

Effect of lockdown on humans, Animals and **environment**

Empty roads,

But no one to test their limits

Chirping birds,

But no one to cherish them.

Fresh air ,

But no one to breath it.

Silent surroundings,

Do humans even exist?

This must be the obvious question arising in the mind of gods watching earth from heaven.

This clearly is the description of human life during lockdown – a meagre existence.

Life nowadays is all about staying indoors ,doing things which are just necessary to keep your body and soul together. No work , no play , no time for hobbies ; just like a zoo animal. Lockdown has lead many daily wagers sitting ravenously in their shacks, waiting for mother

Teresa's arrival , to fill their bellies empty from many days.

Many businesses are slowly being pushed to bankruptcy, economy is falling , GDP is at all time low , people are imprisoned in their own houses , no clubs , no parties , no mournings . Why? Why do we have to go through all this torture? The answer is quite simple and clear i.e. to stay alive , to save ourselves from falling prey to a demon named 'Coronavirus ' .

The virus has had a devastating effect on human life with lacs of people dead and crores under treatment. Even till now we are not sure about the treatment and origin of this disease . Many people have many things to say . But about one thing of this disease we are quite sure i.e. it's spread by human to human contact or via fomites . So the only way to prevent the spread of this virus and save mankind is social distancing . Being isolated from people and avoiding contact with anyone or anything as much as possible . This pandemic has come like an examination to our administration . It came as a test to check their ability to make the country overcome a devastating situation . And fortunately , they have passed with flying colours even though our country has got very little infrastructure available . This is not a rogue statement . We have proof ,

we have statistical data . Many developed countries like China , America , Hong Kong , Germany etc. which boast off their medical services , which claim to have world's best healthcare services , the condition is far worse than India , which clearly shows India's merit in this test of fire.

Now , since every coin has two faces , this lockdown has also taught us many things . It has taught us the difference between need and greed . It has taught to the whole mankind that with how much limited resources we can lead our lives. This lockdown is an opportunity to take a break from our hectic schedules , spend time with our families and relax a bit in today's world of heist .

Our media has contributed a lot in entertaining us during this lockdown . Watching doordarshan nowadays is like living our childhood again . Watching all those serials – Shaktiman , Jungle book , Chanakya , Ramayan , Mahabharat , which has had a major place in our childhood is a real fun . These serials have again brought back those good old days when there were no smartphones and whole family used to sit together and enjoy the television . Directly or indirectly this has narrowed the gap produced between family members in this era of modernization .

Even our Prime Minister has played a major role in our time to time entertainment . The first task assigned was to applaud the health workers , police and staff of essential services by clapping , ringing bells , plates etc. And our people made up most of this opportunity . The task was to be done for only ten minutes but our overenthusiastic public continued nearly for an hour . Some even broke their plates into two pieces . Another task was given after nearly ten days . The task was to switch off all the lights and ignite the diyas and candles in order to pay respect to the departed souls and gratitude towards the health workers .

In that context , hats off Modiji . Let's see what new task gets assigned now .

We people during our working days , keep crying for a holiday , keep crying for a Sunday , keep planning what to do during holidays . Consider this lockdown as those long awaited holidays . Make most of them . Try things that were once a dream for you . Read good books , learn new languages , exercise twice a day , learn music , art , dance . Make most of this time . We may not get an opportunity better than this to do all this stuff .

EFFECT ON ANIMALS

Since the humans are locked inside their houses , animals have begun to overtake their habitat , in the same way we humans did many decades back . There are many reports worldwide about wild animals grazing openly in public parks and ducks having a bath in swimming pools . Due to reduced boat traffic fish , seabirds and dolphins can be seen splashing around in canals . Reduced noise pollution levels have made it possible for us to hear the singing of many birds . Due to quieter surroundings many bird species which used to live in wild , can be seen on streets enchanting us with their melodious songs.

But this lockdown has not been sweet to all the animals. Street dogs are dying of hunger , poultry birds are being abandoned by the farmers as there is no sale of meat , piggeries are facing shortage of feed as there is no availability of hotel and slaughter house waste.

Domestic animals' welfare is also being compromised with as even they are locked inside their homes with their owners . There have been reports of owners abandoning their pets due to fear of contracting coronavirus from their pets.

Survival of monkeys living in cities and temples is also at stake . Even the species under special conservation schemes are at stake of extinction due to poaching in the absence of checks.

Now , let's hope that once this lockdown comes to an end , it positively ends with some new and stringent rules for animal welfare such as those introduced in China , which strictly are against consumption, trafficking and trade of wild animals . This is really a good news for animal welfare organizations and for whole of the world as it will play a major role in preventing any deadly zoonotic epidemic as coronavirus .

EFFECT ON ENVIRONMENT

It is an old saying – “Nature has its way for restoring balance”. Yes! This line completely explains today's situation i.e. restoration of balance . Imbalance created by human activities since decades is now being restored . Rivers intoxicated by industrial effluents are now being rejuvenated , there is no noise pollution. Air pollution has significantly reduced . Phytoplanktons , which are the major oxygen producers are returning to their healthy numbers , animals are free to roam about , nature has

begun to overtake. In other words , earth is again becoming a great place to thrive in.

With the halt to vehicular traffic , air quality index has improved manifolds . Ozone layer's status is also improving. Due to low carbon emissions , the summers will relatively be cooler this year and timely monsoons are also expected. Even the water of our rivers like Ganga , which had become toxic due to industrial effluents are revitalizing.

Mother nature has proven its supremacy over all . It has made us humans realize that we humans cannot endlessly impose our decree on her. There has to be a full stop to it .

Finally I would like to wrap up by quoting these lines-

Mother nature says,

I endured you with patience,

You misused me.

I gave you everything,

Yet you overgreed me.

Now experience my aggressive form,

An intolerable and belligerent storm.

Pray your god to help and protect,
To save you from the wrath of my act.

By-

Suryansh

BVsc &AH 2nd year.