

# Nature Heals

In the name of progress and economic gain, Mother nature has been continuously violated in so many unimaginable ways that it has become an agonising death sentence. The environment, forests and animals have been decimated pervasively by human activities, camouflaged as efforts for the betterment of mankind. No one was sure that they would be a day when they would see, at least in this lifetime, nature recovering after a fallow due to excessive pollution including dumping of industrial and domestic waste, irresponsible chopping of trees and every possible abuse. But the lockdown has turned the tables. Not just the skyline becoming clearer with each passing day, the river are visibly purer, and the once endangered flora and fauna is now coming back to life.

The Covid-19 outbreak had driven every country in the world to freeze its economic, social and physical development activities. However, the stay-at-home and lockdown initiatives to break the chain of infection is gradually rebooting Mother nature resuscitating the environment. The positive results to the environment include decreased air pollution from factories and cars. There has been less deforestation. For the first time in 30 years, the Himalayas are visible from India. People in Jalandhar can see Himalayas from their roof top. Punjab could catch the sight of Himalayas from some its cities. The Himalayan range is more than 100 miles away from Punjab and when spotted, its sight left many in awe. The news of pink flamingos return in huge numbers in Mumbai beach is certainly something to rejoice about. The reduction in intensity of human activities at and around the city is

being touted as a major reason for the possibility of flamingos to flock in city in such large numbers.

The river Ganga was once said to have the purest water which could be consumed straight from the source. But with the increasing human settlements, the river saw a dip in its quality. However, now, amid the lockdown, Ganga Pollution Control Board affirmed that the water quality has improved over the past few weeks. The same goes for the Yamuna that has seen a reduction in the fecal coliform levels during the lockdown. It is also finally free of foam. In places like Venice, where tourism has witnessed a significant fall, the motorboats now lay still on the relatively cleaner waterways. And talking about tourists and tourisms, the oceans, which provide almost 50 percent of the oxygen in the earth's atmosphere, now swallow lesser quantities of single use plastics.

People are also growing vegetables at home, in their balconies, and backyards, for their consumption. Homegrown produce is said to be more nutritious than the ones at the stores. While this may seem a little small, every plant contributes a small amount to a greater purpose – the breath of life. The Covid-19 lockdown claimed many lives globally, but has also made us watch the planet heal from behind out windows. Evidently Mother nature is reacting positively to the global lockdown. Without us humans in the way, nature is thriving. It would be wise to not disrespect Mother nature. This planet is all we have. We can all play our parts, assume our responsibility and do our bit.

Small acts, very small which can all add up to sustain the world that is getting created now.

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