

Essay

"COVID-19, INDIA AND THE WORLD"

Sometimes, it takes a natural disaster to showcase the social disaster. Right now, The World is going through a social and biological disaster that had completely ruined and stopped the human race. The pandemic, COVID-19 or Coronavirus disease, is a global disease that had affected 210 countries around the globe leading to the death of 18,59,011 people all over the world. The COVID-19 pandemic is first and foremost a humanitarian crisis. The health emergency that the coronavirus is waking us up to is connected to the emergency of extinction and disappearance of species, and it is connected to the climate emergency. All emergencies are rooted in a mechanistic, militaristic, anthropocentric world view of humans as separate from, and superior to other beings whom we can own, manipulate and control. It is also rooted in an economic model based on the illusion of limitless growth and limitless greed which systematically violates planetary boundaries and ecosystem and species integrity.

The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War II. The coronavirus family causes illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), according to the WHO. Most people who are infected with the COVID-19 virus experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Old people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Coronavirus syndrome is a harmful disease. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect ourselves and others from infection by washing our hands or using an alcohol-based

sanitizer frequently and not touching our face. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow) COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Around 1 out of every 6 people who get COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness

. At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, many ongoing clinical trials are evaluating potential treatments. WHO will continue to provide updated information as soon as clinical findings become available. The outbreak was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March WHO Country Office for India has been working closely with MoHFW on preparedness and response measures for COVID-19, including surveillance and contact tracing, laboratory diagnosis, risk communications, and community engagement, hospital preparedness, infection prevention and control, and implementation of containment plan. The challenges are political and institutional, social, environmental, technological, and pathogen-related, are being brought to the foreground by the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak. The coronavirus has turned our world upside down. Countries, societies, families, and individuals are affected in so many ways. During this global crisis, we believe that this is also a time for innovation, for finding new and better ways to tackle our global challenges.

“We need new pathways for a just and speedy transition to sustainable development, a form of development that doesn't damage the natural world upon which we all depend for our survival.”

Countries are racing to slow the spread of the virus by testing and treating patients, carrying out contact tracing, limiting travel, quarantining citizens, and canceling large gatherings such as sporting events, concerts, and schools.

The pandemic is moving like a wave—one that may yet crash on those least able to cope.

. Coronavirus has a great impact on the economy of the country as it brings the slow down to the economy and causes much harm to the growth of the country. The countries are getting into the recession through the coronavirus, the share marketing is declining and there is a loss in the global income of the country. The economy is getting worst as the global supply chain is declining and people are also facing many other issues.

Governments across the world have halted flights, locked downtowns, and cities and urged people to stay at home European countries have seen steep rises in cases and deaths, but slowing infection rates are raising hopes that strict social distancing measures are curbing the spread of the virus. The European Space Agency has registered an impressive fall in pollution across the European skies. The majority of countries in Europe now have strict lockdowns in place, with many only allowing citizens to leave their homes to buy essential items or exercise.

In Paris, authorities have even banned exercise during the day to reduce the number of people out on the streets. India's government told the country's 1.3 billion residents to stay at home last month and there are similar restrictions on movement and social contact across the world in countries like Argentina, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa.

Italy has the highest toll of any single country in the world, with more than 18,200 deaths so far, but recent data suggests the infection rate is slowing.

Different countries are taking essential steps to control the outbreak of the coronavirus. China's government's actions have been effective, quarantine measures have been gradually lifted and social and economic life is slowly returning to normal. In the event of a four-week economic

disruption, China will feel the effect of closures of production sites and lack of demand from the United States and Europe, but production will quickly return to normal driven by pent-up domestic demand and demand from key trading partners post-lockdown (Japan, South Korea). The result will be a drop in GDP growth of just 1.9 percentage points in 2020 compared to the pre-crisis base case. Whether the economic disruption lasts four weeks or twelve, the impact on the industry will be two-fold, affecting both annual profitability and short-term liquidity. One issue is how prepared the world's health systems are to respond to an outbreak of this scale. The large number of cases of COVID-19 is testing the health system in China. Yet, China was able to build a hospital for affected patients in a matter of days. No other country could mobilize resources and manpower at such speed. While health systems in high-income countries would be stretched by the outbreak, the most devastating effects would be in countries with weak health systems, ongoing conflicts, or existing infectious disease epidemics. In these countries, it is imperative to rapidly detect and contain the virus at points of entry to prevent community transmission and health systems from being overwhelmed. Health authorities in Africa are on high alert for the virus, given the continent's extensive trade and transport links with Asia. The capacity in Africa to screen, isolate, and treat patients and perform contact tracing is being built under the leadership of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and WHO.

As in all outbreaks, there is an urgent need to develop effective diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. Several experimental diagnostic platforms are already in use in China and elsewhere. The whole-genome sequence of SARS-CoV-2 had been obtained and shared widely by mid-January, a feat not possible at such speed in previous infectious disease outbreaks. This sequence will allow the fine-tuning of existing technologies and the development of better diagnostics and targeted therapeutics. However, no antiviral treatment has been approved for coronaviruses, and despite two outbreaks of novel coronaviruses in the past two decades, vaccine development is still in its infancy. WHO has announced that a vaccine for SARS-CoV-2 should be available in 18

months, but achieving this will require funding and public interest to be maintained even if the threat level falls.

Social media and sensationalist reporting are challenging outbreak response efforts. Misinformation and conspiracy theories spread on social media have generated panic and mistrust among the general public, diverted attention away from the outbreak response, and impeded the activities of health-care workers. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said WHO is tackling the spread of false information with a “four-pronged approach”, including using its WHO Information Network for Epidemics platform to track misinformation in multiple languages and collaborating with social and digital companies such as Facebook, Weibo, and Twitter to filter out false information. . The initial response in China to contain the virus was applauded by WHO and considered much improved compared with its response to the 2003 SARS-CoV epidemic. Internationally, we have seen rapid generation and sharing of knowledge to the benefit of the outbreak response, but also counterproductive actions by some countries, including limiting trade and shutting of borders, to its detriment. With the increasing frequency of zoonotic spillovers leading to human infections and transmission, it's apparent that pandemic preparedness has become a priority for the global health agenda.

The industry has limited options for catching up after the crisis has ended, putting 2020 results under immense pressure With more than 466,000 cases, the US has more confirmed infections than any other country. New York state itself, with more than 161,000 cases, has more than any other single country outside the US. There is a drastic fall in the US's growth in every sector whether its primary, secondary or tertiary. . More than 6.6 million Americans filed unemployment claims last week, for the second week in a row. The US Federal Reserve unveiled plans to provide \$2.3 billion in loans to small and midsize businesses, as well as cities and states. The economic downturn is expected to be the worst recession since the Great Depression, the IMF says. The novel coronavirus disease that emerged at the end of 2019 began threatening

the health and lives of millions of people after a few weeks. Highly contagious with the possibility of causing severe respiratory disease, it has quickly impacted governments and public health systems. These have responded by declaring a public health emergency of national and international concern, as well as by adopting extraordinary measures to prevent the contagion and limit the outbreak. Millions of lives have been significantly altered, and a global, multi-level, and demanding stress-coping-adjustment process is ongoing. The COVID-19 disease has now achieved pandemic status.

The World Health Organization has issued guidelines for managing the problem from both biomedical and psychological points of view. While preventive and medical action is the most important at this stage, emergency psychological crisis interventions for people affected by COVID-19 are also critical. This includes direct interventions for patients, and indirect for relatives, caregivers, and health care professionals. The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global shock that magnifies the impact of inequality, hitting the poor the hardest. In developed countries, frontline workers in the service economy are among the most exposed to the virus and the least able to absorb its financial impact. And the hardest hit will be the poor in developing countries, where already-struggling workers will not have the benefit of social safety nets and stimulus packages.

The G7 and G20 must immediately help these countries to finance the flattening of the pandemic curve. The government of India is taking all necessary steps to ensure that we are prepared well to face the challenge and threat posed by the growing pandemic of COVID-19 the Corona Virus. With the active support of the people of India, we have been able to contain the spread of the virus in our country. The most important factor in preventing the spread of the Virus locally is to empower the citizens with the right information and taking precautions as per the advisories being issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

"India is at a crucial juncture in its fight against COVID-19. The country has responded with urgency and determination as reflected in the Prime Minister's bold and decisive leadership. The government has also aggressively stepped up the response measures - find, isolate, test, treat and trace. WHO is supporting the government's endeavor to further strengthen and intensify surveillance and build the capacity of the health system. On 24 March, the Government of India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days, limiting movement of the entire 1.3 billion population of India as a preventive measure against the pandemic. It was ordered after a 14-hour voluntary public curfew on 22 March, followed by enforcement of a series of regulations in the country's COVID-19 affected regions.

The lockdown was placed when the number of confirmed positive coronavirus cases in India was approximately 500. The lockdown restricts people from stepping out of their homes. All transport services – road, air, and rail were suspended with exceptions for transportation of essential goods, fire, police and emergency services. Educational institutions, industrial establishments, and hospitality services were also suspended. Services such as food shops, banks and ATMs, petrol pumps, other essentials, and their manufacturing are exempted. On 26 March, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced ₹170,000 crores (US\$24 billion) stimulus package to help those affected by the lockdown. The package was aimed to provide food security measures for poor households through direct cash transfers, free cereals and cooking gas for three months. It also provided insurance cover for medical personnel. An estimated 139 million migrant workers from the countryside work in India's cities and towns. With factories and workplaces shut down, they were left with no livelihood. On 29 March, the government issued sweeping orders directing that the landlords should not demand rent during the period of the lockdown and that employers should pay wages without deduction. The order issued by the Home Ministry on 24 March allowed the functioning of shops dealing with food items as well as the manufacturing units and transportation of "essential goods". India, like most parts of the world, is in a race against

time to procure personal protective equipment (PPE) for the safety of its medical teams fighting to halt the spread of coronavirus.

The country has reported more than 8,500 coronavirus cases and at least 289 have died. The first 100 cases were mostly reported in cities, but now more people have tested positive in smaller towns and cities.

This has generated a huge demand for protective equipment for doctors and health workers across the country, and state governments are struggling to cope with it.

- The COVID-19 infection rate in India remains low relative to population size.
- Some credit fast government action to quarantine people and shut borders.
- Response is “impressive,” says the World Health Organization.
- But officials are still preparing for a broader outbreak and community transmission.

India reported its third death from COVID-19 on Tuesday.

Despite being the world’s second-most populous country, with more than 1.3 billion people, the nation has reported three deaths around 150 cases, giving rise to questions about why the virus has not spread as rapidly as elsewhere.

For some, the answer is the fast action that India’s government took as the virus spread from China to many parts of the world. And if the relatively low number of cases continues, it could make the nation a blueprint for others seeking to limit the impact.

- However, the lack of clarity on "essential goods" meant that the policemen on the streets stopped workers going to factories and the trucks carrying food items. Food industries also faced shortages of labor because the workers were unable to reach workplaces and the factory managers faced the fear of legal action. All these factors combined result in shortages and a rise in the prices of food items. With more than 1 million confirmed cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus worldwide, businesses are coping with lost revenue and

disrupted supply chains as factory shutdowns and quarantine measures spread across the globe, restricting movement and commerce. Unemployment is skyrocketing, while policymakers across countries race to implement fiscal and monetary measures to alleviate the financial burden on citizens and shore up economies under severe strain.

- The International Monetary Fund on 9 April said the coronavirus pandemic had instigated an economic downturn the likes of which the world has not experienced since the Great Depression. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, there are global, economic, cultural, and social impacts on the people across the globe. The pandemic has impacted religion in various ways, including the cancellation of the worship services of various faiths, the closure of schools, as well as the cancellation of pilgrimages surrounding observances and festivals. Many churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples have offered worship through live stream amidst the pandemic. Relief wings of religious organizations have dispatched medical supplies and other aid to the affected areas. Economic turmoil associated with the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic has wide-ranging and severe impacts upon financial markets, including stock, bond, and commodity (including crude oil and gold) markets. Major events included a described Russia–Saudi Arabia oil price war after failing to reach an OPEC+ agreement that resulted in a collapse of crude oil prices and a stock market crash in March 2020. The effects upon markets are part of the coronavirus recession and among the many socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.
- The pandemic has impacted the film industry. Across the world and to varying degrees, cinemas have been closed, festivals have been canceled or postponed, and film releases have been moved to future dates. As cinemas closed, the global box office dropped by billions of dollars, while streaming became more popular and the stock of Netflix rose; the stock of film exhibitors dropped dramatically. Most major sporting events were canceled or postponed including the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, which was postponed until 2021 on 24

March 2020. The 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic has shut down or delayed the production of television programs in several countries.

- **The outbreak of Coronavirus COVID-19 presents the tourism sector with a major and evolving challenge.**
- **The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has strengthened its collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The two UN agencies met in Geneva to further advance a coordinated response to COVID-19.**
- **UNWTO calls for solid international leadership and for tourism to be included as a priority in future recovery efforts.**

Apart from these, there is a disastrous effect on the student's education. Nowadays, due to lockdowns in various countries classes are getting conducted online on ZOOM CLOUD MEETING, an online app. But as in Singapore, the government has suspended the use of Zoom for online education after hackers hijacked a lesson and showed obscene images to students. Therefore, the education of students is badly deteriorating.

People are unfortunately trapped, and bound to stay at their homes. The deadliest effects are that the economy is badly deteriorated, global shares are hit, travel restrictions, unemployment, price of gold is jumping back, oil rallies and many more. Nearly 25 million jobs could be lost worldwide due to the coronavirus pandemic, but an internationally coordinated policy response can help lower the impact on global unemployment, according to a UN agency.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guter's warned the UN Security Council on Thursday that the coronavirus pandemic is threatening international peace and security - "potentially leading to an increase in social unrest and violence that would greatly undermine our ability to fight the disease" Health is a fundamental human right and the foundation of economic prosperity and security. This global crisis is a

sharp reminder that everyone everywhere should have access to quality and affordable health services. “This is the moment for all of us to rise to the challenge of collaborative leadership and work together to find pathways to emerge from this emergency with a global economic reset. People and nature must be at the center of this deep transformation for redistribution, regeneration, and restoration. Prosperity for people and the planet is possible only if we make bold decisions today so that future generations can survive and thrive in a better world.”. GDP is currently taking a severe beating. However, the size of the impact in different parts of the world will depend fundamentally on how long the present economic disruption lasts. We foresee a drop in GDP growth in 2020 compared to the pre-crisis base case ranging from 1.9 to 7.1 percentage points. We cannot stop natural disaster “COVID-19” but we can arm ourselves and save the lives of people with knowledge, awareness, and preparedness. Once Abraham Lincoln said, “**Next to creating a life, the finest thing a man can do is to save one.**”

So,

STAY SAFE, STAY HOME AND STAY PROTECTED.....

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