



*Review Article*

**A Pandemic (COVID-19) Which has Commutated the  
Political Future of Sublunary World**

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**Abstract**

*The country that has even braved the disastrous floods, serial bomb blasts and even the horrific November 2008 terror attack is unfortunately not ready and unable to tackle COVID 19. The tiny microbe that has swept almost world over infecting lakhs and lakhs of people with a high causality rate is considered more dangerous thus leading to a pandemic situation in the country. In anticipation of developing lean supply chains many sectors of our economy have started depending more and more supplies from China. In the present situation, valuable lessons have been learnt by for companies in general and Indian companies in particular. Lean supply chain strategies which are capable of increasing short-term profitability of business could importunately make the supply chain highly vulnerable.*

**Keywords:** COVID-19, pandemic, supply chain operations, vulnerable, etc.

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**Introduction**

COVID- 19, an ultra invisible creature has become serious threat before the existence of human civilization. The human is as helpless as today; he has hardly been so helpless today. It has brought so many developed and developing nations to the same level. World super power like America, France, Italy and Russia has now become completely helpless in front of this pandemic. In the face of this epidemic, the appalling situation of developing and third world countries can only be imagined.

The magnitude of this epidemic can be seen from WHO's latest corona information report 105. According to this report at present there are 3435894 patients of corona all over the world and 239604 people have died. There are 46711 patients of CORONA and 1583 people have died in India. At the same time if we see the status of the superpower America than there are 1125719 patients of

CORONA and 60710 people have died from the same. Seeing the same horror German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the war against the CORONA, the greatest challenge since World War II. France President Emmanuel Macron has declared the corona virus the biggest health crisis in a century.

Due to interdependence and mobility of the countries of the world the epidemic spread all over the world very easily. The speed with which this pandemic has spread throughout the world it will leave short and long term effects on human beings. The effects of corona are not limited to health only; these effects have extended to psychologically, socially, politically and economically.

**Political effects of COVID 19 in Global Scenario:**

### **Suspension of general and Legislative work-**

To deal with pandemic, about 84 nations has suspended full legislative activities and imposed a full or partial lockdown. By suspending the legislative activities, the govt. will focus its attention on the controlling the pandemic by not doing more welfare and more popular work. Now the popular actions and schemes that the govt. will do to keep their vote bank in mind will not be built. In addition general political activities such as political conferences, election rallies, gathering etc will be banned.

### **Restricting civil rights and Press restrictions-**

The rights of citizens got limited due to the lockdown. People are forced to stay inside their homes. There is ban on getting out or going somewhere. They are not allowed to gather on any public place, not allowed to go for work and allowed to do work from home.

Freedom of press also gets limited. The press cannot publish any news that criticizes the govt. or affects the popularity of govt. In countries where civil rights and freedom of press are already limited, restrictions are increased.

### **Impacts on the Popularity of Government(Rally round the flag effect)-**

According to the concept of Political Science there is a short term increase in the popularity of the presidents of the nation in times of international crisis or wars. In the era of corona epidemic while the popularity of some govt. has increased on the other hand some of them have decreased too. There has been an increase in the popularity of governments in countries where govt. have taken effective measures in tackling this pandemic. Nations like America, Japan, Italy, France, Spain didn't took effective measures on time to deal with COVID- 19 hence it seems difficult for govt.

In these countries to return to power. For example- PM of Japan may leave power pre-maturely. On the other hand if the pandemic causes a down term in the U.S. economy Donald Trump will be difficult to get re-elected.

Along with this Trump's policy of privatizations of health facilities is also being criticized. On the other hand the govt. of China, Taiwan, and South Korea has fought the pandemic quite effectively.

### **Challenges and Opportunities for Opposition party-**

The COVID 19 has given the opposition both the opportunities and the challenges to prove its relevance. During the lockdown period the rights of the opposition party gets limited. They cannot openly protest against any policy, schemes or action of the ruling party. During the time of pandemic the protest against govt. can make the opposition villain in the eyes of people. An action can be easily taken against the opposition in the name of dealing with the epidemic and also for not supporting in the same. In many nations elections are on verge in this scenario opposition got the chance to highlights the shortcomings of ruling party in dealing with pandemic and gain an edge in the elections.

In the US Presidential elections, the opposition has strongly criticized the president Trump's policy of reducing spending on health services. There has been a lot of criticism about America's measures to combat the pandemic. The condition of America due to pandemic is worst with the highest rate of mortality and no. of corona positive cases. In the same way in govt. of Italy, Japan, France has given the opportunity to opposition to question about the measures taken by them for dealing this pandemic.

### **Impact on International Relations-**

COVID- 19 has originated both conflict and co-operation like situation among the nations of world. While some nations are co-operating for developing vaccine and testing kits for corona on the other side some nation are just accusing each other for the spread of this pandemic. For ex- the US says that Corona Virus has come from China's Wuhan lab. At the same time China blames military of US for the spread of virus.

When Australia has suggested the formation of an 'International Investigative Agency' for finding the origin place of Virus than the Chinese ambassador threatened for economic reprisal. Many nations are closing their borders to prevent the spread of this pandemic. This is causing tension among the neighboring nations. For ex: US - Canada, USA - European Union, Japan - South Korea etc. Super power like US are improperly interfering International Trade to maintaining the supply of health equipments.

### **Impact on Globalization-**

COVID 19 has reversed the process of Globalization. Due to the effect of this pandemic many nation of the world are closing their borders to stop the any means of transportation. By prohibiting all means of transportation they seek to prevent the pandemic from spreading. In this way the process of "Deglobalization" has started.

### **Changes in 'Balance of Power'-**

America was the only super power in the world before the pandemic. After the helplessness of America in dealing with corona and effectiveness of China in dealing with this epidemic, it has raised the influence of China on the stage of world in post corona period. Though Corona was born in China but China has only become the first in getting rid of this pandemic. Along with this China is sending aid to 82 nations across the world.

WHO has praised the effective measures taken by China in handling this pandemic. We can see that in this way China is trying to establish itself as the World's leader and challenging the US.

### **Effects on International Organisation-**

Many countries including the US have accused the WHO of acting as a Chinese Institution. US also threatened to stop funding for WHO. It is already known that US provides highest financial aid to WHO. The leader of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said he has received death threats and racist insults while running the global efforts to fight the corona virus pandemic.

### **Co-operative Federalism-**

This is a system in which central and states govt. co-operatively works with one another. The corona epidemic can be dealt with effectively only when the central and the state govt. works together. Federal countries like India and America have govt. of different political parties at central and state levels. There is a situation of conflict due to lack of mutual agreement on many issues between central and state govt. But this corona pandemic has forced the central and state govt. to co-operate mutually to tackle with epidemic.

### **Effects on Elections-**

Nations like America, France, Italy, Bolivia, Chile etc has forced to change or post-pone the dates of election in their respective states. In the same way India has also postponed the dates of Legislative Assembly elections.

A severe situation has arisen in the Maharashtra legislative assembly due to this pandemic. According to the Constitution of India no person becomes a cabinet minister or chief minister without being member of legislative assembly. The current CM of Maharashtra Uddhav Thakre was not a member of any house of the legislative assembly. In such a

situation, he was required to become a member of the any houses of the legislative assembly. Election Commission had postponed the elections due to which the political future of Thakrey as CM is seen in crisis.

### **Political impact of COVID- 19 on India-**

In context of dealing with corona epidemic if India's situation is compared with other countries than it is neither good nor bad. This is the biggest and most serious challenge before the present govt. in India. Countries such as Italy and America are failing to fight this epidemic despite being on the top position in term of health facilities. India ranks far below from these countries in term of health facilities. This is the biggest challenge before the recent govt. on how to improve health facilities and fight the corona virus.

In India there is not only scarcity of corona test but also there is severe lack of corona test centers. In addition, treatment options are limited in the case of illness. But in spite of this if the situation got worse than the people of India will blame the present ruling govt. But on the other hand despite of the limited resources the present govt. gets successful in dealing with this pandemic and its spread here was not much than popularity of current govt. would increase many folds even earlier.

Currently the third phase of lockdown is going on in India. The rights of citizens have been limited and they are forced to stay in home so that spread of corona virus can be stopped. Also all kinds protest against the govt. has also been banned. It is known that before the Corona pandemic there has been lot of criticism and protest were going on against the govt. regarding the Citizen Amendment Act. Lockdown also provided an opportunity for the govt. to deal with its opponent. Protests done by the opposition party against the policies of govt. have also been stopped due to the lock down.

With the announcement of lockdown in India, all legislative functions have been halted and focused on measures to deal with corona pandemic. During the lockdown period, all political activities like election rallies, meetings are banned. Sessions of parliament are also postponed by the govt. of India. Now the govt. can neither construct popular nor welfare schemes nor can work to fulfill the promises made in election announcement.

The biggest challenge before the Indian govt. is to prevent the pandemic from spreading. On the other hand the poorest section of society also has to provide with food twice a day at least. Due to the lockdown, the opposition cannot protest against the policies of the present govt. in such a situation, the biggest challenge for the opposition is to maintain its relevancy. In such situation, it is the responsibility of the opposition to fully assist the present govt. in dealing with corona pandemic, as well as to guide the current govt. by suggestions and guidance.

India is a country with a federal system with two govt. at both the central and state level. Although there is same party govt. in central and some state level. But there is govt. of other party in many states like Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Kerala etc. in such situation; conflict arises between center and govt. of these states on various issues. But this pandemic has forced the govt. of all the states to work together on co-operation with the center. This has further strengthened the concept of co-operative federalism.

The steps taken by the govt. if India to deal with corona pandemic. This has earned him acclaim not only at the national level but also at the International level. Because despite India's limited health resources, the situation is much better than many developed country.

The importance of health facilities in electoral manifestos- Regardless of the any

ruling party in India, everyone always stressed the policy of handing over health to the private sector. All state's govt. except a few states like Delhi did the same. This led to a very weak public health infrastructure. The private sector which was given a lot of priority in the health sector, today the role of those private hospitals in dealing with the corona pandemic is very limited. So if the corona pandemic in India rises to dangerous level. So in the upcoming elections, the public will expect from all parties to explain a clear strategy for public health services. That is, public health facilities can become a major electoral issue in coming times.

### **Conclusion-**

Currently this pandemic has originated a challenge in front of humanity but due to this many of such points came into lights which were ignored from long time. Labour from unorganized sector has got affected mostly. Positive Environmental changes can be seen after the spread down of COVID- 19 as there is seen decrease in ozone depletion over Antarctica. COVID-19 has not only affected the world in economically, socially and environmentally but also politically.

The Government should allow the Private Sectors to enter in the testing of COVID-19 cases so that more than a lakh tests could be performed in a day. Besides making govt. schools and colleges quarantine centers it should include more public spaces as quarantine center.

The country is hit by COVID- 19 virus but stability in handling the cases was well carried out by our Indian Govt. The unity and cohesion of states worked well with central govt. showing 'Unity in Diversity'. This pandemic has showcased the national govt. commitment towards its citizen's life's safety and security. Though the govt. might have also realized that our health infrastructure needs to be improved but still commitment of our medicos and govt. is quite appreciable.

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