

ABSTRACT

The Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak: Opportunity for India to Become Self-Reliant

Jayavantha Nayak

Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has been a major disruption in the international system and India has not been an exception to its adverse impact. India has so far managed to keep a relatively flatter infection curve in its battle against the pandemic. When compared to other countries, it does appear to have a better chance of pulling off with lesser collateral damage, at least for the time being. However, several factors are already playing in, or might play out, during the course of these events, and these might prove to be favourable for India to become a major trade and commerce player in the world. Government experts maintain that the Indian economy will come back to pre-COVID levels by the next financial year (2021-22) as it is recovering faster than expected. There is an urgent need to form a combination of monetary, fiscal, and financial market measures to help businesses and the common public to cope with this spread of virus and crisis environment. For framing appropriate action plans and policy, it is significant to know the specific issues that businesses and the public, in general, are facing recently. The government and the Reserve Bank of India have come out with a fiscal stimulus and a number of relief measures to protect the economy from the adverse impact of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Now these entail a large number of announcements that will directly or indirectly benefit the common people. The post-COVID scenario is both a challenge as well as an opportunity for India. With India's strong macro-economic fundamentals, favourable demographic dividend, improved ease of doing business (EoDB), and availability of resources for ramping up manufacturing capacities, the country can position itself as an attractive investment destination for investors across the globe. This would require the government, local bodies and the industry to leverage this opportunity optimally. The governments should, hence, prepare plans to manage the current outbreak as well as future disasters, if any, to ensure minimum disruption to the business ecosystem. The planning may include capacity building of human resource, current adoption as well as switchover to use of technology, preparing standard operating procedures and creating reserves/ funds for such situations. A prosperous India can only happen when every Indian, that is, a population of 138 crores, becomes self-sufficient. India, along with the rest of the world, is embroiled in the Corona virus crisis. Regardless of this, all citizens can work to take the country to a different level by using their capabilities in a safe manner. The plan will cover all the sectors that have contributed to the development of the country so far and will continue to do so in the future. By taking advantage of this scheme, all Indian citizens can become financial support for their families. All the beneficiaries under this scheme will be eligible for financial assistance. The biggest financial help will be given to them by the central government. There is no doubt that India will become self-reliant, but this crisis must be seen as an opportunity. The Central government of India will come to the aid of every single person, only that person must be overwhelmed with the determination to become self-reliant. In this context, an attempt has been made in this study to discuss economic impact of COVID-19 on Indian economy and the need for self-reliant India.

Key Words: COVID-19 pandemic, Economic impact, Aatm Nirbhar Bharat, Preparedness.