

PERIODIC LOCKDOWN: A MILEAGE TO NATURE

Anil Kumar^{1*} and Balkrishna S Bhople²

¹Farm Science centre, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Tarn Taran, Punjab

²Regional Research Station, Punjab Agricultural University, Ballawal Saunkhri, Punjab

Owing to COVID-19 (Corona virus) pandemic outbreak, lockdown had been imposed almost in every nation to combat its spread. Lockdown had led to a significant improvement in nature. Life under coronavirus brought blue skies along with clean air. As humans stayed indoors, the earth's ozone layer showed remarkable improvement, river's water quality improved and looked cleaner as a result of stoppage of industrial pollutants/ waste, residents saw the snow-clad Himalayan ranges with naked eyes lies at a distance of 213 kilometers, a critically endangered mammal (Spotted Malabar Civet) not seen until 1990s resurfaces for the first time in Calicut town indicated, mother earth was rebooting and many more. Other fact is that at present world is facing a bigger challenge of climate change and pollution and each country is spending huge amount to tackle this problem with necessary measures. The increasing pollution is causing human health hazards and even before the COVID-19 outbreak, air pollution killed seven million people every year. World Health

Organization (WHO) spending on health continues to rise, it was US\$ 7.8 trillion in 2017 compared to US\$ 7.6 trillion in 2016. As per Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), climate related financing was \$510 billion to \$530 billion in 2017, whereas, as per UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to limit temperature rise to below 1.5 °C from preindustrial levels, an annual investment of \$2.4 trillion is required in energy system alone until 2035. No doubt the world economy dropped sharply due to lockdown, but it is proven as a mileage to the nature. The human activities have bound the nature but, nature needs flexibility, space, silence, calmness and the lockdown has well proven it. The governments of all the countries should think about periodic lockdown after every two or five years. It should be well planned with zero effect on world economy with all necessary pre-measures. It will definitely provide a big gain/reboot to the nature everywhere. The expenditure on climate change related activities and on health issues will definitely come down.

