

## COVID-19 OUTBREAK AND ITS IMPACT: ECONOMY VS ENVIRONMENT

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### ABSTRACT

This article aims to show the positive and negative indirect effects of COVID-19 on the environment and direct effect on the economy, particularly in the most affected countries such as India. This article shows that this is not the time of political point-scoring and fight with each other rather this is the best time for all the states to cooperate, coordinate, and help each other to defeat this pandemic outbreak first for saving the global economic and financial structure and show their humanity. This article also shows that there is a significant association between the massive lockdown and improvement of environmental conditions. On the other hand, there are also negative aspects such as recycling are not functioning right now and as everyone is inside the home, yet there is a very least decrease in wastage, further endangering the contamination of physical spaces, in addition to air, water, and land. Global economic function is expected to return to its track in the coming few months in major countries. Moreover, it will depend on to us that what we want, do we need to boost our economy by damaging and hampering our environment, or can we just help ourselves with minimum comfort and giving minimum damage to our environment, so that, our coming generation should not search the natural beauty on the internet or any book, they can also be able to see the natural beauty with their eyes as we can see now.

## INTRODUCTION

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The hefty wave of COVID-19 pandemic also known as coronavirus after making the whole world come on to its knees, has now shown us it's another side and now we can say that it's much more than a health crisis. On one hand, it has now shown us every bit of it that how badly it can give an ugly scar to our society, economy, and politics. On the other hand, it has given our Mother Nature one last chance to cope with the pollution that is majorly emitted by humans and industries, and show us what we have been imagining about the natural beauty for so long.

Every day, people are losing jobs and their sources of income and in the coming time maybe we can see the greatest recession of humankind. This will be a new chapter in both books of the economy as well as ecology.

In this piece of writing, you are going to cover those points that are mainly concerned with our economy as well as the environment, as both can be observed with the major changes from the very beginning.

### ❖ **Brief of Covid-19 and Its Impact**

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, currently it is an ongoing pandemic scenario and it is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). This outbreak was firstly witnessed in Wuhan, which is situated in China in December 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020, and it was called pandemic on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020. As of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020, more than 5.43 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in more than 188 countries and territories, resulting in more than 3,44,000 deaths. More than 2.27 million people have recovered from the virus.

The irruption of COVID-19 has defined the meaning of the global health crisis in a completely new way. Except for Antarctica, every continent is now in touch with this virus. In respect to control this pandemic scenario, the global lockdown was called in action, which resulted in shutting down shops, restaurants, theatres, local market places and almost every place where this virus can be transported to others intentionally or unintentionally.

This pandemic outbreak, complete lockdown, and restrictive measures are affecting us in various ways. These various changes can be observed with bare eyes. These changes are affecting the whole world, and majorly those countries who are counted amongst developing countries like India.<sup>333</sup>

Talking about the Impact of COVID-19 on the Indian Economy and Indian Environment is massive. A country like India is still developing and this virus can make India come to the square one altogether, which can be costly. To tackle those challenges the Indian government should act immediately to prepare, respond, and recover.

First, considering the economy, as it is majorly affected after human life. The outbreak of the pandemic Covid-19 has disturbed the whole economy and the financial structure of the world. Every nation is on the verge of collapse. The pandemic has made the oil price of fall off a cliff beside the stock market which has been pounding up. In the first few weeks of the very initial of the pandemic millions have lost their job or started to look for the new job because of their layoff and in the current scenario, that number has come to multiple and in the coming months, we will be witnessing even more job loss.<sup>334</sup>

Many experts have warned about the worsening condition of the global economic and financial structure. Such as Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF), explained that “a recession at least as bad as during the Global Financial Crisis or worse”. Covid-19 has been affecting human lives as well as the global economy immeasurable and to limit the damage every country has come together with cooperation and coordination with each other since World War-II world has been facing this kind of difficult economic situation.

Looking at these lurching situation G-20 nations called an emergency meeting to discuss worsening condition and prepare a strategy to combat Covid-19 and decrease the losses arose by it. This pandemic Covid-19 is accelerating day by day and causing more damage to the global economy. It is stated by the Centre for Monetary Indian Economy that during this

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<sup>333</sup>Tish Sanghera & Disha Shetty, Environment Vs Economy: An Approach That Exposes India To COVID-19-Like Infection, India Spend (May 2, 2020), <https://www.indiaspend.com/environment-vs-economy-indias-flawed-logic-that-exposes-it-to-covid-19-like-infections/>.

<sup>334</sup>COVID-19 Pandemic: Humanity needs leadership and solidarity to defeat the coronavirus, United Nations Development Programme (UNPD), <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/coronavirus.html>.

Pandemic by April 2020 there was job loss of more than 14 million resulting in a decrease in the unemployment rate from 27.1% to 24% and this crowd was all aged between 20-30 years, and as the government has now decided to open up industries in a very lurching manner, now the employment rate has risen from 26.4% to 28.6%. The concern for the job loss of common people is the real threat as businesses are not running or they are shutting down and that shows that companies are not able to pay their employees and that is resulting in the layoff of those employees. Also, it has been observed that investors are removing their money from multiple businesses, and due to that; there was a heavy fluctuation in the market.

According to the experts, it is observed that the economic recovery is only possible by 2021 because Covid-19 has left a severe impact on the global impact and even the developed countries are facing problem in to get their economy stable, and the countries which are yet not in the developed category are facing recession and collapse of their economic structure. Due to this struggling condition, almost 80 countries have already requested the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for financial help.

### ❖ **Impact of Covid-19 on the Indian Economy**

The Indian economy has been experiencing a major slowdown over the past few quarters. In the third quarter of the last fiscal, the economy grew at a six-year low rate of 4.7%. Investing and consumption demand was very low so to boost that various measures were taken but before it could have shown some recovery in the last quarter of the last fiscal the pandemic Covid-19 made it even more difficult to make it functional. The outbreak has given the Indian economy a fresh challenge, which has majorly affected the demand as well as the supply side.

#### ➤ Demand Side Impact:

The most affected sector of the Indian economy that is under crisis is tourism, Hospitality, and Aviation. The retail sector is also facing their problem as there is very little footfall in the shopping complex and closure of theatres has majorly affected those once and rest are affected due to the restrictive measures and fear of getting infected. The demand side is seeing a major impact due to the heavy job loss and decrease in income level people especially those daily wagers, and that made the consumers postpone their consumption or purchase. Travel sectors are also severely affected due to the travel restriction by the government and as a precaution.

Even the hotels are under loss as business conferences, seminars and workshops are getting canceled on a very large scale.

➤ Supply Side Impact:

On the supply side, the shutdown of the factories and the resulting delay in the supply of goods from different countries has affected many Indian manufacturing sectors and mainly these companies were importing their raw materials from China. Some sectors like automobiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics, chemical products, etc., are also not in the good shape of functioning as they are facing imminent raw material and component shortage. Indian Export is also affected as well due to the same scenario in other countries, as there the manufacturing sector is also not functioning as well.<sup>335</sup>

➤ Impact on Financial Market:

As witnessed, the greatest uncertainty in the coming future and repercussion of Covid-19 has made the whole financial market extremely volatile, which can be the major role player in the future market crashes and wealth erosion, which will be directly impacting the consumption level. We have also observed that there was a single day major slide in the domestic market on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020, and hence that also made us witness a single day major slide in both the market BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty as well, they both crashed by more than 8% down in a single day. Both BSE and NSE dropped by 2,919 points and 868 points respectively, which directly lead it to Rs. 10 lakh crores whip out in a single day. On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020, a new low was recorded in the Indian equity market, on that date, BSE closed at 581 points lower at 28,288 and NSE closed at 8,263 with 205 points low. In the coming future, this volatility will remain there in the financial market

➤ Impact on International Trade:

The major export market for India is China, products like seafood, petrochemicals, gems, and jewelry, etc. Due to the pandemic scenario, these exports are affected very badly as they cannot export and even, they are not in the position to take the risk of production in this pandemic outbreak of Covid-19. Taking the example of the fisheries sector as International trade, they

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<sup>335</sup> Impact of Covid-19 on Indian economy, FICCI (Mar. 20, 2020), <http://www.ficci.in/publication.asp?spid=23195>.

have anticipated the loss of more than Rs. 1,300 crores due to the fall in exports. Similarly, China Imports around 36% of the Indian diamonds, and this major cancellation of major trades between February and April is likely to cause as estimated loss of Rs. 8,000 – 10,000 crores for Jaipur alone in terms of business opportunities. According to a study by UNCTAD, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, India could be facing US\$ 348 million. India is now amongst the top 15 worst affected countries because of the manufacturing slowdown in China that is disturbing the world trade altogether.<sup>336</sup>

### ❖ **India's Growth Projections Revised Down**

Challenge that the businesses and people have faced in the last fiscal year, the Indian economy is still facing a tough time in this first quarter of the current fiscal year. It has been experienced that there is very low growth in this current fiscal year. Moreover, if in the coming future this pandemic continues then we might experience that the low-key growth till the last quarter of the current fiscal year 20-21 as well.

Due to the current pandemic scenario in India, and considering the negative impact of Covid-19 on different sectors and industries of India, most multilateral agencies and credit rating agencies have revised their India's projection and prediction growth in 2020-21.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020, Moody's downgraded the rating of India to Baa3. This happened with India along with the other 30 countries altogether. According to Moody's study, this did not happen amid the Coronavirus outbreak, the Indian economy was on the slowdown in the last fiscal year itself. In addition to the pandemic scenario, the growth slowed down even more.

Several experts and economists said that Moody's had made a jump in India's rating in 2017, might be possible they have considered the government's promise of reforming and prospects of growth to move ahead of another agency's given ratings such as Fitch and S&P. Now, with Moody's downgraded rating, all the ratings given to India is almost in the same line.<sup>337</sup>

### ❖ **According to the Survey Done by FICCI to Assess the Impact of Covid-19**

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<sup>336</sup>id.

<sup>337</sup>id.

The survey was conducted across the country interacting with and taking a survey amongst the Industry members. The survey revealed that besides the direct impact on demand and supply of goods and services, businesses are also facing reduced cash flows due to slowdown in economic activities, which in turn is having an impact on all payments including to those for employees, interest, loan repayments, and taxes.<sup>338</sup>

➤ According to the survey results:

- In the initial stage of the Covid-19 pandemic, 53% of the Indian Market was already impacted by the outbreak.
- It has been experienced in the various organizations that the cash flow has decreased by almost 80%.
- Majorly, as indicated by the industries that the outbreak has affected their supply chain up to 60%, and after the close study done by companies, they have made a statement that if this pandemic scenario increases then it can worsen the scenario even more.
- Organizations have brought in a renewed focus on hygiene aspects concerning the pandemic. Almost 40 percent have put in place stringent checks on people entering their offices and disinfection. Nearly 30 percent of organizations have already put in place Work-from-Home policies for their employees.
- According to nearly 42% of respondents feel that it could it will take up to 3-6 months to get back on track.<sup>339</sup>

❖ **Need for focused and timely government actions**

The pandemic has led the whole economic, financial, and social into shock. The policy measures across the world have primarily focused on protecting lives, employment, livelihood, and industries and sectors facing the major impact because of COVID-related disruptions. To minimize the loss of human lives and health maximum priority is given. The government is also trying to minimize the risk by educating the public and awarding them through advisors,

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<sup>338</sup>Surojit Gupta, India not alone to get Moody's downgrade tag, Economic Times (Jun. 3, 2020), <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-not-alone-to-get-moodys-downgrade-tag/articleshow/76168650.cms>.

<sup>339</sup>*Supra* at 3.

and pooling medical resources as quickly as possible. Secondly, there has been an announcement made by the policymakers about the measures to secure the jobs and wages. Third, the emphasis has been given on cushioning the blow by dealing with demand-side and supply-side impact on industries and consumers and containing the stress on the financial sector. Towards these ends, the governments are announcing relief measures, and disbursements to sectors and industries to deal with the COVID-19 related stress and save assets.<sup>340</sup>

### ❖ **Impact of Covid-19 on Indian Environment**

In the past few months, we have been witnessing the indirect impact of Covid-19 on the environment across the globe. Due to this pandemic, in just a few months the face of the whole world has been changed. Lacks of people have died and millions are now severely ill, and safe people have changed their lifestyle by now.

The whole world is under strict lockdown. Now, we are observing a bit of relief but under authority. After facing World War II this is the first time that the whole world is experiencing this kind of strict travel restriction. Most crowded places like pubs, bars, theatres, malls, shopping complexes, etc. all are now completely closed.

The whole human lives are now inside the home without emitting any kind of pollution. Because of the safety measures humans have been practicing social distancing, home quarantine, or going out of their home unnecessarily, and that has led the environment to cope with the pollution emitted by us. Compared to last year pollution has reduced up to or even more than 50%.

In the past so many years we have only been thinking of this pure and beautiful scene of this world, and this only because of this pandemic outbreak, no other situation would have controlled this immense pollution all over the world and at the same time. Human lives have already faced an epidemic situation and its mark on the environment. History has witnessed that whenever there is a spread of disease in society, there was less carbon emission.

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<sup>340</sup>Irfan Mahar, Impact of Covid-19 on Global Economy Structure, Modern Diplomacy (Apr. 22, 2020), <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/04/22/impact-of-covid-19-on-global-economy-structure/>.

The outbreak has even made the damaged Ozone layer of the atmosphere to repair itself, which was one of the prime concerns for the environment experts and scientists for so many years. For these so many months the whole manufacturing, construction, and all the industrial process were stopped that played a major role in pollution control. But now the thing is that for how long this less emission of carbon can be retained, because once the whole industrial process, manufacturing and construction resumes the carbon emission will start to increase. This pandemic will play one of the major influencers in controlling the carbon emission but it is hard to predict that for how long it can be done. If the Covid-19 continues to outbreak until this year-end then this is possible.<sup>341</sup>

➤ Different Types of Environmental Crimes

There are various types of environmental violations that are considered crimes, as it could or has harmed human life or natural environment. Every industry or manufacturing plant has to administrate or have to keep a record of their wastage and pollution emitted by their manufacturing plant. So, they cannot execute the illegal dumping of pollutants into the natural environment. Environmental crimes may include but are not limited to the following:

- Littering
- Improper waste disposal
- Oil spills
- Destruction of wetlands
- Dumping into oceans, streams, lakes, or rivers
- Improperly handling pesticides or other toxic chemicals
- Burning garbage
- Improperly removing and disposing of asbestos
- Falsifying lab data about environmental regulations
- Smuggling certain chemicals, such as CFC refrigerants, into the U.S.

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<sup>341</sup>id.

- Bribing government officials
- Committing fraud related to environmental crime

➤ Punishment for Violating the Environmental law

A person who violates the environmental law can be charged with criminal fines, probation, jail time, or a combination of these punishments. When a person who has committed a very huge, and this kind of punishment is very severe for an individual. To become more cost-effective some industries might skip obeying the environmental laws, and to prevent that threat there is a heavy monetary punishment for them. These environmental crime fines are meant so that no industry can perform any illegal activities like dumping, spilling, etc. there is a joint task force that enforces these laws on every industry, this joint task force is comprised of federal, state, and local organizations. The Environmental Protection Agency acts as the authority at the federal level who enforces the environmental law violations.

➤ Pollution Control Board

The Pollution Control Board is a statutory body that controls and sets the emission of pollution by any industry. It has the prime objective to protect and promote the atmosphere and pollution under control. In September 1974, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) was formed under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to handle the rice in pollution. Further, CPCB was made even more flexible by giving it the power of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

➤ Principal functions of the CPCB:

- (i) To promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control, and abatement of water pollution, and
- (ii) To improve the quality of air and to prevent, control, or abate air pollution in the country.

➤ Other Functions of the Central Board:

- Advise the Central Government on any matter concerning prevention and control of water and air pollution and improvement of the quality of air.

- Plan and cause to be executed a nation-wide program for the prevention, control or abatement of water and air pollution.
- Provide technical assistance and guidance to the State Boards, carry out and sponsor investigation and research relating to problems of water and air pollution, and for their prevention, control, or abatement.
- Prepare manuals, codes, and guidelines relating to treatment and disposal of sewage and trade effluents as well as for stack gas cleaning devices, stacks, and ducts.
- Lay down or modify (in consultation of the State Governments), the standards for streams or wells and lay down standards for the quality of air.

The State Governments also have their Pollution Control Boards, for example, UPPCB (Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board), DPCC (Delhi Pollution Control Board), HPCB (Haryana State Pollution Control Board), RPCB (Rajasthan Pollution Control Board), etc.<sup>342</sup>

#### ❖ **Functions of State Boards:**

- To advise the State Government on matters relating to industrial pollution and whenever any industry is planning to set up their plant in a particular area;
- To hosting programs to control the pollution;
- To collect and broadcast the information collected from the various industries;
- To make regular inspection of industries emitting pollutions;
- To make the industry follow the emission standards; and
- To issue consent to industries and other activities for compliance with prescribed emission and effluent standards.

#### ❖ **Environmental Damage Done by Various Pollution**

Pollution means adding harmful substances and materials to the natural environment that create impurity in that environment, resulting in it to give a bad impact on all living organisms. These harmful substances or materials are called pollutants. Pollutants can be natural and manmade

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<sup>342</sup> India Government, india.gov. in, <https://www.india.gov.in/official-website-central-pollution-control-board>.

as well. Natural pollutants somewhere balance the life on this earth but additional pollution emitted by manmade pollutants harm the environment.

Pollution is a worldwide problem. Although it has been witnessed that urban areas are more polluted than in rural areas. Moreover, even those places can also be polluted unintentionally, which are remote or where there is very little human interference. For example, Researchers have found chemicals and other pesticides in the Antarctic ice sheet. A huge collection of microscopic particles also known as Great Pacific Garbage Patch have been in the middle of the northern Pacific Ocean.

Many things that make the human lives comfortable, somewhere they emit pollution, and because we as a human have been so selfish from the very beginning of our life. Inventing new things does not make a scene that we can emit any level of pollution.

This Coronavirus is said to be one of the experiments to make the bioweapon. And if it is true, then this outbreak was just a warning to our humankind. It has always been said that we should not misuse nature or its resources, and if we do so, then we are already witnessing and some of us even paid back by giving their lives.

➤ There are Various Types of Pollution:

- Air Pollution
- Noise Pollution
- Water Pollution
- Soil Pollution
- Plastic Pollution
- Littering
- Radioactive Contamination
- Thermal Pollution
- Visual Pollution

- Light Pollution<sup>343</sup>

However, there are mainly three types of the main pollution that are mainly affected by humans and industries; they are Air Pollution, Water Pollution, and Land Pollution. In these three major pollutions, Air and Water Pollution acts as the major carrier of pollution. Water acts as a carrier of pollutants and spreading it further when they enter the ocean currents and the migrant fish unintentionally carry those pollutants even far with them polluting the whole marine life. And air acts as a carrier of pollutants too when the air comes across the radioactive materials and harmful smoke emitted by the industries.

➤ **Air Pollution:**

Air pollution is the most dangerous pollution amongst all types of pollution because it is can get contaminated easily and swiftly. Air pollution can be visible and invisible as well. Visible air pollution can be seen pouring out of exhaust pipes of large trucks or factories and machinery and vehicles, which are still in operation or are still running after their scrap period or not well maintained emits more harmful smoke and causes more pollution and health problem. The best example of this happened in 1984, an accident accorded in a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India. That accident happened due to the low maintenance of the plant and when the accident occurred it affected, more than 5 Lack of human lives permanently and took around 8000 human lives. This accident is considered amongst the world's worst industrial disasters. In 2006, the Indian Government issued an affidavit in which it was mentioned that 5,58,125 people were injured including 38,478 partially disabled and approximately 3,900 were severely or permanently disabled.<sup>344</sup>

This accident made the Indian government act and to make reformations in the Environment Protection Act, 1986. The Act Included environmental legislation, including rules related to storing, handling, and use of hazardous waste. The Indian Parliament enacted the Environment Protection Act, 1986 on these amended rules. This is the main legislation that consolidated the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974 and the Air

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<sup>343</sup>Oishimaya Sen Nag, How many types of pollution are there, World Atlas, (Sep. 9, 2018), <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/how-many-types-of-pollution-are-there.html>.

<sup>344</sup>Diane Boudreau & Melissa McDaniel, Pollution, National Geography (Aug. 18, 2011), <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/pollution/>.

(Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1981. With this activated legislation, the government established Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) to prevent, control, and abate environmental pollution. The objective of the Environment Protection Act is to protect and improve the environment in the country.

➤ **Water Pollution:**

Water pollution is the 2<sup>nd</sup> major pollution which also acts as a carrier of pollutants. Polluted water can be said polluted after looking at it, if it is muddy, smelling bad, and has garbage floating in it then that water is polluted but sometimes we cannot discriminate it by looking at it because it might look clean but it can be filled with harmful chemicals which cannot be seen with our bare eyes.

Major water pollution is done, my humans. Many times, factories dump or seep their toxic chemical or wastage in the natural environment. Those chemicals are called runoff. This runoff produces an environment where the cyano-bacteria reproduce rapidly, these are called harmful algal bloom (HAB). HAB creates such an environment that no living organism can survive in that. Hence it is also called as dead zones.

Water pollution is the contamination of water bodies (e.g. lakes, rivers, oceans, aquifers, and groundwater). Water pollution occurs when pollutants are discharged directly or indirectly into water bodies without adequate treatment to remove harmful compounds. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act was enacted in 1974 to provide for the prevention and control of water pollution, and for maintaining or restoring of wholesomeness of water in the country. This is the first law passed in India whose objective was to ensure that the domestic and industrial pollutants are not discharged into rivers and lakes without adequate treatment.<sup>345</sup>

➤ **Land Pollution:**

After the pollutants are carried by the water, it comes into touch with the land. Sometimes during mining, some dangerous chemical contained soil is left open. Major land pollutants are pesticide called DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) was once commonly used to kill insects and mosquitoes.

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<sup>345</sup>id.

Trash that is thrown on the ground or left on the land like paper, cans, glasses jars, plastic products, scrap cars, etc., is another form of pollutant. If it is accidentally eaten by any animal in the natural environment then that animal can die because of that trash. Even we have seen many videos related to this, like how deer get trapped in wires, how small animals get stuck in small boxes or bottles, and how a turtle gets a straw pipe stuck inside its nose, etc., these all kind of things are life-threatening to wildlife.<sup>346</sup>

According to the analysis between July 2014 and March 2020, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) granted approval of environmental clearance (EC) for 2,256 out of 2,592 proposals that it has received. The clearance rate of 87%, that was shown on the Parivesh website does not show the data for the previous year.

The 2,115 approved out of 2,256 approvals were taken under consideration of study, out of that 2,115 approvals only 2,053 project proposals were finally taken for analysis and rest 62 approvals cannot be analyzed due to the lack of information about those projects. In these approved projects 278 projects were approved were having the project inside or exactly around the protected areas (PAs) such as wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, where human presence is severely restricted by law.

This kind of approach by the government showed that they are only focusing on to economy by neglecting the environment. 278 projects approved were either in or around 672 PAs, in which 40 projects are inside the PAs while 238 projects are within 10 km of PA boundary, where human activity is strictly prohibited. While states are having full authority to declare that 10 km zone as a buffer zone. Which shows that where we are considering the environmental factor.<sup>347</sup>

India has to choose between the economy and the environment. However, to have a sustainable economy we cannot compromise with our environment, as it is the main source on which we are living, breathing, and eating.

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<sup>346</sup>id.

<sup>347</sup>*Supra* at 1.

This outbreak has changed the whole thought process and lifestyle of human beings, especially the youth. This pandemic has shown the industry to make a sustainable environment where they can work with full efficiency and that without causing any pollution or affecting the environment.



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## ❖ Conclusion

This article aims to expose the major affected areas of economy and environment by the Covid-19 pandemic scenario. This Covid-19 outbreak will make us experience both positive and the negative impact of it on our economy, environment, society, lifestyle, etc.

Covid-19 has brought a different type of problem in the current scenario, some problems may even survive for a much longer time, and it may be more challenging to manage if the impact is not considered properly.

This pandemic has shaken the roots of the economic structure, and that is leading many experts and economists to have fear and predict that the pandemic could lead the nation to inflation and recession. The whole GDP can drop to zero leading the whole nation to face even the worst-case pandemic scenario. Because of this lockdown, the whole demand and supply chain has been affected. And according to many companies, they are facing major problems in the supply chain due to the restriction in transportation.

The 'Right to Life' contained in Article-21 of the Constitution of India includes the right to clean and human environment. It means you have the right to live in a clean and healthy environment. Article-38 of our Constitution requires the State to ensure a social order for the welfare of people, which can be obtained by an unpolluted and clean environment only. Article-48A of the Constitution, declares, "The State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife of the country". Article-51A(g) of the Indian Constitution says: "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures."

More comfort will lead to a strong economy but a weak environment. Comfort is just a way of spending our surplus to make ourselves happy but indirectly it affects the environment. Lastly, it depends on us how we want to see our future, strong economically or environment full of natural beauty, if we want to develop our economy then we have to compensate with the environment, and if we want a sustainable environment then we have to compensate with our economy.