed deforestation of the Amazon rainforest surging by over 50% compared to baseline levels .

As people stayed at home due to lock down , some animals have been spotted in cities without human interference .Sea turtles were spotted laying eggs on coast of the Bay of Bengal .According to Rainer Froese , a German Scientist , the biomass of Fish Herring will increase due to sharp decline in fishing and aquatic recovery .

The pandemic has clearly benefitted our natural resources . The best lesson that we can learn from the situation is that “Nature can take care of herself ”.

