

How the Earth is healing during this COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

We don't inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it for our children.
(Native American proverb)

The year 2019-2020 will be recorded in the world history as a timeline of calamities, sufferings, diseases and disasters.

The Amazon rain forest fire, the Australian bush fire and of late the current COVID-19 pandemic, all possibly fulfill Nostradamus prophecies. The former two had inflicted disastrous damage on Mother Nature, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss being the prime concerns. The third in the list (COVID-19 pandemic) may be Mother Nature's reboot button to recover the losses

inflicted by the former two. With over 3.7 million humans infected, and approximately another two hundred and fifty thousand dead, one-third of the world is still under lock down. Although, the lock down has severely affected the global economy and selected sections of the society, it still has a silver lining. With restricted anthropogenic involvement and reduction in fossil fuel burning our blue planet is healing. Mother Nature which is self generating and self sustaining is now at her creative best, with the Earth healing in general and our environment and ecosystem in particular. Some of the most noticeable observations in

these directions are :-

1) Ganga rejuvenation :- What Namami Ganga project couldn't attain in the past few years, despite putting in crores of rupees has been attained by the lockdown. According to the scientists, with reduced human involvement the holy Ganga water in many sections is now fit for human consumption after decades.

2) Global reduction in air pollution :- Many polluted cities in the world (Delhi, Mumbai, Beijing, Los Angeles etc) have witnessed significant reduction in their air pollution levels. The level of CO_2 , CO , NO_2 , SO_2 and suspended particulate matter is now within safer limits in many cities. With

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industries shut down, aviation ban and vehicular movements restricted there has been a drastic drop in all forms of air pollutants. Our earth is now gradually recovering from the planetary emergency of global warming.

- 3) Venturing wildlife :- It is not heartening to see wildlife where you didn't ~~anticipate~~ anticipate its presence. Turtles have returned to the shores of Odisha, deers have started to roam around the streets of Delhi, Dolphins are back in the water canals of Venice, flamingos are flocking in Nani Mumbai and even leopards have been spotted near human settlements. Nature reminding us that the planet doesn't only

belong to the humans but also to the animal kingdom.

- 4) Recovering marine life:- During the lock down period, the demand and supply market for sea food is not balanced. All hotels and restaurants are closed as a result the demand for sea food has declined considerably. It is a win-win situation for many marine life forms since the lock down is already coinciding with their breeding season.

What can be more allowing to the pair of human eyes than the splendid beauty of Mother Nature? Lush full greenery, blossoming flowers, velvety mosses, splashing breeze, fresh air, turquoise blue

Date ___/___/___

streams, squandering squirrels, dazzling sky, and what not, Mother Nature with her true magnificent aura. But the irony is that with the lockdown still in force you can only enjoy the "in the laps of Mother Nature" feeling only indoors being in front of the screen or going online.