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Global Fight Against an Invisible Foe

The entire humanity is today fighting an enemy which is invisible and tricky. It has already devoured thousands and thousands of lives all over the world. Perhaps the entire globe is in its grip. This enemy is nothing but the deadly Coronavirus. The scourge started from Wuhan City of China which has claimed to have contained it. But the enemy spread its tentacles and engulfed the entire world within a very short period of time. As the present statistics suggests, more than three lakh people have lost their lives across all continents. The greatest loss has occurred to the all powerful nation, the USA, which, for all its progress in science and technology, particularly in medical science, has failed to stop the onward march of this invisible foe. The European countries constitute the second largest hotspot. India too has come within its grips, but thanks to timely steps taken by the government, the loss of lives has been contained to some extent, though, of course, complacency of any kind is fraught with grave results. The World Health Organisation has declared Coronavirus outbreak a Pandemic and has named this scourge Covid-19. It has warned the world that the fight against this invisible enemy is going to be long. Why has such a tragic course of events transpired? Why is the world facing such a grim scenario never heard of before? Pandemics have occurred in the past also, but none like this one ever before. The most worrying aspect of this disease is that it spreads through contact and it is almost impossible to avoid human contacts completely. Scientists of the world are working day and

night to discover treatment of this disease, but success is still eluding them. Governments of the world are trying their best to tackle the menace, which has already devastated the economies of a number of countries, and still threatens to cause even greater loss. Amid these times, great responsibilities have devolved on the common citizenry. What is required is the adoption of necessary precautions and to strictly follow the guidelines prescribed by the authorities. Each one of us has to take proper care of himself or herself. Maintaining social distancing till the time the scourge is defeated is absolutely necessary. If everyone of us becomes conscious and takes necessary measures to keep the invisible foe at bay, the battle will certainly be won. Let us now, one and all, take a pledge to decimate the pestilence by contributing our best, by acting in the desired direction.

Zoonotic Diseases Due to Biodiversity Loss : Scientists link outbreaks such as Covid-19 to **biodiversity loss**. Zoonotic diseases are those that spread from animals to humans.