

①

The Covid-19 Pandemic has changed the world forever.

A disease that is spread and affects a large number of people worldwide is called a pandemic. The Corona Virus Disease, being the recently hit pandemic, has put the world on crisis, bringing in new challenges and exposing the inequalities in society. This pandemic has also given a chance to rethink and an opportunity to make the world a better place.

This pandemic halted economies, created huge job losses and pushed millions into poverty. More than 150 million people will become poor says a world bank report. While the organised and white collar jobs managed somehow, blue collar workers suffered immensely worldwide.

Moreover, this pandemic compelled countries to impose long lockdowns confining people to their homes. News of immense loss of lives and also losing some family members affected mental health pushing many to depression. The fear of getting infected even lead to suicides at some places.

Furthermore prolonged lockdowns affected several sectors like transport, tourism, education. Core sectors like infrastructure & manufacturing.

All most all the countries, except very few, had negative growth.

In the globalised world, the supply chain was skewed and disruptions to it brought big challenges to countries, even to manage some very essential commodities. Oil based economies realised their vulnerable position in a future which is gonna be free from oil.

The conduct of WHO, failures in its role of coordinating and conducting an impartial probe to the origins of the virus raised many question on its current efficiency and created a lack of trust on it.

Many such new experiences for countries made them revisit their policies, trade relations and dependence, large scale disaster management preparedness, global cooperations during a deep crisis times and a lot of other related things.

As a result of these difficult times governments across the globe tried to fix the gaps in the system. Leaders realised the need for improved priorities to be given for public health for a good economic health of country. Also the global reliable cooperations' are necessary to tackle further such pandemics.

Secondly it amplified the voices of reforms in world bodies which have not been updated with the changing times. It coincided with the 75 year celebrations of UNO being virtual due to covid norms; which satirically held mirror for the consequences of a nearly failed governance of a body WHO.

Another important thing to be noticed is the pace at which global powers joined hands in the development of vaccines which gave big push for the basic sciences and its research. In future too the governments will push more funds into the science fields as a result of the realisation of its need.

World over governments struggled to provide healthcare, even in the developed countries. Developing countries and underdeveloped countries struggled a lot which costed many lives. All this reflected the state of Public health care systems and its neglected fundings. Pandemic changed this and made governments to strengthen grassroot public healthcare units.

Moreover, lockdowns made people stop running for a while in their busy life and revisit themselves, rebuild good family relationships, know neighbours each other well, discover their inner potentials, learn some new skills. But at the same time newspapers also reported an increase in domestic violence. However humanity paused for a while and pandemic gave a good opportunity to ponder about many things like self, family, nature, climate change etc.

3

Covid 19 Pandemic challenged both the developed and developing economies to a large scale and India too was not spared. With its proximity to the believed origins of the virus, Wuhan, China, and its huge populations and density at cities, lack of public hygiene, dwindling primary public healthcare system, a very big patient population to doctor ratio and all these in the backdrop of a slowly picking up economy which had slowed down largely in automobile sector in 2019.

Fortunately inspite of all these mammoth problems, timely intervention by the state implimenting strict lockdowns and phased releasing benefitted the citizens in saving lives, which has one of the least mortality rate.

Secondly the pandemic changed the way of functioning of a lot of sectors like the IT industry and education. lockdowns compelled for work from home and online education got a big boost thus opening flood gates for distance education. With this, post pandemic period will never be the same daily business as it was.

With the Prime Ministers call for 'Using a crisis as opportunity', Indian government took a slew of measures under the goal to attain 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' - a self reliant India to fulfill aspirations of the world too. Expansionist mindset of China and its misadventures not only gave the necessary emotional push to citizens but also united global powers to check China. As a result the world order took drastic changes. Quad got strengthened. America's visible failure to slowdown the pandemic weakened its position as a superpower.

(4)

However in the fast changing geopolitical scenario both Russia and US recognised India as a strong pole in a multipolar world. Our swift actions impressed the global investors which as a result made India emerge as a top FDI destination even during the times when most of countries including India registering negative growth.

Apart from gaining global prominence both due to its military preparedness, economic reforms and its power in pharma sector to produce vaccines for world, India also noticed many underlying structural problems within the country like issues of migrants who were forced by the pandemic lockdowns to return to natives and their vulnerable positions. It showed that growth did not lead to equal distribution of development.

Secondly fragile public health care system which was neglected for decades showed its incompetence to even get beds in initial days.

However, 'Digital India' campaign has lessened the worries to a great extent.

Shifting the working and learning to digital mode. Meanwhile the digital divide in rural-urban, rich-poor thrown to the surface a new kind of inequality leaving many sections of people deprived of these facilities.

Covid pandemic made public focus a lot on personal hygiene and also keep surroundings litter and spit free thus it furthered the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' to a next level. It also changed the dietary habits of people who made more nutritious food onto plates and a big push for our traditional knowledge of Ayurveda too.



Science and technology is growing at a very fast pace so is human greed which has made governments and people turn their partial blind eyes for human induced devastations occurring in world. Global warming led climate change is posing existential threat to not just other species, even to humans.

Since the pandemic opened the eyes of humanity for a while to look back of their deeds, nature has given us an opportunity to correct the mistakes and lead sustainable growths. People should pledge to pollute less and protect more for a peaceful productive life. We realised that we can manage with minimum quantities thus a break needed for excessive consumerism.

Secondly people realised how nature heals herself if humans do not disturb; was evident by drops in pollution levels. Post pandemic world should strive to maintain the pristine nature untouched as much as possible.

Thirdly humanity survives only if there is an inclusive growth. Pandemic showed us the deep rooted inequalities in society and also among countries. Post pandemic world should come together with world leaders chalking out plans to lessen the gaps both inter and intra regional disparities.

Finally the pandemic has given us a good opportunity to get to know the flaws of the system and also given wings for growth and development of our country under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. We must strive hard and make the best use of crisis to beat the challenges and grow together as one family i.e. Vasudeiva Kutumbakam.