



HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN INDIA

29th May 2020

Friday

Framing Presentation

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LINKAGE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT QUALITY AND COVID-19 RELATED VULNERABILITY

- Many studies have already established the existence of a relationship between air pollution levels and respiratory diseases.
- Now it has been claimed that high air pollution levels might also increase the risk of contracting COVID-19, as particulate matter (PM) has the potential to act as carriers for contagion leading to rapid spread over larger areas.
- Studies in US and Italy have found that residents of countries with high levels of fine particulate pollution over decades are 15% more likely to die from Covid-19 than inhabitants of regions with just $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ less of such PM_{2.5} pollution.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNT FROM THE CURRENT PANDEMIC FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- Investments on climate action and activities that can improve livelihoods and the health of ecosystems are urgently needed.
- Overexploitation of common goods that results into the ‘tragedy of commons’ need to be checked and investments to restore clean air and water, healthy ecosystems, and other environment and climate goods, which contribute to planetary health are also required.
- Tap the opportunity to construct climate resilient value chains and our current waste management practices also need to evolve to be resilient and create a successful circular economy.
- Need for not just relief strategy but also a recovery strategy to ensure sustainability of healthcare services both from the demand and supply side.

ACTIONS NEEDED FOR MITIGATION OF SPREAD OF ZOOONOTIC DISEASES SUCH AS CORONA VIRUSES THROUGH PLANETARY HEALTH AND PRESERVATION OF ECOSYSTEM

- The spread of zoonotic diseases is a type of hidden economic cost of human development because of the disruption of natural ecosystems which is likely to increase in the future.
- This economic transition can act as an opportunity to replace current unsustainable practices with circular and regenerative models of ecosystem.
- It is also of the notion that the economic stimulus packages with a focus on decarbonisation may be a more strategic approach during recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ROLE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND MEDICINE IN THE PRESENT PANDEMIC SITUATION

- Traditional healthcare practices like Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicines have enough potential and possibility to both prevent and treat COVID-19.
- The participation of traditional healthcare practices should not be seen just as an extension of healthcare services but rather as an opportunity to uptake dedicated research to evaluate their effect on such pandemics.
- Along with emergence of research, the implementation of proposed actions will also help in providing evidence-based insights strengthening the scope of traditional practices like Ayurveda beyond preventive health care and care for non-communicable diseases.

EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

Expectations

- The objective of the webinar is to gather perspectives from various stakeholders on greening of economic recovery in India.
- The proceedings of the event will be shared and circulated among government officials and other stakeholders.
- Discussions will be incorporated in a discussion paper.

Speakers

- Please stick to your time limit and keep your interventions to the point.
- Chairs will direct specific questions to the panellists depending on the discussion.

Questions

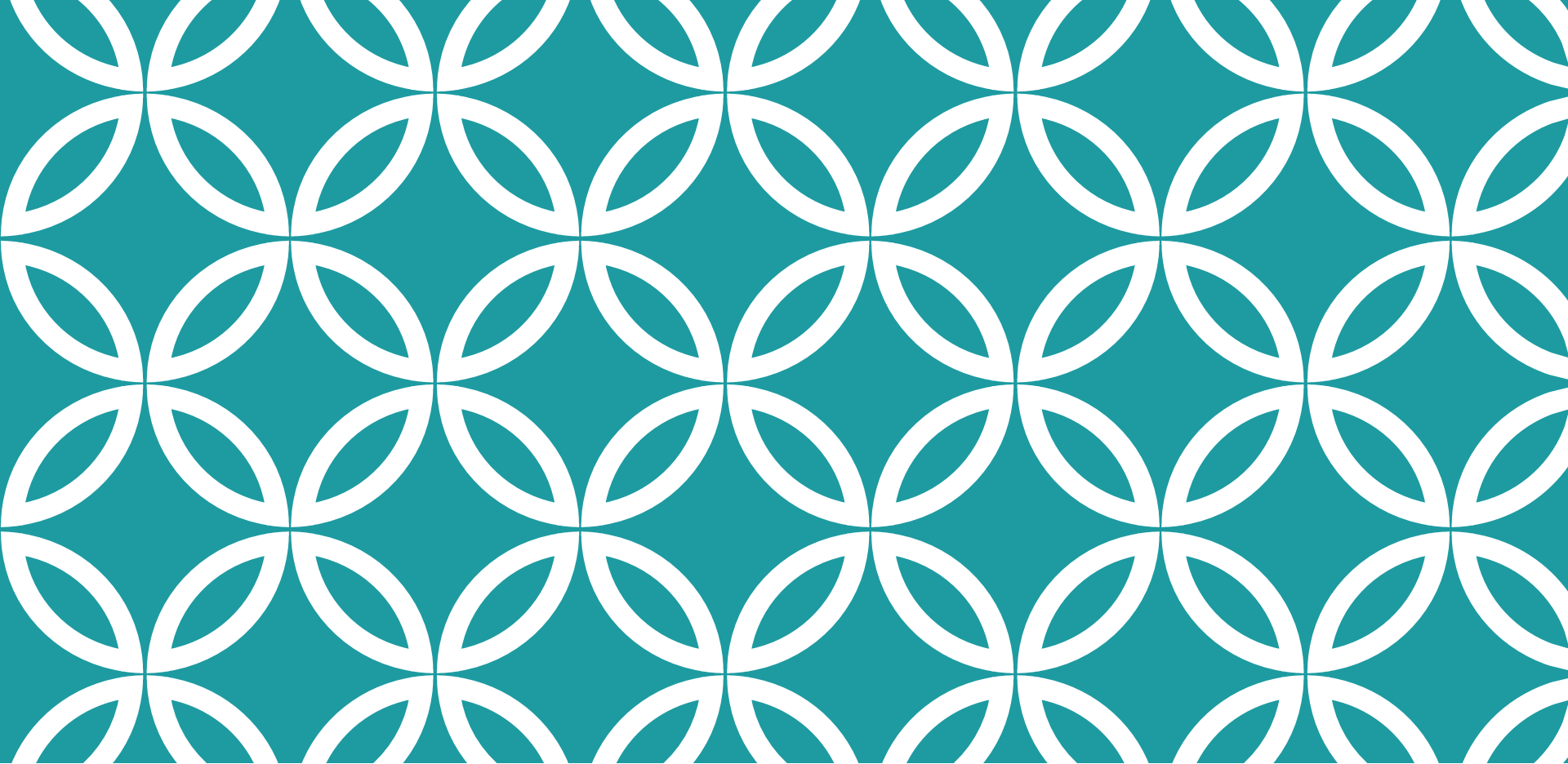
- Please send your questions via chat in text format
- Depending of time available, select questions will be directed to speakers towards the end of the panel discussion

Inputs

- Questionnaire: bit.ly/greeningrecovery

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- What are the linkages between environmental quality and COVID-19 related vulnerability?
- What lessons does the current pandemic offer for long-term sustainability, waste management, and built environment related to the health sector?
- What actions are needed for mitigation of spread of zoonotic diseases such as coronaviruses through planetary health and preservation of ecosystems?
- What is the role of traditional knowledge and medicine in the present pandemic situation?



THANK YOU | 