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Justice for All

CEJ

Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka

QUARTERLY BULLETIN BY CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE | MARCH 2020 | VOL 1 | ISSUE 4

> “මිනිසා සොබාදහමට එරෙහි වෙමින් සිටී. සියලු සැලසුම්වල අවසානය පරිසරයේ විනාශයයි. පැවැත්මට අත්‍යවශ්‍ය ජීවීන් සඳහටම මෙලොවින් තුරන් වෙද්දී ඒ ගැන තුට්ටුවකටවත් මායිම් නොකර විනාශකාරී මාදිලිය දිගටම පවත්වාගෙන යයි. දේශගුණික විපර්යාසයන් හමුවේ ලෝකයේ ඉදිරි පැවැත්ම ගැන කතිකාවතක සිටිද්දී සිතන්නටවත් කාලයක් ඉතිරි නොකර දරුණු මාරාන්තික වෛරසයෙන් ලොව වෙලී ගොස් ඇත.
>
> ලොව පුරා පැවැති ප්‍රවාහන ජාලයන් නැවතීමත් සමග වේගයෙන් ක්ෂය වෙමින් තිබූ සම්පත්වලින් වැඩි ප්‍රතිශතයක් ඉතිරිවෙමින් තිබේ. මිනිසාට නැවත යමක් සිතන්නට ඉඩදී සියල්ල නිහඬ කළේ විරාමයකින් පසුව නැවත වැනසීම ඇරඹීමට නොව මානව සංහතියේ ඉදිරි පැවැත්ම උදෙසා ප්‍රඥාගෝචර වීමටය.”

ලෝකයම බේදනීය විරාමයකට ඇද දැමූ කොරෝනා

රන්ජන් කරුණානායක

“කොරෝනා” අපට අලුත් වචනයක් වුවත් ලෝකයට එය අලුත් දෙයක් නොවේ. එහි අතීතය 1960 දශකය තරම් ඈතට දිව යයි. ගෙවී ගිය වසර 50 කටත් එපිටදී මෙවැනිම වූ වෛරස් රෝග පැතිරී තිබූ බව සඳහන්ය. අද වන විට කොරෝනා වෛරසයෙන් මුලු ලොවම වැසී යමින් තිබේ.ලොක් ඩවුන් කිරීම් , පාසැල් වසා දැමීම් ,සංචාරක සීමා සහ පුද්ගල ඒකරාශී වීම් වැනි දැවැන්ත සීමා පැනවීම හරහා මේ මොහොත වන විට ලෝකයේ රටවල් හා රාජ්‍යයන් 198 ක කාර්ය බහුල නගර නිසොල්මන් ස්ථාන බවට පත්ව තිබේ. මෙම තත්වය රෝගයක් වෙනුවෙන් ලැබුණු අසමසම ගෝලීය ප්‍රතිචාරයකි. මෙහි අවසානයක් දැක අපගේ ජීවිත යථාතත්වයට පත්කර ගත හැකි වන්නේ කවදාද?

වාර්තා වී ඇති අන්දමට අද වන විට කොරෝනා රෝගයෙන් ආසාධිතයින්ගේ සංඛ්‍යාව ලක්ෂ 5කට වඩා අධිකය. රෝගයෙන් 23,593 ක් මිය ගිය බව සඳහන්ය. රෝගයෙන් සුව වූවන්ගේ සංඛ්‍යාව 115,000 කි. මෙම සංඛ්‍යා ලේඛණ දිනෙන් දින වැඩිවෙමින් පවතී.

චීනයේ වුහාන් හරහා ව්‍යාප්ත වූ මෙම මාරාන්තික වෛරසයේ දරුණුම ක්‍රියාකාරිත්වය පෙන්වමින් සිටින්නේ යුරෝපය තුළය. රෝගයේ ව්‍යාප්තිය අඩු වීමක් පෙනෙන්නට නැති අතර දිනෙන් දින වැඩිවෙමින් පවතී. කිසිවෙකු හෝ නොසිතන ආකාරයෙන් මරණ වාර්තා වෙමින් තිබීමත් සමඟ රාජ්‍යයන් අන්ත අසරණ තත්වයට පත්වෙමින් ඇත. ඇමෙරිකාවේ තත්වය බිහිසුණු වීමත් සමඟ බෝ වන රෝගයක් වලක්වා ගැනීම වෙනුවෙන් මෙතෙක් ඇමෙරිකානු ඉතිහාසයේ වෙන් කළ වැඩිම මුදල වෙන් කර ඇති අතර එය ඇ.ඩො.ට්‍රිලියන දෙකකි.

කොරෝනා වෛරසය යනු කුමක්ද? එහි රෝග ලක්ෂණ මොනවාද? වළක්වා ගන්නේ කෙසේද?

කුමක්ද මේ වෛරසය ?

කොරෝනා වෛරසය යනු සෙම්ප්‍රතිෂ්‍යාවේ සිට දරුණු නිදන්ගත ශ්වසන රෝග දක්වා වර්ධනය විය හැකි රෝගාබාධ ඇති කරන විශාල වෛරස් “පවුලකි”. නමුත් මේ වන විට පැතිරී යන නව කොරෝනා වෛරසය (nCoV) මින් පෙර පුද්ගලයන්ට ආසාදනය වී ඇති බව හඳුනාගෙන නොතිබිණි. කොරෝනා වෛරසය සතුන්ගෙන් මිනිසුන්ට සම්ප්‍රේෂණය වේ. සවිස්තරාත්මක පර්යේෂණ වලින් හෙළි වූයේ මින් පෙර ලොව පුරා ව්‍යාප්ත වූ සාර්ස් කොරෝනා වෛරසය (SARS – CoV) උරුලෑවන්ගෙන්ද , මර්ස් කොරෝනා වෛරසය (MERS – CoV)

තුන්වන පිටුවට

Editorial

COVID 19, INEQUITY AND GOVERNANCE

ejustice
පරිසර යුක්තිය

MAR 2020 | VOL 1 | ISSUE 4

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The novel coronavirus or COVID 19 pandemic is something unexpected for many countries. However, it may not come as a total surprise for other countries or people. While some believe the virus originally manifested in Wuhan, China, others think it may be a biological weapon developed by global powers to use in their cold war.

The coronavirus disease is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), indicating that the virus is genetically related to SARS, which is the virus responsible for an outbreak in 2003.

Countries all over the world are taking extensive measures and are going in lockdown to reduce the spread of the virus. But, COVID 19 is not the only virus threatening humans all over the planet. Ebola virus disease is another deadlier virus still killing people in sub Saharan Africa. Dengue is a viral infection killing over 25,000 people annually. Estimates indicate the dengue virus affects 390 million people every year. Furthermore, a study on the prevalence of dengue estimates that 3.9 billion people are at risk of getting infected by dengue. The risk of infection exists in 129 countries but 70% of the actual burden lies in Asia.

Twenty years ago Stephen Morse suggested that there were about one million viruses of vertebrates. The results of a new study suggest that at least 320,000 different viruses infect mammals. Climate change opens up new terrains, which were previously hidden under the glaciers thousand, if not millions of years ago. Unknown ancient viruses up to 15,000 years old have been discovered lurking in prehistoric ice atop the Tibetan plateau. Chinese and US scientists found a total of 33 pathogens frozen inside glaciers, 28 of which have never been seen before. Human-induced global warming threatens to melt the world's glaciers and under a 'worst-case scenario' new viruses would be released into the atmosphere. So, our own and next generations will have to face new threats more frequently.

Despite the abundance of scientific research, political achievements, and economic developments, no one was able to predict COVID 19 at the right time. Although news from China and especially Taiwan is somewhat positive, Italy, Spain, and the United States have failed to control the outbreak and are witnessing the consequences.

The different responses taken by various countries indicate that the procedures by the World Health Organization are not fully effective to tackle the problem. Some countries are in a complete lockdown while other countries, like Israel, only require elders to lockdown. Italy's response to the virus was rather late and the elderly are as a consequence bearing the brunt. The world system is quite unequal and especially in public health emergencies like these, the right to life is under serious discrepancy.

The human race is facing difficulties; the lockdown implemented in various countries is a harsh strategy. Locking down 1.3 billion people in India is an unimaginable task. Sri Lanka is facing similar difficulties with little more than 21 million people. Corona responses around the world have created many human rights violations. There were, for example, incidents that police were beating people and locking them in the police stations. On the other hand illiteracy and peoples attitude matters in such a crisis situation.

Although health experts and politicians advocate for a complete lockdown, it is not easy in a diverse society. Feeding billions of people especially urban dwellers is not an easy task and many suffer from hunger during this lockdown. Staying at home and working from home is more complicated for the poor and lower-middle class. Many still depend on daily wages and it is not easy for them to live with zero income for 2-3 weeks. There are many homeless and it is impossible for them to adhere to the curfew. Inequity in society and inequitable distribution of wealth discriminates against people disproportionately during this lockdown. The enforcement of curfew law is an equally hard job for the police and armed forces.

The capitalist model does not respect people's rights. Corporations continue to make profits even during this crisis. They include but are not limited to pharmaceuticals, military suppliers, moneylenders, pawnbrokers, food producers, and distributors. It is distressing that the textile industry in Sri Lanka is still running in order to meet their deadlines. Over 20,000 young factory workers had no food or security, and working conditions while rest are lockdown in homes. Even fish sellers and vegetable sellers make undue profits under this crisis circumstances too. There is no social safety nets in most countries to assist those directly and indirectly affected poor but have suggested some economic benefits to rich businesses. The remaining values of the cooperative societies in countries like Sri Lanka are perhaps some relief to the people.

We live in a free and globalized world, where people interact and travel great distances for many reasons; one cannot accuse anyone of spreading coronavirus. We know that poverty is the main reason for economic migration. In most countries, economic migrants and the tourist industry are responsible for spreading Corona. In most countries, health services are not free and without health insurance can be very expensive. In most cases, travel insurance does not cover the cost to cover coronavirus treatment. Most of the time migrant workers do not have medical coverage and this one of the reasons why many people want to go back to own countries during the pandemic.

People have already lost jobs and some small enterprises have already had to shut down completely. It is not easy for SMEs to compete with corporate giants when they close the industry for a few weeks. In Sri Lanka, the hotel and tourism industry have completely collapsed due to coronavirus.

Unfortunately, the lockdown has increased violence against women in Sri Lanka, but this is the case in other countries too. It is so pathetic that our family system has such problems. Globalization and open economic model has destroyed the resilience to face this sort of crisis. It is hard to face such pandemic without maintaining a social safety net.

However, studies show that the lockdown of humans worldwide has had some positive consequences on the environment. Skies of many congested cities in China and India have cleared from pollution and global emission levels have drastically cut down due to the closure of factories, transport systems, and aviation.

Once Sir David Attenborough said, "humans are a plague on earth". This Corona pandemic may be a good time for humans to realize that we are not superior in this world and we need to coexist with the many other species that also live on this planet. (END)

ලෝකයම බේදනීය විරාමයකට ඇද දැමූ.....

ඔටුවන්ගෙන්ද මිනිසුන්ට සම්ප්‍රේෂණය වී ඇති බවය. මෙතෙක් මිනිසුන්ට ආසාදනය වී නොමැති කොරෝනා වෛරස කිහිපයක් සතුන් අතර සංසරණය වන බව හඳුනාගෙන තිබේ.

නව කොරෝනා වෛරසයේ රෝග ලක්ෂණ මොනවාද?

COVID - 19 ලෙස නම් කර ඇති නව කොරෝනා වෛරසය මගින් ඇති වනුයේ ශ්වසන රෝගී ත්ත්වයකි. එහි උණ රෝගී තත්වයකින් ආරම්භ වන අතර පසුව වියළි කැස්සක් ඇති වේ. සතියකට පසු හුස්ම ගැනීමේ අපහසුතාවක් ඇති වන අතර ඇතැම් රෝගීන්ට රෝහල් ගත වී ප්‍රතිකාර ගැනීමට පවා සිදු විය හැකිය.

චීක්සත් රාජධානියේ අග්‍රාමාත්‍ය බොරිස් ජොන්සන් පවසන්නේ සති 12ක කාලයකදී කොරෝනා වෛරස් වසංගතය ආපසු හැරවිය හැකි බවයි. ඔහුගේ එම අදහස හා විශ්වාසයක් තැබිය නොහැකි වන්නේ රෝගය තම රටට ඇතුලු වූ අවස්ථාවේදී තම රට වැසියන් වෙනුවෙන් ඔහු දැක්වූ පිලිවෙතයි. එහෙත් මාස 03 කින් පමණ රෝගීන් සංඛ්‍යාව අඩු කර ගත හැකි වුවත් එහි අවසානය බොහෝ දුර වනු ඇත. ජාත්‍යන්තර වශයෙන් පිළිගෙන ඇත්තේ අද වන විට සමාජය විශාල වශයෙන් කොටසින් කොටස වසා දැමීමේ උපාය මාර්ගය දීර්ඝ කාලයක් පවත්වාගෙන යා නොහැකි වනු ඇති බවයි. මේ හරහා සමාජයීය මෙන්ම ආර්ථික වශයෙන් ව්‍යසනකාරී තත්වයක් උද්ගත වනු ඇති බවයි.

යථා තත්වයට පත්වීම සඳහා සීමා ඉවත් කිරීම මගින් මේ තත්වයෙන් මිදීමේ උපාය මාර්ගය බොහෝ රටවලට අවශ්‍ය වේ. එහෙත් කොරෝනා වෛරසය සහමුලින්ම රට රටවලින් ඉවත් නොවනු ඇත. කොරෝනා වෛරසය පාලනයට පැනවූ සීමාවන් ඉවත් කළ හොත් යළිත් රෝගීන් සංඛ්‍යාව තවත් ඉහළ යනු ඇත.මෙම ව්‍යාකූලත්වයෙන් මිදීමට අත්‍යවශ්‍ය මාර්ග 03 ක් තිබේ.

එනම්,

1. චීන්නත් කිරීම
2. ආසාදන මගින් ප්‍රමාණවත් ජනතා ප්‍රතිශතයක, ප්‍රතිශක්තිය වර්ධනය කිරීම හෝ
3. ස්ථිර වශයෙන් අපේ හැසිරීම / සමාජය වෙනස් කිරීම යන්නයි.

මෙම මාර්ගවලින් වෛරසය ව්‍යාප්ත වීමේ හැකියාව අඩු වනු ඇත. චීන්නත් නිපදවීම පිළිබඳව ජාත්‍යන්තර මට්ටමෙන් පර්යේෂණ මේ වන විට සිදුවෙමින් පවතී. චීන්නත් නිපදවීමට තවත් වසරක් හෝ වසර එකහමාරක් පමණ ගතවන බවට අනුමාන කරයි. චීන්නත් මගින් යමෙකුට ප්‍රතිශක්තිය ලැබෙන අතර චීන්නත් ලබාගත් පුද්ගලයෙකු යළිත් රෝගී වන්නේ නැත. චීන්නත් පිළිබඳ පර්යේෂණ වේගවත්ව සිදුකෙරෙමින් පවතී. එහෙත් චීවා කෙසේ සාර්ථක වන්නේද පිළිබදව නිශ්චිතව කිව නොහැකිය. මිනිසුන්ගේ හැසිරීම් රටාවේ පවතින වෙනස්කම් මෙවන් රෝගයක් පැතිරීම වලක්වා ගැනීමට බෙහෙවින් ඉවහල් වනු ඇත.

කොරෝනා වෛරසය මේ වන විට ජාතික ගැටලුවක් බවට පත්ව ඇතැයි සෞඛ්‍ය සේවා අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් වෛද්‍ය අනිල් ජාසිංහ පසුගියදා කොළඹදී පැවැති පුවත් පත් සාකච්ඡාවකදී පැවසීය.

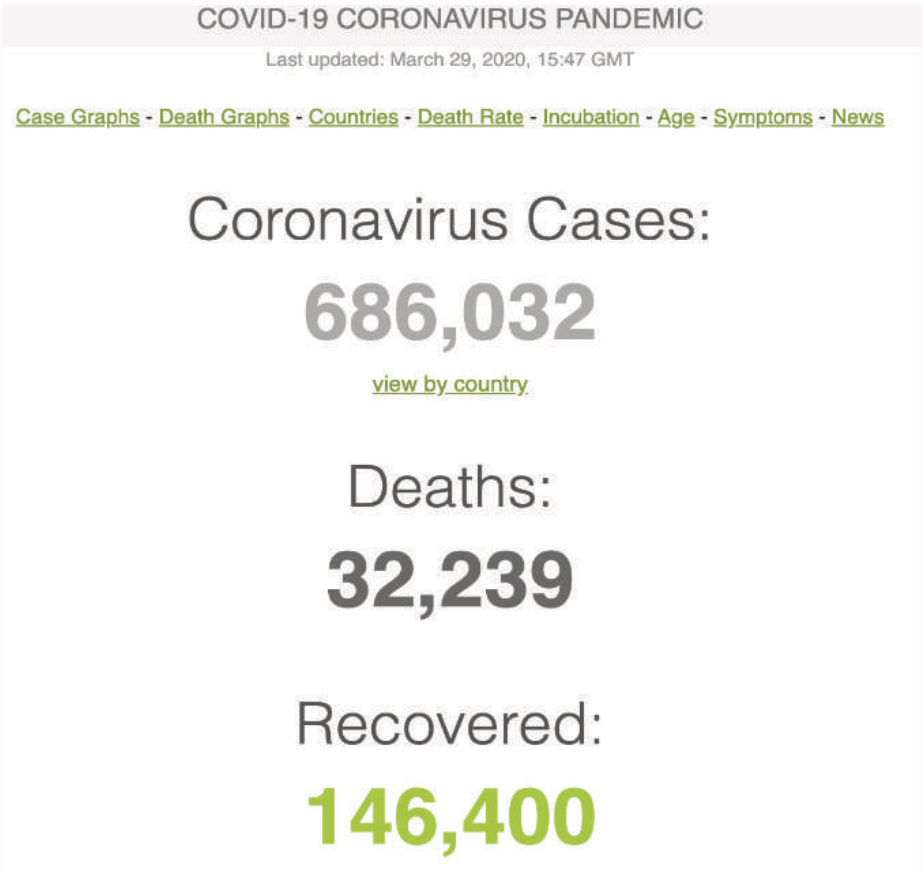
මෙය ජාතික ගැටලුවක් බවත් සියලුම දෙනා ජාතිය ගැන සිතා වැඩ කළ යුතු බවත් ඔහු පවසයි. මේ තත්වය අවස්ථා හතරක් අනුව සලකා බලනවා. විෂය රටට ඇතුලු වීම, එය පැතිරීම වැලැක්වීම, ප්‍රතිකාර කිරීම සහ විශාල වශයෙන් රෝගය පැතිරුණොත් ඊට මුහුණ දීම යන අවස්ථා හතරෙන් දැන් දෙවන අවස්ථාවේ අපි ඉන්නේ. වෛරසය පැතිරීම වැලැක්වීමට ඇති සියලු ක්‍රියාමාර්ග අපි ගන්නවා. යම් හෙයකින් කොරෝනා වෛරසය පැතිරීම ඉතාලියේ මෙන් වේගවත් වුවහොත් ඉතා අමාරු තත්වයක් නිර්මාණය වනු ඇති බව වෛද්‍ය ජාසිංහගේ අදහසයි.

කොරෝනා වෛරසය පැතිරයාම ලෝක ව්‍යාප්ත වසංගතයක් බවට පත්ව ඇතැයි ලෝක සෞඛ්‍ය සංවිධානය (WHO) නිවේදනය කළේය. ලෝක සෞඛ්‍ය සංවිධානයේ ප්‍රධානී කියා සිටියේ ගෙවී ගිය සති දෙක තුළ චීනයෙන් පිටත කොරෝනා වෛරසය ආසාධිතයින් සඛ්‍යාව 13 ගුණයකින් ඉහළ ගොස් ඇති බවය. වෛරසය පැතිරයාම පාලනය කිරීම පිණිස ක්‍රියාත්මක නොවීමේ අනතුරුදායක මට්ටම් ගැන සිය බරපතල අවධානය පල වී ඇති බව ඔහු කියා සිටියේය.

ලෝක ව්‍යාප්ත වසංගතයක් යනු ලොව පුරා රටවල් ගණනාවක එකම අවස්ථාවේ පැතිරී යන රෝගයකි. හදිසි සහ දැඩි පියවර අනුගමනය කරමින් වෛරසය පැතිරයාම පාලනය කිරීමට පියවර ගන්නා මෙන් ඔහු සියලු රටවල ආණ්ඩුවලින් ඉල්ලා සිටියේය.මේ වෛරසය පාලනය කර ඇති රටවල් කිහිපයක්ම පෙන්නුම් කරල තිබෙනවා ඔහු පැවසීය. විශාල ප්‍රජා කණ්ඩායම් අතර රෝගය පැතිර යාම පාලනයට කටයුතු කරන බොහෝ රටවල් මේ මොහොතේදී අභියෝගයකට මුහුණ දෙමින් සිටී.

මිනිසා සොබාදහමට විරෙහි වෙමින් සිටී. සියලු සැලසුම්වල අවසානය පරිසරයේ විනාශයයි. පැවැත්මට අත්‍යවශ්‍ය ජීවීන් සදහටම මෙලොවින් තුරන් වෙද්දී ඒ ගැන තුට්ටුවකටවත් මායිම් නොකර විනාශකාරී මාදිලිය දිගටම පවත්වාගෙන යයි. දේශගුණික විපර්යාසයන් හමුවේ ලෝකයේ ඉදිරි පැවැත්ම ගැන කතිකාවතක සිටිද්දී සිතන්නටවත් කාලයක් ඉතිරි නොකර දරුණු මාරාන්තික වෛරසයෙන් ලොව වෙලී ගොස් ඇත.

ලොව පුරා පැවැති ප්‍රවාහන ජාලයන් නැවතීමත් සමග වේගයෙන් ක්ෂය වෙමින් තිබූ සම්පත්වලින් වැඩි ප්‍රතිශතයක් ඉතිරිවෙමින් තිබේ. මිනිසාට නැවත යමක් සිතන්නට ඉඩදී සියල්ල නිහඬ කළේ විරාමයකින් පසුව නැවත වැනසීම ඇරඹීමට නොව මානව සංහතියේ ඉදිරි පැවැත්ම උදෙසා ප්‍රඥාගෝචර වීමටය.(END)



Environmental Law in Astray
Minister defends illegal Aloe Vera Cultivation

JANAKA WITHANAGE

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure has been introduced by the National Environment Act no 47 of 1980 in Sri Lanka with the objective of addressing environmental, social and economical and any other impact arising due to a development activity. Type of the activity, scale of the activity and sensitivity of the location and many other factors decide the fact that whether an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) is sufficient or should go through the EIA. The Central Environmental Authority takes this decision.

However, we question the effectiveness of this law as project proponent evades this law using their political influence. Large scale Alovera cultivation project is progressing in the buffer zone of Wilpattu National Park in Yaya 18, Rajanganaya. It is a 370 USD million investment by Aura Lanka Herbals Pvt LTD initiated with the blessing of the new government.

"It is just an Aloevera cultivation. That's what everybody keeps saying even the government officers. But when we dig deeper it is not only Alovera cultivation, but it include a 1500 acre nursery, Factory, Research lab, Water supply project, indoor stadium, research school and a model town"

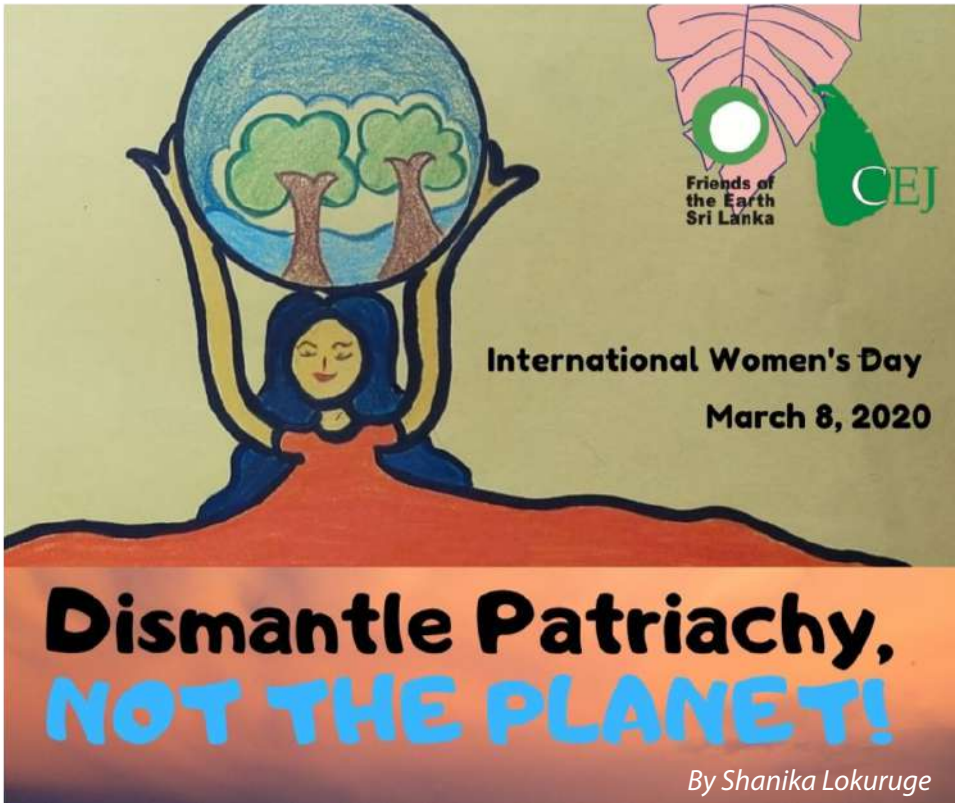
While they have plans to cultivate 100000 acres of aloevera, they have requested permission from Central Environmental Authority, North Central province office for just the nursery of 100 acre. This is clearly withholding information and misleading the officials of the government. Current minister of environment is very interested about this project as it is his electorate. The project proponent does not have the proper cabinet approval to use the government land which has been given to the farmers under a permit scheme.

Project area is very close to the Wilpattu National Park. According to the Fauna and Flora Ordinance of 1937, any project implemented within a 1 mile radius of the buffer zone of a national park should have the written approval of the director general of the department of Wildlife conservation. In addition, a project of this scale should undergo EIA procedure and it is a must. EIA report should be subjected to a 30 day commenting period.

Project proponent has cleared a large area and constructing drainage canals and a small tank to get the required water using a natural stream.

Responsible government agencies are mute. Is it due to the influence by the minister of environment? He participated the project inauguration as the chief guest? As the minister in charge of the environment subject, is it worthy him to support this project? This questions the credibility of the minister as well as the law.

Responsible agencies have failed to enforce the law. Nobody knows about this, unless CEJ raised voice. This should not be a bad example in future for bypassing the environmental law in the country. [END]



The 2030 agenda to achieve 17 sustainable development goals (SDG's) adopted by world leaders in 2015, embody a road map for progress that is sustainable and leaves no one behind and gender equality is one of the main SD goal. Therefore, increasing women's participation in politics is essential to fight women related issues. Women's voices and issues related to them are not heard enough in Sri Lanka.

DISMANTLE PATRIARCHY

MADHUSHANI SENDHANAYAKE

Since 1931, where Sri Lanka gained the 'Universal Suffrage' which allowed all Sri Lankan citizens to participate in the democratic process, women had the constitutional freedom and right to vote and participate in political activities. The country elected Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake as the world's first female prime minister in 1960 and elected Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranayake as the country's first female executive president in 1994. Moreover, Sri Lanka's ranking in the Human Development Index (HDI) has raised from 72 to 71 out of 189 countries, maintaining the country's status as the best performed in South Asia. Labor force participation of women recorded as 34.1% and women hold senior positions in the government sector as well as private sector. However, women participation in politics is not up to the satisfactory level in the parliament, provincial councils as well as local authorities. In fact, Sri Lanka was ranked 182nd out of 190 countries in Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) ranking of female representation in parliament as of March 2020.

Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act No. 1 of 2016 which introduced a mandatory quota of 25 percent for women through a one-third increase in the total number of seats at the local government level, pradeshiya sabas, Urban Councils and Municipal Councils was believed to be a progressive action in terms of dismantling patriarchy. Yet what still holds it back. We can deduce several reasons

The new election system is a hybrid one. It is a combination of first-post-past (FPP), and the proportional representation (PR) system. 60 percent of candidates will be selected according to the FPP system, while the other 40 percent will be selected according to the PR system. If political parties which get less than 20 present of the total votes and less than 3 members, such parties are not bound to fulfill the female quota. This also has affected less female getting elected to the parliament or any other local council.

Unless you have a political background, it is a struggle even to get nominations from political parties. You have to have enough money to run campaigns, enough connections to get support from and get nominations. But other women who came from non-privileged households do not have such opportunities. Therefore patriarchy exists in political parties as well.

Women are viewed differently to men through the patriarchal public gaze – their 'physical attributes, sexuality and morality' are focused on more than their 'intellectual capabilities and achievements'. Political parties have shown a lack of commitment to recognize women as worthy candidate or work towards strengthening women's roles as political leaders. This also has negatively affected the society as there is a trend that celebrities, actors are entering the political arena as candidate by political parties for very political reasons as to show their gender sensitive symbolically.

General dislike of the society towards politicians as they often engaged directly or indirectly on illegal businesses such as drugs or liquor, bribery and environmental crimes such as illegal logging, encroachment, sand mining etc Therefore, majority of women in Sri Lanka hesitate to engage in politics

as they think politics is something that does not suit women.

Social media is one of the newest arenas through which women experience psychological violence. Celebrity women who participate as candidate may find social media as a positive medium through which to publish her political identity and share her beliefs. Yet, paradoxically it is also where she has faced the greatest level of harassment.

The 2030 agenda to achieve 17 sustainable development goals (SDG's) adopted by world leaders in 2015, embody a road map for progress that is sustainable and leaves no one behind and gender equality is one of the main SD goal. Therefore, increasing women's participation in politics is essential to fight women related issues. Women's voices and issues related to them are not heard enough in Sri Lanka. Fighting women's right should not be restricted to few high-class ladies in Colombo who want to win their right to purchase liquor for themselves but real issues of women such as rape, child abuse etc. During the last presidential election campaign in 2019, free sanitary napkin for women was a promise given by one of the candidate from a major political party. However, majority of the people did not welcome this as a good initiative. There were large criticisms and there was not enough women voice to support this. Clean water and Sanitation was one of the main sustainable development goals women seems to be suffering at large due to lack of clean water and sanitation facilities.

Also, Sri Lanka still has failed to address grassroots level issues, which prevent women from entering politics. Introducing compulsory female quota is not enough. Conservative mindsets which portray women engaged in politics as bad, uncultured women should be changed as the first step; education system in the country should be reformed to eliminate patriarchy system. Also, there should be strong laws to protect women from sexism, character assassination, physical and psychological violence. Women's organizations and other civil society organizations have a great role in this.(END)

LEGAL ISSUES OF SAND MINING IN SRI LANKA

NIMMI SANJEEWANI
(Attorney-at-Law)

The sand is an essential need for construction sector which is rapidly growing day by day. On the other hand sand mining is an issue which excites negative effects on the aquatic ecosystem and livelihood. This mines and minerals sector is well connected, environmentally, ecologically, biologically and sociologically. Hence, the substantial issues of sand mining need to be eradicated or controlled. It is eroding river deltas, damaging coastlines, lowering ground water levels, hurt marine life, causes landslides, drought, flooding, degrade sediment in rivers and coastal areas in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the requirement of providing sand for construction and protecting environment should be well regulated and balanced by law to establish sustainable development.

Mining issue is specially regulated under and the Minerals Act No.33 of 1992 as amended by Act No.66 of 2009. Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB) established under this Act. GSMB issues three types of licenses; exploration, mining, trading and transport to regulate the exploration for mining, transportation, processing, trading and export of Minerals. Also, the conservation of coastal areas is regulated by Coast Conservation Department (CCD) under Coast Conservation Act No.57 of 1981 as amended by No.49 of 2011. The function of CCD's authority on sand mining extends upstream up to 2km of the river system from the coast. Therefore, CCD has the authority to issue the licenses for sand of sea and sand of rivers within this area. This license system normally regulates the unauthorized and uncontrolled sand mining and quantity of mining.

Monitoring a transportation license is a legal requirement under the Mines and Minerals Act. Illegal mining activities have been controlled by this permit. Even though the law cannot be suppressed blatantly by a Cabinet Decision without a proper amendment to the Act, this permit system was taken away recently by a Cabinet Decision and the Circular No.173/12/2019. As a result, illicit sand mining became legitimate for a few months. This has led the environment to become vulnerable to many issues. Undue political interferences, lack of officers to enforce the law all over the country, transparency and accountability are some other related issues which are not well addressed by statutory laws. Therefore, it is clear that these Acts are not well regulated or 100% adequate for the threat of current issues of sand mining.

In the instances where statutory regulations do not work accordingly, Public Interest Litigations plays a vital role in protecting the environment. For example, in a landmark case (SCFR 81/2004) undertaken by Green movement and Centre for Environmental Justice, the Supreme Court issued specific guidelines with respect to sand and clay mining. In another case (SCFR 226/2006), the Supreme Court banned the further extraction and removal of sand from both Deduru Oya and Maha Oya. Hence, finally, the public has to enter into the courts to enforce written laws of four corners of the Acts and regulations forcibly.

Finally, to maintain the sustainable development, the responsible authorities need to act with accountability, transparency and follow the enacted laws and regulations accordingly while regulating them if they are insufficient to take away negative effects to protect the environment. Also, they should consider opinions from experts before taking decisions in relation to the sensitive environmental issues such as sand mining, because the legal protection of the environment is inevitable to save it for the future generations. [END]

முழு உலகத்தையும் துயரகரமான நிலைமைக்கு இட்டுச்சென்ற – கோரோனோ

ரன்ஞன் கருணாநாயக்க

"கொரோனா" எமக்கு புதிய சொல்லாயிருந் தாலும் உலகத்திற்கு அது புதிதான ஒன்றல்ல. அதன் கடந்த காலம் 1960ம் தசாப்தம் வரையிலான தூரத்திற்கு செல்கிறது. கடந்து சென்ற 50 ஆண்டு களுக்கு அப்பால் இதைப் போன்ற வைரஸ் நோய் பரவி இருந்ததாக குறிப்பிடப்பட்டிருந்தது. இன்றுவரை கொரோனா வைரசால் முழு உலகமும் படர்ந்திருக்கிறது. லொக் டவுன் செய்து, பாடசாலை கள் மூடப்பட்டு, உல்லாசத் துறை கட்டுப்படுத்தப்பட்டு மற்றும் நபர்கள் ஒன்று கூடல் போன்றவற்றிற்கு பாரிய கட்டுப்பாடுகளை விதித்ததன் மூலமாக இது வரையில் உலகத்தில் நாடுகள் மற்றும் அரசாங் கங்கள் 198 நெருக்கடி யான நகரங்கள் அமைதி யான இடங்களாக அமைந் துள்ளது. இந்த நிலைமை நோயொன்றிற்காக கிடைத்த சமநிலையற்ற உலக பிரதியுத்தரமாகும். இதன் இறுதியை கண்டு எமது வாழ்வை சரியான நிலைமைக்கு ஏற்படுத்திக் கொள்வது எப்போது?

குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ள விதத் தில் இன்று வரையில் கொரோனா நோயினால் பாதிப்பிற்கு உள்ளானவர் களின் எண்ணிக்கை 5.லட்சத்திற்கும் அதிகமான தாகும். நோயினால் 23,593 பேர் உயிரிழந்துள்ளதாக குறிப்பிடப்படுகிறது. நோயிலிருந்து குணமடைந் தவர்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 115,000 மாகும். இந்த எண்ணிகைக நாளுக்கு நாள் அதிகரித்துக்கொண்டு வருகிறது.

சீனாவின் வுவான் பிராந் தியத்திலிருந்து உருவான இந்த ஆட்கொள்ளி வைரஸ் கொடூரமான செயற்பாடை

செய்து கொண்டிருப்பது ஐரோப்பிய நாடுகளிலேயாகும். நோய் பரவலில் குறைவை காட்டாததோடு நாளுக்கு நாள் அதிகரித்துக்கொண்டு வருகிறது. எவரும் நினைக் காத விதத்தில் மரணங்கள் ஏற்படுவதோடு அரசாங்கங்களை பலவீனப் படுத்தியுள்ளது. அமெரிக் காவின் நிலைமை பயங்கர மானதை தொடர்ந்து தொற்று நோயொன்றை தடுப்பதற்காக இதுவரை யில் அமெரிக்க வரலாற் றில் ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட நிதிக்கு மேலதிகமான நிதியை ஒதுக்கியுள்ளதோடு அது அமெரிக்க டொலர் ட்டில்லியன் இரண்டாகும். கொரோனா வைரஸ் என்றால் என்ன? அதன் நோய் அறிகுறிகள் என்ன? எவ்வாறு தவிர்த்துக் கொள்வது? இந்த வைரஸ் என்ன?

கொரோனா வைரஸ் என்பது தடிமலில் இருந்து கொடூரமான நீண்டநாட் களுக்கு சுவாச நோய் வரை வளர்ச்சி அடையக் கூடிய நோயை ஏற்படுத்தும் பாரிய "வைரஸ்" குடும்ப மாகும். இருந்தும் இது வரையில் பரவிவரும் புதிய கோரோனா வைரஸ் (nCov) இதற்கு முன் மக்களை தொற்றியுள்ள தாக அறிந்து கொள்ள வில்லை. கொரோனா வைரஸ் மக்களுக்கு விலங்குகளிலிருந்து பரவு கிறது. விளக்கமான ஆய்வுகளிலிருந்து வெளி வந்ததாவது இதற்கு முன் உலகளாவிய ரீதியில் பரவிய சார்ஸ் கொரோனா வைரஸ் (SARS-CoV) புனுகு பூனை (Civet) மர்ஸ் கொரோனா வைரஸ் (MERS-CoV) ஒட்டகங் களின் மூலமாக மக்களை தொற்றியுள்ளதாகவாகும இதுவரையில் மக்களுக்கு தொற்றியிராத கொரோனா வைரஸ் சில விலங்கு களுக்கிடையில் சுழற்சி

யடைவதாக இனங்காணப் பட்டுள்ளது.

புதிய கொரோனா வைரஸ் நோய் அறிகுறிகள் என்ன?

COVID – 19 என பெயரிடப்பட்டுள்ள புதிய கோரோனா வைரஸ் மூலமாக ஏற்படுவது சுவாச நோய் நிலைமையாகும். அங்கு காய்ச்சல் நோய் நிலைமையோடு ஆரம்பமா வதோடு பிறகு வரல் இருமல் ஏற்படும். ஒரு கிழமைக்கு பிறகு மூச்செடுப்பதற்கு கஸ்ட மாக இருப்பதுடன் ஒருசில் நோயாளர்களுக்கு வைத்தியசாலைகளில் தங்கியிருந்து சிகிச்சை பெறவும் வேண்டிவரும். ஐக்கிய இராஜ்ஜிய பிரதமர் பொரிஸ் ஜோன்சன் கூறுவதாவது 12 கிழமைக் கிடைப்பட்ட காலத்தில் கொரோனா ரைவஸ் தொற்று மீண்டும் திரும்ப லாம் எனவாகும். அவரின் அந்த கருத்து மற்றும் நம்பிக்கை கொள்ள முடி யாமலிருப்பது நோய் தனது நாட்டிற்கு வந்த சந்தர்ப் பத்தில் தமது நாட்டு மக்களுக்காக அவர் தெரிவித்த நடவடிக்கை யாகும். இருந்தும் 3 மாதங்களில் நோயாளரின் எண்ணிக்கையை குறைத்துக்கொள்ள கூடியதாயிருந்தால் அதன் இறுதி வெகு தொலைவாக இருக்கும். சர்வதேச ரீதியாக நம்பக்கூடியது இன்று வரையில் சமூகத் தில் பாரிய அளவில் பகுதி பகுதியாக மூடிவைக்கும் தந்திரோபாயத்தை நீண்ட காலமாக நடைமுறைப் படுத்த இயலாத அளவிற்கு உள்ளாகியுள்ளதாகும். இதன் ஊடாக சமூகத்தைப் போல் பொருளாதார ரீதியாக பாதிப்பு நிலைமை உருவாகும்.

சகஜ நிலைமையை ஏற்படுத்துவதற்காக எல்லைகளை நீக்குவதன் மூலமாக இந்த நிலைமை

யிலிருந்து தவிர்த்துக் கொள்வதற்கான தந்திரோ பாயம் பல நாடுகளுக்கு தேவைப்படுகின்றது. இருந்தும் கொரோனா வைரஸ் நாடுகளுக்கிடை யில் நீங்காது. கொரோனா வைரஸ் கட்டுப்பாட்டிற்காக விடுக்கப்பட்ட எல்லைகளை நீக்கினால் மீண்டும் நோயா ளர்களின் எண்ணிக்கை மேலும் அதிகரிக்கும். இந்த பாதக நிலைமையிலிருந்து விடுபட முக்கியமான வழிகள் 3 உள்ளது.

அதாவது,
1. தடுப்பூசி போடுதல்
2. பாதிப்பு ஊடாக போதியளவு மக்கள் விகிதாசாரம், பரிகாரத்தை வளர்ச்சியடைய செய்தல் அல்லது
3. நிரந்தரமாக எமது நடத்தை / சமூகத்தை மாற்றுவது என்பதாகும்.

இந்த வழிகளில் வைரஸ் பரவும் நிலைமை குறையும். தடுப்பூசியை உற்பத்தி செய்வது தொடர்பாக சர்வதேச ரீதியான ஆராய்ச்சிகள் இதுவரையில் மேற்கொள் ளப்பட்டு வருகிறது. தடுப் பூசியை தயாரிப்பது இன்னும் ஒரு வருடமோ அல்லது ஒன்றரை வருடமோ செல்லும் என அனுமானிக்கலாம். தடுப் பூசி மூலமாக ஒருவருக்கு பரிகாரம் கிடைப்பதோடு தடுப்பூசியை பெற்றுக் கொள்ளும் நபர் மீண்டும் நோயிற்குள்ளாக மாட்டார். தடுப்பூசி தொடர்பான ஆராய்ச்சிகள் துரிதப்படுத் தப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இருந்தும் அது எந்த அளவிற்கு வெற்றியளிக் கும் என்பதை உறுதியாக கூறமுடியாது. மக்களின் நடத்தை வட்டத்திலுள்ள மாற்றங்கள் இதுமாதிரி யான நோய்கள் பரவுவதை தவிர்த்து கொள்வ தற்காக பெரிதும் துணையாக அமையும். கொரோனா வைரஸ் இதுவரையில் தேசிய பிரச்சினையாக மாறியுள் ளதாக சுகாதார சேவைகள் பணிப்பாளர் நாயகம் வைத்திய கலாநிதி அனில் ஜயசிங்க கடந்த தினம் கொழும்பில் நடந்த பத்திரி கையாளர் மகாநாட்டில் தெரிவித்தார். இது தேசிய பிரச்சினையாகவும் சகல ரும் இனத்தைப்பற்றி நினைத்து செயற்பட வேண்டும் எனவும் அவர் தெரிவித்தார். இந்த நிலைமை நான்கு சந்தர்ப் பங்களில் கவனத்தில் கொள்ளப்படுகின்றது.

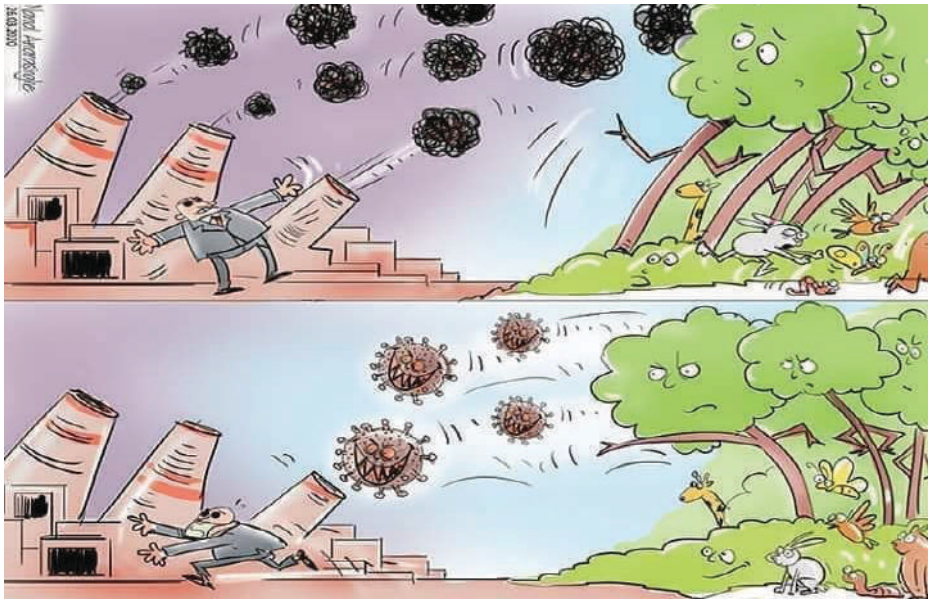
அவ்வாறு நாட்டிற்குள் உட் செல்வது, பரவுவதை தடுத் தல், சிகிச்சை அளித்தல் மற்றும் பாரிய அளவில் நோய் பரவினால் அதற்கு முகங்கொடுத்தல் போன்ற நான்கு சந்தர்ப் பங்கள் தற்பொழுது நாங்கள் இரண் டாவது சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் இருப் பது வைரஸ் பரவுவதை தடுப்பதற்காக உள்ள சகல நடவடிக்கைகளையும் நாங்கள் எடுப்போம். ஒருசில சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் கொரோனா வைரஸ் பரவுவது இத்தாலியை போல துரித மடைந்தால் மிகவும் கடினமான நிலைமை ஏற்படும் என்பது வைத்திய கலாநிதி அனில் ஜயசிங்க அவர் களினது கருத்தாகும்.

கொரோனா வைரஸ் பரவு வது உலகத்தில் பரவி யுள்ள தொற்று நோயாக அமைந்துள் ளதென உலக சுகாதார நிறுவனம் (WHO) அறிவித்தது. உலக சுகா தார அமைப்பின் தலைவர் கூறியதாவது கடந்த இரு வாரங்களு க்குள் அதற்கு முன்பிருந்த நிலைமையை விட கொரோனா வைரசால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் 13 மடங்கு அதிகரித்துள் ளதாகவாகும். வைரஸ் பரவுவதை கட்டுப்படுத்து வதற்காக செயற்படாததன் அபாயகரமான நிலைமை யைப்பற்றி தனது பாரா தூரமான கவனம் செலுத் தப்பட்டுள்ளதென அவர் தெரிவித்தார். உலகத்தில் பரவிய தொற்று நோய் என்பது உலகம் முழுவதும் பல நாடுகளில் ஒரே சந்தர்ப் பத்தில் பரவும் நோயாகும். உடனடி மற்றும் கடுமையான நடவடிக்கை களை பின்பற்றி வைரசை கட்டுப் படுத்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமாறு அவர் சகல நாடுகளின அரசாங்கங்களுக்கு கோரிக்கை விடுத்தார். இந்த வைரசை கட்டுப்படுத் திக்கொண்ட நாடுகள் பல சுட்டிக்காட்டப் பட்டுள்ளதென அவர் தெரிவித்தார். பாரிய சமூக குழுக்களுக்கிடையில் நோய் பரவுவதை கட்டுப் படுத்த நடவடிக்கை எடுத் துள்ள பல நாடுகள் இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் சவால்களுக்கு முகங் கொடுத்துள்ளது.

மக்கள் இயற்கைக்கு எதிராக செயற்பட்டு வருகின்றனர். சகல திட்டங்களினதும் இறுதி சுற்றாடலின் அழிவாகும்.

நடை முறைக்கு முக்கியமான சீவராசிகள் முழுமையாக இந்த உலகத்தில் இல்லா மல் போகும்பொழுது அதைப் பற்றி எல்லளவும் கவனிக் காது அழிவை தொடர்ந்து செயற்படுத்தப் படுகிறது.

இரட்டை மடங்கு அழிவிற்கு மத்தியில் உலகத்தின் எதிரகால நிலைமை பற்றி கதைக்கும் பொழுது சிந்திப் பதற்கும் காலத்தை மீதப்படுத் தாது கொடூரமான வைரஸ் உலகத்தை பீடித்துள்ளது. உலகளாவிய ரீதியில் இருந்த போக்குவரத்து மார்க்கங்கள் நிறுத்தப்பட்டதோடு துரிதமாக அருகி வந்த வளங்களின் அதிக மான விகிதாசாரம் மீதமாகி உள்ளது. மக்க ளுக்கு மீண்டும் ஒன்றை சிந்திக்க இடமளித்து சகல வற்றையும் மௌனமாக்கியது இடைவெளிக்கு பிறகு மீண்டும் பரவுவது ஆரம் பிப்பதற்காகவல்ல மானுட வர்க்கத்தின் எதிர்கால நடை முறைக்காக உறுதி கொள்வதாகும்.



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