

# PANDEMIC COVID-19, IT'S IMPACT ON INDIA AND IT'S SOLUTION

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## ABSTRACT

*When whole world was discussing about the development , GDP growth and Economic growth like words suddenly in the last year of second decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century a Pandemic strikes called as SARS COV -2 from which the whole world was unaware .Besides its unknown origin nations also fears about their population and their safety . Steps after steps taken by nation such as close the borders , flights and imposing lockdown for the safety from this Virus. For nation like India which have vast demography of more than 130 crore people it was like between the Devil and deep sea . Government was to choose about the safety either their economy both are backbone of the nation. It definitely go for lockdown to save its population , the other reason was its health infra and limited resources unlike the developed nation. First wave passes in India and almost country saved itself from great mortality but the second wave uncovered the realities and test the height of Health system and its resources . India, which was one of the biggest Pharma industries of the world was undergone shortage of raw material . Leading experts and epidemiologist suggested vaccination is better way to tackle this virus and India carrying out one of the biggest Vaccination drive of the world.*

**KEYWORDS:** Post Covid, Corona Virus, Pandemic, Labour migration, Lockdown, Biggest Vaccination

This Covid virus was first seen in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province in China .It's a virus and scientist named it's kind of CORONA Virus. Its origin is not confirmed yet and remains a issue of cold war among nations like USA and China . Till now it's not scientifically proved that anyone claimed that corona virus made in Wuhan Institute of Virology or it was spread from the animal market of Wuhan. A delegation consisting of various experts and scientist from WHO (world health organisation) visited China's Wuhan to understand the theory of origin , but they gave clean chit to China that there is no role of Wuhan lab in manufacturing this Novel corona virus. So the theory of calling it a Chinese Virus still is not proved. The world knows where the first case reported and from there it spread all across the world . Atleast we can blame the Chinese Government and their policies for its spread but they saved themselves by strict actions and mass vaccination even they declared their country Covid free in last week of April 2020 when so many countries was suffering from huge number of cases and mortality. COVID - 19 Pandemic showed the world new version of humanity and cooperation along with certain constraints .For few nations it's a business opportunity and on another side many countries tries their best in service to the mankind by supplying medicine PPE kits ventilators infact by sending their doctors and nurses .

This Pandemic not only separate the world relations into Pre Covid world and Post Covid World but it also changes the way of living of humans . People heard the words like total lockdown , social distancing , new normal

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,Quarantine , Covid appropriate behaviour , Covid curfew for the first time .Data shows that May 8th, 2020, in India, 56,342 positive cases was reported. India, with a population of more than 1.34 billion—the second largest population in the world—it must have proper planning in controlling the transmission of Covid -19 among its population.

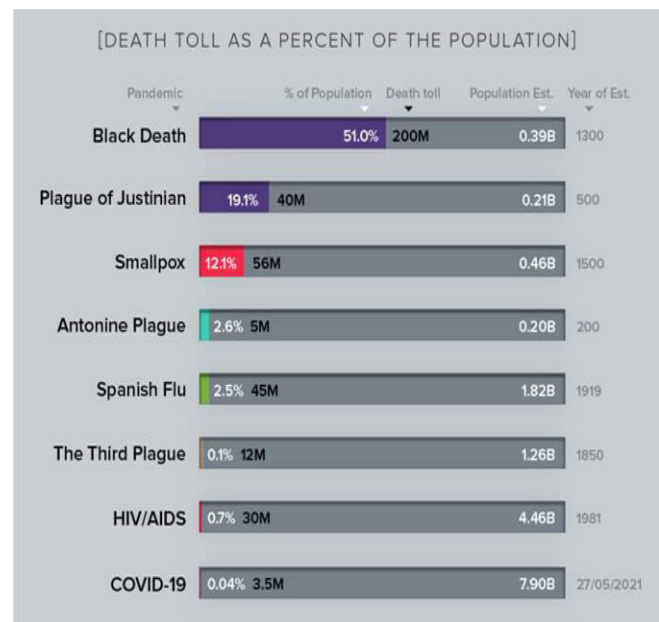


Chart Source: <https://www.visualcapitalist.com>

As we can compared the death toll from the Pandemics we observe in above chart where the Pandemic

Covid -19 exists. Fortunately, our understanding of the causes of disease has improved, and this is resulting in a drastic improvement in the response to modern pandemics, albeit slow and incomplete

In human history we survived many Pandemics such as Bubonic plague , Swiss Flu , SARS (Severe Accute Respiratory Syndrome ) , MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome ) recently human suffered from Swine Flu , Ebola like viruses . Despite the occurrence of disease and pandemics throughout history, there's one thing common – regular reduction in the death rate. Increasing healthcare facilities and understanding the cause that incubate pandemics have been powerful tools in reducing their impact. A pandemic is a kind of epidemic: one which has spread across a wider geographic range than an epidemic, and which has affected a significant portion of the population. The more civilized humans became – with larger and smarter cities, more and more easy trade routes develops, and as globalisation increases contact with different populations of people, animals, and ecosystems – the more like pandemics would occurs.

Before this deadly virus , Swiss Flu , Zika virus , MERS , SARS , Swine Flu also take lives of many . In recent years SARS , Zika ,Swine Flu warns our scientists but they were limited to continents and to certain countries . Unlike the other disease COVID -19 virus takes less time for spreading on globe . Studies are going on how it be more infectious then others . It spread all over the globe within few months .Initially it was taught that year 2020 was worst in terms of its infection but it wave and variants definitely cause great concern for large population across globe.

Talking about the impact of COVID -19 Pandemic . The Covid -19 virus mutates several times which cause different impact on different countries . Nations like USA , Italy , Germany , Brazil , South Africa suffered a lot initially in First wave of Pandemic . Developed nation who have best medical facilities of world class suffered with increasing no of cases with more mortality rate . As of 23 May 2021, India has the second-highest number of confirmed cases in the world (after the United States) with 26.7 million reported cases of COVID-19 infection and the third-highest number of COVID-19 deaths (after the United States and Brazil) at 307,231 deaths.

The first cases of COVID-19 in India were reported in the towns of Thrissur, Alappuzha and Kasargod, all in the state of Kerala, among three Indian medical students who had returned from Wuhan. In the beginning most of gthe people unaware about its mortality and infectious rate . Countries believe on the reports coming from WHO's briefing and take action according to them . Lockdowns were announced in Kerala on 23 March, and in the rest of the country on 25

March. By mid-May 2020, five cities accounted for around half of all reported cases in the country: Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Thane. On 10 June, India's recoveries exceeded active cases for the first time. Infection rates started to drop in September, along with the number of new and active cases. Daily cases peaked mid-September with over 90,000 cases reported per-day, dropping to below 15,000 in January 2021. Mid September was the peak of the first wave according to ICMR (Indian Council Of Medical Research). During these six months of Great Lockdown much of population affected badly not only on the front of Heath and others disorders but also on the front of livelihood and health.

As Lockdown imposed on Indian states problem of huge unemployment and labour migration starts alongside the fear of spread of Novel Corona Virus , notoriously there is no official data collected by the Government authorities that how many people migrated from cities to their villages and how many of them died while going back to their homes in panic.

An estimation of 139 million migrants workers resides in the country, according to the World Economic Forum. The International Labour Organization (ILO) predicted that due to the Covid -19 pandemic and the lockdown, about 400 million daily workers would be fallen into poverty . Most of the migrants labour in the country originate from states like Uttar Pradesh , Bihar , Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The cities like Mumbai , Delhi , Ludhiyana , Surat , Ahmedabad , Gurugram attract the highest number of migrants. While most men migrate in search of work and women migrate due to marriage.

Most of the migrant workers consist majorly of daily-wage labourers working in the manufacturing industries and construction industries. As usually due to less wage and salay they denied adequate healthcare facilities, nutrition, housing and sanitation, sinc so many of them are in the informal sector. They belong to rural areas but live in cities for work for most of the year. So many of them have no savings they are financially incapable so they lived in factory dormitories, which were shut due to the lockdown . Ironically , there was no database of migrant workers, despite the existence of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979.

According to paper published in the Royal Geographical Society, the workers who have been treated the worst are from states like Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, in which the indigenous population's natural resources were extracted by outsiders. Further, workers paid the least for the hardest work belong to the backward classes, mainly from the Dalit and the Adivasi communities. The research also indicated that the families of the migrant workers supported them by maintaining their houses and

taking care of them, either when seasonal work is unavailable or when they are no longer able to work.

Maharashtra has the largest number of migrants, according to the 2011 Census of India. Its state government imposed a lockdown on 20 March in Pune, Pimpri - Chinchwad, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Nagpur, leaving the migrant workers with no work. Thousands then gathered at the train and bus stations, seeking transport to their hometowns. With the nationwide lockdown, all transport facilities were closed. States like Delhi, Haryana and Punjab have also large number of labours coming from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal in search of job. When lockdown announced they afraid of their job loss and they were correct when there in no production activities related to non-essential items then how can Factory owner gave them salary. Workers with their families migrate in big number towards their home. Number of photos coming across different states how workers without food and water walking on road and on the train track to reach their home. So many of them reach their homes by bicycle riding. One such horrifying story of Jyoti Kumari, she cycled around 1200 km with her injured father.



Photo source : ANI

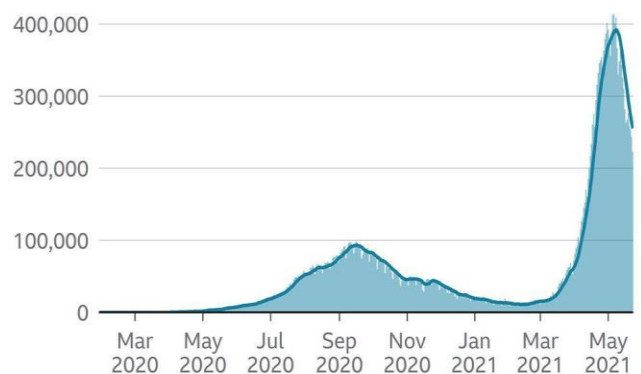
A girl named Jyoti Kumari carrying her injured father cycled around 1200 km from Gurugram to Bihar's Darbhanga native place amid coronavirus lockdown. Due to strict lockdown rules in India number of people became positive with Covid was increasing slowly and on the other hand people who was recovering from Covid was more than people was getting positive

During the first wave Indian government imposed a nationwide lockdown this led to well-controlled infection rate and the Indian policy was appreciated internationally. Even in a Statement given by Prime minister of India he declared that India win war against COVID-19.

After mid September peak of Corona virus India opened it economy in phase wise manner and everthing resumed like earlier people and government both was unaware about the term like Second Wave. No preparation and alert was shown by the government to tackle the coming challenge of Second Wave, and as expected with the declaration of Election in 5 states across the nation and Panchayat election in one of the most populous state Uttar Pradesh Covid -19's second waves appears, number of daily cases rising suddenly, situation was uncontrolled, panic buying, black marketing of medicines started. From March to May 2021 the worst condition which was never expected has been clearly visible. Demand for Medical oxygen and beds in Hospitals was at its peak. Several countries of world helped India in this crisis by supplying essential equipments, medicines and Medical liquid oxygen.

In the year 2021 during second waves number of challenges arises, due to month of March and april many examinations are delayed for indefinite periods as number of positive cases reported rises quickly, so many exams postponed but ironically at the same time, it has been reported that mass gatherings in festivals and other other activities such as, political rallies and even farmer protests was going on in an uncontrolled manner. Thus initially in Second Wave of Covid -19 Pandemic Government has no clear policy to controlled it earlier inspite it was aware of its resources and Medical Infrastructure. According to an analysis the first and the second wave of Covid -19 that hit India in 2020 and 2021 respectively, the ICMR DG said there was no major shift in the way different age groups have been affected by the Covid -19 in the two waves. "More than 70 percent patients in both waves are more than 40 years old, only marginally higher proportion of younger patients" Dr Balram Bhargava ( Director general – ICMR ) said based on the study of 1885 patients in the second wave and 7600 patients in first wave. Suddenly in the month of March daily cases reported arises as shown in below graph.

### India's daily new cases and 7-day average



Note: Data up to 23 May 2021

Source: Worldometer

BBC

Second wave surprised India with greater challenges for economic as well as healthcare . It reached at its peak in May 2021 and now experts predicted that Third wave may come with greater challenges . Indian government agency ICMR said that Vaccination is better option in fighting against different variants of Novel Corona Virus . The country claims a robust vaccination graph – the fastest to have reached the 100 million vaccination mark in 85 days bettering the US (89 days) and China (103 days) – though experts say the population size India has its not enough . Government currently vaccinated around 60 lakhs doses per day and planned to increased it further to 1 Crore doses per day .Recently on 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2021 India crossed this daily doses limit to a record of 86 lakh doses in a single day.

On 13 April 2021, India decided to grant emergency licensure to vaccines authorised for use in the US, UK, Europe, Japan or by the World Health Organization (WHO). Step taken by the government when there was huge demand of COVID -19 vaccines all over the world .Government set up the new rules , instead of conducting a local clinical trial before seeking an emergency license, the companies can conduct a bridging trial parallel to the roll-out post-authorisation. The first 100 beneficiaries of such foreign vaccines will be assessed for seven days for safety outcomes before they are rolled out in the country.

Government of India fastrack its decision for largest vaccination programme which resulted as vaccines by two Indian companies – Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech – were approved for emergency use in India these vaccines are prepared in time span of 1 year . A third vaccine Sputnik V also gets approval , it was developed by Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology and manufactured by Dr. Reddy's Lab in India.

"Vaccine development in India has done reasonably well especially on the technology transfer needed for making vaccines – both viral vectors and protein-based ones as well as the inactivated Covaxin," says virologist Gagandeep Kang, a professor in the Department of Gastrointestinal Sciences at the Christian Medical College, Vellore. "But in terms of developing new candidate vaccines in India, there is still a lot of scope for improvement," she says.

Recent efforts by government agencies showed progress in its Largest Vaccination programme , after the

peak of Second wave , the healthcare worker also get relief and they directed their energy towards the vaccination programmes . If this continuous efforts of vaccination and strict rules and guidelines of Covid are followed definitely India will lead the world and defeat this deadly Virus . Its efforts and largest vaccination drive show the way to the other contries of world and with helping other needy nations India's famous philosophy became reality of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" means -The world is Family.

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