



Corona19: The Environment vs Politics in Democracy

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Editorial

The Covid19 is taking heavy toll all over the world but casualties in India may take a much more severe turn due to the disposal of Covid19-Infected dead-bodies in Ganga and other rivers. The practice of disposing of dead humans in Ganga is not new. It used to be practiced mostly by the poor who could not afford the funeral costs apart from some religious-reasons. Many of such dead-bodies used to be carriers of pathogens. As per the author's Ganga-studies published all over the world, the Ganga-waters possessed some anti-pathogen properties as also had been evident from the numerous severely-crowded mass-gatherings/bathing in Ganga during "kumbh"-festivities with no reporting's of any water-borne epidemics ever (excluding some very few unreported stray individual cases) despite the fact that many of such bathers used to even defecate/urinate while bathing due to their being mischievous or unscrupulous or ignorant (especially the children) or ill (especially the older gentry suffering from various water-borne diseases). About this Corona-Virus, only scientific studies would confirm if they can multiply in the hydro-environment. But in any case, I believe that if any Coronavirus containing water gets in touch or is inhaled by a living body, this virus would start multiplying. Therefore, bathing-in and "aachman" (a religious ritual of direct inhaling of Ganga-water) of Ganga waters should now immediately be prevented apart from a very strict-prevention of throwing of Corona-infected bodies into Ganga and other rivers.

Introduction

Like the polio and the infectious-hepatitis virus, the Corona-Virus (another but newer virus family member) too should be inactivated by CHLORINE. Therefore, all public water

supplies using Ganga and other river waters must be chlorinated, rather heavily, say with a residual (after one-hour contact) concentration of 2 to 3 mg/l (ppm). Research too should immediately be started for the various forms of chlorine (like the free, combined forms of chlorine) and chlorination practices like break-point-chlorination, super-chlorination, pre-chlorination, etc. It was thought that the Coronavirus reaches the lungs via throat. Therefore, regular inhaling of chlorine-water 2/3 times a day should prevent Corona19. And remember that even very high chlorine doses are not harmful as quoted in Bhargava DS: 1966 [1] Chlorination of Water Supplies: Dissertation for Master of Engineering in Public Health Engineering at Roorkee University, now IIT, in India.

_0.2-1.0 mg/l (ppm) are the normal chlorine doses

_25 mg/l majority refuse (some upto 50 mg/l)

_5 mg/l consumed by Army in Korea for prolonged period

_15-25 mg/l free chlorine was used without physical distress for shorter periods

_90 mg/l accidentally consumed due to hurried consumption by an Army Personnel, but was only constriction of throat and momentary strangulation and irritation of throat membrane

_50-200 mg/l for extensive disinfection of well-water, mains, storage units, etc

_200 mg/l by Armed Forces Personnel for several months without any adverse effects

_50,000 mg/l: a 49 year old man consumed Quart of "Clorox" (household laundry bleach of 50,000 ppm chlorine, his stomach was severely damaged but there was no apparent injury and he recovered after medical treatment

Politics in Reporting's

Most Corona19 reporting's made either by the respective Governments or by the Print and News Media. In most democratic countries, the reporting are deeply motivated also by politics as also no one knows or can know/estimate the real casualties. Therefore, the opposition invariably takes opportunity to denounce the ruling government in varying ways. The Indian democratic situation is a bit different due to the many anti-nationals who are taking the fullest opportunity to make Mammoth large money by practicing black-marketing, spurious-medicines, not-effective

instruments, creating shortages, rumors of varying kinds, etc. In the circumstances, it would only be wise to concentrate on scientific studies and research to combat Corona19.

References

1. Bhargava DS (1966) Chlorination of Water Supplies, A Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Engineering in Public Health Engineering to the University of Roorkee, Roorkee, India.