

Finding the 'Reboot Code': A Study on the Future of Indian Economy Post Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

The covid-19 pandemic has not only brought the fear of losing lives but also the financial threat to the world economy. Since the time Lockdown 1.0 has been imposed in India on 23rd March 2020, the economic condition of the country has shaken. The Indian economy has been hit by the pandemic in the worst ways possible concerning consumption, manufacturing, exports and capital flows. There is no doubt that before the pandemic which triggered from China, India has been growing based on these four pillars. This present shock that all human beings have encountered and experienced is broad and deep and has certainly put the world economy into a major setback. However, on the positive note, if challenges can be turned into opportunities backed up by government support, it is worthwhile to mention that the economy will not be the same post-pandemic. The world economy will revive dealing with the "new normal" leading to a "new horizon". The objective of this research paper is to critically analyse the various dimensions of the Indian economy dealing with the pandemic crisis. The economic areas that are fighting the crisis and struggling hard to revitalize will be evaluated to find positive magnitude. The research work will be based on secondary data and will focus primarily on finding out ways to achieve the "reboot code" for Indian economy post covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Pandemic, world economy, Indian economy, covid-19, crisis.

Introduction

The Indian citizens, at present, have no idea about where they are standing in the timeline of the Covid-19 pandemic. The world is shaken by the vigorous spread of the virus and the government have failed to

contain the infection chain even after applying every possible measure to control the spread of the infection like maintaining social distancing, self-quarantine, shutting down physical operations of places which experience huge crowd everyday such as educational institutions, corporate organizations, shopping malls and public palaces. Vaccines are reportedly on their way but how long will they travel to reach the general people of our country is uncertain. In a nutshell, it can be stated that the life certainty of Indians are at stake and there is no way out to get rid of this situation.

Along with life-threatening, it is definite by now that the second threat to the people is their economy. The Indian economy has been facing tremendous crisis soon after the declaration of lockdown and since then there is little or no improvement for the country. The world has witnessed several pandemics before Covid-19 such as the HIV (1981-present), H1N1 Swine flu (2009-2010), Spanish flu (1918) and the many returns of cholera.¹ If the economic condition imposed upon by the previous pandemics is observed, the adverse conditions can be easily estimated. India has recorded its first Covid-19 case on 30 January 2020² and since then the graph of the number of infected cases has not seen a downtrend in the country. The first case of the pandemic has not only carried bad news for human health but also the economy as a whole.

Figure.1 showing the trend of Covid-19 cases on per day basis in India depicts the failure of human civilization and governmental policy formulation towards controlling the spread of the virus infection. Despite the implementation of every possible measures such as imposing strict lockdown and maintain social distance in the society, the above figures spiral unabated. However, it would be incorrect to state that society and government have completely failed to control the spread. This is because

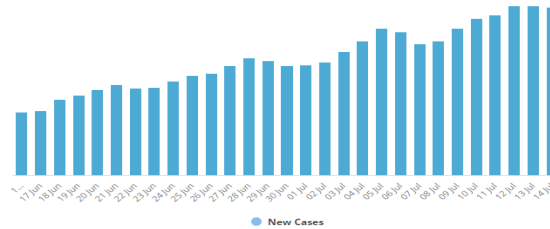
¹ T. Newman, "Comparing Covid-19 with previous pandemics," *Medical News Today*, 2020, Retrieved online <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/comparing-covid-19-with-previous-pandemics#The-many-returns-of-cholera>

² D. Reid, "India Confirms its First Coronavirus Case," *Health and Science*, 2020, *CNB*, Retrieved online <https://www.cnb.com/2020/01/30/india-confirms-first-case-of-the-coronavirus.html>

in a densely populous country like India, it has been managed to hold community transmission as reported by the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research). Owing to tremendous pressure on the economy, the central government decided gradually ease the lockdown and thus a series of “unlock” have started since then.

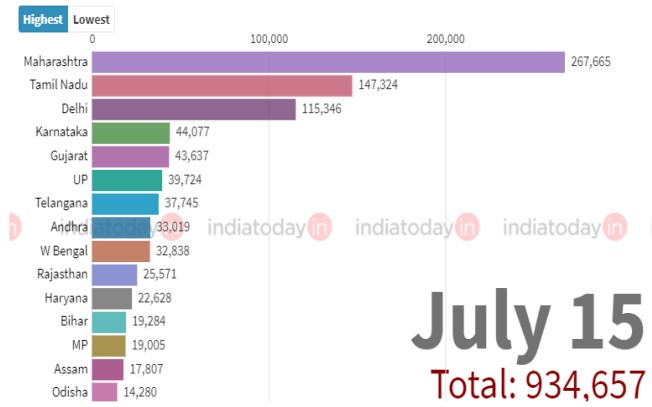
Figure1: Day-wise Covid-19 infected cases in India during the last 1 month

Coronavirus cases in India per day



Source: Data published in Hindustan Times as on 14th July 2020³

Figure 2: State wise corona virus infected cases in India till 15th July 2020



³ Hindustan Times. (2020). COVID-19 Statistics for India. *E-Paper*. Retrieved online <https://www.hindustantimes.com/coronavirus/coronavirus-outbreak-in-india-covid-19-pandemic-latest-updates/>

Source: Data published in India Today⁴

Standing at this juncture, for the general human population, there is no other way than staying positive for an unforeseen future. Nonetheless, whether it is really appropriate to think positive or not is the absolute question! The economy has faced complete shutdown of several firms in different sectors whose worst impacts have been felt by India's poor. Evaluating the true nature of Covid-19 shock to the economy, the degree of its impact, and continuities and discontinuities from the previous and similar shocks is extremely important for proper policy formulation by the government. Also the impact of Covid-19 upon Indian households and several macroeconomic factors have to be critically analysed before measuring effective policy responses. This research paper aims to identify the areas in which the Indian government has to focus in order to revive the present economic condition. The measures through which the government of India can transform challenges into opportunities will be evaluated.

Paraphernalia of literature on the economic impact of the pandemic Ozili and Arun (2020) have presented an important study through their research paper in which the factors behind pushing a health crisis into a global economic crisis have been evaluated. The researchers have presented empirical evidence that depicts two facts about the corona virus' magnitude of impact upon economy. The first being the encouragement of social distancing due to the virus leading to adverse effects on the financial market, corporate houses and other institutions. And the second fact is that on anticipating high uncertainty of the future situation, consumers had mostly shifted to lesser consumption and lesser investment that had a direct negative impact on the economy.⁵ Dev and Sengupta (2020) have presented a descriptive paper on the Indian economic state before the Covid-19 period and the effect of the

⁴ "Corona virus tracker: State-wise data, daily trends, patients recovered, deaths and more," *India Today*, March 9, 2020.

⁵ P. Ozili, & T. Arun, "Spillover of COVID-19: Impact on the Global Economy," *SSRN Electronic Journal*, · March 2020 DOI: 10.2139/ssrn.3562570.

virus spread on several parts of the economy. The different monetary and fiscal policies of the central and state governments in India have also been analysed in the paper. They have provided certain policy recommendations to the government where they have measured the vulnerability of the situation and on how dynamic the government should be in their policy formulation.⁶ The Indian economy was severely affected during the beginning of the spread of the virus and has been depicted in a research study by Kumar, Thombare & Kale (2020). The researchers have provided evidence that India stood at among the top 15 countries that were affected due to the slow manufacturing operations in China. Sector-wise predicted impact on chemical industries, auto industries, electronics industry, foreign trade and poultry farms depicts negative consequences.⁷ McKibbin and Fernando (2020) have also conducted a study upon the severity of the virus infection around the globe and they measured the economic impact of it on the GDP of different affected countries. After a thorough analysis of the world economic condition, the authors have magnified the importance of short term and long term policy response of the government. While short term responses would make sure that the dismantled economy continues its operations, at the same time longer policy responses would take care of the future anomalies that can be caused by the prolonged viral times - in case health professionals fail to contain it by research and development.⁸

The global economic impact of Covid-19 has also been measured by Jackson *et. al.* (2020) and in their research report, they have provided an estimated cost of the economy around the world due to the pandemic. The researchers have also analysed policy responses of the government that are aimed at

⁶ S.M. Dev, & R. Sengupta, "Covid-19: Impact on the Indian Economy," *Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research*, Mumbai, WP-2020-013.

⁷ S. Kumar, P.B. Thombare & P.A. Kale, "Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on Indian economy," *Agriculture and Food* 2, 4(2020): 301-2.

⁸ W. McKibbin, and R. Fernando,(2020), "Economic Impacts of Covid-19," *Centre for Economic Policy Research*, 23rd July 2020.

addressing the impact effectively. However, the authors have admitted that owing to the high level of uncertainty about the spread of the virus, it is extremely difficult to estimate the actual global economic cost.⁹ Carrying all the negativities, the research work conducted by Rakshit and Paul (2020) is a positive eye-opener for the Indian business firms. The authors have brilliantly focused upon the importance of generating and implementing survival strategies by the firms so that they can transform the pandemic challenges into opportunities. They have suggested several proactive survival strategies that are efficient enough to control economic anomalies of the corona virus spread and at the same time can help businesses to sail alive through the present tough times.¹⁰ Maliszewska, Mattoo and Mensbrugge (2020) have also studied the global shock triggered by Covid-19. An equilibrium model has been used by the researchers to measure the impact of Covid-19 on trade and GDP of the countries. The global economic shock has been summarized by the authors as forced under utilization on capital and labour, enhanced cost of international trading activities, the downfall of the travel industry and lessening of demand in the services that indulges human interaction.¹¹ McKibbin and Fernando (2020) have even utilized a model to demonstrate how to develop survival policy and deal with the adverse situation caused by the outbreak of Covid-19. They have focused on the fact that even a contained spread of diseases can vigorously affect the world economy. The model depicts that these crisis scenarios can be handled by avoiding huge costs and investing more in public health services particularly more in countries that have high population volume but are less

⁹ J.K. Jackson, *et. al.*, "Global Economic Effects of COVID-19", *Congressional Research Service*, 2020 <https://crsreports.congress.gov/R46270>.

¹⁰ D. Rakshit, and A. Paul, "Impact of Covid-19 on Sectors of Indian Economy and Business Survival Strategies", *International Journal of Engineering and Management Research* 10, 3(2020): 51-55.

¹¹ M. Maliszewska, A. Mattoo, and D. Mensbrugge, "The Potential Impact of COVID-19 on GDP and Trade," *Policy Research Working Paper 9211*, World Bank, 2020.

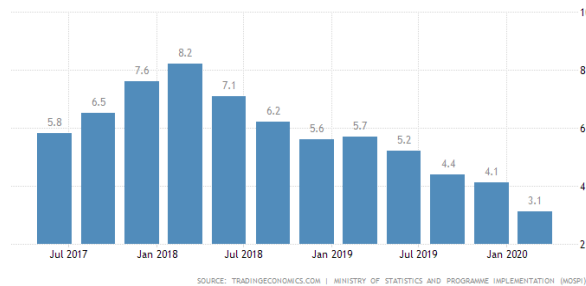
developed.¹²

We/One could look at the present challenges faced by the Indian economy as a consequence of the pandemonium in the following sectors:

Foreign Trade and Manufacturing

The Covid-19 pandemic has already destroyed the economic ground of the global economy. The World Trade Organization has already predicted that global trade may witness a sharp fall across 13% to 32% during the year 2020. This data gives a devastating notion about an anticipated recession in the world economy. However, experts believe that with government intervention in the economy and designing of commensurate policies, the world economic scenario can definitely revive. The Indian consumers have suddenly faced reduction in their income that has given rise to falling demand. The sudden lockdown in every sectors of the country except essentials and complete shutdown of some monetarily weak business firms have added to paralyzing the economy with depressed supply of goods and services.¹³ The figure showing the trend of GDP of Indian economy displays an alarming evidence of the economy gradually heading towards another recession.

Figure 2. GDP trend during the period 2017-2020



¹² W. McKibbin, and R. Fernando, "The Global Macroeconomic Impacts of COVID-19: Seven Scenarios", 2020. Retrieved online https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/20200302_COVID19.pdf

¹³ "COVID-19 Challenges for the Indian Economy: Trade and Foreign Policy Effects," EEPIC India, 2020. Retrieved Online https://www.eepcindia.org/eepc-download/617-Covid19_Report.pdf

Source: Tradingeconomics.com,
 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation¹⁴

On the country’s expense side, private spending and production, the following table summarize the severe Indian economic condition:

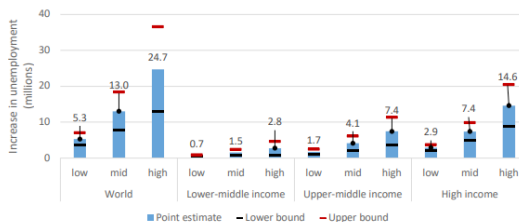
| Elements | Percentages |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Gross Fixed Capital Formation | -6.5% |
| Exports | -8.5% |
| Imports | -7% |
| Private spending | 2.7% |
| Inventories | 0.5% |
| Manufacturing | -1.4% |
| Contraction and construction | -2.2% |

Source: Tradingeconomics.com,
 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation¹⁵

Labour Markets

The initial forecast of the International Labour Organization depicts an enormous increase in the rate of unemployment and underemployment due to the spread of the virus around the globe. The following figure depicts the indicative rise in world unemployment level as compared to the world recession of 2008-09.

Figure 4: Increa



Note: The figure shows the estimated unemployment impact based on three GDP growth scenarios simulated by McKibbin and Fernando (2020). The error bounds present the range of uncertainty stemming from the unemployment projection model but taking the GDP growth scenario as given.

¹⁴ “India GDP Annual Growth Rate,” Tradingeconomics.org.,2020. Retrieved Online <https://tradingeconomics.com/india/gdp-growth-annual>

¹⁵ Ibid.

Source: International Labour Organization, 2020¹⁶.

Gaining insights from the world unemployment data, it can be stated that loss of jobs is the most acute and immediate effect of Covid-19. This fact can be also supported by a survey result of the ISLE (Indian Society of Labour Economics). According to the survey results, while unemployment happens to be the short term effect, an increase in inequality and declining economic growth stands for the long run.¹⁷ The greatest challenge to the Indian government at the scenario is to successfully implement support policy measures for the MSMEs, prolongation of MGNREGA, generation of employment opportunities, cash and social security to the affected population, the building of efficient public health system and policies for safeguarding and supporting the migrants' rights and welfare.

Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry

The pharmaceutical industry of India is amongst the world's best industries occupying the third position in terms of volume. This industry produces 60% of the vaccines required all over the world. Along with many other vaccines like BCG, Tetanus, DPT and Diphtheria, Indian pharmaceutical industry meets 90% of the measles vaccine demand around the world. India supplies a huge portion of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) to countries around the world which are required for manufacturing generic drugs. However, the outbreak of the pandemic had compelled the Indian pharmaceutical industry to rely heavily on China for its procurement of the API. Before the globalization era, India used to import a meagre 0.3% of its required API from China but the globalisation of drugs companies in India along with the increase in

¹⁶ "COVID-19 and the world of work: Impact and policy responses", *ILO Monitor 1st Ed.*, International Labour Organization, 2020.

¹⁷ "Job loss most severe immediate impact of COVID-19: Survey," *The Economic Times*, 11th July 2020. Retrieved online <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/jobs/job-loss-most-severe-immediate-impact-of-covid-19-survey/articleshow/76323649.cms?from=mdr>

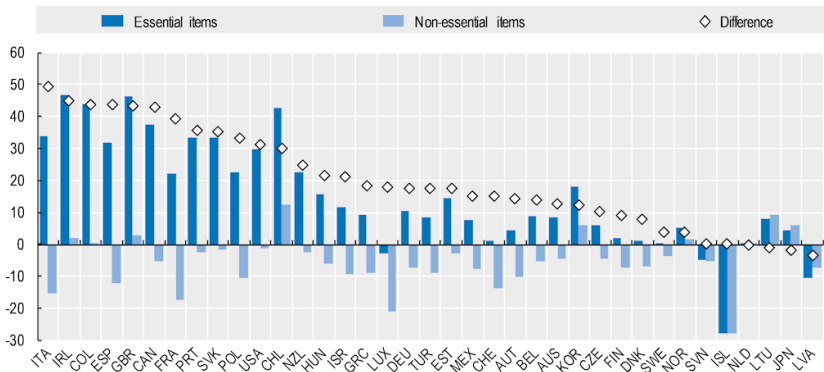
a high volume of manufacturing had urged India to depend much on China. It is, though, noteworthy to mention that the dependency factor is much more driven by the lesser cost of production in the Chinese market. This fact is a serious matter of concern for the health security of the Indian market. This, at a time, had urged the Indian government to conduct a review analysis of the API sector in our country itself.¹⁸ Recent reports have been observed that India's raw materials shipment for the pharmaceutical farms has been relaxed on ports.

Retail (non-food item)

There are more than 15 million retailers in the Indian retail sector that composes of different types such as small, big, modern and traditional retailers. Both the traditional and modern retail sector in India plays a crucial role in affecting the employment rate in the country. 40% of consumption rate in India is triggered by the retail sector and this sector contributes towards 10% of India's GDP. However, the imposition of the lockdown has greatly impacted the rate of sales in the retail industry as other than essential items selling retail stores like food and grocery, all other retail shops had to be kept close. This fact has already resulted in the dropping of sales near about 80 to 90 percent in the non-food retail industry. The most noticeable problem is that in the retail industry, 85 percent of the total costs are fixed in nature. Due to this, the retail firms are facing tremendous liquidity insufficiency that is giving rise to unemployment in this sector. It has become a challenge for the Indian government to ensure that the liquidity is restored in this sector. It is also a mandate now for the retail sectors in India that they adapt to diversify their channels of distribution and quickly shifts from 'brick and mortar' model to the 'online' mode.

¹⁸ A. Dadhich, "The COVID-19 pandemic and the Indian pharmaceutical industry," *European Pharmaceutical Review*, 2020. Retrieved online at <https://www.europeanpharmaceuticalreview.com/article/117413/the-covid-19-pandemic-and-the-indian-pharmaceutical-industry/>

Figure 5: Preference of worldwide consumers towards essential and non-essential items



Source: OECD Records¹⁹

The above figure depicts the preference of worldwide consumers towards essential and non-essential items. The above figure uses data of browsing by consumers all around the globe.

Tourism

The tourism industry in India plays an important role in accelerating the GDP growth rate of the country. However, in the recovery package of the government during the ongoing pandemic crisis has somehow ignored this industry. But the ignorance has been considered as the better option than trying to foster it as a measure for controlling the virus spread. The strict restrictions on travel and imposition of complete lockdown in the country have already paused the tourism industry. It is predicted that this industry, especially leisure tourism will take the longest time to recover amongst all other sectors in India. Thus the states like Sikkim, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Goa, Himachal Pradesh will

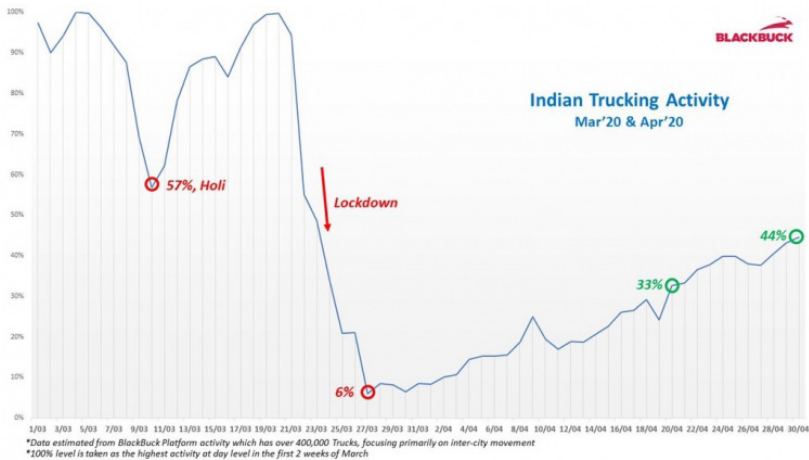
¹⁹ "COVID-19 and the retail sector: Impact and policy responses," *OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19)*. OECD Library, 2020. Retrieved online https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=134_134473-kuqn636n26&title=COVID-19-and-the-retail-sector-impact-and-policy-responses

have to face huge economical set back because a major part of their state revenue is generated through tourists visits. This fact will have a direct impact on employment in this sector. Not only this, but the country will also lose a major share of earnings through foreign exchange due to reducing or no flow of foreign tourists.

Logistics

The impact of Covid-19 on logistics industry can be termed to be severe. The first reason is the extreme slowdown of the tourism industry amidst lockdown and extensive spread of the virus. Even if the tourism industry revives its motion, still the risk aversion motive of travellers would delay the recovery. On the other side, cargo traffic has picked up as businesses have resumed activities after unlocking declaration. However, as the consumer expenditure is low these days, thus the overall recovery of the cargo logistics will also take ample time. According to India Ratings, the volume of logistics companies in India is predicted to fall by 10 to 15 percent during the present financial year (2020-21). The biggest challenge in this industry is that even if the government announces recovery packages, still the export-import domain of the country will remain low due to low consumption expenditure. It has also been presumed that rate of profitability and cash flows are critical and difficult to be estimated because there is less clarity over the cost reduction techniques to be followed by the companies and the support that has been extended by the government.²⁰

²⁰ "Inland logistics players' volume may fall 10-15% in current financial year: India Ratings," ETAuto.com., 2020. Retrieved online <https://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/aftermarket/inland-logistics-players-volume-may-fall-10-15-pc-in-current-financial-year-india-ratings/75297313>

Figure 6: Movement of Trucks on Indian roadsSource: Smallcase.com²¹

The prediction of the India Rating can be validated by the above actual movement of Trucks in India before and during the lockdown. It can be observed from the graph that although the recovery is set and is occurring, still the V-shaped recovery in this industry cannot be expected. As the graph depicts, the strongest effect of Covid-19 on the truck movement in India was observed during the initial days of the lockdown where the movement fell by around 95%. The rest of the movements were witnessed because of the essential items. Throughout April and May, a slow yet steady recovery was observed due to relaxations of movements in non-hotspot zones. Finally, driven by the FMCG and agricultural industry, 40% of the trucks came back to movement on roads by April 30, 2020.

Automotive Industry

The global panic created by the outbreak of the pandemic has arrived

²¹ "Impact of Covid-19 on Trucking and Logistics Sector - Part 1". Retrieved online at <https://blog.smallcase.com/impact-of-covid-19-on-trucking-and-logistics-sector-part-1/>

at a time in which economies like India was already going through the recovery phase. Post Covid-19, the anticipated positive GDP growth would transform into a negative, the exact magnitude of which can only be calculated once the situation is normalised. The same adverse effect has been observed in the automotive industry as well. The onset of the present pandemic will leave behind an overall impact on the industry's revenue of around 2 billion every month. It has been estimated that passenger's vehicles demand will remain low for many days now. On the other side, the two wheeler and farming vehicle market is expected to see a rise gradually once the unlock series takes leap. Adding to this, the growth or decline in the demand for commercial vehicles has been attributed to government investment in voluminous projects of infrastructure and also the available liquidity.²²

Media and Entertainment

According to the report of FICCI and CRISIL, the media and entertainment industry of India is at present standing at a loss of 25000 crore of rupees, 1.82 trillion had been this industry's total worth in the year 2019.²³ The 'over the top' services or the ones that are provided through internet have been observed to be blooming during this lockdown period whereas the reverse can be seen in the box offices. The daily earners in this industry were the worst affected ones as the shooting had stopped completely during the mid of March 2020.

It is evident that when social distancing is the only medicine to stop the spread of coronavirus, people will be prevented to visit theatres even when these are opening gradually after the unlock. However, a different scenario can be observed in the television viewers' statistics. As people

²² R. Mishra, "COVID-19 impact on Indian automotive industry: Taking action in troubled times, *Economic Times*, 2nd April 2020. Retrieved online <https://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/opinion-covid-19-impact-on-indian-automotive-industry-taking-action-in-troubled-times/74944847>

²³ P. Maliseti, "Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Media and Entertainment Industry, *Entrepreneur*, 3rd June 2020. Retrieved online <https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/351424>

resort to home quarantine, as per the data of April, the number of TV viewers had significantly enhanced by 62 million. The weekly number of TV viewers had depicted 23% increase. General news channels also marked a sudden surge. A staggering 298 percent and 180 percent increase in viewers could be seen in the general news channel and business news channel respectively. Infotainment and movie channels are next on the list with 63 percent and 56 percent marks.²⁴

Path Forward for Rebooting the Economy

The challenges have to be mitigated as soon as possible by all the economies of the world if they want to respond positively to the economic contagion carried by the coronavirus pandemic. As a reply, the US government has declared an economic relief package of 2 trillion dollars aimed at rescuing the low-income group people who are hit by the global crisis. In this juncture, India is no exception to have followed the world's developed economy's trend and has announced packages aimed at transferring income to the poor. The decision came along with accompanying measures and policies that aim to enhance the country's liquidity. However, these decisions are short term economy boosters and India needs to also focus upon long term strategies to cope up with the revival path of the economy. The decision of the giant manufacturing countries in the world to diversify their value chain sources should be taken as an opportunity by Indian concerns and they need to develop plans right now so that they cope up with the stiff competition with other Asian and European countries.

The pandemic's impact upon the demand side of the country is quite uncertain whose revival period cannot be estimated precisely. India is in, at present, desperate need for proactive strategies and not reactive strategies to fight against the economic impacts of Covid-19. Keeping in mind the economical features of India, although it would be not viable

²⁴ "Corona virus impact: TV viewership continues to surge", *Economic Times*, 2nd April 2020. Retrieved online <https://brandequity.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/news/media/coronavirus-impact-tv-viewership-continues-to-surge/74949741>

to imitate the OECD countries' economic policies, there are still several measures the government can effectively take to combat the crisis. The local conditions have to be made such that the government is not forced to strictly adhere to the only fiscal deficit even in this time of unexpected and sudden economic crisis.

Covid-19 can be attributed to the negative side of the impacts of globalization. Along with unlocking all the boundaries of the market, globalization also carries a quick spread of epidemics all around the world. The disease that took birth in the Wuhan city of China is a reality in almost all parts of the world. The countries enriched in trade and commerce and tourism industry like the New York, Paris and London are the worst affected countries in the world. Similarly, within India as well, the cities that are connected to the world such as Mumbai, Ahmadabad, Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata are affected at a much higher degree. This indicates an alarm to the Indian economy to consider every possible way to cultivate trade and commerce activities within the country. Policies like "Atmanirbhar Bharat" has fine-tuned with the fact that will let the economy grow its plants that would definitely revive our economy and would also stop any future spread of the virus.

Apart from stopping or restricting foreign movements, another effective weapon to fight corona is inducing strict social distancing. But Indians have failed to make this technique effective and the curve of increasing cases every day is signifying exponential movement. The Korean experience proves that effective control and rapid eradication of the virus is possible if the tests of the suspected and isolation of the infected can also be done at the same rapid speed. Along with rapid testing and maintaining social distancing and lockdown effectively, South Korea has successfully controlled deaths has suggested measures like food delivery to the isolated and infected families are extremely effective. In this regard, this can itself be a rebooting code for Indian economy where online chains like Amazon are playing important role in delivering essentials to the Indian doorsteps. For the poor and severely affected population, such as the daily earners, the government should continue taking measures to ensure their minimum essential

requirements at their doorsteps at free of cost. But to make these happen, it is the duty of the government to monitor strictly whether the food and relief funds meant for the poor are reaching out to them or not.

The result of India's hurdles to survive through this pandemic is going to be positive or negative can only be answered with the passage of time. It is signified that the short term effects of Covid-19 in India are going to be negative. But India has the potential to come out successful and win a significant global market share over China. From the world perspective, China can no longer be considered as a trusted economy to deal with. The changing world notion can create an impulse of investment in the Indian economy and gradually with times, this economy can emerge as the most favourite destination of investment for foreign institutions and individuals.

The Indian market, at present, is almost hallowed by several monetary policy measures from the Reserve Bank of India. Credits are promoted for the MSMEs but looking at the present scenario, the credit offers may not turn out to be effective as most of the MSMEs are hit by lockdown in the containment areas. However, a changed or modified taxation system could have helped the MSMEs get to pass through this adverse condition. Firstly, the depositing of GST could have been delayed until situation normalises and Covid-19 leaves the country. Secondly, instead of allowing for credit, a major portion of GST deposits could have been removed. These steps would not only provide relief to the MSMEs but also allotted time for the sector to revive on its own without the credit burden.

Conclusion

The present pandemic in India has created unprecedented fear in the minds of the people as their future well being is at stake - worsening economic conditions, growing liabilities due to halt in liquid cash movement, non-availability of adequate health facilities, situational ill-treatment of the affected, inadequate safety equipment for the front line workers. Although the government is trying to mitigate the adverse

effects of the disease in the economy, still the populous nation requires more effective strategies. More healthcare facilities, timely treatment of the infected patients, motivational factors for the front line workers, and adequate fund for looking after the poor, generating awareness among the citizens and effective monetary and fiscal policy generation are the need of the hour for India.

Areas that are highly affected have been halted or cancelled their outreach programme. The private and semi-private organizations providing vaccination facility for the children have stopped working due to strict imposition of the lockdown. These facts have a severe indication for other diseases that already have a vaccination programme but are unavailable due to lockdown.

The coming days are extremely crucial as the number of detected cases is increasing at an alarming rate. Effective economy outlook with as much accuracy possible and public health management are the two success mantras for India now. These are to be appropriated and worked out simultaneously. On the one hand, there are instances to learn from other countries of the world, and on the other hand, India can gain insights from within the country and work accordingly. The state governments are invited to work hand-in-hand with the centre, also learning from the experiences in the states – that would determine the extent of the success as the vaccine is still awaited as we draw closure to December 2020. It is the perfect time to work as ‘one’ keeping aside differences, for a common cause.