

Struggle for Sustainable Development Post Pandemic

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Introduction:

Much has been written about climate change, global warming, deforestation and afforestation. But now it's high time to see the changes in its very true sense after the global pandemic. Yes now there will be a global change because after the pandemic will be over we will see a new world. The earth is put to repairs during the lockdown by nature. Our planet is detoxing as humans stay in lockdown. Being indoors has made us realise just how great the outdoors are. We have exploited nature to such an extent that now it's time to pay back to her with interest. Nature has herself taken a break from humans due to the pandemic. First, we saw from space and now we can see it around us- the air is clearer. India falls within top 5 countries having high carbon emissions, but during the period of lockdown the level dropped dramatically. Not only the air is fresh but cleaner too. The lack of public interference. No honking no traffic no lights no pollution that means even our health issues are also to some extent lowered down.

From the rustling of leaves to the chirping of birds, decibel levels have dropped down. According to Boston University data Decibel readings at a busy intersection were 90 pre pandemic but recently measured at just 68.

Ever since the outbreak of this covid-19 the world has experienced a dramatic change within itself. Though Human being have a unique characteristic feature of adjusting oneself into the environment, but before it hit the doorstep of every country, no one was ready to accept the challenge. Everyone took it very casually and then came the outbreak in Italy, Spain, France and the United Kingdom. The Europe was one of the worst affected continents in the globe where millions of people disappeared within a span of a day or two. It is just unimaginable as to how long it will take to revive the things.

The World at War:

Ours is the generation who has seen many drastic changes. We have seen the black and white era, the wars, nuclear as well as virtual war. How our lives get changed every time when we experience such unwarranted circumstances where life is put at stake by the handful of optimistic people who for their own sake have thrown the lives of innocent people under burial. All the fights and debates that happened to take place in the UN assembly have penned down in its history that all things are deliberately designed for the sake of maintaining supremacy over the other. No matter geographically the boundaries are big or small but everyone is trying to spread their tentacles as far as they can so as to extend their areas in kilometres. Even the buffer zones are not an exception.

There cannot be one such reason for the war as it may vary from time to time and generation to generation. But has anyone ever thought about the pre and post effect of war? No one is concerned about this. Few years back everyone was jumping into the debates of global warming and climate change. Many of the countries even initiated this concern very seriously but few of them dramatized the concern by only conducting International summits and Conferences. Head of the states taking part in these summits and taking leaves from their regular work and trying to gather funding from different organisations. There are certain positive aspects also not all is under suspicion.

Much has been talked about earlier when the world was experiencing the worst climate change when the north and south pole of Antarctica and Arctic circle had always been in the headlines. It was noticed that the icebergs were melting at a very drastic speed thereby increasing the water level of the seas and was anticipated that it may give rise to a brutal natural calamity. In historic times, glaciers grew during a cool period from about 1550 to 1850 known as the Little Ice Age. Subsequently, until about 1940, glaciers around the world retreated as the climate warmed. Glacier retreat declined and reversed in many cases from 1950 to 1980 as a slight global cooling occurred. Since 1980, glacier retreat has become increasingly rapid and ubiquitous, and has threatened ¹the existence of many of the glaciers of the world. This process has increased markedly since 1995. Excluding the ice caps and ice sheets of the Arctic and Antarctic, the total surface area of glaciers worldwide has decreased by 50% since the end of the 19th century. The loss of glaciers not only directly causes landslides, flash floods and glacial lake overflow, but also increases annual variation in water flows in rivers. Glacier runoff declines in the summer as glaciers decrease in size, this decline is already observable in several regions. Glaciers retain water on mountains in high precipitation years, since the snow cover accumulating on glaciers protects the ice from melting. In warmer and drier years, glaciers offset the lower precipitation amounts with a higher meltwater input.

Similar to the melting of Icebergs and rise in water level the world has also combated with the incidents of Volcano eruption and Earthquakes. It took a toll of hundreds of thousands of populations. The time to time changes in the degrees of temperature has also wrecked the working capacity of a human. These natural calamities appear on the globe in every century. Sometimes it is manmade and sometimes it is natural. Tsunami was one of the biggest disasters that the world has seen in the year 2004. It also washed away thousands of lives within a few seconds. No matter how much progress man has made but still there are few questions which are unanswered. The weather department has so many modern equipment and gadgets to show the unpredicted natural changes that take place but it's very difficult to escape. Though we have enough machinery to lessen the loss, one cannot escape or run away. Natural calamities have now become a part of our daily life.

¹ **Glacier retreat and disappearance**

Main article: Retreat of glaciers since 1850

Hurricanes and cyclones also give us a major setback destroying the immovable, moveable properties and human resources. Scarcity of Rainfall leads to drought conditions and plenty of rainfall leads to flood. Human life is at higher risk every time. Geographical conditions keep on changing and its very difficult to maintain the development. Each nation of the world is now struggling for existence in the present situation.

Similar is the uncertain situation in the forest region of the world. The world's tropical forests store a quarter-century worth of fossil fuel emissions in their trees alone. There are fears global heating can reduce this store if tree growth reduces or tree death increases, accelerating climate change.

An international research team measured over half a million trees in 813 forests across the tropics to assess how much carbon is stored by forests growing under different climatic conditions today. The team revealed that tropical forests continue to store high levels of carbon under high temperatures, showing that in the long run these forests can handle heat up to an estimated threshold of 32 degrees Celsius in daytime temperature.

Yet this positive finding is only possible if forests have time to adapt, they remain intact, and if global heating is strictly limited to avoid pushing global temperatures into conditions beyond the critical threshold. Forests release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere when the amount of carbon gained by tree growth is less than that lost through tree mortality and decay.

The study is the first to analyse long-term climate sensitivity based on direct observation of whole forests across the topics. The research suggests that over the long-term, temperature has the greatest effect on forest carbon stocks by reducing growth, with drought killing trees the second key factor. The researchers conclude that tropical forests have long-term capacity to adapt to some climate change, in part because of their high biodiversity as tree species better able to tolerate new climatic conditions grow well and replace less well-adapted species over the long-term. But maximizing this potential climate resilience depends on keeping forests intact.²

The Real Fight:

Though it seems to be environmental change and the impact upon the globe but the real cat fight is between the superpowers of the world, ie, the Global Economy. The United states of America and China has now in a rat race to capture the world market. Investment in different nations through different product-based companies have their own target given by their govt to invest and supply maximum product to the consumers all over the world. Meeting the head of the state and maintaining relations with bilateral countries with some vested interest of their own is the first step towards building up business. The local offices are registered as companies in thevarious countries, and the companies are then owned by a mother company. This means that the normal state of affairs would be that the local subsidiaries continue to operate as usual. Of course, communications and shipments might be

affected by the actual acts of war; this would be different depending on the precise circumstances of the individual company, but would in essence not be much different from any company which depends on anything sourced from a different country. (Today, that describes virtually all multinational companies and most large and medium-sized single-nation companies.)³.

²Martin J. P. Sullivan et al. **Long-term thermal sensitivity of Earth's tropical forests** .

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The United States and China are the world's leading powers in terms of the size of their economies, defence budgets, and global greenhouse gas emissions. Both nations are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. In 2017, they were each other's largest trading partners. This bilateral relationship is perceived by many to be the most consequential in the world. The global importance of the U.S. and Chinese economies, as measured by their nominal gross domestic product (GDP), can be illustrated in two ways that will also illuminate the challenges of the ongoing power transition: one involves the rise of the Chinese economy relative to the U.S. GDP; the other focuses on the concomitant shifts in globalization

With high growth rates during the past two decades and the largest trade surplus with the United States, China is the primary target of the U.S. trade war efforts. Tariffs are the first shot in bilateral tensions that are materializing and injuring global economic integration, coupled with ever more intense technology competition.

As the Chinese side began to explore areas of trade compromise, the White House undermined its stated plan. Thereafter, the high-level dialogues fell apart. Only days after the summit, Trump signed trade measures that were positioned to unleash a trade war by spring 2018

The evolving global scenarios of U.S.-China trade and technology conflicts are the outcome of an ever more anxious America forsaking its multilateral cooperative stances for primacy doctrines. There is nothing inevitable about global economic integration. It may be useful to recall that, about a decade ago in July 2008, then-WTO Director-general Pascal Lamy declared that there was "qualified public support for globalization," and that "[g]lobalization will not come to halt."¹¹ Only weeks later, trade depression spread across the world. Ten years later, Trump's tariff wars began to hurt a trade recovery that had taken a decade to materialize. In adverse conditions, they could even fuel serious global recession in the years to come.²

Covid-19 Pandemic & Global Warming:

The Corona virus or Covid-19 as it is called has now taken the major concern of all the globe. Though initially it was considered to be spread by Bats or any of the like species but now it is alleged that it is a product of Chinese laboratory. Though the findings are yet to get seconded but the real fight has now begun with each country suffering from this virus and losing the human resource at the cost of china. It is now well known that each country in the world is

² 9“World Economic Outlook Update, January 2017: A Shifting Global Economic Landscape,” Market Screener, January 16, 2017, <https://www.marketscreener.com/news/World-Economic-Outlook-Update-January-2017-A-Shifting-Global-Economic-Landscape-23702276/>.

fighting against the pandemic and struggling for existence but in the meanwhile political and business strategies are also discussed. Every ruling govt is trying to lighten its own furnace and is also trying to make their respective position strong enough in their respective jurisdictions. A survey conducted by many govt and non govt agencies reported that we have lost our economy and are now thrown out of the race. But it is a fact that though every nation who struggles has to overcome with all new things and of course doing business in a different way. Humans have now become more techno savvy and now the new business of e marketing and e contracts at the max has started. Every single human being is struggling for existence. Whatever methods they have adopted is a different story but this pandemic has changed the lives of people in many way.

Industries like Tourism Entertainment Production houses factories are all affected . But nature has taken a break from the hustle and bustle of human interference. Forests are blooming nature is flourished with flora and fauna and the animals roaming in the street is a sign that happy days are just around the corner.

Change is inevitable and so this 2020 has changed the world. Environment around is suspicious but all we need to do is to sustain yourself within the changing conditions and so our business.

Conclusion:

Governments around the world are racing to implement economic stimulus and support packages to keep individuals, businesses, and economies afloat. While supporting their urgent implementation, we must ensure that these measures pave the way to a more sustainable economy and do not lock us further into a high-carbon future. Periods of high unemployment and low interest rates are the right time for new low-carbon investments and infrastructure, including the kind required to support the transition to clean energy.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global shock that magnifies the impact of inequality, hitting the poor the hardest. In developed countries, frontline workers in the service economy are among the most exposed to the virus and the least able to absorb its financial impact. And the hardest hit will be the poor in developing countries, where already struggling workers will not have the benefit of social safety nets and stimulus packages. The G7 and G20 must immediately help these countries to finance the flattening of the pandemic curve. Longer term, we must redouble efforts to foster sustainable economic systems, including fair trade and investment.