



Climate Change Research Institute
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Message on World Earth Day - 20 and COVID-19

“The global pandemic might be one of nature’s responses to man-made climate crisis”
- says Pope Francis

The World Earth Day is celebrated every year on **22nd April** across the globe. The year 2020 is very special for Earth Day, as we celebrate its 50th Anniversary with the Theme ‘Climate Change’. Due to novel coronavirus leading to [coronavirusdisease](#) (COVID-19), it is going to be the first **Digital Earth Day**, as our contribution to control the spread of disease.

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about an unprecedented situation which has halted many communities, services and programmes worldwide. The wave of COVID-19 has almost infected so far 210 countries. The first case of was officially reported by WHO on 31st December 2019 at Wuhan, China.

The Earth Day 2020 is different, yet memorable. Earth Day marks society’s unified and digital response to our environmental crisis! Let all of us stand together for the environment amid Covid-19 and bless the Earth to be virus free on this day!

On Earth Day we plan Clean-up drives and Campaigns, Lectures for creating awareness about sustaining clean communities. This year as a result of stay home due to the pandemic, the streets, water bodies and the air all are cleaner than what we can imagine in our dreams. This year water quality of the rivers *Ganges* and *Yamuna* has improved at an incredible level. Many cities that had high pollution level are seeing remarkably less air pollution. What LESSONS we learn from this Covid-19 episode about energy conservation, which is a singular affair?

Use Electricity Efficiently

As a result of lock down and closure of offices and industry, the peak electricity demand has fallen by 25% on average after March 22, the day India began fight against COVID-19 with *Janta Curfew*. Our honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a call for shutting down of lights for nine-minutes on 5th April and it had created fear of 'national grid' shutdown. Top electrical engineers put their heads together and assured that it will not happen. For few minutes the peak load did come down though stabilized soon.

Save Oil

By stopping use of personal cars and other transport means, oil consumption has fallen significantly. Oil is energy resource which our country imports as much as 85% to meet mainly transport needs. We can save on our imports bill, by investing in renewable energy, use of electric cars and avoiding unnecessary travels.

I would like to suggest a few things for children can do by staying at Home.

What You Can Do this EARTH DAY amid the COVID-19 by Staying at Home and maintaining Social Distancing

- **Plant a sapling at your house:** Even a small indoor plant can do wonders, giving positive vibes. We all are working from home these days, it may affect our mental health by being indoors for long. Since the spring has hit, we can grow any native plant to celebrate the Earth Day.
- **Learn more about the native** plants, shrubs and birds or attend webinars online. Holy Basil (*Tulsi*) is found in almost all household across India and there are many plants both indoor and outdoor grown in the household.
- **Involve with Greenery** it can be a fun activity and also getting closer to nature by knowing and involving with the plants, their flowering time etc.
- **Utilise your Lockdown time.** Read a book. Take up courses being offered online to learn new skills. Refresh your skills and utilize time.
- **Look for more sustainable options** and learn how to live more sustainable. For example: Buy things, the fruits and vegetables that are being sourced locally and are seasonal.
- **Stay at home and prevent wasting food and water.** Since COVID-19 has put on halt most of the economic activities and as per predications, this is leading to a recession worst then that hit in 2008-09. Start saving for yourself and save environment.
- **Reusing and recycling at home.** Experiment with reuse and recycle. For example the polybags or plastics can be used to grow herbs (mint, coriander, basil etc.).
- **Have Fun.** Play games like Chess and Carom, of course Ludo. Read stories, do painting, record your video, experiment with the things around you.

To learn about Reduce, Reuse and Recycle connect to the following link

<https://youtu.be/0BrfBCWmmtk>

I end with an Indian Proverb with a deep meaning, apt for environment protection

*“Only When the Last Tree Has Died, And the Last River Been Poisoned
And the Last Fish Been Caught, Will We Realize We Cannot Eat Money!”*

Read the second line as

And the Last Fish Been Caught, Will We Realize We Could be Attacked by Covid-19!

From

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