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Editorial

COVID-19: Editorial on Temporary Reprieve from Rising Carbon Emissions

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EDITORIAL

The terrible epidemic COVID-19 wreaked havoc on humanity in December of this year. Most of the COVID-19 affected countries implemented nationwide/regional lockdown methods to contain the spread. As a result, surface, marine, and air traffic were prohibited, and industry sectors working hours were drastically cut, among other things. The most visible result was a substantial decrease in air adulteration. As a result, multiple studies evaluated anthropogenic emissions at the global, regional, and local scales throughout the lockdown period, utilising both satellite-based and ground-based monitoring. Carbon, among other air contaminants, has a dominant toxicological profile that causes negative health effects, piqueing researchers' interest in carbon-release probing during the systematic confinement period imposed by ruling authorities around the world. The findings of those researches confirmed a decrease in carbon emission/concentration, making the air more breathable over time. The investigations on anthropogenic carbon emissions during the shutdown period are accounted for in this study by compiling recently reported data from published journals.

The COVID-19 epidemic, which swept the globe, put the social tempo of human life in jeopardy like it had never been before. Furthermore, the viral pandemic forced humanity to face new scenarios, such as the entire cessation of all social activity in certain parts of the globe. The adopted limits to break the disease's transmission cycle have stoked fears of job loss and economic downturn as a result of the abrupt and repetitive approaches to shutting down all modes of transportation as well as industry sectors in the harshest of ways. Despite the pandemic's worst effects, such deliberate reductions proved to be a boon to the environment, enabling a rapid decline in the ever increasing trend of carbon emission/concentration. To quantify the effect of lockdown, several researches on carbon emission/concentration were undertaken around the world during the lockdown period.

The findings provided a clear picture of the consistent drop of carbon emission/concentration over the world during the lockout period, according to reports covering land and maritime regions. However, the magnitude of the decline varies greatly between land and sea. In contrast to data from overland, the pace of decline over the sea is substantially lower, owing to the obvious reason of limited marine transportation and the carbon-absorbing phenomenon of aquatic bodies. The only probable source of carbon over the sea region in these circumstances is the transported fraction of it from a nearby land location. Furthermore, as both automobiles and industry are key components in the former, the change in carbon emission/concentration is more significant in city/urban areas compared to rural/remote locations.

It was also noted that while carbon emission/concentration initially fell as a result of the rapid installation of lockdown, it progressively increased in the unlock phases as individuals began to return to normal life. As a result, the decrease in carbon emission/concentration during COVID-19 only provides a limited reprieve. Despite the fact that carbon emission/concentration decreased due to some unusual circumstances, it can be inferred that the concerned authorities can implement some specific strategies (e.g. work from home, bicycle to work, etc.) to reduce carbon emission/concentration and provide breathable air to the world.

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