



# The Conspicuous Lessons and Positive Impacts Observed Due to COVID-19 in Indian Economy

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## ABSTRACT

Like every occurring has positive and negative aspects, so is the COVID-19 outbreak. It is true that there are extreme consequences faced by the economies and the people across the world following this crisis, yet there are some lessons to be learnt from it to shield economy from any such disasters in future. Also, there are certain interesting positive outcomes of this crisis in different compasses of the Indian economy. This article aims to provide a holistic view of the ten lessons learnt as well as the positive outcomes of the pandemic in different spheres of the Indian economy. Some of such aspects are economic reforms, the plight of the farmers and migrant workers, measures taken and required for the marginalised sections, digitalisation and ecommerce operations, self-dependence within the economy, the effect on crime rates, consumerism and changes in spending patterns, lifestyle and working patterns, refraining from conspicuous spending, impact on health and healthcare, effect on science, indigenous innovation and research and the effects on environment. All these positive impacts of COVID-19 on the India will be highlighted in the article individually in separate sections.

**Keywords:** Coronavirus, impact on Indian economy and environment, statistical analysis

## 1 Introduction

The prevailing COVID-19 has left no human being unaffected. It shook the entire world bringing it to a mere standstill. Since World War II, the entire humanity is enduring the biggest crisis. Almost every country has been affected by this devastating disease. The most advanced being on earth has been left as sheer puppets and caged by the tiny micro-organism and such is the irony of life. The outbreak from China has globally spread and has not spared a single economy. The corona virus outbreak has touched every sphere of human life namely economic, social, environmental, etc. The outbreak of this pandemic is a human tragedy having global impact and possible deep and long-term consequences.

Even though the pandemic has induced reduction in economic activity, yet the ramping down of human movements and activities have brought about some incredible positive impacts on the globe. Every human being has been shut inside their homes and only the essential service givers are toiling day and night to protect the human community from the contagion. However, for those who survive the

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### How to Cite:

Somosree Roy "The conspicuous lessons and positive impacts observed due to Covid-19 in Indian economy". *AIJR Preprints*, 132, version 1, 2020. <https://preprints.aijr.org/index.php/ap/preprint/view/132>

pandemic, there will be profound consequences in the coming days. The post COVID-19 days are very critical to an economy and this outbreak will bring forth lasting changes which can be also being for the better. The country wide lockdown has wrought changes which are not short lived. There are a lot of lessons to be learnt from this experience in the economy like the impacts on environmental, lifestyle, consumption and working patterns, etc. which will be looked upon in this article.

Undoubtedly, the corona pandemic has put the world economy at a major risk. Coming to India, the house for 135.26 crore people, every aspect of life has been affected. India, by far, has done quite well in controlling the outbreak. The well-coordinated steps of lockdown, travel ban, social distancing, governance and vigilance, constant try to create mass awareness along with other measures have been successful in containing the spread till now. However, job loss, hit in harvest, disruptions in supply chain distribution, slowdown in manufacturing sector, possible trade contraction, fall in Indian rupee, tumbling of travel and tourism, etc. can be the after-math challenges of the COVID-19. However, with proper governance, these issues shall be tackled. As truth is, an economy is not comprised of material things, but most importantly human life and activities. Thus, the impact on human race being within an economy needs special attention.

Apart from the negative impacts of the pandemic, there are some key takeaways from the COVID-19 situation, which are surprisingly the positive effects for the long-term economy. Such positive bearings can be felt in different scopes of Indian economy and offer some great learning and experiences to be imbibed and carried on in the future as well. These positive effects will now be highlighted in the article sequentially through different subsections.

## **2 Analysing positive impacts on different sectors of the economy**

### **2.1 Environmental improvement**

Environmental pollution has been a concern for a while now. During the pandemic, some interesting positive changes in the environment have been noticed. The COVID-19 and its aftermath lockdown has induced a significant decline in the level of pollutants like NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO, CO, Benzene, Fine Particles (PM 2.5), etc (The Hindu, 2020, Apr 23). Not just in India, the level of pollutants has gone down in different parts of the world. Because of clean environment, Dhauladhar range has been visible from Jalandhar. According to Data Intelligence Unit, all the cities of India have recorded better air quality i.e. between March 25 and April 25, AQI > 200 has been recorded. Almost 13 cities have registered less than 50 AQI. Delhi NCR, known to be one the most polluted cities of the world (WHO, 2016), has also recorded an AQI of 100 as compared to 200 last year. Also, the level of NO<sub>2</sub> has plummeted from 162  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2$  between March 1 to 24 i.e. pre-quarantine period to 90  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2$  within the quarantine period. The significant drop in economic activities, vehicular movements and human activities has reflected upon the environment through significant plunge in the key environmental pollutants. The continuous ambient air quality has shown that the level of pollutants has significantly dropped in Delhi during the lockdown period (CPCB, 2020). However, such positive effects on environment are in short term. The long-term effect on environment for the COVID-19 pandemic is a matter of concern. (Henriques, 2020). With revoke of quarantine policies, economic activities will revive leading to rise in environmental pollutants once again. Thus, to restrict people from reverting to normal routines, its imperative to make long term structural changes like electrifying cars, encouraging public transport, discouraging people to use private transport, paving separate lanes for 2 and 4-wheelers, etc. (Poetzcher, Business Line, 2020).

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## 2.2 Positive impacts on the waterways and wildlife

It's not just the air that's cleaner, the positive impact can also be seen in the water quality both in India and elsewhere. Venice has reported to be experiencing cleaner water in canals with much less boat traffic. India as well has witnessed much sparkling River Ganga. As per CPCB, a substantial drop in agricultural glut and wastewater discharges from industries since the inception of lockdown has let the Ganga breathe fresh. The dissolved oxygen level has gone up coupled with reduced nitrate concentration. The decline in release of solid organic water because of lesser human activities on the banks of river has also proved to be fruitful in improving the water quality. River Yamuna has also appeared cleaner as toxic foam released in water reduced. Wildlife is rejuvenating as well since flamingos are spotted in Mumbai, migratory birds are observed to be returning to water bodies which they had abandoned because of human interference and heavy pollution.

## 2.3 Self-dependence and economic reforms

Besides the positive impact on environment, the COVID-19 pandemic has also brought about the essentiality of health-related products and services. Post the quarantine, it is true that many developing nations cannot ramp-up internal manufacturing capacity to completely abolish the dependency on mighty economies like China, but the necessity to boost the emergency reserves within the country will be a part of the strategy planning for Indian economy. This is a situation of silver lining where the economy will now vouch for stress testing of supply chains to reduce extreme dependence for basic goods. Owing to the surge in populist nationalism, India is expected to witness increasing demands for reduced dependency on foreign countries. To deliver essential goods, businesses have also started to focus on models to support local supply chains.

The present crisis has called for the need of universal basic income (UBI) with the notion to provide sustaining wage to everyone, irrespective of their employment status (Babu, *The Indian Express*, 2020). This will help in cushioning the economy from sudden job loss, act as poverty reduction instrument and strengthen trust in Government. This pandemic has rallied more people towards social security with insurance. In this respect, the two challenges hover over the envision for UBI. Firstly, the model and design of this need to clearly highlight the objective. In the current context, poverty reduction is the need of the hour. However, in order to revive the trust of the public on the Government, such a scheme with small token of payments will not make any mark and there remains a probability of a lot of people being pushed into poverty traps. Second, the scheme needs to be clearly communicated to the citizens since the latter need to be aware of its design and target. Thus, the success of the policy will depend a lot on societal expectations and perception. However, this will prove to be a great lesson for economic reform if the trade-offs is managed in the best possible way.

The current situation will trigger the policy makers of Indian economy to consider a two-tier approach for UBI. In the first phase, cash transfer will be made to stimulate demand which can be as a fiscal package or as monetary levers of RBI. In the second step, an 'unconditional cash grant' can be extended to citizens irrespective of employment status. As a part of an important lesson learnt, satisfactory provisioning of public goods has bumped up with this crisis. Over-reliance on market mechanism has led to a lot of dependency on private goods. Over time, the two key characteristics of public goods i.e. non-rivalry and non-exclusion got eroded leading to conversion of some public goods into private counterparts. However, even if the outcomes of COVID-19 have been positive as well, the negative effects are very evident. For instance, the plight of the migrants and other marginalised sections of the economy have been clearly visible during the pandemic which will be highlighted in the next section.

## **2.4 The plight marginalised sections and the policy reforms for them**

The noticeable slits in the functioning of the schemes to provide blanket provisions to the marginalised brought about immediate need to transform the policies and the public distribution system with stricter vigilance. There are a lot of announced economic programs and rural development schemes for the poor like SNAP, EITC, MNREGA, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Bharat Nirman which swears to support lower income working families but the ‘success’ of those is at stake.

Migrants in India constitute a major part of the informal sector. Around 60 million migrants are interstate and many of them are seasonal or temporary ones. They constitute about 93% of total workforce and half of the GNP according to the Report of the Committee on Unorganised sector Statistics, 2012. In 2018, the Centre avowed to continue 8 schemes to provide “relief and rehabilitation of migrants” and vowed to spend a whopping 3,183 crore rupees. However, in this pandemic the plights of the migrants in different states were observed. Such a giant workforce lacks social security and transparent legal protections. In the absenteeism of social security net, thousands of migrants had set to foot to reach their villages with meagre amount of food or money post the announcement of lockdown till Government notified about “Shramik trains” to transport them. None of the schemes and laws have dealt directly with the jobless migrants. As per the PLFS (Periodic Labour Force Survey) of 2017-18, it has been reported that 71.1% of non-agricultural sector labourers with fixed salary didn’t have job contract and 49.6% of them didn’t have any social security benefits (Ramani, The Hindu, 2020). With such a lack of legal mandates, migrants were left to themselves during such a pandemic crisis. For that matter, the India’s Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 holds true for only the organised sector of the economy. It couldn’t proffer welfare and social security to a casual worker and thus doesn’t have the necessities to deal with the present plight of the migrants. However, according to some food experts, such a misery of the migrants could have been avoided if One Nation One Ration Card scheme implementation was expedited. Being announced in June 2019, this scheme lets a beneficiary access food grains they are entitled to under the NFSA (National Food Security Act), 2013. The food grains can be accessed from any fair price shops in the nation. The ONORC scheme offered nationwide portability of the ration card. Also, the Social Security Bill of 2019 is not clear about providing special protections to migrant workers. There are a lot of lacunas in most of the bills, schemes and laws announced for the migrant workers and this pandemic has taught how such a vulnerable section of the economy can be left in turmoil. In order to tackle this situation, it is high time that gaps are identified, scrutinised and jumped on to address such a large population section. Some stricter actions are to be envisaged by administration like providing social security in cases of no translucent professional contract between employer and employee. Also, there should a minimum required offering of basic needs like old-age security, health care protection, minimal wage and unemployment insurance for everyone.

With this sad state of migrant workers, the Government has announced free 5kg food grains and 1 kg *channa* to each family for couple of months only for those migrants who neither possess state cards or beneficiaries of NFSA (Sharma, The Indian Express 2020). Centre has also sworn to spend 3,500 crore rupees for this scheme to benefit some 8 crore migrants. This will also bring more migrants under PDS coverage. Also, ONORC has been promised to enhance completely by March 2021. More so, for relief of migrants and workers, government has also proclaimed a scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana which will convert government-sponsored city housing to affordable rental housing. A special credit facility having liquidity of a maximum of 5,000 crore rupees has been announced to grant ‘easy credit’. For small farmers, NABARD will also facilitate an added refinance support of 30,000 crore rupees to

facilitate the need for crop loan of RRBs and RCBs. The effectiveness of such policies will solely depend on their efficient penetration and unbiased distribution system.

## 2.5 Lesser crime

Interestingly besides the above-mentioned optimistic bearings, COVID-19 outbreak has also led to a positive outcome on crime rates. Crime incidents have plummeted in Gurugram and Delhi in this lockdown period. Since March 15, only 1971 cases have been registered in Delhi including robbery, petty theft and automobile theft compared to 3,415 in same period previous year. In Andhra Pradesh COVID-19 has brought a great relief to the residents with lowering of crime rates (Mareedu, *The New Indian Express*, 2020). With the onset of summer, notorious gangs start operating indulging in chain snatching, robberies and thefts. According to police statement, such activities have not been reported which is perhaps because inter-state gangs, fearing the pandemic, have hold on to their notorious activities. More so, most of the families have cancelled their summer vacations and have stayed indoors deterring the robberies of locked houses. COVID-19 also seems to have taken a toll on crime incidents in Kerala since lockdown came into effect (TOI, 2020, Apr 10). A comparison of the crime data in this period with last year same period shows a significant decline in every segment. The thefts during this quarantine came down from 12 to 2. Bangalore, Kolkata, Lucknow, Coimbatore and Thiruvananthapuram have also registered a fall in crime rates by about 60-90% compared to previous year. However, cases of cybercrime and domestic violence and child abuse have been filed during lockdown (The Federal, 2020, Apr, 10).

## 2.6 Positive impact on innovation, science and research

With the lessons learnt from the crisis, it is imperative now that India focus more on indigenous innovation. To bolster the economy against any further epidemics, pandemics or external threats, national centric innovation should be a key to lower any foreign dependency to promote growth. The formal sector has witnessed the potential threats and job losses that many people have faced being dependent on external economies. With a nation-centric innovation model, efficiency will be enhanced along with robust employment.

Like other developed nations, India is also vying to set up its arsenal to combat the COVID-19 battle. India has received funding to those involved in COVID-19 research like the 'ignition grant' received from US-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF). It has provided an offering of 50 lakh rupees to aid early-stage creative notions develop a 'proof-of-concept' and 1 crore rupees to provision a team having workable, validated prototype along with the capability to repurpose prevailing innovations in order to fight to COVID-19 challenge (Ramesh, *Business Line*, 2020). The USISTEF promotes offbeat innovative solutions to meet the COVID-19 crisis. It will choose and support aspiring US-India science and technology based entrepreneurial initiatives which can address advancement and execution of novel tools, technologies and systems to meet challenges concerning COVID-19 including diagnosis, monitoring, health and safety, information and communication, public outreach.

There is another funding from Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) which has summoned proposals for both the countries' virtual network that would let the scientists and engineers of both India and US who are engaged in COVID-19 related research to pursue joint research programs using virtual mechanism and has been assigned up to 50 lakh rupees per project. More so, the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has launched a scheme to aid innovators and researchers to improve their technologies from labs to commercial scale to combat COVID-19 and has been promised a financial backup of up to 10 lakh rupees. In this case, focus will be on sanitizers, ventilators, rapid test kits,

vaccines and medicines. Yet another offer has been from Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) which has invited proposals for projects to develop vaccines, new therapeutics, diagnostics and repurposing of medicines to control the pandemic outbreak. The grand aid will depend on proposals and the scope of the plans. A lot of R&D labs and start-ups are ramping up in order to provide solutions like customised ICUs, amplified stethoscopes which will facilitate doctors to treat remotely; low cost and rapid testing kits, portable ventilators, 'Atom ECG' allowing ECG to be captured on Android steered smartphones, handheld multi-diagnostic device to measure vitals, mechanised sanitisers which have also been deployed at IRCTC, airports, Apollo hospitals and many start-ups to sanitise your hands in 20 seconds and many others (Duttagupta, The Economic Times, 2020). These all indicate that the best can be utilised from the lessons learnt from a crisis. Hence, COVID-19 pandemic has the capability to reinvigorate India's scientific landscape. It's been long that the scientists' innovations in India were being undermined and disregarded with a lot of private and foreign investment and scaled up dependencies on foreign help. The pace has taken up amidst the fight against the 'invisible enemy' with a lot of doctors, entrepreneurs, bureaucrats, scientists, researchers, immunologists, virologists and industry executives are scurrying up to make India capable internally for the crisis.

## **2.7 Encouraging impact on health and healthcare**

Like every black cloud has silver lining, even if COVID-19 has taken serious toll on health worldwide, an important positive effect of it is increased awareness where intensive campaigns have been run to promote hand hygiene in order to prevent contagion of the infection. This routine of hand cleaning can have far-reaching positive implications in order to contain the transmission of any infectious diseases in the future. Also, the entire system this time vied to prevent, diagnose and contain the disease and hence it is likely that the system will not miss any opportunities in the future for timely diagnostic and treatment for any other diseases. More so, there have been various guidelines which existed since 2008 for biological calamities and the recent Biological & Public Health Emergencies (BPHE) was further added to the National Disaster Management Plan in its latest version updated in November 2019 (Grover and Sharma, Express Pharma, 2020). This has the focus of improving the resilience of health systems by fitting in 'disaster risk reduction' in all hierarchies of healthcare. In just couple of months, it has been evident that both the planning and execution is the need of the hour. So, even if the guidelines have been paper for long, the hopeful part is this pandemic made the guidelines to be implemented instead of waiting for 5-10 years as mentioned in NDMP. Managing the crisis now will aid in faster and practical execution of the multiple initiatives identified in NDMP.

It is a sad that India spends just 1.4% of its GDP in healthcare. This is highly inadequate for a country with huge population. Even though few initiatives have been taken in recent past in enhancing the healthcare infrastructure and manpower via augmenting seats in medical colleges, opening tertiary institutes as well as expanding primary healthcare nationwide under 'Ayushman Bharat', yet a lot remains to be done. This acute need has been felt now with this crisis and this realisation will optimistically accelerate implementation of fortifying the healthcare infrastructure. India has been a big supplier of generic drugs across the globe having 50% of total demand for vaccines and 20% of total supply by volume globally. However, being a giant player in pharma sector worldwide, there has been many lacunas which made way in Indian pharma industry owing to over-dependence on Chinese bulk drugs and this fact is well known within the pharma players of India. However, owing to driving costs, India was facing challenges in developing Chinese substitutes. With perceived role of China in hiding information which could have prevented this pandemic, a sentiment is building among many economies to move their reliance on China. This can act as a boon for India to internalise drug manufacturing and the entire supply

chain. Also, a push for make-in-India for medical equipment, which is also dependent on China, can now be internalised. An increased use of technology and tools in pharma industry has been obligatory for faster access and affordability of healthcare in India. There have been online sessions for nurses, primary healthcare workers and paramedical staffs for the protocols which are mandatory to detect and isolate the patients. Improved technological use is likely to improve healthcare access in remote areas. Also, many innovative ideas are being developed to meet the augmented need of hospitals by converting train coaches into isolation wards. So, such crisis and humongous challenges can trigger the *fire* for swifter and efficient methods to improve the healthcare scenario in India.

Also, Kerala has demonstrated a strong primary healthcare which it has been strengthening for last 15 years particularly through *Aardram* mission focussing on prevention, promotion and rehabilitation healthcare involvements for all family members within a household (IDR, 2020). Kerala was able to smartly and efficiently manage the crisis owing to the lessons learnt when deadly Nipah virus had hit the state in 2018.

## **2.8 Shift in lifestyle, working pattern and consumerism**

Lifestyle and consumerism have been long overlooked amidst the busy work schedules of the present-day world. However, because of the pandemic, some shifts in consumer patterns have been observed and it is for good. COVID-19 has inflicted some unavoidable positive effects on lifestyle and consumer spending patterns. The pandemic and as an aftermath, the quarantine, have shed some heavy impacts on health and living patterns (Aditya Birla Capital, 2020). First, people are now getting enough sleep which otherwise had been deprived owing to work, stress, commuting long distances for work or school. Sleeping those extra hours have constructive effect on health and lifestyle thereby making trace on various lifestyle related diseases. Also, since people do not have to travel back from work, hitting the bed early has now become possible. Second, since the restaurants had to stop operating, a lot of people dependent on outside food otherwise have taken to home cooked food. This implies that more Indian population have resorted to healthier, less oily and fresh food leading to better dietary and lifestyle patterns. Apart from better diet, people are also getting time to work-out leading to a strong health and immune system and thus a recovering lifestyle. From a moral viewpoint, many people in India have become self-dependent in doing daily errands and thus an improved personal investment. Finally, people are now getting to spend time with their families which otherwise remain undermined often. This change in living pattern has brought people close across and within different generations. Hence, lockdown has changed lifestyle in many ways and made the citizens more responsible towards hygiene.

The frugal lifestyle with spending habits limited to just the essentials is a step towards inner build to make oneself robust against any possible disasters. Also, it is a boon for the environment with less of carbon footprints, lesser stress and more time for own. Grappling with uncertainty, the consumer behaviour became erratic. Also, according to a study by Mckinsey on consumer sentiment, it has found that India has consistently remained the most optimistic nation about its recovery as depicted in the below bubble chart (figure 1) where the numbers represent the percentage of respondents who were 1) very optimistic 2) optimistic.

Also, with the survey about the expected behaviour with regards to visiting any physical stores for consumer spending as net intent % (who will do more activity minus who will do less) here is an interesting waterfall chart (figure 2) where again Indians are most hesitant in resuming physical-store activities.

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Figure 1: Bubble chart of consumer sentiment across counties  
 Source: Mckinsey & Company COVID-19 Consumer Pulse Surveys

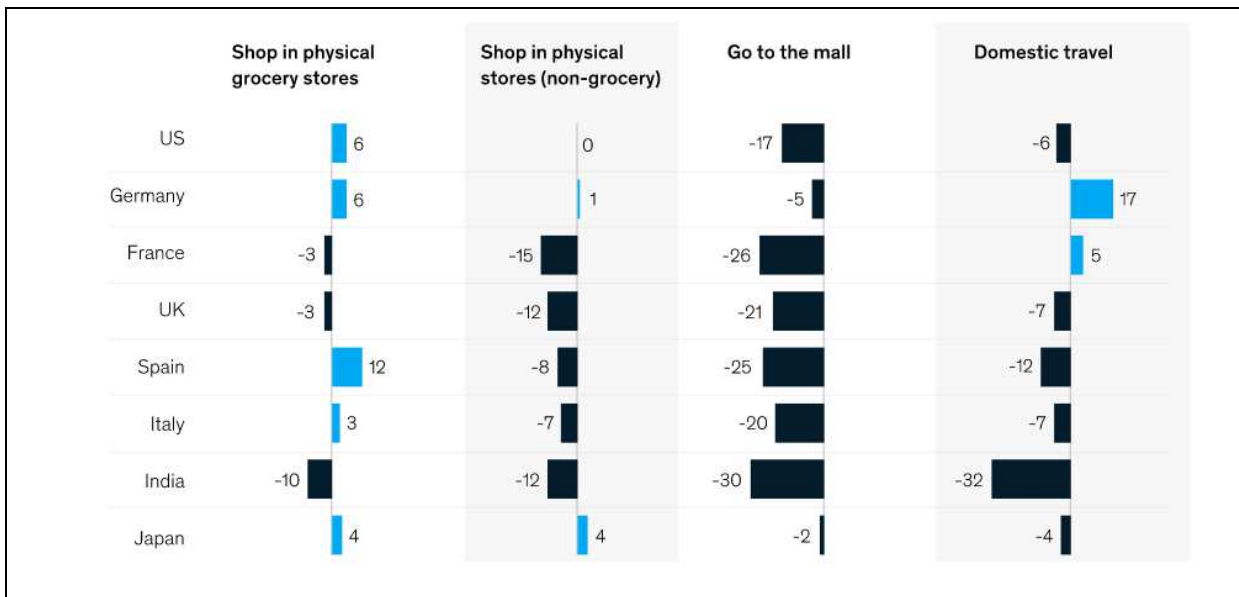


Figure 2: Expected spending behaviour by consumers  
 Source: Mckinsey & Company COVID-19 Consumer Pulse Surveys

With regards to expected category spending as well, India’s population have confined itself to mostly essential spending which is a paradigm shift in consumerism (McKinsey, 2020). Below chart (figure 3) highlights net intent % (% respondents expected to increase spending minus % respondents expected to decrease spending). Also, with regards to working patterns, there has been a major move to work from home invoking a shift in cultural mindset (People Matters, 2020). Inducing flexibility in working patterns in terms of schedule have ensured a healthy work-life balance for an individual besides creating a heavy impact in reducing pollution and smog through lesser carbon emissions, reduced requirement for office space construction and thus lesser need for cutting of trees.



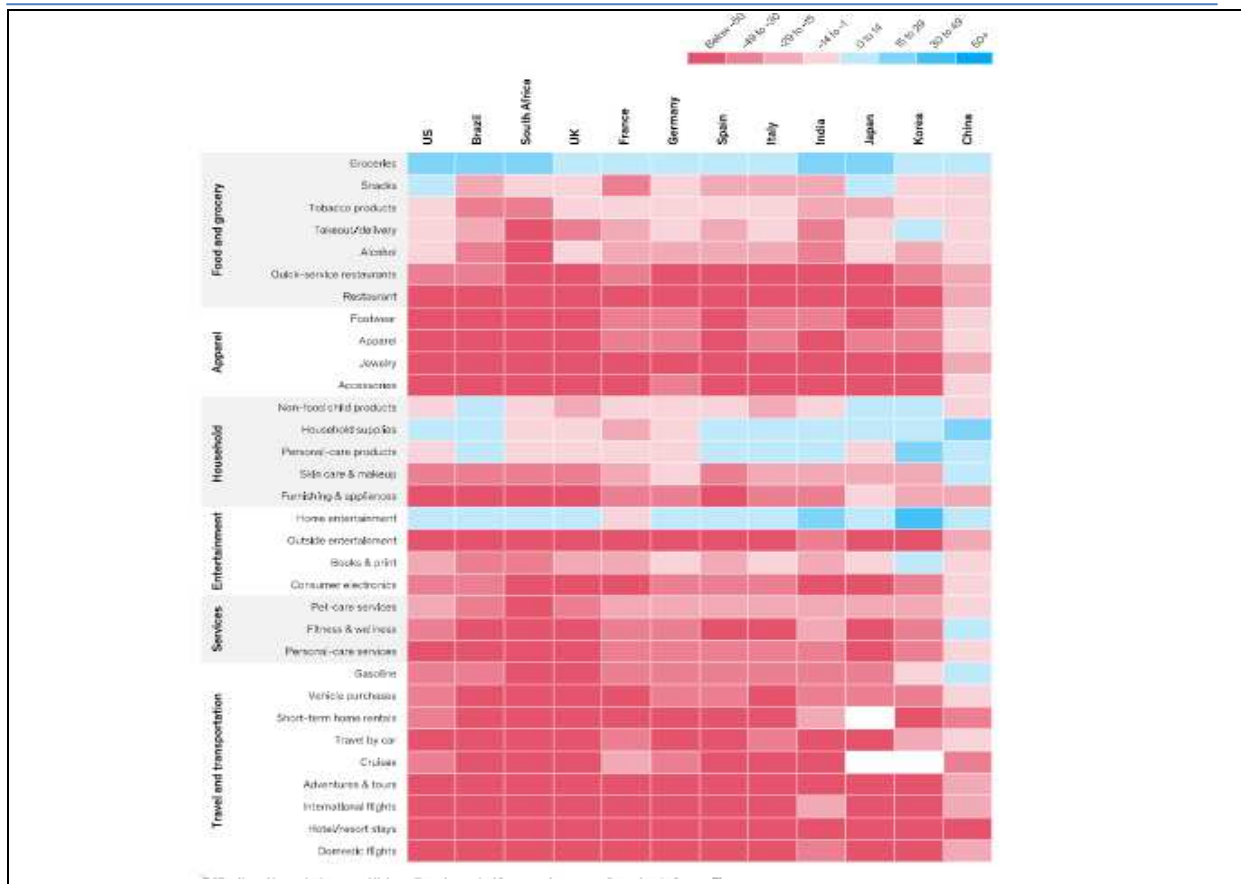


Figure 3: Expected category spending by consumers

Source: McKinsey & Company COVID-19 Consumer Pulse Surveys

## 2.9 Unambiguous lift in digitalisation and operations of Ecommerce

Last, but not the least, having seen the multiple positive impacts of COVID-19 as mentioned in the above-mentioned lines, the impact on e-commerce needs special mention. Ecommerce sector play a pivotal role in Indian's economy. The ecommerce industry is already ladder on an upward growth trajectory. As per Indian Ecommerce Industry Report (2020, March), it is also expected to surpass US by 2034 to stand as second largest ecommerce market. Also, it is expected to grow four-folds by 2022 reaching Rs 10,48,350 crore. The employment as well as investment opportunities are strongly like to grow in India. In this line, during the pandemic quarantine, the ecommerce stores have scaled up their operations. The start-ups like Big basket, Grofers, Zomato, Swiggy, Flipkart, etc. have imparted digital training to thousands of their service staffs, delivery executives, packers and pickers, warehousing staffs, etc. For instance, Swiggy has launched essential deliveries in 300 cities in India. The company has utilised voiceovers, animated videos, static cards, etc. to communicate with their employees. Flipkart and Grofers have also used digital tools and modules to meet the online delivery demand during lockdown.

Global Data, a London based data analytics company, has predicted that this situation will accelerate India's ecommerce growth market pushing it to 7 trillion rupees by the year 2023 (Laskar, Live Mint, 2020). It is all set to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 19.6% by 2023. With consumers shifting to online buying to avoid interactions at cash counters and POS terminals, ecommerce payments are set to record a sharp surge of 25.9% in this year. As per a lead analyst in Global Data, even if current lockdown has let to waning in consumer spending, it has been partially offset by upsurge in online spending. The online payment solutions like PayPal, Paytm, Amazon Pay, Google Pay, etc. are likely to

benefit immensely from this situation. Propelled by escalating smartphone penetration, the Indian ecommerce sector is anticipated to reach to \$200 billion by 2026 according to Indian Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF, 2019). The ongoing trend is expected to sustain in the coming days even after the pandemic is over and will continue boosting the Ecom sector.

### 3 Conclusion

To conclude, besides the obvious negative effects, COVID-19 pandemic has certain positive effects too and poses a great learning experience for the world. It is the crisis which has brought forward the multiple good things which can be continued in future as well. The environment, for instance, has been observed to get replenished owing to this crisis. However, after the pandemic is over, if the economic activities revive, the concentration of pollutants and green-house gases are likely to shoot up again. Thus, there is a need for sustainable environment which can be induced with long term structural changes. The positive impacts which have come to forefront like the booming ecommerce, change in lifestyle and consumerism should be continued after the pandemic is over. If the impacts can be so encouraging during a deadly crisis, then a 'normal' situation is ought to have a much better economy. The administration should learn from the lessons during the outbreak to understand the vulnerability of the migrants and other marginalised sections and should now include policy measures for them in every -possible economic reform. Also, better distribution and stricter vigilance is needed to ensure that any further catastrophe do not throw them into such hardships again. It is highly important for India now to focus on indigenous development which got a kick start during the pandemic. The science, innovation and research have got a boost to improve during the crisis which needs to be carried on for India to emerge as a self-dependent economy. There is a high chance for such positive effects to float in the economy even after the pandemic is over, but the citizens, administration and policy makers need to realise the vulnerabilities which have surfaced during this crisis and learn from the lessons observed during the outbreak to come up with enhanced measures to have better experience in the coming days in different spheres of the economy.

### Competing Interests

None

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