



**AMITY**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
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**BUSINESS IN**

# BRICS

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**BRAZIL**

**RUSSIA**

**CHINA**

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## VISION OF HONOURABLE CHANCELLOR



The Centre for BRICS Studies was inaugurated on February 10, 2011 at Amity University Haryana by Dr. Aseem Chauhan, Honourable Chancellor. His dynamic leadership has constantly been a source of inspiration in strengthening and transforming the “Centre for BRICS Studies” into a premier Centre of Excellence in Amity University Haryana promoting high-end research, practice and outreach. The Chancellor’s rightful vision of BRICS becoming an important geo-political and geo-economic grouping in the arena of multilateral diplomacy, business and socio-cultural relations entailing extensive research and academic exploration for a large university like Amity University Haryana has been truly a catalytic force in making the “Centre for BRICS Studies” a hub for research, knowledge creation and dissemination. The launching of 7th Volume of the Centre’s Newsletter in the wake of global pandemic reiterates the commitment of the Centre’s endeavour to promote the spirit of academic research through academia-industry-society linkage in conjunction with relentless effort towards innovation and capacity building while fighting the global pandemic crisis successfully, which in turn resonates the vision and charismatic leadership of Hon’ble Chancellor Dr. Aseem Chauhan.

**Dr. Aseem Chauhan**  
Chancellor,  
Amity University Haryana

## ABOUT AMITY UNIVERSITY HARYANA

Amity University Gurugram is a premier research and innovation driven university in India providing its student with world class academic and learning environment. Spread over a sprawling campus of 110 acres and located in the millennium city of Gurgaon, Amity University Gurgaon has become a stellar destination for students from across the country and abroad. Currently Amity University Gurgaon takes pride of having more than 5000 students in campus thereby creating a vibrant academic environment for all round development. The University is at present offering more than 100 programs in the field of Management, Engineering, Bio-technology, Applied Sciences, Forensic Sciences, Environment, Medical and Allied Health Sciences, Nursing, Journalism & Mass Communications, Liberal Arts, Computer Science, Foreign Language, Law, Architecture, Medical, Commerce, Economics, Fashion, Fine Arts, Liberal Arts, Laser Technology and Optoelectronics and Hotel Management both at undergraduate and post graduate levels, besides offering Doctoral Degree in many of these disciplines. The Centre for BRICS Studies at Amity University Gurgaon is a multi-disciplinary practice-research-outreach initiative comprising representatives from Amity Business School, Amity School of Economics, and Amity School of Languages.



FROM THE  
HEAD - CENTRE FOR  
BRICS STUDIES AND  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



**Prof. (Dr.) Padmakali Banerjee**  
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In the ambit of evolving new world order BRICS community has created a special status because it consists of some of the very powerful fast-moving emerging economies that enormously impacted global economic growth and power balance. The strategic and growing partnership among BRICS - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - has virtually transformed landscape of global geopolitics. Contemporary multilateral diplomacy has now realized that BRICS politico-economic grouping has become an impeccable powerhouse accounting for around 46% of world population, 25% landmass and more than 25% of global GDP. The great significance of BRICS with regard to various metrics such as natural, human and intellectual capital, and technological capital is recognized in various world political and economic forums while addressing pressing global issues ranging from environment safeguard measures, energy security, cyber security, terrorism, poverty alleviation, health issues, employment, science and technology including information and communication technology and other strategic issues in developmental process has become centre of attention of international community including the traditionally dominating western powers. The 10th BRICS Summit held in July 2018 decided on BRICS taking leadership role in ushering an era of Fourth Industrial Revolution, which aims at inclusive growth and shared prosperity by technological experimentation and breakthroughs. The 11th BRICS Summit scheduled to be held in November 2019 in Brazil with its theme "Economic growth for innovative future" is expected to provide further impetus to issues related to scientific-technical and innovative cooperation, digital economy, the fight against organized crime and money laundering, consolidation of cooperation within the BRICS Business Council and accelerating the momentum BRICS New Development Bank.

I take pride to state that the Centre for BRICS Studies has evolved as a premier Centre of Excellence promoting research, practice and outreach related to emerging geopolitical, business, management and socio-cultural developments among BRICS community. It focuses on high-end research, creation and dissemination of knowledge and information on BRICS, analysis of politico-economic cooperation among BRICS, deliberation on public policy matters, and enhancement of people-to-people contact. In this context, the Centre for BRICS Studies and Russian State University of Humanities (RSUH) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the purpose of development of mutual academic cooperation. While keeping track of the latest happenings in BRICS including various Summit meetings, the Centre for BRICS Studies has been at the forefront in organizing expert talks, discussion forums, international publications, guest lectures by senior diplomats and industry professionals, college competitions, etc. thereby providing a major platform for academia-industry integration. I am extremely glad that currently the Centre for BRICS Studies is offering Doctoral program on BRICS issues in collaboration with Amity Business School (ABS), apart from existing courses in MBA program in International Business stream at ABS, Amity University Haryana.

The September 2019 Newsletter of the Centre for BRICS Studies inaugurated on the occasion of Innovation Day continues to showcase the Centre's profound academic and intellectual engagement aimed at enhancing people to people cooperation within BRICS community at large.

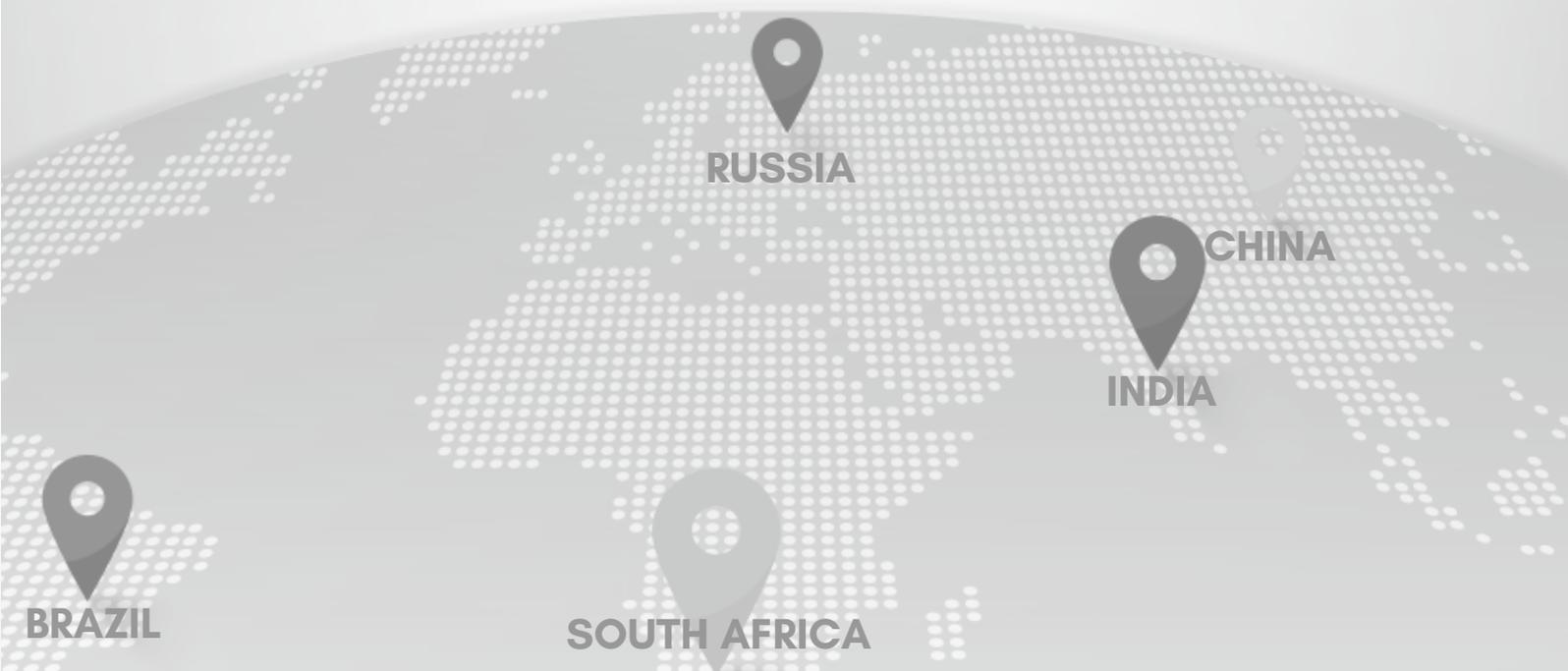
I wish the Centre for BRICS Studies the very best in days to come.

### About the 'Centre for BRICS Studies' at Amity University Haryana

The Centre for BRICS Studies was inaugurated on February 10, 2011 at Amity University Gurgaon by Dr. Aseem Chauhan, Honourable Chancellor of Amity University Gurgaon. Since then the Centre, under the stewardship of Dr. Padmakali Banerjee, Honourable Pro Vice-Chancellor, Amity University Gurgaon has evolved into a Centre of Excellence in its practice-research-outreach endeavor. Over the years the Centre for BRICS Studies has organized various talk shows, discussion forum, guest lectures and college competition. Students have also submitted research articles on issues related to BRICS economies, which have been sent to journal for review and publication. A BRICS centre has been established in AUH library, which carries news articles related BRICS countries everyday and also research articles, reports, journal and magazines. In order to promote the Centre of BRICS Studies in Amity University Haryana and understand the importance of trade between BRICS nations among students, few initiatives are taken and activities organized for enhancement of understanding and intensification of the cultural contacts between the peoples of BRICS countries through organizing various events, short programmes and courses, including promotion of the languages of BRICS countries.

#### The goals of the Centre are outlined below:

- To promote high-end research, creating and disseminating knowledge and information on BRICS along three levels:
  - a. Analysis of political and economic processes within BRICS (domestic level);
  - b. Comparative analyses of BRICS (inter-BRICS level);
  - c. Analysis of BRICS activity in the wider realm of international relations (international level).
- To analyze the cooperative agenda of BRICS as an emerging politico-economic bloc and contribute to the debate on public policy through following initiatives:
  - a. Promotion of public debate on BRICS-related issues;
  - b. Publicizing the agenda of the BRICS' to raise public opinion on their achievements;
  - c. Tracking the evolution and dynamics of BRICS cooperation over the years;
  - d. Disseminating information about the initiatives of the Centre for BRICS Studies to larger audience across academia and industry



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## COVID-19 PANDEMIC, BRICS AND INDIA

**PROF. (DR.) RUMKI BASU**

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BRICS has always been a point of contestation among scholars of International Relations regarding its role in world politics since its first summit in 2009. Critics have viewed BRICS as a group of nations which emerged with relatively stable economic profiles after the 2008 global Recession while others have always looked at the group as a forum for South South Cooperation with a genuine capability to provide an alternative narrative to the existing international economic order dominated by the US led group of international institutions. BRICS collectively represents about 26% of the world's terrain, is home to 3.6 billion people constituting 42% of the world's population and a combined nominal GDP of \$16.6 trillion.

However these figures belonged to the pre Covid-19 era, which ended roughly around March 2020. No one denies that the pandemic has unleashed a series of concurring crises, unimaginable in the history of mankind – medical, economic, human and indeed civilisational, wiping out lives and livelihoods as never before. The disease started at the end of 2019 in China, has been contained to some extent there with localized lockdowns coupled with standardized testing and treatment procedure for patients. In Russia, Brazil, India and South Africa (in that order) there has been a huge spike in cases in this month, requiring a combination of policy measures to contain the spread of the virus. Their collective economic losses will take them at least a year to recover, without being still able to guarantee a return to their pre Covid-19 positions. All the economies of BRICS were reeling under the pressure of the global economic slowdown since 2015 already and the ongoing Corona crisis will affect their export led growth prospects even further. With slower growth rates and pre-existing tensions between the member states (e.g. India and China), BRICS would find it difficult to meet the intended political target of aligning the priorities of all its member states to create a formidable opposition to the West led world economic order. Recently the United Nations Security Council could not discuss Covid-19 as it was blocked by China, a move supported by Russia and South Africa. The lack of a debate in the premier global security forum on a matter as “global” as the pandemic could place a question mark on the covert “political” agenda of BRICS.

India's priorities, have been spelt out in the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Video Conference convened by the current BRICS chair, Russia on 28th April, 2020. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Dr. S. Jaishankar India's Foreign Minister, Ernesto Araujo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Mr. Wang Gi, State Councilor and China's Foreign Minister and Ms. Grace Naledi Pandor South Africa's Minister of International Relations represented their respective BRICS countries. The discussions centered around the Covid-19 crisis, its impact and BRICS' responses. India's foreign minister spoke about India's initiatives to coordinate efforts to contain Covid-19 in South Asia and creation of a Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund by the SAARC countries. He highlighted the fact that India's steps to tackle the pandemic preceded WHO's declaration of Covid-19 as a public health emergency. Among the early steps was the Aarogya Setu Citizen App and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan package for the farmers – coupled with the declaration of an early national lockdown on

25th March to break the transmission of the virus. In pursuance of its image as the world's largest pharmacy of low cost medicines, India is providing pharma assistance to nearly 123 nations. He emphasized the need to see that there is no disruption of global trade and supply chains. Foreign Minister Jaishankar further emphasized on the need to support domestic businesses to ensure that livelihoods are not lost in BRIC member states. Reasserting that multilateralism is the only way forward, he underlined the need for reform in bodies like WHO and the UN Security Council to make them more representative. India's foreign minister also reaffirmed India's strong support for the overall 2020 theme of "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth". The meeting of the Foreign Ministers of BRICS ended with the New Development Bank pledge to loan upto \$15 billion to boost the economies of its member states<sup>6</sup>.

### **The Way Forward**

In the immediate Post Covid-19 years, BRICS needs to refocus on its long term vision of forging South South Cooperation and building an alternative multilateral financial architecture in response to the developing world's needs. The New Development Bank established in 2014 could build up a strong currency reserve, for giving aid to its members focusing on e.g. UNSDGs or Health care Research. China may again propose a BRICS Plus, pushing its agenda to include Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) members into the BRICS fold. In fact, it is only due to India's resistance (BRI passes through territories which India claims as its own) that China's efforts in that direction has remained stagnant. However, it cannot be denied that China has been in the eye of the storm since the pandemic began. Whether its harsh containment measures at home, or the defective Personal Protection Kits supplied to nations who asked for them, China's suppression of facts regarding the medical casualties in Wuhan, (the epicenter of the virus) has pushed China to being on the "defensive" in world fora today.

On the other hand, India's response to the pandemic has led to praise from several quarters. India's virus-affected have exceeded 80,000 but the death rate has been one of the lowest in the world. India's lockdown period was utilized to improve much needed medical infrastructure to combat the virus. The Government has finally announced a 20 lakh crore (10% of our GDP) stimulus for reviving the economy while accepting a \$1 billion dollar loan from the BRICS Development Bank to tide over the economic crisis at home.

At the international level, in the wake of the pandemic, the rift between the US and China was worsened. As the US President blames China for Covid-19, Chinese official media mocks the bungled US response to the pandemic. When the US cut off funds to the WHO, China increased its contribution to the world body. India is soon joining the Executive Board of WHO and will press for reforms in the world body. India leans towards the US but stretches a non-critical hand to China, currently its largest trading partner. India has been careful not to either ridicule or berate Beijing on its handling of the pandemic. Yet, it has worked more closely with the US on almost every aspect of the pandemic. Its diplomatic reward: tangible assistance and public praise from both sides. Multialignment is the catchphrase of Indian diplomacy today, at its core is the belief that India must avoid choosing between sides until it is powerful enough, to make the choice irrelevant. India's priority in BRICS in the post Covid-19 era should continue to be what it was when it first joined the group: attempt to ensure a truly multipolar world, nurture South South Cooperation, and act as a catalyst for reforms in multilateral institutions.

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## CORONOIDAL PEDAGOGIES, OR WHAT TO WEAR TO A ZOOM MEETING

**PROF. (DR.) HOLGER BRIEL**

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These last few weeks have been difficult for many people. And sad to say, scores of people did not survive, indeed a horrible tragedy. The world has had to face up to the fact that better, faster, further has for now been discredited as a business and as a social model.

In the education sector, just like in many other industries, the virus caused numerous disruptions. These were not as far reaching as for instance in the hospitality and tourism sectors, but disruptions they were none the less. In April 2020, the Australian National Tertiary Education Union announced that pay cuts and other revenue containment measures were in the cards for university staff. In the middle of May 2020, the California State University system announced that the Fall 2020 semester would be conducted online and not on campus. To pretend that things would continue as they were before has become a pipe dream. This is true for society at large and universities in particular.

Over the last few months, pedagogical practice has already taught us many valuable lessons, lessons we as educators would do well to heed in the future as well. Amongst these count that students are as unhappy as most of their teachers if classes are online only. Time and again, research has demonstrated that hybrid classes are the clear preference of most students for most classes (cf. an authoritative 2013 metastudy @ <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1127597.pdf>. ) The same study also revealed however, that teacher inexperience with technology has been one of the negative factors impacting on students' negative perception of online education. And it is here where we as educators have to up their own performance.

Today's millennial students are ahead of most of their teachers by leaps and bounds when it comes to IT. This is a gap that in all likelihood cannot ever be filled completely, but here institutions and individuals are equally implicated to better their performance. Universities have to be enablers for their faculties, providing quality tech support and training to their staff and creating the infrastructure that allows meaningful cyberspace interactions. It bears mention here that big tech companies such as Google and FaceBook, have allowed their staff to remain in home office at least until the end of 2020; Twitter even announced the staffs' ad infinitum right to home office. All of this is of course based on robust and fast online technologies.

Infrastructure roll-out is an uphill struggle but one worth the effort; just as in reality, virtual reality infrastructure is an investment in the future. Cases where at least parts of semesters and assessments had to be completely abandoned because of insufficient internet access for all students, such as happened for instance with the 2020 Spring Semester in the Philippines (<https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/3/18/List-online-class-suspensions-march-18.html>), clearly demonstrate that online access is quickly becoming a matter of life and death and that it requires pansocial efforts to secure universal access. For the last few years, talk of the Digital Divide, still on the academic radar in the 1990s and early 2000s because it affected people in Europe and the

USA, has been waning by the same percentage as the divide was closed in those countries. Of course, it is still a major concern when looking at poorer countries and the global south is still woefully far removed from sufficient and just internet penetration. This author certainly hopes that the Covid-19 crisis will help to make this divide disappear more rapidly, as internet participation needs to quickly become a global human right.

What other lessons can we draw from this crisis? In order to remain successful in educating the next generations, it is important to stress that local thinking, as seductive as it might seem at this point, is not the solution, but remains a hindrance. Globalisation continues to be a positive force. However, over the last two or three decades, it has been reduced to economic factors. This, as the crisis teaches us, is thinking in the wrong categories. While the production of, say, face masks can indeed (and perhaps should) be localised, the great challenges of the 21st century, such as global governance of big business, continuing racism, gender inequalities, environmental destruction and climate change control cannot be tackled on a national level; they require a concerted efforts on a global scale. Even the Covid-19 crisis ultimately has to be solved on a global level and not a national one. It is the task of universities to provide guidance in and research of how to do this. We also need to learn the lessons of humility. The crisis has shown that human plans count for nothing when nature does not allow for them. Western models of the domination of nature through technology find their end when nature objects. Here we also see the relation between Covid-19 and climate change. While their reasons for occurrence differ, they both remind us of the fact that we live in an organic, interdependent natural system and need to work in and with it and not against it. While the Gaia hypothesis, the idea that our world has a unified consciousness of its own, is controversial, it certainly serves well as a useful metaphor to make us understand that we are dependent on our planet and that we befoul our planet to our own detriment. This consciousness needs to inform our teaching as well as our actions, as it is our actions today that will have repercussions for the generations of the future.

Furthermore, flexibility is more important than ever before. The virus will be with us for the near future, and outbreaks and 2nd waves are very likely to (re-)occur. This means that rules of engagement might have to be tightened again for some time. This is the case in China right now, as in mid-May 2020 there has been a virus hotspot again in the northern city of Jilin. Schools and restaurants were closed again and transportation severely curtailed. This is something we will have to live with and which will also disrupt education for the foreseeable future.

Lastly, online meetings, teaching and home office do work much better than anticipated. Much of the administrative work can be done online, and we have gotten much closer to the dream of the paperless office. These are all very valuable lessons. On the other hand, we need to make sure that university administrators know that this knowledge is not a carte blanche to curtail onsite development, staff numbers and conference budgets ("We can do all this online now"). Much closer to the truth is the fact that we need additional and speedier internet capabilities on and off campus and that communities might need to depend on help from universities to achieve this goal. For instance, the setting up of internet hotspot sponsored by local universities. We understand much better now what does work online and what does not. Not all classes work online (e.g. more practice-oriented classes don't) and conferences also only work to a limited extent; on-site face-to-face exchanges are still invariably more faceted and yielding than any 2-D screen interactions can ever be.

Which only leaves the answer to what to wear for Zoom meetings. Of course, there is no patent answer. But to be on the safe side, make sure to switch the camera function off when moving about your home office. After all, you might have forgotten to wear important parts of your wardrobe when you went to your home office today.



## BRICS TAKING LEADERSHIP ROLE TOWARDS GLOBAL PANDEMIC CRISIS MANAGEMENT – MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTERVENTIONS

**PROF. (DR.) DEBASIS BHATTACHARYA**

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The emergence of BRICS as a cohesive political and economic grouping comprising five fast moving emerging economies – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – with global aspirations has now been perceived and widely acclaimed by international community as profound force that is bound to have significant ramifications in shaping the world order of the 21st century. With BRICS (Brazil–Russia–India–China–South Africa) representing over 3.6 billion people constituting approximately half of the world population and comprising a combined GDP of USD 16.6 trillion, the importance of this grouping is undoubtedly paramount in addressing any global challenges. In contemporary era as the grip of political and economic interdependence crystallizes, BRICS is considered as an established potent alliance in determining the trajectory of institutional cooperation and dispute resolution while addressing new and rapidly evolving global challenges. Today as the world is reeling under the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic, BRICS community has taken leadership role in undertaking comprehensive efforts to work in tandem with other global forums with a deep sense of commitment, institutional cooperation, complementarity and reciprocity to combat global pandemic.

While showing the way forward in these troubled times, the BRICS grouping in its recently held Foreign Minister's video-conference has emphasized the urgency to address the pandemic challenge in a multilateral framework and called for restructuring of multilateral system to facilitate international cooperation for sustainable development and shared economic growth. In recent months since the outbreak of the pandemic the focus of BRICS, as a responsible and powerful alliance in contemporary geopolitics, has been towards vaccine development, healthcare facility enhancement especially related to providing immediate medical treatment to COVID-19 patients in conjunction with providing relief in areas related to mental wellbeing, depression, anxiety, continued and expanded medical diplomacy, necessary pharmaceutical distribution across the world on a humanitarian ground, along with business process revival in BRICS and beyond. In this crisis emerging economies that is represented by BRICS countries have ceased the opportunity in global landscape in extending assistance to international community in an inclusive manner, thereby complying with the basic tenets of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

One of the most remarkable features showcasing BRICS prowess to effectively address global pandemic relates to India's extending pharma assistance to nearly 85 countries including countries such as USA, Brazil and many countries in Africa on a grant basis to support their efforts to combat the global pandemic. As the world's largest producer of hydroxychloroquine India taking lead role in exporting the drug to not only SAARC countries but also to the Gulf region, United States, Russia, Brazil and Israel provides a glaring example to lead from the front in further reiterating an inclusive BRICS-led medical diplomacy. On similar lines in the wake of pandemic BRICS community has decided to allocate up to USD 15 billion to revive and jumpstart economic, business and trade activities in BRICS. In order to expedite the process of providing medical and healthcare relief, the New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS has set an example for other global financial institutions by expediting

'Emergency Assistance Program Loan' facility for member countries towards providing financial assistance with an aim at preventing, detecting, containing, capacity building and effectively responding to the healthcare challenges posed by global pandemic. Under the scheme like other member countries, India has already been disbursed USD 1 billion to facilitate funding critical healthcare expenditure while enhancing healthcare capacity and strengthening national health systems preparedness and providing immediate economic assistance to the vulnerable and affected groups. As an ongoing process of adopting a multidimensional intervention with a humanitarian face while emboldening crisis management to combat global pandemic, BRICS community has further displayed exemplary initiative as a cohesive grouping when the senior health officials of member countries reiterated commitment to create favourable conditions for the supply of necessary deliveries of medications and diagnostic materials, immunobiological preparations and medical equipment, vaccine development. BRICS grouping also expressed the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation in a more transparent manner to facilitate timely exchange of information and adopting to comprehensive early warning systems to combat risks of biological threats within BRICS and beyond.

Another integral element of multidimensional intervention in handling any global crisis management relates to adapting latest technology to bolster governance and response mechanism. In this arena too BRICS countries have shown exemplary progress and somewhat overtaken many of the developed countries in the context of information technology hardware and software development projects. In contemporary highly connected world various interventions related to information and communication technology has enormously integrated management policy decision process and their governance in a higher trajectory of efficiency and effectiveness in terms of production, consumption and delivery of output to end consumers. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is not just technology enabled change but something very special as it brings in opportunity to help everyone, including leaders, policymakers and people from all income groups and nations while harnessing converging technologies in order to create an inclusive shared prosperity that centres around all round human development in terms uplifting families, organizations, and communities. The need of the hour at this critical juncture is to further harness the already existing and explored potential in the realm of information and communication technology in BRICS grouping to serve the purpose of not only the member countries but also the larger international community. BRICS initiatives and discussions in various forums in recent months shows the leadership acumen towards providing effective guidance to global community by appropriate technology intervention mechanism especially in the context of global pandemic crisis management. Such process in turn will allow for perfect synchronization of economic development with a humanitarian face keeping human values and people at the core of any development process in a manner such that use of technology has the capability to empowerment of people at large. The 10th BRICS Summit reiterated the need for synthesizing scientific and technological pursuits for wider benefit of societies and communities in BRICS and beyond. In this manner the Fourth Industrial Revolution spearheaded by BRICS grouping calls for greater integrated and cohesive approach encompassing all stakeholders such as governments, international institutions, industries, and communities at large.

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## THE TWO MOST POWERFUL WARRIORS: PATIENCE AND TIME

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The new crown Pneumonia has its new name, Covid-19, that made people more and more confused. Why the new crown pneumonia to this, name-Covid 19 and its significance. The modest name of New Coronary Pneumonia released by the National Health and Medical Council that the virus is an upgraded pneumonic tendency, called Novel coronavirus. On the other hand it's in situ that the novel coronavirus has a prominent feature whereby patients have a large amount of very sticky mucus in their small airways that obstruction of the airway can lead to secondary infections. Talking about the effectively if this Covid 19 it depends on Immunity and age factors. However being maintaining proper measure can be one of the best measures to fight back against this Virus. The impact on businesses operating in China, and the resumption of China factory deliveries, has been less of a problem than initially appeared would be the case during the first two months of 2020. A MNC with 300 China staff and 12 mainland China offices, have reported just a 3 percent drop in revenues for the January-February 2020 period, compared with the same period last year.

### Extension and Suspension of Business Operations

In a first effort to curb the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak by avoiding the movement of individuals during the Spring Festival public holidays, the General Office of the State Council issued the Circular on Extending the 2020 Spring Festival Holiday ("Circular") on 27 January 2020. According to this Circular, the period for the Spring Festival public holidays was extended from 30 January 2020 until including 2 February 2020. During the extended public holidays, employees were not required to appear at or carry out work while receiving full payment of their salaries. According to the Circular, employees required to work during such period shall be offered compensatory leave, or shall receive overtime payment in accordance with applicable PRC laws and regulations. This national level Circular was supplemented subsequently by various regulations on provincial level, all of which being subject to continued changes and therefore requiring close attention by both employers and employees. The provincial level regulations differ in terms of scope from one another, reflecting the extent of impact of the COVID-19 on the respective provinces. Depending on the specific scope thereof, companies shall arrange the further suspension of business operation/production, provide the required work arrangements (e. g. Home Office) and make due payments of salaries or other compensations, as applicable. Certain companies deemed indispensable to sustain public health and order (e. g. public utility operations, businesses operating in virus prevention/control and businesses attending to daily life supply) are exempt from the aforementioned national and provincial level policies and required to sustain regular business operations.

### Remuneration should be on priority:

On 24 January 2020, the PRC Ministry of Human Resource and Social Security issued the Notice on Properly Handling Labour Relationships during the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia Epidemic of New Coronavirus Infection ("HRSS Notice"). This State level HRSS Notice provides, amongst others, stipulations on remuneration

during the COVID-19 epidemic and for the time after the suspension of business operations/production due to governmental policies. According to such HRSS Notice, companies shall:

- pay salaries to its employees as provided in the respective labour contract during the first payment cycle in case such company suspends its business operation/production due to COVID-19;
- pay salaries to its employees no lower than the applicable local minimum wage in case such company suspends its business operation/production due to COVID-19 beyond the first payment cycle, subject to the employee having provided his/her workforce to the company during such period;
- pay to its employees an amount no lower than the applicable local living expenses in case such company suspends its business operation/production due to COVID-19 beyond the first payment cycle, subject to the employee not having provided his/her workforce to the company during such period;
- pay salaries to its employees as provided in the respective labour contract in case such employee (a) is proven to be infected with COVID-19, (b) is suspected of being infected with COVID-19, (c) was in close contact with an individual proven to be infected with COVID-19, or is suspected of being infected with COVID-19. The salary shall be paid during the period such employee is absent from work in order to receive medical treatment, medical observation, or who is subject to quarantine or other emergency measures taken by the government

### **Flexible Work Arrangements and Work Protection**

Notice from HRRS provides all the MNCS' and corporate houses with certain flexibility in light of the COVID-19 to further arrange their business operations/production after the suspension thereof due to governmental policies. In case companies experience difficulties in upholding their business operation/production, such companies may adjust their employees' salaries and time shifts in order to avoid a worst case scenario of mass layoffs. Such adjustments require the prior consultation with employees; however the HRSS Notice does not specify the consultation procedure. It is therefore recommended to obtain the consent of all employees or align with the trade union, if any. Companies that do not require on production sites and specific equipment to carry out their business operations may also consider offering employees Home Office solutions, e.g. by using online meeting software, online collaborative editing software, etc. During Home Office periods, employees shall receive the salary as agreed in the respective labour contract. Employers in the PRC have a general obligation to provide employees with a safe and healthy work environment. In light of the COVID-19, companies shall provide to their employees sanitation protection against the COVID-19 virus including but not limited to regular disinfection of the office, monitoring and registration of non-staff visitors, etc. According to a press conference of the State Council in response to the COVID-19 epidemic held on 11 February 2020, companies shall also provide employees with respiratory masks upon return to the workplace. Certain local governments have further issued detailed action plans for business to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus at the workplace. An employer's failure to comply with such governmental action plans may lead to administrative penalties as provided by the Implementing Measures of the PRC Law on the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases and the PRC Emergency Response Law.

There are lessons to be learned from this: businesses that had adapted to a digital work base - allowing employees to work from home - have performed better than those that haven't invested in new technologies.



## FEDERALISM AND BRICS

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Corona pandemic has brought the world economy to a standstill. This crisis will reaffirm the importance of regions in the global setting. It provides an opportunity to analyse the purpose why the regional economic groups were created. Various regional groups are standing together and helping member states with their particular expertise to save the socio-economic, political and human integrity of their region.

BRICS is an important expression of federalism at supra national level. The government of BRICS member countries are working in collaboration with international development agencies for fiscal measures and boost trade. BRICS is an informal integration of emerging economy and growing market of world comprising Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, Republic of India, Peoples Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa.

The word BRIC was coined by Goldman Sachs in 2001 to raise a group of emerging economy of contemporary world. The idea of BRICS is based on interest of expanding multilateral cooperation that was proposed by Russian President Vladimir Putin on 20th September 2006 in a meeting held on the margin of UN session in New York attended by Foreign Minister of Brazil, China and Russia and defense minister of India. At the initial stage, organization was known as BRIC but alphabet 'S' was added after joining of South Africa as the last entrant to the club on the invitation of China with acceptance of other member states in order to strengthen south-south cooperation. In the same year, BRICS action plans were approved during the annual summit.

In a relatively short span of time, BRICS has evolved as a major catalyst for global change and captured the imagination of the global community. The cooperation provides an international platform to raise the collective amplified voice for the interest of emerging players in formulation of global agenda. BRICS is a powerful block, its shared 23.2 percent of world GDP in 2018 and 41 percent of global population till 2015.

The power of BRICS is reflected by establishment of its own financial institution-New Development Bank (NDB), to break the monopoly of IMF and World Bank and exert pressure on these institutions to function more normatively, democratically and efficiently in reforming international financial system as well as democratising international relations. The motive of the NDB is to work along with other multilateral and regional banks and institutions and to complement not to substitute the existing institution both in public and private sector.

Many regional and multilateral banks were started with a major and exclusive focus on infrastructure development. European Investment Bank (EIB) was started to integrate and develop infrastructure of European countries while World Bank was initiated with the motive to render support for reconstruction of European infrastructure after World War II. Over the course of time, most of these regional and multilateral banks diversified and expanded their activities to lend to other sectors (e.g. social sectors, indirect lending via global loans channeled through commercial or other banks to SMEs), and in recent years, have increasingly focused on more sustainable development. The rationale for the BRICS development bank has been built focusing on the major needs in infrastructure and more sustainable development (UNCTAD, 2014).

In the aforesaid context, leaders of BRICS states approved the formation of a New Development Bank (NDB) in March 2013, during their meeting in Durban to finance investment in infrastructure and more sustainable development in BRICS and other emerging and developing countries. This is reflected in the March 2013 Durban Summit Declaration and Action Plan:

“In March 2012 we directed our Finance Ministers to examine the feasibility and viability of setting up a New Development Bank for mobilising resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, to supplement the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development... We have agreed to establish the New Development Bank. The initial contribution to the Bank should be substantial and sufficient for the Bank to be effective in financing infrastructure” (BRICS, 2013: paragraph 9).

The then economic advisor of India, Kaushik Basu on the launch of NDB said “that all five countries are very enthusiastic about the importance of the new development bank. We are receiving positive vibration from World Bank and IMF. Today institutions recognise that contemporary global economy is so large that another new development bank does not really take away from any existing bank, there is space for much more.”

The unique feature of NDB is “emergency assistance program”. Under this, it provides loans to the member countries during the time of crisis. Recently the NDB has approved the loan of \$1 billion to India to accelerate the pace in its fight against the pandemic. This is the second loan that the Bank has approved after it handed a similar amount to China in March 2020.

The BRICS has potential to leverage agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Pandemic has pushed a large chunk of population in poverty. On the flip side, it has also opened the avenue for virtual world or to say a beginning of an era of innovation, artificial intelligence and digital economy. BRICS countries have taken a call to cooperate and cater to quality education to enable the youth to grab a decent job and collaborate in accelerating the economy. China and India are leading as protagonist of the forth industrial revolution with their expertise and technology exchange.

China made half of the world’s masks before the coronavirus began, and it has expanded its production nearly twelve-fold since then. Although there have been criticisms about China hoarding these masks and other PPE items. Yet it has significantly contributed to realizing the needs of many European nations as well as the US. In order to come out of the Corona-virus battle, it is essential that China continues to supply vital medical care to the world.

India is also a leading manufacturer as well as exporter of generic medicines to the world. In the initial days of the Corona pandemic, India supplied much hyped drug hydroxychloroquine to many nations including US and Brazil. In April, it also supplied gloves to Serbia. Similarly, South Africa, being the current chair of the African Union, has also taken lead in dealing with the insurmountable challenge to the Corona pandemic in the African continent.

The present crisis requires a collective effort to respond to this humanitarian crisis. Regional groupings like BRICS should play a lead role and restate their legitimacy by adopting a coordinated line at regional and global level. It should engage in a multilateral cooperative dialogue, to deal with challenges of health, poverty and unemployment.



## BUILDING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMPETENCIES IN BRICS COUNTRIES DURING COVID 19: A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

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### The Opportunity

BRICS Countries are playing vital role in building World Economy. COVID 19 Pandemic has hit the world economy and diverse opportunities have also created in view of current crisis. Accounting for 25% of World GDP and nearly 50% of World's Population, BRICS is becoming critical economic zone for the world to rely for.

COVID 19 has distressed the world. Every country is doing their bit in absence of vaccine to control the pandemic. In Specific to BRICS Countries, Brazil has not been pro active in responding to covid 19 inspite of their stressed economy, there are chances that it may diorite their economic health further.

For Russia, It is scale through situation and can control if rights measures are taken. India is setting up example by putting lockdown in the intial phase only and now pushing the economy with high level reforms. China, has come out from this pandemic much early and has given a boost to their industry to perform the better efficiency. South Africa is already facing high cases of TB and HIV, It is expected that condition will worsen further due to poor health infrastructure.

New Development Bank of BRICS Countries is giving financial assistance to address the pandemic and has created \$10 billion crisis assistance to BRICS Member countries. Industries are demanding tax breaks, concessional loans and better policies to deal with unemployment, It is perfect launchpadd to dive into entrepreneurial journey. Recently India Launched campaign - 'ATAM NIRBHAR BHARAT' using this as opportunity to build sustainable economy that will surely help Indian economy and youth to stay resilient in tough times and be self dependant.

### The Road Ahead

At an average, A Single Entrepreneur creates 30 Jobs for the Industry as per TIE Report which develops a robust model for employment. There has been continuous debate on FDI and Import duty diluting our forex reserves, The concept of entrepreneurship also nurtures 'Made in India' Philosophy and develops a good confidence in Indian youth to be self sustainable. COVID-19 has bring the world to halt, From Giants to Start up, Everyone is looking for one or another way to kick start again to boost their company and their contribution in economy. Job losses has started showing positive trends and GDP is losing its grip in the market. Time is perfect to relaunch or push ourselves to strive ahead with entrepreneurship spirit and build entrepreneurial competencies to build sustainable companies. To do so, It is imperative that one should have entrepreneurial competencies to drive the process.

Several Countries are providing consumer loans like Govt of Russia has provided Consumer loans for individual entrepreneurs to the tune of Rs.300,000 (US\$4,115). In India, Government announced a stimulus package of Rs. 20 lakh crore as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The government is offering Rs. 3 lakh crore as collateral-free automatic loan to MSMEs with outstanding loan of Rs. 25 crore or annual turnover of Rs. 100 crore.

Besides this, the government has also redefined the definition of MSME's and have widened the scope of micro, small and medium category enterprises. For instance, all enterprises will investment less than Rs. 1 crore or turnover of less than Rs. 5 crore will be qualified for a micro enterprise. The same for small enterprises have been set to Rs. 10 crore and Rs. 50 crore, respectively. This has provided a perfect launch pad for people to drive their entrepreneurial spirit and utilize the situation in their own benefit and nation.

With Tough Times, Comes Tough Leadership, Operating in such deep trouble environment in no easy job. It require lot of patience, proactiveness, positivity, Transformational leadership to succeed. Developing Entrepreneurial Competencies in the given environment should have deep motivation, persistence, innovativeness, empathy and Influence to drive for.

Know What, Know How, Know Why defined by Middleton and Donnellon (2014) perfectly fits the situation today. In the given crisis management, to derive the most profitable outcome will be the challenge. From Idea activation to managing Work force, everything will require persistence to achieve the desired output. It is important that person proactively engages and works on the spirit of entrepreneurial journey to achieve larger outcome.

During Covid 19 Times, Countries Economy has clearly shown the gap where the opportunities lies ahead. For Example, India has been the highest producer of Hydroxychloroquine which is an effective remedial to be treated for COVID 19 patients. India utilized this strength very well and has exported to nations across the world. Similarly, Biotechnology, way ahead will prove to be a game changer. Another Aspect is the Living situation of People in the Lockdown and Changing Habits. Now Companies are considering Work from Home as new normal. Hygiene has become suddenly so important.

It is important for an entrepreneur to aptly choose the opportunity keeping current and future aspects. Some of the top list one can chalk out to build an opportunity in this disguise.

**Commitment:**

It demands lots of patience and efforts. One should have the zeal to perform and change the situation in favorable outcomes.

**Demand for Efficiency**

Working in smaller set ups demands effective working, It is much required to work at optimum with required resources and bring better ROI. Developing this aspect is very much important to survive in crisis situation.

**Calculated Risks**

As Opportunity comes, so is the Risk, Calculated risks is better one than the blind one which comes with experience and knowledge. SO One should acquire knowledge, skill and information to take calculated risks

**Goal Setting**

Bigger Objective should be in mind to play big games. Shorter Entrepreneur journey are usually the losers one, You can't expect to big in one days, It requires consistent efforts and a vision to succeed.

**Systematic Planning and Monitoring**

To get effective results, Discipline plays a vital role, Understanding of effective system and monitoring helps the entrepreneur to drive the set up in the most efficient way. One should consistent innovate to ensure right system and processes are there to increase and smoothen the efficiency of the set up.

**UpSkilling**

Change is the need of the hour. Continuously changing technology and geo-political environment, One must have required upgraded knowledge to sustain and improved efficacy.

On a conclusive note, This is a big opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to build entrepreneurial competency and upskills themselves and prepare for the opportunity.

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## SKILLS TO LOOK FOR IN POST CORONA WORLD

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So much has changed since Covid -19 took over the world and the BRICS countries are no exception. In India we are going through a tough phase with sudden spikes in cases and the same is seen in Russia, Brazil and South Africa. China has seen the worst and is struggling to put the past behind. It's been only few months but we know that our lives will not be the same again. The world, which was getting smaller with shrinking boundaries and our interdependence on one another, has shrunk further and now is visible from a screen of our digital device whether it is a phone, a tab, or a computer screen. We are compelled to stay indoors and look at the changing scenario with curiosity and uncertainty.

What is certain is the change. As we wish and hope that our lives are back to normal soon, we also know that a change is inevitable and there is an absolute need to prepare ourselves for it. There will be a change in people's priorities and with that the skills required in the future will be based on the changes in our lifestyle and demand.

The last few months brought the classrooms, the boardrooms and the auditorium to our digital device. Every student from kindergarten to university was attending online classes. Teachers, who are trained in classroom pedagogy are managing online platforms. The long boardroom meeting are happening across the screens and webinars have replaced seminars overnight. What could have happened without these technological platforms is nobody's guess. But, technology came to our rescue and Zoom, Zoho, Webex and Microsoft Teams became the household names. So it is obvious that our work and the way we work will change drastically. We will also witness a shift in skills' demand in future.

### **Technology will play the pivotal role**

We have already experienced it and our dependency on ICT and internet will be even more in future. Those who never showed any inclination towards technology and found conventional methods more convenient have no option but to embrace technology. For example in schools ICT will become one of the required skills for teachers irrespective of the subjects they are teaching.

In every other sphere, the minds will be tuned to social distancing and it will remain in some form or the other. As handshakes is replaced by folding of hands, the congregations will continue to make us uncomfortable. So more than personal meetings people will prefer to meet digitally.

Similarly, artificial intelligence, machine learning, coding and software will be high in demand. Data analytics will also be a skill to reckon with and, so will be the digital marketing as more and more people will depend on internet for their shopping rather than going to malls.

Technology will give rise to new job roles and calling one non-technical will not be an option.

### **Psychological Skills**

Humans are social beings and all the talk about staying at home and social distancing will bound to affect their psyche. Moreover, people might lose their jobs and livelihood. There is also a prediction regarding an increase in criminal offences due to deteriorating economic conditions. BRICS countries may be more vulnerable and therefore need is to be prepared with a robust system. Mental health and conditions like anxiety, stress and depression can be rampant in the future. More and more people will seek psychological help and counselling. We would need stronger support system for those in need. Similarly, leaders will have to show better EQ and more compassion and empathy.

### **Social and social media skills**

As personal meeting will reduce, our presence on the internet will have more impact. Soft skills will be directed towards internet and 'Netiquette' will become extremely important and noticeable. Also, internet influencer will have more audience than before. The fashion online will catch more eyeballs and more takers. As a result, web and internet presence will have more impact than the off screen, personal presence.

### **Innovations and creativity**

Things around us are changing very fast and so are our needs. More than the fashionable shades and cosmetics we need masks and dressing to protect us from the virus. So right from apparel industry to hospitality and technology, there's place for innovation. People with creative skills can fill in the void created by the sudden change in people's priorities. The old traditional ways to function will soon be obsolete and those rigid about it will lose their jobs sooner than we can imagine.

### **Healthcare**

Pharmaceutical industry, medical services or paramedics, people are looking at them as saviours. There's going to be a huge demand in healthcare sector. Unfortunate as it may sound, health is going to be our primary concern. The sudden break of the virus has been an eye opener. We suddenly realized that boosting our immunity and the need to stay fit became our paramount concern. Job of a nutritionist has also become significant and healthcare workers have become the new warriors protecting us from this vicious virus.

### **Renewable Energy**

As we stayed indoors the earth started to reclaim itself. The polluted air became easier to breathe and the wilds of the nature came out of their hiding enjoying the freedom that we had deprived them of. It was a wakeup call for humans who had been taking nature for granted. As a positive implication of corona, we hope to be more careful towards our environment in future. Therefore, environmentalists and people working in renewable resources space will be in great demand because we would surely not want to go back to the stage which brought us this disaster.

### **Art and performing Arts**

We have learnt to stay indoors and enjoy the beauty around us. Art in its various forms have always come to our rescue whenever we felt down and out. Whether its film making, performing arts like classical dance or music or even painting and sketching, there will be more takers for them, albeit in the digital form. People will be looking for newer avenues to stay happy and entertained and thus, skills in entertaining and performing arts will be in great demand.

## **Gaming**

Although, already popular, gaming may replace active sports in times to come. Gamers will have to be more imaginative to satiate people's urge to play sports. Other than that, staying indoors has earned people more time in hand. A lot of people will lose their regular jobs and some may retire early. This will make digital gaming a source to stay occupied.

Human race has seen many calamities and pandemics in the past too but each time it emerged stronger. We hope to win against this catastrophe too. BRICS countries need to be prepared, as any laxity on their part will make it tough for them to stand strong against the future odds and make the struggle harder.



## CHINESE TABLE TENNIS TEAM'S VISIT TO CALCUTTA IN 1975: AN EXAMPLE OF SPORTS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR BRICS

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#### Biographical Note:

Anirban Ghosh is an Assistant Professor in Chinese Language in the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University (MGIHU), Wardha, Maharashtra since July 2007. He has completed Graduation, Post-graduation and Ph.D. in Chinese Language and Culture from Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan. He has participated in seminars, workshops, training programmes etc. in several Universities of India and China.

#### Introduction:

BRICS, which is an association of five major emerging countries like Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, was formed in 2010 to promote international relations, economic development and strengthen political authority at the global level. To regularise activities at different level, BRICS countries organising annual summit, sports, cinema, education, culture etc. BRICS member countries together consist of almost 40% of the world population and occupying more than 30% of world GDP. By the sideline of the 7th BRICS Summit, first BRICS Games was held in Ufa, Russia in July 2015. In 2016, Indian organised U-17 football tournament in Goa where five member countries of BRICS participated. Similarly, during 17-21 June, 2017, BRICS Games was organised in Guangzhou, China with three major events like Basketball, Volleyball and Wushu. 3rd edition of BRICS Games was held in Johannesburg of South Africa during 17 - 22 July, 2018 which included U-17 and U-21 level football and volleyball respectively.

People-to-people activities like sports, film, music etc help nation to build up friendship as well as fraternity. India and China faced difficult relations in the two decades during 1970s and 1980s respectively when mistrust, suspicion, criticism over each other was a big problem. But since the beginning of 1970s, series of events like acupuncture training, participation in sports, exchange of education oriented programme etc. helped each other normalising bilateral relations. Indian table tennis team went to China in 1971 and 1973 respectively at China's invitation. Similarly, China sent 62-member Table Tennis team (it included diplomats, journalists from the Xinhua News Agency and news reporters from China Central Television also) in the 33rd World Table Tennis Championship held in Kolkata (the then Calcutta) during February 5 - 16, 1975 in the newly built Netaji Indoor Stadium, where 400 men and women players from 50 countries and regions participated. This was a first delegation from China to India after 1962 which was led by Mr. Zhao Zhenghong, Deputy Minister of the Culture and Sports Department. The sound of 'Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai' was tune of the entire phase of their stay in India. 'This big gathering had promoted friendship and provided opportunities for an exchange of table tennis skills', reported Peking Review Journal of China.

#### World Table Tennis Championship and Bilateral Friendly Initiatives:

The ten-day sports event was divided into two different parts: one was team events of men and women from February 6 to 10 where Chinese men and women team won both the championships. The second part was individual events which continued during February 12-16 and the Chinese team dominated again. On the other hand, Indian team participated in the tournament and secured 16th position in the tournament.

One innovative initiative in the event was live broadcast programme of the World Table Tennis Competition in Mandarin and Cantonese Language in everyday morning and evening by the All India Radio (AIR). The idea was initiated primarily by the Eminent Sinologist Dr. Narayan Sen, who was a former faculty member in Chinese Language in the Visva-Bharati Cheena-Bhavana and Supervisor of the Chinese Unit of AIR. Narayan Sen and four other Chinese persons took part in the live broadcast programme which included interview of sports personalities also.

Bengal branch of the India-China Friendship Association (ICFA) and Dwarakanath Kotnis Memorial Committee played positive role during the visit of the Chinese Table Tennis Team delegation in Calcutta. On 9 February, the All India Kotnis Memorial Committee and the India - China Friendship Association (ICFA) arranged a special Tea Party for the Chinese delegates where two hundred dignitaries from various fields were present. 'During its stay in Calcutta, the Chinese Table Tennis Delegation had extensive contacts with friends from table tennis circles of various countries. They renewed old friendship and swapped table tennis techniques with their counterparts', reported Peking Review. Chinese Table Tennis Delegation also visited Calcutta China Town and met with native Chinese people and celebrated Chinese lunar New Year programme.

#### **Bilateral Diplomatic Efforts:**

The Indian Government tried to arrange good reception for the Chinese delegation's stay in India keeping in mind about the importance of the visit in diplomatic relations. 'It (the Indian Government) has housed the Chinese in a separate hotel (Hotel Hindustan) with swimming pool and other facilities designed to make them feel welcome and comfortable. The Chinese received the biggest ovation accorded any of the 51 teams at the opening (ceremony)', reported the New York Times on 6 February. After completing the sports event in Calcutta, Chinese sports delegation reached Delhi. Before departure from Calcutta, Mr. Zhao Zhenghong expressed desire to meet Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi in Delhi if chance arises, although it didn't materialise finally. But the Indian Government responded positively by arranging an informal Ministerial level meeting between Chinese and Indian leader when they reached Delhi after the sports event in Calcutta. On 21 February the Chinese table tennis team delegation and its leader Mr. Zhao Zhenghong met with honourable Mr. Arvind Netam, Deputy Minister of Education of the Government of India. In their meeting with the Indian Minister, the Chinese delegation leader thanked Indian Government and people for their entire arrangements and hospitality. Indian Table Tennis Federation organised felicitation programme for the Chinese table tennis team delegation on 22 February. Besides these, in the next day Indian table tennis team played a friendly match with the Chinese team at the Tal Kotara stadium in Delhi. The visitors went to Jaipur on 24 February and the Ministry of External Affairs of India extended their stay in India from five days to nine days.

Chinese Government also expressed satisfaction to the decision of the organising committee as they prohibited Israel and South Africa to participate in the competition and allowed Palestine region in the game. They felt happy about India's supporting on Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) which was based in Beijing in the World Table Tennis Conference. Another important step for improving bilateral diplomatic relations was showing intention on resuming bilateral talks from Chinese side. Mr. Chen Xilian, Deputy Prime Minister of China expressed opinion on this topic to the Indian journalists on behalf of the Chinese Government while crossing from Kathmandu to Beijing via Dum Dum airport on 26 February. In continuation with these positive trends, Chinese Government sent Mr. Ma Muming, Charge De Affairs of the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi to attend the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) conference held in New Delhi.

**Conclusion:**

There are huge potential for expanding BRICS Games with diversified items. The incident of 1975 became 'Ping-Pong Diplomacy' between the two countries which helped in the resumption process of normalising India - China bilateral relations in the next few years. The success of Table Tennis Games helped two nations and China sent Archery team in 1979, Asian Table Tournament, Calcutta in 1980 and Asian Games in 1982 respectively. During the world Championships, friends from table tennis circles of various countries strengthened unity and mutual support and achieved fruitful results, expressed Chinese leaders. Xinhua News Agency reported about slogans used like 'Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai' several times during the event and several other positive incidents in the Chinese newspapers. Throughout the tournament, Chinese players got support from the audiences and local people. In this way, through participation in sports activities, common people of both countries could exchange ideas after a gap of nearly fifteen years.

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## ROLE OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT IN BRICS NATION

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Women entrepreneurs have been accepted as the present-day foundations for growth and development in developing countries to bring community prosperity and well being. A variety of stakeholders has pointed at them as an important 'untapped source' of economic growth and development (Minniti and Naudé, 2010). The appreciable growth in the share of women entrepreneurs in developing countries has drawn the attention of both the academic and the institutional sector. International institutions, national and local governments, NGOs, corporate, charities, academic and business organizations have initiated programs or policies to promote and develop women's entrepreneurship. Programs for capacity-building of entrepreneurial skills, strengthening women's networks, provide finance and trainings, or design policies that enable more and stronger women-oriented start-ups and business expansion.

Women tend to hire other women, which helps ease the cycle of chronic female unemployment in developing nations (Aidis et al, 2005). Innovative leaders tend to pass on their professional know-how and skills, thereby constituting the much-needed role models for future generations, and are able to build and maintain long-standing relationships and networks to communicate effectively for inclusive growth and economic development.

The BRICS block of countries consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa was established to strengthen the trade link between the major emerging economies and lead to a path of growth and prosperity. Due to an ever changing global environment many emerging countries, including the BRICS, have accepted greater political and economic responsibility. South Africa, China, Brazil and Russia are classified as efficiency-driven economies, India is classified as a factor-driven economy (Herrington and Kew, 2017). Growth of women entrepreneurial ventures in these economies have led to a prominent wave changes in societal dynamics, their contribution to economic development and inclusive growth.

During this age of globalization, dynamic transformation and disruptions India is clearly seeing a revolution where women entrepreneurs are concerned. The sixth economic census released by MoSPI, women constitute around 14% of the total entrepreneurship in India. Today's women entrepreneurs do not come only from the established business families or from the higher-income sections of the population, they come from all walks of life and from all parts of the country. From running sports media firms to construction companies and security and detective agencies and social entrepreneurial enterprises - women are leading in untraditional domains. Women's entrepreneurship can help to progress the cause of financial inclusion of women in the country. Fuelling entrepreneurial spirit and providing necessary support to women entrepreneurs hold the promise of changing the economic and social trajectory of India and its women for generations to come and look forward for their transformative role in community development leading to an inclusive growth process.

If we study the entrepreneurship environment of our neighbor China women own 30.9 percent of all businesses in China, according to the most recent Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs. In some Chinese industries

the percentage of female founders is much higher. Among new technology startups, for example, 55 percent are being founded by women. The reasons for this transformative growth is much needed government support, strong startup communities, strong growth in small- and medium-sized businesses, access to educational opportunities, and the rapid growth of ventures. In recent years Chinese women entrepreneurs have gained global eminence and also contributing to the economy at all levels. Social groups and communities have played significant role in encouraging women's entrepreneurship in the country. These communities have encouraged women to take benefit of transitional economic opportunities to initiate new ventures, which are focused to give impetus to women centric programmes.

Female entrepreneurship has become an important tool for social transformation and has directly contributed to the growth of Brazil's economy. But despite this growth, it's still clear that only a few women entrepreneurs are well-known in the sector. According to a survey by the Brazilian Federal Government, 3 out of 4 households are headed financially by a woman and 41% of them own their own business. The main challenges women entrepreneurs in Brazil face are lack of affective and social support, financial hurdles, lack of female entrepreneur as leaders, formal training and zeal to achieve success, and managing work-family balance. But in spite of the challenges and barriers women entrepreneurs who have had the opportunity to develop skills and competencies, with or without formal training, have achieved their goals and have become successful and contributing to the economy of the country managing a societal balance.

In Russia entrepreneurship has played pivotal role in the transformation from a centralized planned economy to a market economy. Russia has made significant advances in entrepreneurial environment from past and giving impetus to women entrepreneurship. Today an aspiring women entrepreneur in Russia can tap support groups, conferences, mentors and angel investors for their accelerating their ventures. But in this region women mostly venture in sectors education, health, food service, retail networks, hospitality tourism. With transformative times and changing mindsets women are taking stride towards more leadership roles. Women entrepreneurial support organizations are playing a significant role in taking these ventures forward.

Women entrepreneurial landscape in South Africa is still at a nascent stage. Though representing half of the country's population their representation in self owned ventures is still insignificant. The challenges the women entrepreneurs face are lack of capital and assets, less business-orientated networks, lower status in society, genetically inclined domestic responsibility and culturally-induced lack of confidence in their ability to succeed in their ventures. With the country's economic problems and fighting male dominance women are venturing out and strategizing the balance.

Women entrepreneurs globally restructure and reform institutions to realize their mission of self sustainability coupled with social revolution and to take forward the ground-breaking solutions. Individual entrepreneurs find new and pioneering ways to create solutions in order to cater to some social needs to achieve sustainable and community specific development without compromising profits while taking forward their entrepreneurial ventures. Entrepreneurship stances as a vehicle to improve the quality of communities and to withstand a robust economy and environment.

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## SECURITY AND STABILITY WILL DEFINE BRICS NEW ROLE

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As the world is hit with the Covid-19 pandemics, each state is looking at options and solutions to deal with the problem. However, this has also reshaped the way each state interacts with other state or regional institutions. While US and China, are the main contrasting and contending actors, there are multiple actors playing significant role in the creation of a new world order. As US was looking more inwards and moving to protectionism even before the pandemics, India and China were advocating further globalization. In these disruptions, India has moved beyond one regional entity and focused not only on South Asia bit to larger regional and global engagements. In specific, it has become pro-active to be a part of invigorating multiple actors both at bilateral as well as at regional/global level. Considering the gradually evolving role of BRICS in the global transformations and parallel institutions, India has reaffirmed its strong support for Russian as the BRICS Chair for 2020 and the overall theme of "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth".

In this ninth year of BRICS, when Russia has taken the central Chair, apart from the New Development Bank and the Contingency Reserve Arrangement that have emerged over the years, there is greater push towards reform of the existing financial institutions to alter the US Dollar dominated world. The 2019 Brasilia Summit Declaration actually reinforced this vision with the strengthening and reforming of the multilateral system as the main element of cooperation among the BRICS countries. However, one of the significant focus will be to create shared prosperity, especially when all the BRICS countries are bound to have severe impact on their economy post-Covid 19. As most of the past emerging and rising economies will face the challenges of slow growth, destruction of supply chains, and lack of strong financial support, leading to a significant need to maintain security and stability in the world.

Even though, in last so many years, BRICS has not been able to make magical transformation to either the global order or to the financial institutions, the way ahead is filled with hope with the two strong nations - India and China, along with equally strong partner - Russia. The past few years show that the cooperation between the member countries in areas like finance, trade, science and technology, health, agriculture etc. has remained on an upward mode. This momentum of intra-state cooperation within BRICS consolidates the future of possibilities of discussion and cooperation in larger areas along with focus on evolving a geopolitical discourse on the future of global order. However, the challenge will be on the foreign policy interests and objectives of each state as well as their state behavior with the greater threat from US and its alliances.

At the April 28, 2020 video conference of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Affairs convened by Russia, which mainly focused on COVID-19 crisis, its impact and BRICS response, Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar pointed out that "BRICS, which brings together almost 42 per cent of global population, with impressive growth, investment and trade share, has an important role to play in shaping the global economic and political architecture." It not only clearly shows the push of the Indian government on the geopolitical

agenda, but also draws the attention of other states to design strategies for shaping the order. The political architecture will depend on the security of each state and the stability of every region

### **Security As the Focus of BRICS**

There are reports that the United States (US) is in discussion to conduct the first nuclear test explosion since 1992. If this happens, then there will be serious differences between US, China, and also Russia. It would end the long standing moratorium. According to the data of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Defense budgets for the year 2019 of US was already as high as USD 732 billion, which was 3.4 per cent of the GDP; while China had USD 261 billion (1.9 per cent of its GDP); and Russia had USD 65.1 billion (3.9 per cent of its GDP).

This year, China has not set any growth targets in its latest national budget, but have increased its defense budget by 6.6 per cent, putting it at 1.268 trillion yuan (\$178.16 billion) as per the official figures. Although, the reported budget for 2020 is about a quarter of the US defense budget last year, China has been constantly proposing to bridge the gap with US like increasing the number of aircraft carriers that are only two compared to 12 in US. Russia, on the other hand, for modernizing its military, has put its scientists and research institutes for the development of hypersonic weapons, such as Tsirkon and Avangard, along with the next generation of air defense systems like S-500.

India-Russia cooperation in defense was highlighted in October 2018 when a deal of USD 5 billion was signed to purchase five units of S-400 air defense missile systems, though there were warnings from the US to impose sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). Yet, the Indian Foreign Secretary had said that Delhi and Moscow wanted to increase their annual trade to USD 30 billion by 2025. Considering the global security environment and increased tensions in its neighbourhood, India has also increased its defense budget for the fiscal year 2020/21 setting it at USD 66.9 billion, though far less than US, Russia, and China. In February 2020, India had also clinched a military deal with the US for USD 3 billion.

Hence, it is obvious that the turbulent global scenario is making it imperative for states to look for enhancement in the defense budget and place 'security' at the heart of all bilateral and multilateral relations. As US is still at the highest stand of it, other states are pressurized to rethink their state security policies, considering that US and China are engaging in a non-stop conflict. With tensions in South China sea, Taiwan, and even Tibet issue between US and China taking forefront with many states targeting China for the Covid-19 pandemics, it is certain that China will give greater importance to security both in the periphery and at the regional level, as was also highlighted in the recent national session of its parliament (National People's Congress). Therefore, with the major players Russia, China and India emphasizing on defense, the disruptions are bound to reorient the BRICS member states to look at security and stability of the region and the world with a new lens. The parameters in the subsequent meetings surely need to be redrawn, and it will be imperative for the states to agree on general principles and guidelines for the new world order.



## INTIMATE TERRORISM: ADDRESSING COVID-19 WITH GENDER -EQUAL RESPONSE

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Throughout the world violence against females within the confines of their home is a pertinent issue cutting across culture, religion, socio-economic status or ethnicity. The violence has been in various forms-female foeticide, dowry deaths, marital rape, sexual harassment, verbal, emotional or economic abuse etc.. Despite its widespread occurrence, violence inside homes was considered a private affair. It was The Vienna Accord of 1993 and the Beijing Platform of 1995 which together brought into forefront that women's rights are human rights and such private issues are violation of human rights and therefore of public concern. The World Bank study (1993) highlighted the cost of violence against women in terms of the health burden, estimating that rape and domestic violence "account for five percent of the healthy years of life lost to women of reproductive age in demographically developing countries."

In India the cases of Intimate partner violence are largely unreported. According to the National Family Health Survey(2015-16) less than one percent of victims of domestic abuse sought help. They are silently suffering violence which is usually employed by men as a tool for gender subordination and resolve conflicts at home.

The current pandemic of COVID-19 is not only a global health crisis, it has also brought an alarming increase in certain mental health concerns. As reported by Bao et. al.(2020) with the increase in number of confirmed patients and suspected cases and surge in the number of provinces and countries getting infected by COVID-19, there has been an increase in public worry of getting infected and anxiety. Similarly Duan and Zhu(2020) have highlighted a rise in psychological problems like anxiety, depression and stress during this pandemic.

One of the harmful consequences of lockdown of COVID-19 has been a substantial rise in domestic violence not only in India but worldwide. In China, domestic violence is reported to have tripled during their shelter in-place mandate. Similarly Dias et. al.(2020) reported that women in rural areas of Brazil are at increased risk of violence from family members. With the lockdown and social distancing in place, women are experiencing an increase in magnitude of household work and child care responsibilities due to gendered division of domestic work. The movement restrictions, economic uncertainty, need for rationing due to limited resources is further adding to stress and anxiety of people along with fear of exposure to the disease. The females are also not able to use their social and protective networks as before due to physical distancing measures. It is of significant concern that how gender inequities are increasing during these times and men and women will experience this pandemic differently.

Although some steps have been taken by Government in India to address this escalation in cases of domestic violence but they are not sufficient. As the number of complaints of domestic abuse surged, National Commission of Women announced a Whatsapp number to reach to women in abusive homes. A significant proportion of Indian females do not have access to mobile phones, therefore, the chances of their reporting the abusive incidents in the times of lockdown are very low.

Many NGOs have filed petitions in the courts and some courts have given directions to the state to provide protection to the female victims. The Jammu and Kashmir high court has offered directions to the government on April 18,2020 which includes creation of special funds and allocating females spaces in grocery and medical stores where the victims could report the instances of abuse. In Uttar Pradesh a special helpline has been started by the state government with the message “ Suppress Corona, Not your Voice’ for female victims.

There is an urgent need to address the issue with a multidimensional approach. Apart from government and NGOs there is a need to sensitize community members to remain “ connected” although physically separated and check on their friends, neighbors etc. and report any such incident of domestic harm to the appropriate authorities. United Nations(2020) has rightly called for “Embedding women’s needs and perspectives will ensure more gender –equal response” to COVID –19.

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## LOCKDOWN COVID 19: UNLOCKING NEW STRATEGIC BUSINESS PRACTICES AMONG BRICS



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While the whole world is in the claws of COVID-19 pandemic, it would be very interesting to see the challenging strategic combat of BRICS countries to survive and sustain under such circumstances. The consistent dialogue among the BRICS nations is on for sustainable development and survival of livelihood among citizens of these countries. The fact lies that the BRICS countries together constitute nearly 42% of the world's population and on the same pitch the nations have an important role to play in shaping the world economy and political structure.

The pandemic is not only posing a great risk to the health and well being of humanity but is also severely impacting global economy and output by disruption of global trade and supply chains. Economic activity across sectors has been negatively impacted leading to loss of jobs and livelihoods. The current market statuesque demands that the countries need to provide support to businesses, especially MSMEs, to tide over the crisis and ensure livelihoods are not lost. It is also needs to be encompassed that the efficacy of traditional medicine systems to strengthen immunity which must be recognized and that BRICS should support these efforts. While the BRICS forum is considering a proposal to set up a Vaccine Research and Development Centre as part of efforts to fight global pandemic on the other foot the New Development Bank is in process to allocate up to \$15 billion for loans to BRICS states to boost their economies.

In the form of mutual agreement it has been agreed to ensure "availability of innovative medical products through promotion of research and development and access to affordable, quality, effective and safe drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and other medical products and technologies as well as to medical services through enhanced health systems and health financing."

Under these circumstances India has reinforced its credentials as a rapidly emerging pharmacy of the world. As the world's largest producer of hydroxychloroquine, India has recently exported the drug not only to SAARC countries and to its "extended neighborhood" in the Gulf, but also to Russia, Brazil, Israel and the U.S. This has set the stage for India to forge an inclusive BRICS-driven pharma alliance, which could also actively explore the production of vaccines. On the other hand besides trembled allegations on china hiding the secret of creation and spread of Crona virus, china has stood up catalyzing its supplies in health equipments such as masks, gloves, coveralls, shoe covers and testing kits to COVID 19 hotspots across the globe. This is in itself a new unlocking strategic trade measure which china has extended not only to BRICS but other parts of the world such as Italy and Iran.

On the Russian front, despite fighting the virus at home, Russia too sent its doctors and virologists overseas, including the launch of the famous 'From Russia with love' air mission to Italy. While from the African continent,

South Africa, the current rotating head of the African Union, is engaged in framing a pan-African response to COVID-19. Among the BRICS nations, only Brazil's response may need a course correction, as its resistance to breaking the infection chains through travel bans, lockdowns, isolation and testing appears to have led to an infection surge.

### **Future course of action and Measures**

Having demonstrated their comparative strengths as providers of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), BRICS countries now need to pool and coordinate their efforts, in partnership with the WHO, and Europe and North America, both badly affected by the pandemic, as part of a global assault on the virus. But for seeding a robust institutional HADR response, the BRICS countries may have to reactivate an existing disaster response mechanism, and earmark resources and assets to combat a whole range of natural disasters, with special focus on the emerging economies and the global south.

The Shanghai-based New Development Bank of the BRICS countries has already demonstrated the way forward to allocate financial resources to combat COVID-19. In April, during a meeting of the NDB Board of Governors, NDB President K.V. Kamath announced that apart from disbursing a \$1 billion emergency loan to China, and subsequently to India, South Africa and Brazil, the NDB had the financial heft to provide \$10 billion in "crisis-related assistance" to BRICS member countries. The NDB's financial model, demonstrated to address the pandemic, can now become a template to address natural disasters. As a matter of fact it only be hoped and anticipated that by all these measures the situation among the BRICS and worlds strengthens in due course time and a new strategic measures are unlocked.



## GRAPHITE ART OF BRICS COUNTRIES ON THE ISSUE OF COVID-19

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The present situation of the world is not a pleasant right now. The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the toughest challenges humankind faces. Huge numbers of people have been directly or indirectly affected by the pandemic. COVID-19 virus is the biggest issue in the 21st Century. Health organizations are continuously informing us about what to do and what not to do because this virus is tremendously infectious. We are fighting against an invisible enemy. We are maintaining social distance and going through a lockdown situation. So the Global Economic structure totally breakdown. We are not fit physically as well as mentally.

In this devastating situation, visual artists are also reacting through their visual medium. Public art is a very effective medium of art and easy to communicate with people. This kind of art form situated in public places so that no need to visit any gallery or pay money. Graphite art is one important form of Public art. Graphite artists are doing such an impactful artwork across the world on the issue of COVID-19 pandemic. Through their artwork, people can aware of the current situation of the society. This article highlights the graphite art of BRICS country on the issue of COVID-19.

Indian graphite artists are informing people about the pandemic situation through their artwork. Sometimes they use the direct approach of image-making like doctors, nurse, health worker or policeman those are fighting against this deadliest virus. That means the direct presentation of facts (fig.1). Sometimes artist using the indirect presentation of facts (fig.2&3) like they portray the relevant character from mythology or using an Iconic figure.



In fig.1 artists paint graffiti on a wall to express gratitude to doctors, paramedics, police and other personnel associated with essential services during the nationwide lockdown, in wake of coronavirus pandemic, in Bikaner, India.



(fig.2) Mumbai, India. Artist: Tyler Street Art



(fig.3) Prayagraj, India

Fig.2&3 are the example of indirect presentation of facts. If we consider the fig.2 then we saw Buddha in meditation with wearing a surgical mask. The Buddha is an iconic image there is no connection in between Buddha and COVID-19 virus as per time is a concern. But Buddha wearing a surgical mask it is a striking image. Buddha is god, he is not a common people and if Buddha can wear a mask then everyone can wear a mask and fill the depth of the coronavirus pandemic situation. Fig.3 graphite based on a Hindu mythological character Yama, the god of death. According to Hindu mythology if Yama comes down on earth that means a shadow of death surrounds on society. This painting gives a very clear message about the coronavirus pandemic situation. This graphite painting is very relevant in the current situation.



(fig.4) Brazilian muralist Kobra's most recent work "Coexistence" on the issue of Coronavirus

Brazilian Graphite artists are very famous accures the world. One of Brazilian graphite artist Eduardo Kobra is known around the world for his brightly coloured, kaleidoscopic murals. According to him- "My work is in the streets. I'm a painter who depends on the street. I paint murals. So this has all been a big change for me. I've had to think about how to transform my work... rethink my creative process," Kobra told AFP in an interview in Itu, the small southeastern city where he is riding out the pandemic. [1] Kobra painted a mini-mural called "Coexistence" on canvas. This situation is not good for a street artist but this mural brings hope during the crisis and raises money for the suffering people. Though it is a small size mural according to Kobra's standard but it is still pretty big. He wishes to paint this mural somewhere when the pandemic is under control. This Graphite mural depicts five children from five continents praying behind face masks printed with the symbols of five of the world's major religions: Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism. [2] That means all the religions praying together for relief from the deadliest virus.



(fig.5) Gatchina Russia



(fig.6) Moscow, Russia

Russia is one of the BRICS countries which also very badly affected by Coronavirus. Graphite artists are taking a positive role to create awareness in society about this virus. A Graphite mural (fig.5) depicting viruses on a block of flats in Gatchina, Russia. It is a huge size mural and artist showing the deadliest virus in cartoonish language. The hugeness and the characterization of the mural create an impact on the viewers. A graphite mural reading "Fight" (fig.6) by the construction site of a new building of the multipurpose medical Centre for patients suspected of coronavirus infection. This mural collaborates with cartoon and typography.



(fig.7.a) Inside of a historic chapel in the Hubei province of China (fig.6.b)

A young Chinese designer Duyi Han created a mural called "The Saints Wear White" to pay homage to the coronavirus medical workers. This mural set inside of a historic chapel in the Hubei province of China. From this area, the epidemic started out. This artwork was designed to pay homage to the coronavirus medical workers, who are wearing white decontamination suits and green face masks. [2] In this mural artist use very less quantity of colour. Most of the part of the mural is white and no warm colour use. Only cool colour like blue and green shades are used. This kind of colour skim creates a peaceful environment which is enhancing the theme of the mural.

These Graphite murals are proved that artists are always reacting any kind of social crisis. Visual languages of these murals are different from each other though they are reacting on the same issue. Moreover this article highlights on the social responsibility of BRICS countries artist.

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## COVID -19 & INDIA RUSSIA DEFENCE DEAL: AN OVERVIEW

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As we all know that in the month of October 2018, Moscow and New Delhi signed a contract for the supply of five sets of the S-400 anti-aircraft missile systems (air defence systems) worth more than \$5.43 billion (Rs 40,000 Crore) The completion of the fifth set is planned in the first half of 2025. In this paper we are going to know about what exactly this S-400 defence deal is all about? why this deal was required or how it is going to give the additional edge to Indian defence system? What are the various countries which are having this defense system? How its is going to affect the diplomatic relation between India and USA? What will be the impact of this present pandemic on this deal?

**What is this S-400 defence deal?:** S-400 is the air defence missile system for which a defence deal has been done between India and Russia . This defence deal is known as the India's largest defence deal ever made. It's a surface to air defence missile system which takes down enemies' aircraft from sky to surface itself. The S-400 is the advanced version of S-300 system which is known as most advance air missile defence system which operates as surface to air in long range which is capable of destroying the set of hostile strategic bombers, jet, missile & drones located at a range of 380 K.M. It has some level of anti-ballistic capability too. Manufacturer of this air defence deal is a Russian Company which are working there since 2007.

**Why S-400 defence deal was needed by India:** It is essentially needed at this time for India to be well equipped against the threats from its neighboring country like Pakistan and China. If we compare the fighting squadrons of these countries with India then we will find that China possess 1700 fighters including 800 4-Gen fighters whereas Pakistan keeps 20 fighter squadron with upgraded F-16s and J-17 from china in large number. Whereas the short fall in fighter squadron is the biggest challenge for India to counter the probable threats by neighboring countries. Therefore, the acquisition of S-400 will add a powerful feather in the wings of Indian Air Force (IAF)

**Which countries keeps S-400 in their arms:** In the year 2014 Peoples Republic of China has done a deal with Russia to procure this system. Russia has already started to deliver this system to China without disclosing the numbers of supply done. Russia has also dealt with Turkey to sell this system which attracted the criticism from the Ankara's NATO allies and Washington has raised its eyebrow and warned for stopping its delivery of F-35 aircraft. Apart from India, Russia also with Qatar also dealt with Russia to purchase this S-400 air defence system

**USA Vs S-400 defence deal:** The United States of America have the right by the special power under CAATSA for imposing the sanction upon all those country who has substantial transaction with the country like North Korea and Iran. This act has also power to impose sanction on Russian interest e.g defence sector, oil and gas Industry and financial bodies as well

**Impact of COVID -19 on this Deal:** There is no sign of any significant impact of this pandemic on India -Russia relations. Due to rising of emerging competition between china and USA, both countries India and Russia have

been drifting apart a little even before this pandemic. Increasing tension between Russia and Western Union has brought China and Russia Closer while China's behavior toward India became the catalyst force for Indo-Pacific coalition. But it is the fact that neither of these two old friends e.g. India and Russia are happy with the effect of these tendencies on their bilateral relation. Therefore such kind of deal is seems to be a larger movement for revamping their relation in a significant way. Residual Diplomacy empathy for each other is also counted as a driving force for India Russia relationship alive. Arms transfer relationship is also an important driving force for Indo Russia diplomatic ties. This is why it is narrated that the present pandemic has its global impact but it is not going to effect the S-400 deal in a significant way.

The S-400 defense deal is the most important key indicator of the India strategic relationship with Russia. As it has been narrated by Bala Venkatesh Varma who is India's Ambassador to Russia that supply of S-400 will be done by Russia without any major delay. India is also purchasing 5 batteries of the S-400s having value of \$5 billion plus inspite of the fact that US can impose the sanction. India defies all these threats and went ahead with this deal. It indicates not only the India's vulnerability to Pakistan's missile force but also India's deep intent to maintain such aspect of relation with Russia

As per the latest Military Balance published by IISS at present India has just 15 submarines against a projected requirement of 24. Therefore, Russia has recently dealt with India to purchase 3 more Kilo class submarines. These submarines will join the fleet and will make the total count 12 Kilo -class submarines in the Navy wings of India. This offer from Russia has attracted lots of applaud from Indian Side, as this will give more strength to Indian Navy to counter the Chinese PLA Navy around Indian Water.

If we see the close historical Indo Russian military relation we will find that except 100 plus Arjuna Tank, everything else in the Indian military fleet are Russian T-90's or T-72s. India has also decided to purchase 400 numbers of T-90S battle tank in the last couple of month. Now this will become the part of India's 1000 numbers of T-90 battle tank. Therefore, we can say that Russia is going to be the major booster for strengthening the defence wings of India

But it's also a dead fact that this relationship also has some hiccups. India's withdrawal from Next generation Su-57 fighter programme due to India's dissatisfaction over performance of Jet and manufacturing quality shows that India not going to compromise on any way as far as their defence deal are concern. It means that India have to search another option when there will be question of capabilities of weapons will arise. Rafael fighter deal is an indicator of this trend

As the present pandemic situation is concern, we have to see how it is going to effect the bilateral relationship, As per the interaction of our Foreign Minister Dr Jaishankar with his counterpart in Russia, he maintained that he as discussed a lots of issues including upcoming BRICS foreign ministers meeting and development in Afghanistan and cooperation in dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. Both the countries have cooperated each other to handle this situation of pandemic Russia is really thankful to India for supplying drugs like HCQ. Russian defence export agency Rosoboron export has also reciprocated it and contributed \$2 million to counter this pandemic situation in India by donation this amount to PM Care Fund.

But inspite of mutual cooperation in the time of pandemic, strategic relationship and all type of soft dialogue between India and Russia, there will be difficulty in the fine tuning between these two countries which will not be as easy as we think to resolve in the years to come. For sure this pandemic will pop up the reason to compete between the china and the rest of the countries in the reason which will put some more stress in the Indo Russia relation.

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## BRICS ART EXHIBITION: ART WORK IS A REFLECTION OF A COUNTRY

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We believe in importance of sharing cultural experiences. Art is a part of our culture. It should be given importance by the people. It is the expression of our creative ideas and imagination. It has different forms such as the visual arts, sculpture, music, literature, theater, films, and other ways that artists choose as a medium for their craft.

In 2018 BRICS countries organized a special art exhibition with this ideology, to connect the people, to understand the feelings of each other by the art and artists creativity. With the aim of improving cultural exchanges and mutual understanding, an exhibition featuring artwork from the five BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - at the National Art Museum of China in Beijing. This exhibition was an important foreign exchange program of China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism. It aims to improve cultural exchanges and mutual understanding between the BRICS countries. This exhibition curated by Wu Weishan, Director of the National Art Museum of China.

A total of 62 pieces of art, selected from national art museums and galleries from the five countries, were on display.

### China Art Presentation

The National Art Museum of China selected a collection of traditional Chinese ink-and-wash paintings by renowned masters including Qi Baishi, Ren Bonian, and Wu Changshuo, as well as a sculpture created by Wu Weishan, director of the museum.

"This sculpture depicts how Laozi, a great thinker in ancient China, went through Hangu Pass by riding a bull. Laozi called for mankind to be broad-minded, modest, inclusive and generous. He also called for mutual respect and understanding. These thoughts still apply in today's world," said Wu.

### India Art Presentation

India's National Gallery of Modern Art presented landscape paintings from the popular Indian artist Bireswar Sen, who is considered one of the most prominent landscape artists in the country's contemporary art scene. Visitors could take a closer look at the nature, magnificently depicted by the painter, through a magnifying glass. These are very small paintings. You need a lens to see it. If you see it through a lens, it's different, it's surprising, like magic.

### South Africa Art Presentation

The distinctive and diverse South African section included archaeological discoveries, recent sculptures, paintings and woodcuts.

### **Brazil Art Presentation**

The Brazilian pieces on display offered a window into the country's contemporary art world. All of the artwork was produced in the 21st century by seven living and active artists.

### **Russia Art Presentation**

State Museum of Oriental Art of Russia showcased a collection of work reflecting the juxtaposition of ancient traditions with the great changes that took place at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

### **2019 BRICS Art Exhibition**

Group Art Exhibition 'Bonding Regions & Imagining Cultural Synergies' being hosted by NGMA of India under BRICS Alliance of Museums and Art Galleries during November-December, 2019, Union Culture Minister Shri Prahlad Singh Patel participates in BRICS Culture Ministers' Meet at Curitiba, Brazil. BRICS countries attend the opening ceremony of the third edition of BRICS Media Joint Photo Exhibition opened in São Paulo, Brazil on Oct 30th 2019. The exhibition will feature 100 pictures selected by media outlets from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The event has been jointly organized by China's Xinhua News Agency and Brazil CMA Group.

Art work is a reflection of a country, of a nation. I believe this exhibition will not only be conducive to enhancing friendship among the BRICS countries, but also of far-reaching significance to the promotion of international art exchanges. The important thing is that they are able to put their imagination and ideas into something tangible - although these are subject to other people's comprehension and appreciation. Art brings people together. It elicits different reactions and emotions but everyone can agree that it moves them to think, to feel, and to act. Art is there to remind us of the values that we uphold. It makes us realize that we may all come from different walks of life but there are some things that are undeniably common to all of us - like love, friendship, and freedom.

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## BRICS AMID COVID-19

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Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa have collectively formed an international block called as BRICS. It represents approximately 42% of world population and approximately 25% of World's GDP. The organisation was established in 2009 as BRIC and South Africa joined one year later i.e. in 2010. This was established as economical, political and cooperative organization. All the country heads represent BRICS every year in the meeting conducted by one of the host member country and discuss about future prospects. (Aneja 2020) Even recently in the last week of April, the representatives of these five countries had a virtual meeting and discuss about the collaborative strategy to counter this Corona virus challenge. Since its establishment, the major agenda for this organization was to challenge the developed countries and for getting a universal recognition. Though this consortium of countries advanced their efforts towards constructing a financial institution for facilitating funding among member countries. The bank that came in existence was New Development Bank with its headquarter in Beijing and an Indian chairperson. Amid this global pandemic of COVID 19, the member countries are trying to advance its financial strength by pooling more money in the bank for facilitating future lending to any country in urgent need of funds. When the virus was spreading in China, then Russia being chairman of BRICS issued a directive within member countries to extend all possible support to China for curbing this menace of virus. The countries committed to work jointly in the spirit of responsibility, solidarity and cooperation. To stand against this virus all the member countries must join hands and lead at the front with three instruments. The first instrument is that BRICS must lead all the countries and facilitated them by providing PPE kits, Medical facilities, protective equipments and safety products etc at the reasonable prices. India has played a lead role by consenting over shipments of hydroxychloroquine to the member countries and rest of the world. The member countries have the onus of constructing a roadmap for the revival of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The third and most prominent instrument is about formulating a long term policy on pandemic and climate change. Soon after the Corona virus was declared as the global pandemic, China became the first country to receive the funding worth USD 989 mn from New Development Bank or BRICS Bank. This was the first of its kind, the largest ever funding received by any member country. Apart from it, South Africa also got some financial benefits from BRICS bank to curb the rising cases of the virus. Now, the member countries are giving a new dimension to this pool of funds. (Laskar 2020) Now the BRICS nations has proposed to pool money worth USD 15 billion as loan instrument to rebuild corona virus hit global economy. This loan will be utilized as health facilitation to fight with this menace of corona virus and to rebuild the global economy. (PTI 2020) To curb the menace of Corona Virus in India and by recognizing increasing number of cases, the New Development Bank headed by K. V. Kamath has taken a decision to fund India worth USD 1 bn for helping the country reduced the human, social and economic losses caused by the corona virus pandemic. This Emergency Assistance Program loan to India was ratified by all the New Development Bank Board of Directors and is supporting Indian government to contain COVID 19 and reduce human, social and economic losses caused by Corona virus outbreak. The loan was issued in an expeditious move soon after the requisition by Government of India. There are various set of allocations granted under this loan. One allocation will go to strengthen health care system because this is the most crucial at this stage and so much effort has to be granted to flourish this sector. The

second allocation is towards social safety net for expenditures already incurred since the beginning of January 2020. It envisages the threat of COVID 19 and find out various mechanisms to prevent it. (Kapoor 2020) As the globalization is going through with its struggling face, on these grounds even multilateral organizations are also having murkier future. The same is the situation with BRICS. As other multilateral organizations like G7, EU and G 20 are facing grave concern regarding current pandemic, amid these crisis, the BRICS leaders has discussed upon revolutionizing this multilateral consortium. The true fact that emerged out of global situation is that BRICS does not have its own strategic vision to run this organization rather it depends upon other international organizations to run its operations. The rise of China has created a question over rise of BRICS as multilateral and dominating organization for the rest of the world. For BRICS, financial stability and growth of the member countries is very crucial and the countries are hopeful for all possible assistance to provide better health facilities in the member countries.

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## SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDIA

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The pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) that originated from Wuhan region in China, posed an unprecedented humanitarian challenge, rapidly spreading over 213 Countries and Territories around the world. As of May 24, there are 5,424,188 confirmed cases worldwide with a death toll of 344,346 patients, leading to a major economic crisis worldwide. Spearheaded by PM Narendra Modi, a teleconference style, extraordinary, G-20 virtual summit was convened by King of Saudi Arabia on 26 March 2020 to discuss the challenges and take coordinated steps to control the spread of the disease. In order to fight against pandemic unforeseen over the past few decades, the leaders agreed to support and strengthen the necessary measures to cope with this grave medical emergency.

Economic slowdown in India due to the pandemic has thrown unforeseen challenges to the Central / State governments and the citizens. The first two phases of nationwide lockdown aggravated revenue situation with acute liquidity shortage and the economy was on a downward spiral. It is estimated that the government earns Rs. 5.4 lakh Cr from sale of liquor and Petroleum fuels annually. As the revenue collection for both state and central governments became negligible during the lockdown, the states insisting for relaxing liquor sale norms, the governments were constrained to bring about a steep hike of taxes on petroleum fuels and liquor. Moreover, collection of revenue through GST and direct tax collections were falling short of targets and so the states are now considering other options to increase their revenue collection, by way of raising entertainment tax, vehicle registration fee, property and municipal taxes etc. Unfortunately, these taxes are to be paid by the common people and employees at a time when business houses are finding it difficult to maintain the same employment level, as the precoronavirus period.

Certainly, the pandemic has given rise to complicated ripple effects that are more than a challenge to the health infrastructure and government machinery in containing Covid 19, for example an alarming job uncertainty in future. According to CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy), the pandemic gave rise to an unprecedented increase in India's unemployment rate to 27.11 per cent for the week ended May 3, up from the under 7 per cent before the outbreak in early March 2020. Migrant workers under distress have started fleeing from the industrial clusters and business hubs to their far-flung home states, where the unemployment records are even poorer. Due to delaying economic recovery, the manufacturing and services sectors are likely to take a lot more time for revival and therefore a huge population of employees will have fewer opportunities to earn. Such a situation will lead to an additional burden on already strained social welfare schemes of the governments.

It gave some breathing time to the administrators during the national lockdown, over the past several weeks. To put in concerted effort in order to flatten the pandemic's curve. During the lockdown period economy functioned meagrely around half of its full activity level. It is contemplated that coronavirus will not go away in near future, and the economy needs to be revamped simultaneously alongside ongoing risks of contagion, for a prolonged period. Therefore, the government is now gradually shifting its focus to reopening of the economy with some health risks, but determined to contain the virus spread through effective management of lockdowns and upgrading health treatment centres.

A barometer of an economy's health is the stock market which crashed after the World Health Organization officially declared Covid 19 as a pandemic and simultaneous declaration by the government for a nationwide lockdown. Even as the Sensex registered its biggest one-day drop of approx. 4000 points on March 23, 2020, some experts and agencies predicted future growth projections as significantly downwards or may be negative. The ensuing financial crisis and downward spiral in the business cycle will obviously result in erosion of wealth or devaluation of assets, and in extreme cases even bankruptcies and recession, affecting the economic indicators drastically.

Based upon severity criteria the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) classified the various districts into Red, Orange or Green zones. In western India major economic activity is concentrated in Red zones which are key areas for manufacturing and consumption. It is important to keep these urbanized districts operational for sustenance of economic activity. The Production and Distribution chains are interconnected across various districts in these areas, due to ease of doing interstate trade after implementation of the GST Act. The lockdown approach should be planned in such a manner that the interdependent supply chains, demand centres and much needed labour corridors are restored in the soonest possible time. For example, the manufacturers of Electronics industry require inputs from small ancillary units scattered over several districts for parts and sub assemblies. Disruption in any of these activity centres of sub-vendors would affect the manufacturing output of the finished product.

#### **Government Intervention and Steps taken to minimise the impact of Coronavirus:**

Since the outbreak of Covid -19 in early March, government took immediate steps to ensure stocks/ availability and appropriate distribution of essential goods and services, in order to avoid the panic which may lead to mass shortage of essential commodities. A decision was taken to allow and facilitate e-tailing, logistics and delivery of goods according to the zone category. Various players launched contact-less pickup and delivery models to minimise the risk of contagion which may result in greater employment in the logistics & distribution departments of e-tailers. "Amazon" in India decided to hire 50,000 personnel to meet the growing demand of e-tailing. "Jiomart" opened for an innovative venture in Social-commerce. Organised consumer retailers and food service providers who are severely affected due to closure of malls, restaurants and also people avoiding super and hypermarkets, are now open to an option of integration and unified solutions to unite big player with smaller retailers (kirana shops), in order to ensure product availability to the vast consumer base in India. Various government schemes were implemented to boost the rural and non-urban consumptions and ensure that people in these regions have adequate disposable income in hand, by way of direct-benefit transfer and direct-account transfer of wages. The consumption in rural areas should also improve due to flight of migrant workers from urban areas to their home states in vastly populated nonurbanized parts of the country.

IT department came forward took some key measures to give relief to tax payers by way of relaxing and extending the time lines for filing ITR, deadline for linking Aadhaar to PAN, extension of time for various investments u/s 80C, 80D, Tax saving investments, donations to PM Cares fund with 100% rebate u/s 80 G etc. Key provisions under Banking Services to give relief included cash withdrawal from ATM free of charge, nil minimum balance penalty, reduced charges for digital transactions, rescheduling of Credit Card payments, deferred payment of dues against loans and EMI's etc. Most of the financial intermediaries including stock brokers and mutual fund houses were constrained to operate with a limited number of staff and hence resorted to digital marketing and online transactions through their websites. SEBI announced convenient transaction timings and extended timelines for processing service requests. EPF regulations were also amended to allow convenient withdrawals of deposits or disbursement of wages with a ceiling.

The government also announced several Economic relief and Reform packages amounting to a staggering Rs. 20 lakh Cr like PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, Liquidity infusion by RBI, Special Liquidity Facility for MFs etc to name a few. As a booster to the economy AtmaNirbhar Abhiyan was announced with slew of measures and stimulus packages, for a demand-based economy system which is self-producing and self-consuming. The government cultivated the idea of every Indian to become vocal for all local produce, not just consume local products but also promote them. A self-reliant India is expected to stand on five pillars – Economy, Infrastructure, a System driven by latest technologies, a vibrant Demography and a consumer Demand to optimize the full capacity of supply chain. The stimulus packages were announced by the Finance Minister in 5 tranches, one after another, during mid-May 2020, details of which are available in public domain.

To make India self-reliant, policy reforms are underway in various sectors including Agriculture and Agri marketing, Défense, Mineral and Coal mining sector, Air space and Aircraft maintenance, Public health, technology driven Education system, Ease of doing business, Decriminalisation of defaulters under Companies Act , promoting state level reforms and state’s borrowing limits in coming years, support to MSME’s by way of government guaranteed loans, insurance coverage for death of coronavirus worriers including Doctors, Nurses, Technicians and other hospital staff, social workers who are relentlessly fighting against the pandemic war.

The global economy was going through a turbulent time even before the outbreak of coronavirus. Such a grave financial crisis and recession occurs rarely. A slowdown in the economy with rising unemployment could deeply impact the personal finances for a large population of salaried individuals and small businessmen especially when India’s GDP growth was very low, hovering at less than 5%, during the previous financial year 2019-20. Although various relief measures are announced by the government, the future forecast looks quite discouraging due to the slowdown of economic activities and restrictions.

Central and State governments are aggressively gearing up the healthcare system capacity levels on ground, for various containment resources like testing and isolation yards. The Home Ministry permitted economic activities in almost all zones in close coordination with State governments, in order to avoid economic consequences of lockdowns, except a few zones which are required to stay locked down. The current pandemic induced economic scenario suggests that we are in a financial crisis with a fear of an increasing global recession in near future.

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