

## Effects of Covid-19 On Environment in India.

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### **Introduction:**

Mahatma Gandhi said “What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another”. Environment plays a significant role in the healthy living of the living beings. During the last few decades, water, air and land have been contaminated for achieving short term gains at the cost of long term ecological losses to the environment. We need to help the environment because we live on earth, and this is the only place we can live on right now. If we treat it like the city dump it becomes dirty and unlivable. If we treat it well, the earth stays a clean place, perfect for living, for ourselves and our children. We use air for breathing, water for drinking and other daily chores. Even the food we eat is derived from plants and animals including vegetables, milk, eggs, etc. In consideration of these requirements, protection of these resources has become very important today. It should matter the most to the living beings as it is the only home that the humans have, and the one that provides us with our basic needs. The entire life support system of the human beings depends on the well being of all the environmental factors. Environment is the source for natural beauty, and it is necessary for maintenance of proper physical as well as mental health. We cannot imagine our lives without environment. The natural environment is a free gift of nature and we need to conserve it for the benefit of life in the future. The COVID-19 lockdown imposed throughout the world has struck a chord in every one of us and it has forced us to think how environment is so important in our day to day lives. The tangible improvements in nature have made us believe that we can save our Mother earth. It has got to our notice how our actions can impact the sustainability of the Earth. We have witnessed huge changes in our environment due to the COVID-19 lockdown in India.

### **1. Improvement in the air quality.**

There is a deadly link between COVID-19 and Air Pollution. The lockdown has led to cleaner air, but that cannot entirely erase the issue of air pollution in the long run. Poor air quality may be more prone to COVID-19. But this change in the air quality has provided the leaders with a chance to make in a different, cleaner future. The effect of restricted human activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic in India on air quality in 22 cities was estimated. Correlation in the cities especially in the Northern and Eastern regions has improved in 2020 when compared to the previous years. The substantial reduction in the concentrations resulted in a 4 times reduction in the total ER. New Delhi was ranked as the most polluted city in the world by WHO in May 2014. But today due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and the restrictions of activities the people in Delhi are able to breathe cleaner air than before. Delhi saw up to a 44% reduction in

the PM10 air pollution levels on the first day of its restrictions, as per the findings of the Central Pollution Control Board of India.

## **2. The view of the Himalayas from Jalandhar**

The people in India are able to see the Himalayas for the first time in 'decades', as the lockdown eases Air pollution. Almost from 200 km away the people of Jalandhar were able to see the Dhauladhar mountain range of the Himachal. And this was because the pollution dropped to its lowest level. This was made possible by the huge improvement in air quality, after industries shut down; cars came off the road and cancellation of flights due to the pandemic. About 85 cities across India saw lesser air pollution in the first week of the nationwide lockdown. Thus, the lockdown has marked an unplanned but welcome breath of fresh air for the country's crowded and polluted cities.

## **3. Ganges River Dolphins spotted after decades.**

Nature is healing amid the nationwide lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After a number of animals were spotted on the roads of cities, a great comeback was made by the famous Gangetic or the South Asian River dolphins in the waters of Kolkata. The level of water pollutions has come down due to the lockdown and this must be something that prompted the dolphins to return after 30 long years. The sighting of these dolphins is extremely rare these days, but thanks to the reduced level of water pollution that these beautiful creatures decided to show up to the shores. The creatures that had drifted away from the city due to the increased pollution have now returned back.

## **4. The number of flamingos increased in Mumbai.**

A sea of pink dazzled residents of Navi Mumbai as thousands of flamingos settled along the creek amid lockdown. The migratory birds, which visit Mumbai every year, have arrived in huge numbers, in the middle of a lockdown to check the spread of coronavirus. Because of the nationwide lockdown a lot of wildlife have come on to the roads of cities. Due to a cleaner environment there was an increase in the number of flamingos that visit Navi Mumbai. This has turned the city pink. According to sources there is an increase in number from 1,00,000 to 1,50,000. It helps us know the importance of a cleaner environment. This pandemic will indeed be a boon to the environment.

## **5. Ganga fit for drinking in Haridwar.**

The shutdown of industries and factories due to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to cleaner water in the Holy Ganga River. Hence, the pandemic lockdown has even cleaned the water reducing water pollution in many places. It has cleaned the river to an extent that it is nearly fit for drinking as per the sources. It should be further taken up as a challenge by the mankind to keep it cleaner forever.

## **Nature's lesson to Mankind.**

All throughout the ongoing worldwide pandemic crisis the nature has proved us its significance and taught a lesson to the entire mankind. It does not want the mankind to clean it but it just wants it to keep the nature maintained clean without harming it. We have all witnessed that during these difficult times man is not helped by wealth but instead has explained the importance

of keeping good health. So we as humans need to understand the need of the hour and keep our environment cleaner.

### **Conclusion**

Environment commonly refers to the surroundings in which all living and non-living things reside and establish a sense of attraction with one another. Since the beginning of time, environment has helped us in establishing a relationship with the flora and fauna, and has ultimately determined our formation and survival. With hope in our hearts to surpass the hard times, we shall move to a future of refined lifestyle choices to preserve Mother Nature and hope to be working cumulatively to restore our planet earth from the destruction that had been caused over the several years. Hence, it is our duty to take care of our mother nature and think for its betterment instead of harming it. Economy is important but Environment is also equally important and so, we need to maintain a good balance between the two and achieve our goal. We can serve so much by just keeping our surroundings clean. If every individual decides to do so we will have a healthy as well as wealthy India. It is time to understand to be safe we need to save our Environment.

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