

Impact of **COVID 19**

ISBN : 978-81-951800-5-9

& **World's** Tourism Industries

Eco-Commerce



Publisher
ADITI PUBLICATION
Raipur (C.G.) India

Dr. Ganesh Singh Rathore
Dr. Harshit Dwivedi



Impact of Covid-19 and World's Tourism Industry

Editor

Dr. Ganesh Singh Rathore

Head, Department of Commerce,
Govt. College Saikheda, Narshinghpur (M.P.)

Sub-Editor

Dr. Harshit Dwivedi

Head, Department of Economics,
Govt. College Saikheda, Narshinghpur (M.P.)

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Aditi Publication, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, INDIA

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2021

Edition - **01**

Date of Publication : **08/03/2021**

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Price : Rs. **199/-**

Printed by

Yash Offest,

Lily Chowk, Purani Basti Raipur
Tahasil & District Raipur Chhattisgarh, India

Publisher :

Aditi Publication,

Near Ice factory, Opp Sakti Sound Service Gali,
Kushalpur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, INDIA
+91 9425210308

About the book

Globally, Tourism industry is considered as one of the rapidly flourishing industry of the economy. It has been contributing significant share to the economic development through Foreign Exchange (FEE). But the outbreak of Corona Virus (Covid-19) makes a devastating impact on the Global Economy. Tourism Industry is hardest hit among all. The current study aims to find out the effect of Covid-19 on the Global and Indian Tourism industry and also find out the ways to deal with this hard time.

This book will not only benefit researchers, teachers, students as well as professors. In this book, a lot of arguments have been made about the loss of life and property of the Covid-19 and the future benefits.

This book will also be very beneficial for policy makers.

About the Author's

- ☛ Aich, Doyel
Asstt. Professor, Deptt. Of Commerce Vidyanagar
College, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal
- ☛ Dubey, Prof. Satish
Principal,
Govt. College Saikheda, Narsinghpur (M.P.)
- ☛ Dwivedi, Dr. Harshit
Head, Deptt. Of Economics, Govt. College,
Saikheda, Narsinghpur (M.P.)
- ☛ Hurra, Mohd Iqbal
An academic counselor of IGNOU, GDC Sopore,
Baramulla, Kashmir.
- ☛ Kumar, Dr. Bhupendra
Associate Professor, Department of Accounting &
Finance Faculty of Business & Economics, Debre
Tabor University Ethiopia
- ☛ Kumar, Dr. Santosh
Assistant Professor, Department of English K.A
(P.G) College, Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh
- ☛ Manohar, Dr. Susan
Department of Zoology, Govt. MGM PG College,
Itarsi, (M.P)
- ☛ Purohit, Dr. Archana
Professor, Mata Ji Jai Bai Govt. P.G. Girls College
- ☛ Rathore, Dr. Ganesh Singh
Head, Deptt. Of Commerce, Govt. College,
Saikheda, Narsinghpur (M.P.)

- ☛ Rathore, Mr. Rahul
Asstt. Professor, Deptt. Of Electricals & Electronics, Sri Ram Engineering College, Jabalpur (M.P.)
- ☛ Singh, Dr. Swarnima
Head of Geography Department, B.J.S.G.P. P.G. College Sumerpur Unnao
- ☛ Swami, Dr. Praveen
Asstt. Professor, Deptt. Of Commerce, Hawabag Women's College, Jabalpur (M.P.)
- ☛ Tamrakar, S.
Research scholar, MGCGV, Chitrakoot, Satna, M.P, India
- ☛ Tamrakar, S. Verma
Research scholar, MGCGV, Chitrakoot, Satna, M.P, India
- ☛ Ullah, Mohamad Hidayat
Research Scholar, Geography Department, D.A. V.V. Indore
- ☛ गुप्ता, डॉ. जयंत कुमार डी.
सहयोगी प्राध्यापक (वाणिज्य), श्रीमती केशरबाई लाहौटी महाविद्यालय, अमरावती (महाराष्ट्र)
- ☛ जैन, डॉ. पी. के.
प्राध्यापक, शास. स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय दमोह
- ☛ जैन, डॉ. सविता
प्राध्यापक, शास. स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय दमोह

- राठौर, डॉ.गणेश सिंह
विभागाध्यक्ष-वाणिज्य संकाय, शासकीय महाविद्यालय
साईंखेडा, जिला नरसिंहपुर (म.प्र.)
- राय, डॉ. मीना
अतिथि विद्वान शास.महाविद्यालय, तेंदूखेडा जिला दमोह
- राँय, डॉ. विपिन
विभागाध्यक्ष, प्रबंध संकाय, श्री गुरु तेग बहादुर खालसा
महाविद्यालय, जबलपुर (म.प्र.)
- पटेल, डॉ. सुधीश
सहा. प्राध्यापक, वाणिज्य विभाग, हवाबाग महिला
महाविद्यालय जबलपुर (म.प्र.)
- शर्मा, डॉ. शिल्पा
क्रीडा अधिकारी, शासकीय महाविद्यालय साईंखेडा,
जिला- नरसिंहपुर (म.प्र.)

INDEX

S.N.	Title/Author	Page
01.	An Overview on the Impact of Covid-19 on Tourism Industry in India Doyel Aich	01-09
02.	Corporate Governance Practices & Failures in Ethiopia – A Case Study of METEC Dr. Bhupendra Kumar	10-31
03.	COVID-19 : Impact on Human Development & Global Economy Dr. Swarnima Singh	32-37
04.	Impact of Corona Virus (Covid-19) on Tourism and Global Economy Dr. Santosh Kumar	38-45
05.	Impact of Covid 19 for hospitality and tourism sector Dr. Harshit Dwivedi, Dr. Ganesh Singh Rathore	46-49
06.	Impact of Covid -19 on Tourism Sector and Global Economy Mohd Iqbal Hurra	50-55
07.	Impact of Covid -19 on Tourism Sector and Global Economy Mohamad Hidayat Ullah Dr. Archana Purohit	56-62
08.	COVID-19's Impact on Tourism: and International Economy Prof. Satish Dubey	63-70
09.	Trend between Tourism and global economy during Covid-19 S. Tamrakar, S. Verma Tamrakar	71-75

S.N.	Title/Author	Page
10.	POST COVID-19 TOURISM OF INDIA Dr. Susan Manohar	76
11.	Effects of COVID-19 pandemic on hospitality industry Mr. Rahul Rathore	77-92
12.	The Impact of Covid-19 on tourism and Hospitality Sector in Indian Economy Dr. Praveen Swami	93-106
13.	कोविड-19 का भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर प्रभाव (चुनौतियाँ एवं अवसर) डॉ. गणेश सिंह राठौर	107-112
14.	कोविड-19 पर्यटन उद्योगों को चुनौतियाँ एवं संभावनाएँ डॉ. पी. के. जैन, डॉ. सविता जैन	113-116
15.	कोविड-19 के पर्यटन उद्योग पर प्रभाव डॉ. जयंत कुमार डी. गुप्ता	117-124
16.	पर्यटन एवं वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था पर कोविड-19 का प्रभाव डॉ. मीना राय	125-128
17.	कोरोना महामारी का पर्यटन उद्योग पर प्रभाव एवं सरकार द्वारा किए जा रहे उपाय डॉ. सुधीश पटेल	129-141
18.	कोविड 19 और पर्यटन क्षेत्र डॉ. विपिन रॉय	142-152
19.	भारतीय पर्यटन क्षेत्र पर कोविड-19 से प्रभाव डॉ. शिल्पा शर्मा	153-154

An Overview on the Impact of Covid-19 on Tourism Industry in India

Doyel Aich

Abstract

Globally, tourism industry is considered as one of the rapidly flourishing industry of the economy. It has been contributing significant share to the economic development through Foreign Exchange Earning (FEE). But the outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19) makes a devastating impact on the Global economy. Tourism industry is hardest hit among all. The current study aims to find out the effect of COVID-19 on the Global and Indian tourism industry and also finds out the ways to deal with this hard time.

Keywords

COVID-19, Global tourism industry, Indian tourism industry.

Introduction

Travelling is done for refreshment or for business purpose. Now a day Travelling become necessary activity. People consider travelling as a stress reliever. "Travel refers to the activity of travelers while tourism refers to the activity of visitors: A visitor is a traveler taking a trip to main destination outside his/her usual environment, for less than a year, for any main purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose) other than to be employed by a resident entity in the country or place visited" (UNWTO, 2014). Studies suggest that by travelling and visiting new places a child's brain can develop much faster rather doing any other activities. Tourism industry is basically based on "Travel", done either for pleasure or for business or for both. For any country tourism industry is one of the vital means for economic development and employment generation. In so many countries people's livelihood

are solely depends on tourism industry either directly or indirectly. Tourism industry exhibits high rate of growth for the last few decades. Globally this industry is pretty much volatile in nature because it is very much related with economic ups and downs; environmental changes; political turbulence. Presently, due to worldwide spread of COVID-19, tourism industry is among the hardest hit of all economic activities. Like tourism industry, global aviation sector is also affected badly by closure of borders and long period of lockdown due to this corona virus.

Corona virus (formally known as COVID-19) was first detected in Central China's Hubei province in Wuhan city in December, 2019 and continuously affecting more than 213 countries and territories around the world. As of now (15th June, 2020, 5:52 GMT) globally 79, 96, 859 are confirmed cases and 4, 36, 665 deaths reported due to COVID-19. On 11th of March, 2020, World Health Organization (WHO) has declared this as a worldwide pandemic. Scientists are working to elucidate the characteristics of this virus and trying hard to invent an effective vaccine that can able to the brutal effect of this virus. Doctors and other medical staffs are also working day and night to save the lives. Governments are also taking initiatives to handle the situation by closing the borders; imposing lockdown and other precautionary measures; sharing vital information about the virus. Due to sudden outbreak of COVID-19, global economy is facing rapid downfall which will lead to recession. India is not an exception. COVID-19 virus affect worstly in this overpopulated country. Experts reported that in India community spreading of this virus has already been started which is very much alarming condition. Due to several phases of lockdown in India the economy has been experiencing a crisis. Along with other sector tourism industry in India are passing this worst phase of time.

Objectives

This current study has been conducted with the following objectives:

- i) To ascertain the current scenario of Global Tourism Industry in the context of COVID-19.
- ii) To examine the health of Tourism industry due to the sudden attack of COVID-19 in India.

Methodology

This study is mainly based on the secondary data. The information is collected through various articles, journals, newspapers and official websites of tourism industry.

Effect of COVID-19 on Global Tourism

In the current pandemic situation worldwide tourism industry is one of the worst affected industries. International tourism expands on a regular basis, irrespective of occasional shocks. This sector faced decline in the year 2003 following SARS and the Iraq war and then after in the mid of 2009 due to worldwide economic crisis. Although in the later times this sector grows expeditiously. To COVID-19 most of the affected countries have implemented “Lockdown” for safeguarding the lives of their citizens. More than 90% of all worldwide destinations have been restricted for travelling as per research of UN body. International tourism comes down up to 30% due to the virus (UNTWO-2020).

Table 1: International Tourist Arrivals in 2019 and 2020 Q1 (% change)

REGION	2019	2020 Q1
Middle East	+7	-11
Africa	+6	-13
Asia and Pacific	+4	-35
Europe	+4	-19
America	+2	-15
World	+4	-22

(Source: UNWTO)

From Table: 1 it is clear that the world tourism in 1st quarter decreased by 22%. According to the estimates by UNWTO, worldwide international tourist may decreased by 1-3% in comparison with predicted expansion 3-4% at the beginning of January, 2020. As a result of which the tourism industry development will be pushed back to 5-7 years. European countries (like Italy, France and Spain) are among the hardest hit countries due to the spread of COVID-19 virus. As per the Mobility Market Outlook on COVID-19, in Europe the revenue from travel and tourism experience a decline from U.S\$ 211.97 billion in 2019 to approximately U.S\$ 124 billion in 2020. Like European countries Asia and the Pacific tourism sector is also affected because in Asia 100% of destinations have been closed down for COVID-19 since January, 2020.

Tourism industry is one of the strongest contributors for the development of global economy. Foreign tourist arrival is the most favorable source for Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEE) for any nation. As per Statista, 2020 globally, the tourism industry directly contributed roughly \$2.9 trillion to GDP in 2019. UNWTO expects that this unprecedented crisis in the tourism sector lead to decrease the foreign tourist arrival by 60 to 80 percent with respect to 2019. This drop in foreign tourist arrival will be reflected in international tourism receipt which is estimated loss of \$300-400 billion. The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) and Oxford economics also estimate that this crisis impose loss at least U.S\$ 22 billion to the tourism sector. Apart from generating foreign exchange earnings, tourism sector is also plays a vital role for creating job opportunities. As laid down in the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, this sector has a responsibility to promote the rights of the most neglected sector of our society such as indigenous people, women and people with disabilities. But the current instable situation imposes worse effect to such vulnerable groups. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) suggesting that globally, as many

as 75 million travel and tourism jobs are at risk due to the present outbreak of COVID-19. This present unstable time creates immense pressure on the global economy which in turn expected to result in worldwide recession.

Effect of COVID-19 on Indian Tourism

India is a diversified land. It is diversified in terms of nature, culture, language, architecture, religion and many more. Tourism in India is not a new concept. Since ancient days due to the cultural richness foreigners visited India. Indian tourism sector follows a mantra “Atithi Devo Bhava”-”Guest is God”. Now a day Indian tourism industry is segmented in Eco tourism, Religious tourism, Adventure tourism, Heritage tourism, Science tourism, Medical tourism etc. to attract more and more travelers. As per the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report, 2019 India ranked 34th out of 140 countries and in terms of price competitiveness Indian tourism sector ranked 13th out of 140 countries. This achievement in Indian tourism industry has been possible due to the digital transformation of tourism industry, advancement in technology, better accessibility of E-VISA, Visa on arrival hassle free visa etc.

Table 2 : Top 5 Tourist Attracted States in India

Rank	State/Union Territory	Numbers of Tourist
1	Maharashtra	23,326,163
2	Tamil Nadu	4,860,455
3	Utter Pradesh	3,104,062
4	Delhi	2,379,169
5	Rajasthan	1,489,500

(Source : India Tourism Statistics at a Glance 2018)

Table: 2 indicate that Maharashtra state is the most popular state in terms of arrival of tourist (both domestic and foreigners). This state is attractive due to its natural beauty, heritage sites and medical facilities. Maharashtra state is followed by Tamil Nadu, Utter Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan.

Table 3 : Foreign Tourist Arrival and Foreign Exchange Earning from Tourism in India (2015-2018)

Year	Arrivals (millions)	% change	Earnings (US\$ million)	% change
2015	8.03	4.5	21,071	4.1
2016	8.80	9.7	22,923	9.1
2017	10.04	14.0	27,310	19.1
2018	10.56	5.2	28,585	4.7

(Source: India Tourism Statistics at a Glance 2018)

Table: 3 describe that every year the foreign tourist arrival and Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism in India increased on a regular basis. According to Ministry of Tourism (2019), in 2017 and 2018 10.04 million and 10.56 million respectively, foreign tourist arrived in India. The tourism industry in India generated U.S\$ 28.5 billion roughly in 2018 and it is forecasted to reach U.S\$ 50 billion by 2022.

Every year 9.6 million foreign tourist came to India i.e. it about 26,000 per day. The World Travel and Tourism Council (2019) calculated that in 2018 Indian tourism contributed 9.2% of India's GDP and creating 42.673 million jobs i.e. 8.1% of its total employment. This sector is targeted to develop at an annual rate of 6.9% by 2028 i.e. will contribute 9.9% of India's GDP. But currently the scenario has been changed drastically due to the spread of COVID-19 virus.

In India the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Kerala on 30th January, 2020 and since then COVID-19 has rapidly spread in all the states and union territories. Currently India climbed to the fourth highest in the world with 3, 08, 993 (till 12th June, 2020) affected people by COVID-19. As per the latest news in India 8, 884 people are died (till 12th June, 2020) due to COVID-19 but the good news for all of us that the recovery rate is very sound.

On 24th March, 2020 Prime Minister of India announced first 'Lockdown' and banned all domestic and international arrival and departure through all means. This complete lockdown impose

crisis to the Indian economy. Like other industrial sector, Indian tourism industry also badly affected by the COVID-19. As per the Government data, in February 2020, there were 10.15 lakhs Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTA) in comparison to 10.87 lakhs in February, 2019 and 11.18 lakhs in January, 2020. Registering a decrease of 6.6% already year on year. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has 3,691 registered sites, out of which 38 are world heritage site. As per ASI report, the total earnings from ticket selling to monument visitors was Rs. 302.34 crores in 2019 and 277.78 crores in 2020 (January-April). Indian tourism industry is a vital source of employment, livelihood of many people who are directly and indirectly involved to this industry, But it is forecasted that on account of COVID-19 the larger tourism industry in India will face a job loss of around 38 million i.e. around 40% of the total workforce. The tourism industry passes through the worst phase in 21st century and without government intervention it is very difficult to overcome from this situation. In this context, the Government has taken first vital step through announcing the moratorium on interest and principal repayment for 3 months. Some other important Government initiatives to support tourism industry are as follows:

Ministry of Commerce and industry intended the foreign trade policy of 2015-20 for one more year.

Central Board of Indirect taxes and customers circulated the ordinance to extend time limit for couple of GST compliance to June 30 with effect from March 2020.

Union Ministry of Tourism announced that government is planning to help this sector with soft loans making capital and deferent of loans repayment.

By going through several lockdown phases, currently Government of India implement “Unlock” phase for reviving Indian economy by giving relaxation to certain sectors from complete lockdown. In spite of all efforts made by Government and other

agencies to give fresh air to the Indian tourism industry but it is the reality that this sector needs much more time to recover from this crisis.

Conclusion

Currently our world is not in a good health. Although COVID-19 is a curse for 21st century's human civilization but this brutal virus awake our hygiene consciousness. Due to COVID-19 people are forced to confined at home and do work from home. Unless and until an effective vaccine invented the fear of existence of COVID-19 virus will not be removed and up to that time people will dream about travelling. But those dreams of travelling can't feed the tourism and aviation industry. Government and industries itself should take initiatives, This sector should adopt both long and short term strategies in respect of cost and employee control. During this unstable situation tourism business should maintain price chart to be competitive. Tourism sector can introduce "Quarantine tourism" as a new market mix. This lockdown period can be utilized by the enterprises by providing online training and development programs for the up gradation of employees rather than retrenchment them. Recently World Tourism Organization has declared about Tourism Recovery Technical Assistance Package. As a measure of relief several State Government in India abolish suspension over some tourist destinations. Entire world is waiting for that day when they all can move around fearlessly, mixing with people and exploring new places trough travelling.

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Corporate Governance Practices & Failures in Ethiopia – A Case Study of METEC

Dr. Bhupendra Kumar

Abstract

Metals and Engineering Corporation (METEC) is a Government owned industrial enterprise established under the laws of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia /FDRE/ by the decree of the council of ministers.

METEC was established at the initiation of the late Prime Minister, Meles Sinai, who envisioned the company to be a major tool for industrialization and transformation to take the country to middle-income status. The late Prime Minister, Meles Sinai, put forward the establishment of the Corporation as one of the major tools for industrialization intending to transform Ethiopia into a middle-income country. When METEC was established a decade ago with a registered capital of 10 billion Br, it incorporated 15 military and civilian industries. One of the industries was later dissolved.

This case study critically chronicles the ascendancy and apparent decline of a business conglomerate, Metals and Engineering Corporation (METEC), in post-1991 Ethiopia. Informed by 'developmental state' ideology, the political elites managed to create METEC, entrusting it to the military for their use in leading the industrialization of the country. With a sober analysis of the conglomerate's engagement in mega-projects in the context of civil-military relations, this article shows that the 'developmental role' of METEC has been characterized by extreme delays in projects, with symptoms of financial embezzlement which have led the party-state to reconsider the military's role in the economy. The article relies primarily on documents, informal discussions and media content analysis.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced the government has cancelled the contract awarded to Metals and Engineering Corporation (METEC) related to the 6,450-MW Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

Multiple news agencies are reporting that METEC lost the contract due to numerous days in completion. The company was the contractor for the electromechanical and hydraulic steel structure work on the project.

Key Word

METEC, Corporate Governance, GERD, Ethiopia and Governance

Introduction

The main aim to establish METEC has been to make a fundamental difference through a lead role in the industrialization of Ethiopia.

METEC is working under a free market norms and standards with special commitments that enable domestic and foreign investors to enjoy partnership and cooperation.

In respect to the aforementioned perspectives, this corporate profile highlights the essence of METEC, the areas where METEC operates in and how METEC works with possible collaborators in the field.

The country which created METEC is the cradle of mankind, where including modern man had immigrated from to different corners of our world.

Ethiopia, the origin of METEC has contributed a number of material and social wealth, inline to those who contributed same in their own manner, to the civilization of mankind.

To mention some material wealth, the ancient engineering and architecture of the building of Yeha, the stele of Axum, the engraved churches of Lalibela all being sculptured from massive monolithics stones are the manifestation of the trace of ancient civilization and gift to the world.

On top of this Ethiopia has contributed a civilized culture of respect and coexistence, which has been and yet flourishing the respect to diversity of nationalities and religion.

Background

Metec was established at the initiation of the late Prime Minister, Melees Sinai, who envisioned the company to be a major tool for industrialization and transformation to take the country to middle-income status. The late Prime Minister, Melees Sinai, put forward the establishment of the Corporation as one of the major tools for industrialization intending to transform Ethiopia into a middle-income country.

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METEC was once responsible for constructing the \$4 billion dam project on the River Nile, expected to be Africa's biggest hydroelectric project, but was ousted from the contract in August 2018. Kinfe Dagneu, a Brigadier General in Ethiopia's army and former chief executive of METEC plays a significant role in the organization.

The company was assigned development of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and sugar factory, as well as the Jinka Sugar Bag factory. On November 12, 2018, all assigned project canceled due to fail to complete, and government arrested Kinfe Dagneu, CEO of METEC, after a trial to escape through Sudan, where he was captured by Defence force. Kinfe Dagneu arrived in helicopter to Addis Ababa

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METEC is run by the Ethiopian Defense Forces. Ahmed says the company is not able to complete the work. “We have handed over a complicated water dam project to people who have not seen a dam in their life and if we continue in that direction, the project may never see the light of day,” he said. Salini Impregilo of Italy remains the main contractor for GERD.

Ethiopia will now award the contract to another company, although the replacement has not yet been named.

The government says GERD is 65% complete, but, “It is a project that was supposed to be completed within five years, but seven or eight years later not a single turbine is operational,” Ahmed said.

Ethiopian Electric Power is developing the project, which is expected to cost \$4.8 billion.

GERD – on the Blue Nile River in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region — will feature a 510-foot-tall, 5,840-foot-long roller-compacted-concrete dam that will create a reservoir with a capacity of 70 km³. Two powerhouses will contain a total of 16 Francis turbine-generator units.

Metals and Engineering Corporation (METEC) is a Government owned industrial enterprise established under the laws of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia /FDRE/ by the decree of the council of ministers.

Structure and aim of METEC

METEC (acronym for Metals and Engineering Corporation) is an Ethiopian arms and machinery industry founded in 2010. Being the state largest military industrial complex, it is responsible for the production of military equipment and civilian products. The main aim to establish METEC has been to make a fundamental difference through a lead role in the industrialization of Ethiopia METEC works with foreign companies such as Alstom from France, and Spire Corporation from America.

METEC is working under a free market norms and standards with special commitments that enable domestic and foreign investors to enjoy partnership and cooperation.

As we know Metec was established at the initiation of the late Prime Minister, Melees Sinai, who envisioned the company to be a major tool for industrialization and transformation to take the country to middle-income status The late Prime Minister, Melees Sinai, put forward the establishment of the

Corporation as one of the major tools for industrialization intending to transform Ethiopia into a middle-income country. When Metes was established a decade ago with a registered capital of 10 billion Br, it incorporated 15 military and civilian industries. One of the industries was later dissolved.

During its establishment, the company was given seven main mandates:

1. Building the technological capabilities of the country's defense forces;

2. Design, building and commissioning of manufacturing industries;
3. Manufacturing of industrial machinery;
4. Enhancement of engineering and technological capabilities;
5. Manufacturing, maintaining, overhauling of industrial machinery;
6. Upgrading of weapons, equipment and parts for the military; and
7. Sale of weapons.

Gerd contract and METEC

CONTRACT WITH GERD (GRAND ETHIOPIAN RENASCENCE DAM)

METEC was once responsible for constructing the \$4 billion dam project on the River Nile, expected to be Africa's biggest hydroelectric project, but was ousted from the contract in August 2018. Kinfe Dagneu, a Brigadier General in Ethiopia's army and former chief executive of METEC plays a significant role in the organization. The company was assigned development of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and sugar factory, as well as the Jinka Sugar Bag factory.[] On November 12, 2018, all assigned project canceled due to fail to complete, and government arrested Kinfe Dagneu, CEO of METEC, after a trial to escape through Sudan, where he was captured by Defence force. Kinfe Dagneu arrived in helicopter to Addis Ababa.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced the government has cancelled the contract awarded to Metals and Engineering Corporation (METEC) related to the 6,450-MW Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

Multiple news agencies are reporting that METEC lost the contract due to numerous days in completion. The company was the contractor for the electromechanical and hydraulic steel structure work on the project.

METEC is run by the Ethiopian Defense Forces. Ahmed says the company is not able to complete the work. “We have handed over a complicated water dam project to people who have not seen a dam in their life and if we continue in that direction, the project may never see the light of day,” he said.

Salini Impregilo of Italy remains the main contractor for GERD.

Ethiopia will now award the contract to another company, although the replacement has not yet been named.

The government says GERD is 65% complete, but, “It is a project that was supposed to be completed within five years, but seven or eight years later not a single turbine is operational,” Ahmed said.

Ethiopian Electric Power is developing the project, which is expected to cost \$4.8 billion.

GERD – on the Blue Nile River in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region — will feature a 510-foot-tall, 5,840-foot-long roller-compacted-concrete dam that will create a reservoir with a capacity of 70 km³. Two powerhouses will contain a total of 16 Francis turbine-generator units.

Just last month, GERD project manager Semegnew Bekele was found dead of a gunshot wound, and investigations are ongoing. The major accusation on BG Tena Kurunde is an allegation of conspiring with employees of MeTEC to conduct international procurement worth about 37 billion birr (around US\$2 billion) without legal procurement procedures, an accusation which also touched Major Getachew Gebre Silasie, former head of deforestation and follow up works at MeTEC. This procurement was conducted between 2012/13-2015 fiscal year.

The accusations further stated that MG Tena and his associates have spent an equivalent of 44 million birr (about US\$ 1.2m) in

2015 alone for the maintenance of two old ships, ‘Abay Wenz’ and Abiyot,” which MeTEC bought from the then Ethiopian Shipping Lines, currently Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Services, for scrap of metal, but instead used the ships to conduct illegal sea trades. This particular accusation also involve Colonel Mulu Woldegebriel, Deputy Director and chief of business development, and Colonel Azeb Tadese, sales manager under corporate marketing of MeTEC. Major Semere Haile Hagos, operation manager, and Captain Yekuno-Amlak Tesfaye, head of industry operations at Dejen Aviation Engineering Complex have also been implicated for allegedly assisting this process, as they were responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the infamous old ships purchased by MeTEC. Captain Solomon Abreha, head of training from MeTEC’s corporate transformation office, is another suspect accused of securing a contract deal, which rose the maintenance fee for the shixps purchase to about US\$6.2 million.

Besides the saga of the old ships, MG Tena is also under another investigation, which implicated him of authorizing the installation of a power plant to the Tana Beles I sugar project, without a legal competitive tender back in October 2012.

World revolves on METEC

At a hearing on December 4, the same court has looked at the file of businessman millionaire Alem Fitsum and Colonel Setegn Kahsay. Colonel Setegn is suspected of tampering with evidences of corruption accusations on Brigadier General Hadgu G/Giyorgis, who is in the same file of BG Tena Kurunde et.al, while Alem is accused of conducting illegal business transactions with officials of MetEC.

The police investigating the two have brought documents before the court arguing that the main suspect, Alem Fitsum, owner of Alemgenet Trade and Industry Plc., had sold Riviera Hotel, a three-star hotel under Riviera International Plc, and a plastic

factory to MeTEC with inflated prices under dubious circumstances. According to the police who cited a minute obtained from the procurement committee set up by Maj. Gen Kinfu himself, a procurement worth 128 million ETB was executed by MeTEC, but later on the same procurement showed additional 67.83 million birr, bringing the sum to 195 million ETB.

Money from the three-Star hotel circles one too many suspects. A colleague of BG Tena, Brigadier General Birha Beyene, a female high ranking military official who was in the position of Audit and Inspection department with MeTEC, had to defend a charge which implicated her to Alem Fitsum's sale of his hotel and plastic factory to MeTEC. She is accused of executing the purchase by participating in the committee overseeing the purchase and later acquiring the deal without the legal procurement process with just a written minute from the meeting.

The police have therefore requested additional days to keep businessman Alem in custody and investigate this and all related allegations. Accordingly, the court has granted the police 14 more days.

Scene from Ethiopia's dream Project, the Gerd

An alleged deal involving close to 2.1 billion ETB for identification and forest clearing work at the site of the construction of Ethiopia's mega dam, GERD, taints MeTEC. The police alleges suspects have also tampered with evidences. Ayalnesh Mekonen, office secretary for Brigadier General Hadgu G/Giyorgis, as well as Lieutenant Colonel Solomon Berhe, and Colonel Yared Hailu, heads of finance from MeTEC's production plant and new business development office of the MeTEC, respectively, are all complicated in manipulating the process of area identification phase at the site of GERD. Adding additional accusation, the police say Maj. Gen. Kinfu Dagnev headed this illegal act and gave a free pass for Ayalnesh through his colleagues. Investigators

further told the court they have witness testimonials from 11 individuals on this particular case. Ayalnesh is also accused of conspiring with other officials to acquire the work for the forest clearing at the site of GERD in Guba, Benishangul Gumuz regional state, through her own company registered under a family member with an illicit payment while the actual work was not done.

In the same file under Tena Kurunde et.al, officials like Major Yirga Abreha, finance head from Hibret Manufacturing and Machine Building Industry of MeTEC, are accused of embezzling public money in the form of facilitating credit services for individuals and sponsorships through favoritism. The same charge also implicated Major Gebresilassie Gebregiyorgis, capacity building and corporate transformation manager, for allegedly favoring employees and friends with academic scholarships abroad, exploiting MeTEC's coffer.

Other senior officials with the rank of deputy directors from the MeTEC's business development and military equipment production units have been accused of illegally purchasing planes. This accusation also implicated Brigadier General Hadgu G/ Giyorgis and Colonel Shegaw Mulugeta.

20 Pickup vehicles worth millions

Portraying MeTEC's CEO, once again, as the main culprit, the police have also reported finding an illegal procurement of 20 double-cab pickup vehicles worth 22 million ETB, thought to have been bought without adequate reason and the proper legal procedure in June of 2011.

The police also accused Lieutenant Colonel Yishak Hailemariam Adnahom, head of MeTEC's commercial and civil products planning and control department, Major Kindeya Girmay, MeTEC's finance head for various industries, and Colonel Girmay jTarekegn, property manager at corporate marketing and sales, for proposing and conducting the illegal purchases.

Lieutenant Colonel Adane Agernew, MetEC's property manager at corporate logistics and supply department, is accused of receiving the vehicles without proper inspection report and procurement documentations. While Lieutenant Colonel Asemert Kidane, former representative for Gafat Armament Engineering Complex, is suspected of endorsing the final decision for the procurement of the trucks, benefiting both herself and a third party. Asmeret's lawyer appealed to the court that she was suffering from a serious health condition and therefore should receive bail right, which the court denied.

A Journalist defends corruption accusations

An entertainment program anchor at the national television, and a household name of a youth program with the then Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (ERTA), later renamed EBC, and renamed again ETV, Fitsum Yeshitla saw herself inside the web of the corruption allegations on MeTEC officials.

The police accuse Fistum of having affiliations with Maj. Gen Kinfu and embezzling public money worth US\$23,000, which she allegedly shared with another colleague working in entertainment industry. While Fitsum and her colleague are accused of receiving US\$11,500 for a documentary film work, Fitsum is additionally accused of traveling to the US for a vacation with expenses paid by MeTEC. On Thursday December 6, the court granted eight more days for the police to remand and investigate Fitsum. She told the court that since she has been taken into police custody she has not given a statement to the police. The state-owned military-industrial conglomerate, Metals & Engineering Corporation (MeTEC), which has been in hot water for the past four months, is shrinking by reducing its staff size by more than half.

With 19,500 employees recruited from the military and civilians, the Corporation will be left with roughly 8,000 employees after terminations and transfers of employees to other institutions.

“The layoff will be made to keep the company from failure,” said a senior executive close to the case. “As the company lost its good faith and actual projects, it is in a financial mess.”

For staff reduction, the management of the Corporation prepared five schemes including transferring employees to the Ministry of Defense and state-owned enterprises, terminations of employment agreements for contract, project and for graduates of Addis Raey Training Centre.

The Corporation will be left with roughly 8,000 employees after terminations and transfers of employees to other institutions.

Half of the outgoing employees will leave the Corporation by being transferred to the Ministry of Defense, which will be managing three industries that will split from MetEC. The nearly 5,000 employees will be moving to Homicho Ammunition Engineering Complex, Gafat Armament Engineering Complex, Dejen Aviation Engineering Industry and Bishoftu Automotive Industry, which the Defense Ministry will manage.

Close to 2,500 project employees who had been on duty at Tana Beles I and Omo Kuraz I sugar projects and the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam have already been terminated by the Corporation.

The employment agreement of 50 contract employees, which have been working at the Corporation after their retirements, will be terminated as of January 9, 2019. About 200 employees that have been working at Welding at Metal & Fabrication Industry of the Corporation have also been terminated.

An additional 2,400 employees that graduated from Addis Raey Training Centre, a project launched by MetEC and Elshadai Relief & Development Association, will be fully expelled. The graduates were trained for seven months in Awash town in construction, farming, garments and manufacturing and were hired by the Corporation at different industries.

For the third quarter of this fiscal year, MetEC has targeted to focus on reforms and ceasing operations. Even after resuming productions, the company will be focusing on manufacturing consumables such as transformers and plastic products, according to a source close to the case.

“Projects like factory commissioning will end afterwards,” said the same source.

To recover from financial difficulties and to commence operations, the company is planning to float a tender to sell properties valued at 14 billion Br, which were found during the latest audit at the Corporation.

Nearly two dozen senior officials of the Corporation are under police custody accused of crimes of corruption. The Metals & Engineering Corporation (MetEC), which is heavily indebted and has lost consumer and public trust, is waiting for final approval from the Council of Ministers to change its name to start afresh. The Corporation will repurpose itself as an engineering group with new capital.

Future of METEC

In light of the evidences cited, METEC’s commercial activities are doing more harm than good to the democratization process, state-society relations and economic development in Ethiopia. Subsequently, one can arguably conclude that divestiture should be sought.

Returning the military to their barracks is, nonetheless, a very delicate matter. Even small steps to limit the outsized economic clout of the military provoke the military leadership and strain the relation with the political leadership. This was evident in Egypt during the presidency of Morsi where the attempt to side-line the Egyptian Armed Force from the mega project of the Suez Canal development soured the relation with the civilian government of Muslim Brotherhood and facilitated its eventual ouster (Marshall 2015).

According to Mulvenon (2001a, 2), one of the key factors behind the Chinese successful divestiture with regard to the PLA was the financial assurance from the civilian leadership for a ‘sufficiently generous compensation package’. Nonetheless, compensation scheme by itself cannot incentivize the military to accept divestiture as it can never match the financial gains from lucrative businesses. What is rather decisive is the power that the civilian leadership can exercise over the armed forces. In the Ethiopian context, whether the civilian political leadership is in a strong posture to effectively implement divestiture also requires a nuanced analysis of the existing civil-military relations. In this respect, the article builds upon Samuel Huntington’s seminal book ‘The soldier and the State’ Dongmin Lee’s article ‘Chinese Civil-Military Relations: The Divestiture of People’s Liberation Army Business Holdings’. The later has applied three theoretical frameworks to explain the divestiture process of Chinese PLA. The first theoretical framework is the Huntingtonian objective civil-military control. In this model, there is a clear boundary between the civilian leadership and the military (Huntington 1985, 81-85). A highly professionalized military which enjoys autonomy in its military affairs and enjoys strong group cohesiveness may not have the proclivity to interfere in the realm of politics (Lee 2006, 442). Since stable civil-military relations characterize a professionalized military in the Huntingtonian sense, it makes the divestiture process relatively smooth. Turning into the Ethiopian case, one can barely doubt the absence of an objective civil-military relations though the incumbent Prime Minister touted ad nauseam about the reform he rolled out to undergird military professionalism. Hence, there is no enabling environment for divestiture in Ethiopia in this regard.

The second framework is what is referred to as the ‘symbiotic model’. According to Perlmutter and LeoGrande, ‘it is a system of living together, a partnership involving one another, and is associated with the survival of each institutional structure. It is a

system of high dependence more than of mutual benefits...’ (Quoted in Lee 2006, 442). The political leadership and the military institution work in tandem for the survival and maintenance of their power (Ibid). There is a unity of purpose between the two; one comes to the rescue of the other to perpetuate the grip on power. Again, in such context, as there would be a common understanding between the civilian and the military, it would not be difficult for them to work on divestiture once a decision is reached to that effect. A typical symbiotic relation used to exist between the ruling coalition and the military in Ethiopia until the recent political turmoil and subsequent rupture within the coalition.

As emphasized in this article, among the four ethnically defined political parties that constitute the ruling coalition, TPLF has been the dominant party of the coalition - EPRDF- at least till the power shift since 2018. TPLF affiliated officers also control the top echelon of the military. Not only both TPLF leaders and top brass of the military hail from the same ethnic group but also belong to the same cohort as veterans of TPLF during its armed struggle. Consequently, there may have been a symbiotic relation between the political and military leadership. However, this symbiotic relation seems to have been discontinued after the resilient mass protest brought a reformist leader from the Oromo ethnic group to the helm, signifying a shift of political power from TPLF to OPDO (now rebranded as the Oromo Democratic Party, ODP) - a hitherto junior political partner of TPLF which later turned the tide to dislodge TPLF’s political dominance in the coalition. Yet, Tigrayans enjoy an upper hand in the military and other security apparatus, a reality that seems quickly changing with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed at the helm. We do not have concrete information to suggest a tension between the military and the political leadership following the development in the political landscape, though, one can reasonably assume the uneasy relation. A case in point is the tender of resignation by two senior military officers soon after the appointment of the new Prime Minister.⁴

In such inchoate political developments, pursuing or even entertaining the idea of divestiture will certainly send tremor to the military.

As the last option for rescuing the company from its flurry of financial crises, the management of the company has been working on a reform document and regulations for the reestablishment of the Corporation that was tabled to the Council of Ministers.

“We can’t ride a dead horse,” said Daniel Kitaw (PhD), the board chairperson of the Corporation. “The best strategy is to get off.”

The company has weathered one crisis after another over the past couple of years, obtaining a large debt load in the process, delaying mega projects and receiving bitter criticism for the poor quality of its products. The company carries a total of 74.2 billion Br in total debt, of which over half is registered in its book of account. It is currently operating at only 40pc of its capacity.

“On top of its weak capacity to service its debt,” reads the company’s financial report, “the interest rate accumulated over years threatens the existence of the Corporation. However, the Corporation can be rescued through financial restructuring.”

Due to the heavy debt stress, the management has asked the Ministry of Finance for debt restructuring. It asked to pay 7.7 billion Br of the debt itself and convert seven billion Br loan 13.7 billion Br into capital and bonds, respectively. It also requested that 16.4 billion Br be written off.

Along with revitalizing the company, the management has designed a five -year strategy that aims to generate 17.5 billion Br in revenues in the next five years. The strategic document was approved by the board of the Corporation in June and is currently waiting for a green light from the Public Enterprises Holding & Administration Agency.

The company, which had been in a dilemma with its marketing strategy on whether to be market - driven or customer-oriented, has now decided to put customers at the centre of its goals and strategies.

The management's plan for revenue generation over the next five years has been put forth despite the last fiscal year's below target performance. During the recently ended fiscal year, the company was able to achieve 38pc of the plan. It intended to generate 9.5 billion Br but was able to amass only a little over one-third of that figure.

Out of the revenue, the largest share of it was made from sales revenue amounting to 3.4 billion Br. It also generated 39.1 million Br, 38 million Br and 1.2 million Br from property disposal, receivables and rent, respectively. During the past fiscal year, the company serviced close to one billion Birr of its debt.

The gross profit of the company stood at 195.1 million Br, which is a quarter of the target.

This is a very significant underperformance, according to Abdulmenan Mohammed, a financial statement analyst with close to two decades of experience.

“This reveals that either there is a problem with planning or failure to attain the goal,” he said. When we compare the actual gross margin to a planned one, it is much less. MetEC planned a gross margin rate of 26pc but only achieved 18pc.

“This shows that the cost of sales went up significantly,” said Abdulmenan. “The management should explain why the cost of sales went up without a parallel increase in prices.”

MeTEC also has a poor balance sheet. Its total assets stand at 41.6 billion Br with a very close value of liabilities at about 41.5 billion Br. This puts the company's asset -to-liability ratio at 108pc.

While evaluating the performance of the Corporation, the board identified enormous debt, high staff turnover and limited capacity as the major limitations of the company.

The performance will hopefully be improved during the current fiscal year, according to Hiwot Mosisa, MeTEC's new CEO, who also predicts that the reforms completed in the last two years will start bearing fruit.

During the reform, different teams and committees were formed to diagnose the problems, explore scenarios on how to resolve them, and how to go forward with the reforms, according to her.

With the current reform, the Corporation is working on restructuring its organizational setup, debts and human resources. Once the regulation is approved, it will operate nine industries. It already handed over four industries that produce military armaments to the Ministry of Defence.

The split up of the company was introduced after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) came to power and decided to have the Corporation undergo a separation into a commercial and a military wing, ending its structure as a military-industrial conglomerate.

However, over the years, the Corporation ran into problems and has been criticized for financial mishaps, carrying massive debt, losing client trust, and delaying mega projects. This led the Corporation to lose major projects it had under contract including the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), the sugar factories and Yayu Multi-Complex Industries Project.

Two years ago during a corruption crackdown, police arrested Kinfu Dagne (Gen.), the founding CEO, and three dozen former officials and employees of MeTEC. Their case is pending at the Federal High Court after the federal prosecutor charged them for alleged corruption crimes.

The Corporation went off track after the passing of the late Prime Minister, according to a former senior executive at the Corporation.

“After that, it ran into a leadership crisis,” he said, “especially in the finance department, which is responsible for all problems.”

Hiwot admits. All divisions of the Corporation led by deputy director -generals used to have their own financial administration, according to her, admitting that the financial management of the company was dismantled and poor.

Conclusion and Recommendation

As part of the reform process, the management is working on restructuring the finance department, adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), issuing a new finance directive, and appointing professionals in the accounting and finance department, according to Hiwot.

“We’re also planning to adopt ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) to streamline our financial system management,” she told Fortune.

To financially revive, the company has its hopes in the 12.8 billion Br in receivables and close to 13 billion Br in stock as sources of revenues. They intend to focus on changing its resources into liquid cash by selling off five billion Birr of the stock.

Debt consolidation is also one of the major targets of management, which already held discussions with representatives of 17 government institutions to identify the Corporation’s debt and consolidate it, according to Hiwot.

“We have to pay our debt, especially from the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) since it’s public money,” she said.

The company will work on aggressive marketing to increase sales revenues, according to Hiwot.

“We’ll aggressively promote our products to change the negative perception of the public,” she said. “We’ll also improve the quality of our products since we’re preparing new standards.”

“With a combined effort of the board and the management and operating against all odds,” said Daniel, “we’re turning a new leaf.”

The Corporation is also on its way to a new human resource restructuring effort that was studied by the Industrial Projects Service. The 85-page document includes a changed human resource structure, job descriptions, as well as job and salary scales.

Eight years down the road, one can fairly say that the country’s experiment with Metec has been disastrous. The corporation has proven to be a major stumbling block to the country’s ambitious development plans. One cannot but emphasize how the corporation spawned overwhelming inefficiency, embezzlement, waste of resource, corruption, and patron-client networks. In this regard, the government seems to be cognizant of the risks that after bouts of scathing criticism from the legislative body, it has already begun side-lining the corporation from most of its mega projects. As highlighted above, the current political context and civilmilitary relations do not support the risky venture of divestiture. Rather, the government should pursue step by step measures that would eventually lead to the death of military business. The government should rethink its favoritism approach towards the corporation if there is a commitment to bring Metec back on the right track. The opacity that surrounds the institution under the cloak of ‘national security’ needs to come to a halt. Metec should be also subject to the wide range of oversight mechanisms that applies to other public enterprises to ensure accountability and transparency. Such steps will not only put limits to the looming dangers of the corporation, but also exposes it to strong competition with the private sector. This will significantly

shrink the business engagement of the military and may eventually lead to its gradual death.

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COVID-19 : Impact on Human Development & Global Economy

Dr. Swarnima Singh

Abstract

The prophetic warning by the Nobel Laureate Joshua Lederberg¹ that “the microbe that felled one child in a distant continent can reach yours today and seed a global pandemic tomorrow” has once again proved its relevance with the emergence of corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as the latest pandemic that is affecting human health and economy across the world. COVID-19 pandemic erupted in the Wuhan City of People’s Republic of China in December 2019. The PR China, under its obligations for International Health Regulations (2005), reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) that between December 31, 2019 and January 3, 2020, 44 cases with pneumonia of unknown aetiology had taken place². Soon, the disease spread rapidly within and outside the Hubei Province and also engulfed a large number of countries, with Thailand, Japan and the Republic of Korea as the initially affected countries². The Chinese authorities identified the virus to be a new coronavirus which was subsequently named as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)-CoV-2 by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses³. The WHO also named the disease due to this virus as COVID-19⁴.

Introduction

As of February 29, 2020, a total of 85,403 confirmed cases and 2,838 deaths had taken place with no respite in geographical spread, mortality, morbidity and economic loss due to the virus⁵. The data currently available indicate mild symptoms in almost 80 percent of the infected individuals but higher vulnerability of the elderly, especially those with underlying medical condition. The case fatality ratio is less than that seen in two recent epidemics

due to SARS-CoV-1 and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)-CoV, but greater transmissibility and rapidity of the spread are the observed characteristics of this virus⁶. Various predictions have been made for the spread of COVID-19 including by a leading Harvard epidemiologist Marc Lipsitch who warns that the coronavirus will infect up to 70 per cent of humanity within a year⁷.

History of pandemics and emergence of new pathogens

Pandemics of various infectious diseases with millions dying have been recorded in the history for the past several centuries. The most well known in the history have been pandemic due to plague⁸ in Asia and several pandemics of influenza that killed millions of people⁹. The pandemics continued in the current millennium too, and COVID-19 is the latest and certainly not the last pandemic. One of the reasons for the occurrence and delayed response to pandemics is the lacklustre approach to building capacity to respond to infectious diseases. With the availability of antibiotics, even the Surgeon General of the United States of America, William Stewart, said in 1967, “The time has come to close the book on infectious diseases”¹⁰. But it was not to be. The past three decades have seen emergence of almost 40 new pathogens, most of which are viruses including HIV, hepatitis C virus and coronaviruses that have caused pandemics, novel-influenza viruses, etc¹¹. Many non-technical but popular publications have also highlighted the persistence and revival of infectious diseases¹².

Pandemics and human development

It has been generally believed that poverty and underdevelopment predispose to infectious diseases. Although true to some extent, the occurrence of the ongoing COVID-19 in developed countries also highlights the fact that developed countries and rich populations are not immune to the outbreaks of

infectious diseases. Sufficient evidence in support of this contention through the use of human-made weapons of mass destruction and nature's agents of mass destruction has been provided to support the aforesaid assumption¹³.

There exists an inextricable relationship between human development and infectious diseases. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals also recognize this in its Goal No. 3¹⁴. This fact has been highlighted for the last several decades in popular literature¹⁵. There is another side of development. Ecological changes brought about by the development activities include new technology, construction of new irrigation channels, dams, deforestations, migration of people, high density of populations, emergence of urban ghettos, globalization of food and increasing international travel. All these facilitate rapid spread of infection across the countries¹⁶. Some of these factors have been responsible for the rapid spread of COVID-19 across international geographical borders.

Global warming, or the climate change, is another factor that may have acted as a predisposing factor for the emergence and spread of several epidemic-prone diseases¹⁷.

Impact of pandemics on global economy

Pandemics adversely impact the economy of all affected countries. Poor get hit the most. This has been documented earlier¹⁸, and even the United Nations has indicated that the pandemics threaten national security¹⁹. A comprehensive study extending over a period between 1950 and 1991, involving 20 countries including developed, developing and underdeveloped countries, revealed that the increasing prevalence of infectious diseases will not only increase human mortality and morbidity, but also result in gradual erosion of State capacity and increase in poverty²⁰. This pathogen-induced economic decline was found to have a negative effect of such measures of state capacity as fiscal resource, resilience, reach and responsiveness, autonomy

and legitimacy. There has been evidence to support the claims that infectious diseases constitute a verifiable threat to national security and State power. Infectious diseases' prevalence was found to have a negative association with the ability of the state to maintain the armed forces with adverse effect on State security²¹.

Many industrial units in PR China, Republic of Korea and other countries with large number of cases of COVID-19 had to be closed down within a month of onset of the outbreak. PR China having interrupted the supply chain to other countries has adversely affected its industrial production, thus undermining trade and tourism. The world tourism body has estimated the cost to world tourism to be around US\$ 22 billion²². Economists have noted a global economic growth since 2009. Concerns about the pandemic have already ruined global stock exchange markets. Both World Trade Organization (WTO) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have indicated COVID-19 pandemic as the biggest threat to global economy since the financial crisis of 2008-2009.

Conclusions

Microorganisms antedated human beings. They will continue to cause pandemics because of their ingenuity and basic survival instinct²³. It is obvious following the spread of COVID-19 that notwithstanding the phenomenal advances in epidemiology, disease biology, molecular biology, genomics and proteomics, humanity is still unable to predict and prevent the unsuspected onset of epidemics and pandemics of infectious diseases. It is also obvious that besides their disastrous effect on human morbidity and mortality, there are equally distressing socio-economic consequences for the affected countries and the whole world. It is essential to strengthen biomedical research, improve healthcare delivery system, establish a permanent 'watch-dog' body and create an improved communication and coordination

mechanism for the diverse agencies responsible for mitigating the broader adverse consequences of pandemics. This will require not only national efforts but a coordinated global response through international agencies and development partners.

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Impact of Corona Virus (Covid-19) on Tourism and Global Economy

Dr. Santosh Kumar

Impact on Global Tourism

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, few industries have fallen as far and as fast as tourism. The technological revolution that brought us closer together by making travel and tourism easy and affordable—a revolution that fueled one billion trips a year is helpless in halting a virus that demands we shelter in place.

Taking a snapshot of tourism losses is difficult, as the data changes as quickly as the virus spreads. If the pandemic continues for several more months, the World Travel and Tourism Council, the trade group representing major global travel companies, projects a global loss of 75 million jobs and \$2.1 trillion in revenue. Losses come daily; as of April 2, British Airways is reportedly poised to suspend 36,000 staffers. American travel industry is among the hardest hit. The U.S. Travel Association projects a loss of 4.6 million jobs through May, a figure likely to increase. U.S. weekly jobless claims skyrocketed to a stunning 6.6 million, doubling in a week and by far the biggest spike in half a century. Tourism decline is a driving reason for job losses in states including Nevada, where Las Vegas casinos and jumbo hotels have gone dark.

On March 29, in an attempt to contain the virus in America, President Donald Trump extended national limits on travel, work, and gatherings of more than 10 people for at least another month and perhaps into June. Summer vacations could be on hold. “This is the worst time of the year for this to happen,” says Isabel Hill, director of the Commerce Department’s National Tourism Office. “This is the season—spring and summer—when the travel and tourism makes a significant amount of revenue.”

“The impact on travel is six or seven times greater than the 9/11 attacks,” says Roger Dow, president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association, which encourages travel to and within the country and represents an industry that generates \$2.6 trillion in economic output and supports 15.8 million jobs in the U.S. With so much at stake, Congress passed a \$2 trillion stimulus that couldn’t have come at a more urgent time. The focus is to help those unemployed and to support businesses large and small. But questions remain: Will the aid package be enough as the country slides into a recession, and what does it mean for travellers?

Much of the tourism industry built its financial strategy around a trouble-free future, planning for eternal blue skies: open borders; high tourism demand, an \$8 trillion industry that defies the ups and downs of the market. On average, international carriers, including Delta and United Airlines, had less than two months of cash on hand to cover expenses before the coronavirus hit, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). In contrast, Apple has enough cash to cover six years of expenses. With much of its fleet grounded, the airlines’ projected revenue losses could climb to more than \$250 billion. That’s at least twice the \$113 billion in losses the IATI predicted three weeks ago, before countries started shutting down borders.

Airlines for America, the trade group representing American and JetBlue among others, as well as UPS and Fedex, say its member companies will lose \$87 billion in revenue this year and have already begun borrowing.

Aid packages to the rescue?

Airlines could benefit from several provisions of the stimulus: \$425 billion from the Federal Reserve for distressed industries; \$75 billion in loans, and \$25 billion in direct grants, with the government taking a stake in the companies. Much of the money is conditional-it can’t be used for corporations to buy back stock, a practice that led many companies to be short of cash.

The bailout comes on the heels of a \$100 billion bill Congress passed weeks before, which provides increased unemployment insurance, paid sick leave, extended food assistance, and free testing for the virus. This is important and we want to speed up,” says Dow. “Most of the travel industry small, mom-and-pop businesses. With small business loans we can help keep their doors open.” The emergency small business loans will be available through June and would be forgiven if companies have to keep their employees on the payroll. The lodging sector—which has suffered as much as transport, with companies such as Marriott losing as much as 75 percent in revenue—is also a big recipient of the bailout. Hotels (and restaurants) can benefit from the \$350 billion lending program for small businesses and from a small adjustment to a federal tax law that could save them as much as \$15 billion.

Cruise industry at sea

But cruise companies face an uphill battle to recover. Cruises have become beleaguered poster children of the pandemic as news stories chronicle the plight of ships carrying infected passengers. At press time, Holland America’s Zaandam and Rotterdam ships were finally granted permission to disembark at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, after the Coast Guard balked at allowing them to dock. On March 8, the Center for Disease Control and the State Department told Americans to stop taking cruises and published a detailed explanation why those ships increase the virus’s “risk and impact”. The effect on the cruise business has been swift. Companies have lost \$750 million in revenue since January, according to reports. Shares of the big fish—Royal Caribbean, Carnival, and Norwegian—have dropped by 60 to 70 percent. Future losses will mount, and it’s likely that sailings will be postponed at least until July or August.

Unlike the airlines and hotels, cruise companies aren’t eligible for the \$500 billion in aid because they don’t count as American

enterprises. Major companies locate their primary headquarters overseas, with ships flagged and incorporated in other nations. This means they pay almost no federal taxes and avoid many U.S. regulations.

The cruising industry faces more hurdles in the future. “Governments may have an increased interest in illness reporting and sanitation inspections,” which means more regulations, says Ross Klein, a Canadian academic at the Memorial University of Newfoundland who studies the sector.

A sign of things to come

But there is a glimmer of hope. China, where the pandemic began, offers a glimpse into the future. Now that the pandemic is reportedly under control there and restrictions are being lifted, there are early signs of recovery.

Hotel bookings in China have increased by 40 percent the first week in March, according to Bloomberg, while peak daily flights rose 230 percent from the previous month. Arne Sorenson, CEO of Marriott, says he’s seen initial improvement in his company’s properties in China. China’s domestic tourism market is gigantic and supports some five billion trips a year. In several surveys the domestic industry says it’s planning for a recovery of 70 percent over the next six months, according to Dr. Wolfgang George Arlt, director of the China Outbound Tourism Research Institute. But that recovery largely rests on domestic tourism, with China severely limiting foreign visitors to insure the virus doesn’t resurface.

The United States—the new epicenter of the pandemic isn’t following China’s trajectory, so the comparison may be more hopeful than realistic. Still, the U.S. Travel Association’s Dow remains optimistic. “Over the long term we will return and come back to business as usual,” he predicts. “People have short memories and there will be a pent up desire to travel.” Economists,

though, are warning that few industries-let alone travel-will return to normal anytime soon.

Impact on Indian Tourism and Economy

Countries have sealed international borders, international and domestic flights have been suspended, which has been compounded further by countrywide lockdown with intercity and interstate travel completely forbidden – it’s a situation that has no parallel at this scale. Italy has already announced that it is closed for tourism until the end of this year. The year 2020 could be a complete washout for the travel and tourism industry in India too if we don’t take immediate steps – not just to contain the impact of virus on lives but also its devastating impact on businesses that support millions of livelihoods.

And if this is considered short-term pain, a bigger challenge stares the industry in its face. All cash inflows of the travel and hospitality industry have completely frozen and the situation looks unlikely to improve anytime soon. The tourism and hospitality industry will continue to feel the heat as the restrictions imposed on travel will ease only gradually and apprehension to travel will persist for many more months.

Life support for indian tourism

Battered by the pandemic, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) estimates that the tourism industry is staring at an overall loss of Rs 5 lakh crore and job cuts impacting up to five crore people. Globally, aviation sector has been one of the hardest hit and the situation is dire in India with many looking at job cuts and even closure. The organised sector in the tourism industry — which consists of branded hotels, tour operators, travel agencies — may be the worst hit with an estimated loss of Rs 1.5 lakh crore. Other than the organised sector, the tourism industry is a source of employment for homestays, small and budget hotel operators, tour guides and others for whom this is going to be an

existential crisis that they can't survive without support for more than a few months.

For an industry that contributes nearly 10 per cent to India's GDP – immediate intervention is needed from the Narendra Modi government for 'survival' measures to prevent mass bankruptcy and layoffs by the crores. The immediate need of the industry, including the aviation sector, is liquidity for the short and midterm in order to meet the fixed costs during the lockdown period as well as for rebuilding businesses almost from scratch. At this point, any support on loans with easy terms would be of immense help. Loans could be extended after assessing the track record of the companies and their potential paying capacity but with a long term view rather than taking a conventional super conservative collateral-based lending approach.

It's not going to be an easy call for the banks within the defined norms of lending and NPA,

so the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will have to help make changes to ensure that the liquidity easing being done actually reaches the corporates who direly need it and help save millions of jobs.

Liquidity is key

On-ground assessment of the situation points towards the fact that the industry would need more liquidity support and, therefore, the current moratorium period of three months needs to be extended. The RBI is well capitalised and will have to play a lead role in setting the tone from the top, mandating a widespread distribution beyond AAA corporates. Our financial sector was already passing through difficult times with certain NBFCs and banks not being in the best of health and that would be weighing on the entire sector leading to risk-averse approach to lending. They would need help and confidence from the RBI in order to change the mindset.

Apart from this, the Modi government also needs to consider deferment of statutory liabilities including GST and advance tax payment timelines and removal of fees for upcoming licences, permits renewal and excise exemption for the travel and hospitality industry. The government should bring Aviation Turbine Fuel under the GST ambit to offer long-term relief to airlines apart from offering rebates on landing, parking and housing charges. Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a clarion call from the ramparts of Red Fort urging Indians to explore 15 cities within India by 2022 to promote domestic tourism - a money-spinner for our economy. A 100 per cent tax rebate for the next three fiscals should be given to people booking domestic tourism packages through Indian travel businesses.

Travel and hospitality is a sector that creates massive direct and indirect employment, drives consumption, earns foreign exchange and invigorates the domestic economy across a range of other sectors including transportation, food, beverage, lifestyle, culture, recreation, sports and more. Covid-19 has brought the momentum of the travel industry to a halt but with timely intervention and requisite support from the government, it's a sector that can help lead recovery for the economy while continuing to support millions of jobs.

Impact on Global Economy

Covid-19 impact: According to IMF, the global economy is expected to shrink by over 3 per cent in 2020 – the steepest slowdown since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, several countries across the world resorted to lockdowns to “flatten the curve” of the infection. These lockdowns meant confining millions of citizens to their homes, shutting down businesses and ceasing almost all economic activity. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy is expected to shrink by over 3 per cent in 2020 – the steepest slowdown since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Now, as some countries lift restrictions and gradually restart their economies, here's a look at how the pandemic has affected them and how they have coped.

How hard the economy has been hit?

The pandemic has pushed the global economy into a recession, which means the economy starts shrinking and growth stops. In the US, Covid-19-related disruptions have led to millions filing for unemployment benefits. In April alone, the figures were at 20.5 million, and are expected to rise as the impact of the pandemic on the US labour market worsens.

CoronaVirus (Covid-19) and global growth

The IMF's estimate of the global economy growing at -3% in 2020 is an outcome is "far worse" than the 2009 global financial crisis. Economies such as the US, Japan, the UK, Germany, France, Italy and Spain are expected to contract this year by 5.9, 5.2, 6.5, 7, 7.2, 9.1 and 8 per cent respectively.

Advanced economies have been hit harder, and together they are expected to grow by -6 per cent in 2020. Emerging markets and developing economies are expected to contract by -1 per cent. If China is excluded from this pool of countries, the growth rate for 2020 is expected to be -2.2 per cent.

China's GDP dropped by 36.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2020, while South Korea's output fell by 5.5 per cent, since the country didn't impose a lockdown but followed a strategy of aggressive testing, contact tracing and quarantining. In Europe, the GDPs of France, Spain and Italy fell by 21.3, 19.2 and 17.5 per cent respectively.

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Impact of Covid 19 for hospitality and tourism sector

Dr. Harshit Dwivedi

Dr. Ganesh Singh Rathore

As the uninvited guest corona virus pandemic checked in, India's hospitality and tourism sector suffered three quarters of economic wipeout estimated to be up to 15 lakh crore, and the industry is desperately looking forward to government support to survive and recover in 2021.

With business coming almost to a standstill, the travel and tourism industry players want the government to provide targeted support to the sector till vaccine-based confidence comes, to help them meet their operating costs and retain jobs.

Although the black swan event shook the very foundation of this vibrant and bustling sector, the players are putting up a brave front, optimistic to regain the "lost vibrancy in the latter half of 2021" and are banking on 'revenge travel' once the health crisis is controlled to help the sector recover.

"This was the worst three quarters ever for the tourism industry over a century and this is expected to play out till another two quarters till vaccine is deployed across all source and destination markets," Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) Chairman Nakul Anand told PTI.

The apex sectoral body had in the beginning of the pandemic forecasted almost three quarters of economic wipeout impact on tourism at between 10 lakh crore to 15 lakh crore.

"On an accumulated basis this would have played out as has been evident in both Q1 and Q2 GDP data, showing tourism almost double dropped more than the economy," he added.

Further, Anand said that while there will be "some green shoots of recovery in tourism, it will be extremely narrow-based in some locations, across some long weekends in drive down, domestic locations".

The impact of COVID-19 has been such that all other segments of tourism — inbound, outbound, corporate, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions), adventure and leisure — will continue to underperform till the next two quarters.

“This will be evident across the tourism value chain - travel agents, hotels, tour operators, restaurants, tourist transporters and most other tourism service providers,” Anand added.

“FAITH has been urging the government that till vaccine-based confidence comes, a targeted tourism support fund be made available for tourism players to meet their operating costs and retain jobs,” Anand said. With the situation continuing to be dire, the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) reiterated the demand for support from the government to help the sector and bring back lakhs of lost jobs.

FHRAI Vice President Gurbaxish Singh Kohli said for the industry, 2021 will be all about survival and recovery and everything else will revolve around this.

“Hospitality and tourism are a very important component of the economy and we need to ensure it bounces back and thrives,” he asserted.

Claiming that tourism and hospitality are the worst affected in 2020, which “has been a total write off for the industry”, Kohli said, “we were the first to fall and the last to rise. Unfortunately, the government has not been as forthcoming (with support) as one would’ve hoped”.

Urging the government to support the sector, Kohli said, “We need to ensure that lost jobs somehow get re-absorbed and in this, we will need the government’s support. So, interacting frequently with the government and authorities is high on the agenda for us”.

Expressing similar views, National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) President Anurag Katriar said, “I would also like

to request the government for liquidity and policy support as it will really help us bounce back quicker”.

He said the unprecedented crisis shook the very foundation of “this vibrant and bustling sector in 2020”.

However, Katriar said, “I am also certain that we will regain our lost vibrancy in the latter half of 2021. Once the vaccine de-escalates the fear of contracting COVID-19, people will surely step out with a vengeance and improved economy will trigger high consumption.”

Sounding pragmatic, Katriar said that while inbound tourism volumes are expected to remain subdued but the sheer size of India’s domestic market will help the sector bounce back in 2021.

To seize the day, the government as well as the industry will need to rise to the challenge of transforming top Indian destinations as world class tourist attractions, he added.

“This requires an integrated, inter-sectoral approach and investment from the government to build supporting infrastructure while the industry should focus on innovation, stellar service and customer experience that will propel domestic tourism in India like never before,” Kalra said.

Stating that the impact of the pandemic on the sector was huge, OYO Hotels & Homes founder and Group CEO Ritesh Agarwal said that 2020 posed unique challenges for the world, as it severely impacted industries and businesses, especially the travel and hospitality space.

As the world slowly recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, “We strongly believe that the use of data science, big data, and artificial intelligence will be crucial to the travel, tourism and hospitality sector,” he added.

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Impact of Covid -19 on Tourism Sector and Global Economy

Mohd Iqbal Hurra

Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic isn't just the most serious global health crisis since the 1918 Great Influenza (Spanish flu), but is set to become one of the most monetarily costly pandemics recent history. This unprecedented public health crisis has become a catastrophic economic crisis to the whole globe and accordingly the tourism, hotel and event sector. Ironically, novel Corona virus first affected the international travelers, and has confronted mainly the affluent social class globally. The scenario indicates that the implied shock could amount to a 60-80% decline in the international tourism economy in 2020, contingent upon the length of the emergency and the speed with which travel and the travel industry bounce back.

Key words

COVID-19, Tourism and Global economy

Introduction

The tourism industry is an umbrella industry connected with numerous different segments in the economy including lodging, community level tasks, educations, monetary, agribusiness, clinical, travel and transportation, development, land, retail, and the other way around. The tourism industry part is as of now one of the hardest-hit by the flare-up of COVID-19, with impacts on both travel flexibly and request. This speaks to an additional drawback chance with regards to a more vulnerable world economy, geopolitical, social and exchange strains, just as lopsided execution among major outbound travel markets. COVID-19 has given huge effect on the monetary advancement around the world. With the huge scope isolates, travel limitations, and social-separating

measures drive a sharp fall in buyers and business use. The tourism industry produces remote trade, drives provincial turn of events, legitimately bolsters various sorts of employments and organizations and supports numerous nearby networks. Overall, 4.4% of GDP, and 21.5% of administration trades in OECD nations.

Objectives

1. To understand the impact of COVID-19 on tourism.
2. To understand the affects of COVID-19 on global economy.

Impact of Covid - 19 on Global Tourism and Economy

Health crisis translate to an economic crisis. the spread of the corona virus bring the global economy to its knees. The crisis has already altered into an economic and labour market shock impacting not only supply (production of goods and services) but also demand (consumption and investment). Disruptions to production, initially in Asia, have now spread to supply chains across the world. All businesses, regardless of size, are facing serious challenges, especially those in the aviation, tourism and hospitality industries, with a real threat of significant declines in revenue, insolvencies and job losses in specific sectors. Sustaining business operations will be particularly difficult for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Following travel bans, border closures and quarantine measures, many workers cannot move to their places of work or carry out their jobs, which has knock-on effects on incomes, particularly for informal and casually employed workers. Consumers in many economies are unable or reluctant to purchase goods and services. Given the current environment of uncertainty and fear, enterprises are likely to delay investments, purchases of goods and the hiring of workers.

Paradoxically, potential repercussions and alternative way outs are yet volatile. Nevertheless, for a quick recovery and recover of the economy, employment and business functions a sustainable

and new beginning is necessary in most of the declined economic sectors. Conventionally, an virus used to attack the vulnerable groups with food, health care insecurity in their lifestyle and they normally used to be the poor of the society. The most visible and immediate effects of Covid-19 is seen in the hotel and tourism sector in all its geographical segments - inbound, outbound and domestic and almost all verticals - leisure, adventure, heritage, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Exhibitions), cruise and corporate. Given various travel restrictions imposed by the Indian government as well as governments across the globe, forward bookings for various conferences and leisure travel bookings to foreign destinations have already been cancelled. In India, most of the summer holiday bookings have also been cancelled (about 40-50 per cent), thereby impacting domestic tourism.

The impact on the inbound and outbound travelers is expected to be most severe in the next couple of quarters. India's total foreign tourist arrivals (FTA) stood at 10.9 million and the foreign exchange earnings (FEE) stood at Rs 210,971 crore during 2019, with Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi accounting for about 60 per cent of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs)., the Indian domestic as well as foreign travel and tourism industry is expected to witness a sharp negative impact in 2020.

As per specialists identified with the world economy, the impacts of Covid-19 can't yet be evaluated, and gauges rely upon notions, despite the way that they match to date, that are probably going to surpass those of the worldwide budgetary crises of 2007-2009. Regardless, organizations, organizations and States must take measures to pad the monetary effect of the current conditions, since the length of this circumstance is just founded on assumptions, fundamentally in light of the fact that there is some weakness about the conduct of the infection and the genuine adequacy of the isolate proportions of the populace. This circumstance is the thing that a few market analysts call "radical

vulnerability”. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts a complicated scenario for the world economy in the short term and something brighter on a longer time horizon. The gauges for 2020 are for a downturn as extreme as during the money related emergency of 2007 to, at least 2009.

The rapidly advancing nature of the COVID-19 crises makes various issues that make it hard to gauge the full expense to global financial activity. These issues incorporate, however are not restricted to:

1. How long will the crisis last?
2. How many workers will be affected both temporarily and permanently?
3. How much economic activity will be lost as a result of the viral outbreak?
4. What temporary and permanent effects will the crisis have on how businesses organize their work forces?
5. When will the economic effects peak?
6. What are the most effective monetary and fiscal policies at the national and global level to address the crisis?

Conclusion

Tourism is one of the biggest and fastest growing industries globally; it is expected to play a important role in recovering the socio-economic stability after Covid 19 pandemic. It is a key contributor to the Island economies and one of the most important industries that generates much needed foreign currency in world economy. Long endured tourism industry of the Island was last hit tough by the Easter bomb blasts took place at several places including luxury hotels in the world .We analyzed the corona virus outbreak and the spillover to the global economy which triggered the global recession in 2020. Policy makers in many countries were under pressure to respond to the corona virus outbreak. As a result, many governments made fast policy decisions that had far-reaching positive and negative effects on their respective

economy - many countries plunged into a recession. the potential loss of income in affected countries could be significant, with global GDP declining by up to 3.9% , and developing countries hit the hardest (4% on average, but some over 6.5%). Governments will need to offer significant support to affected businesses and households. Analysis will evolve the assumptions and scenarios in line with more recent health and economic indicators. Early indications of the economic costs and the magnitude of estimated impacts demonstrate the need for a coordinated international response to the crisis. A global crisis requires a global response and there is a need for global collaboration not just on health, but also on trade, finance and macroeconomic policies. Fortunately, global institutions are beginning to catalyze and coordinate global efforts, as well as to provide technical and financial support to countries coping with the health and economic consequences of the outbreak. Because of the overwhelming cost of that tourism industry in the nation's economy, it is critical to concentrate how the dependence of the business may shape the recuperation of its principle sub divisions once the pandemic subside. The circuitous effect in this setting on movement and the tourism industry can't quantify effectively and certainly is a noteworthy misfortune in present moment just as long haul.

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Impact of Covid -19 on Tourism Sector and Global Economy

Mohamad Hidayat Ullah

Dr. Archana Purohit

Abstract

The virus that set off a restricted shock in China is currently delivering a significant global shock. The corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic is, most importantly, a humanitarian crisis influencing individuals' lives, and has set off a worldwide financial crisis. This has entirely substantial effects for the travel industry, which is basic for some, individuals, spots and organizations, with the effect especially felt in nations, urban areas and regions where the travel industry is a significant piece of the economy. Contingent upon the duration of the crises, modified situations show that the potential stun could go between a 60-80% decrease in the worldwide the travel industry economy in 2020.

Key words

Corona virus, Tourism and global economy.

Introduction

The tourism industry is a noteworthy piece of numerous national economies; the Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic has set off a remarkable emergency in the travel industry economy, given the prompt and massive stun to the area. Revised OECD estimates the COVID-19 effect point to 60% decline in universal the travel industry in 2020. This could ascend to 80% if recuperation is deferred until December. The potential loss of income in influenced nations could be critical, with worldwide GDP declining by up to 3.9%, and creating nations hit the hardest (4% on average large, but some over 6.5%). international tourism industry inside explicit geographic-regions is required to bounce back first. As governments around the globe have acquainted remarkable measures with contain the virus, limitations on movement, business

activities and individual's to-individuals associations have carried the travel industry economy to a halt. Many nations are presently entering another stage in battling the virus while simultaneously dealing with the re-opening of the travel industry economy. This is a mind boggling and testing task, and evaluating the effect on the tourism industry economy is troublesome.

Objectives

The major objectives of this study are:

1. To understand the impact of COVID-19 on tourism.
2. To understand the affects of COVID-19 on global economy.

Impact of Novel Corona (Covid- 19) on Tourism and Global Economy

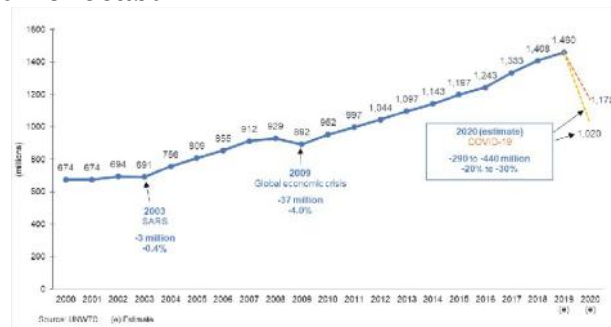
The tourism industry is a labor intensive sector, straight forwardly contributing 6.9% of employment on average in OECD nations. The sector is a main wellspring of employment and job creation, giving a high volume of employments for low skilled workers, along with higher talented jobs. The sector employs many seasonal, part-time and temporary workers. With the effect of the crisis proceeding over June-July-August and diminished limit with regards to numerous industry branches, a considerable lot of these employments will be legitimately influenced. In normal circumstances, the sector can help give different employment opportunities for migrants, women, students and older workers, not only in major cities but also in remote, rural and coastal areas, as well as other often monetarily fragile locations where alternative opportunities may be limited.

The tourism industry is one of the most legitimately influenced sector in this current crisis and this calls for prompt and long haul reactions. With worldwide flight at a virtual stop since March, the closure of the travel industry destinations and attractions, the wiping out or delay of significant celebrations and occasions, and limitations on open social occasions (indoor and outside) in

numerous nations, the effect of COVID-19 on worldwide the tourism industry has been overpowering and prompt.

Considering the developing idea of the circumstance, it is too soon to evaluate the full effect of the COVID-19 on worldwide the tourism industry. For its underlying appraisal, UNWTO takes the SARS situation of 2003 as a benchmark, figuring in the size and elements of worldwide travel and current disturbances, the geographic spread of COVID-19. UNWTO assessed universal vacationers appearances could decay by 20 % to 30 % in 2020.

International tourist’s arrivals, world (millions), 2020 forecast



We think about two situations: a global pandemic and an amplified global pandemic. On account of the global pandemic, it is expected that nations bear only one-half of the effect of the full China stun. On account of the amplified global pandemic, the stuns are uniform over all nations. A benchmark global pandemic situation sees GDP of the world fall by 2 percent underneath the pattern, of developing nations by 2.5 percent, and of industrial nations by 1.8 percent. The decays are about twice as huge in an amplified pandemic situation in which regulation is expected to take longer. The sector directly contributes, on average, 4.4% of GDP, and 21.5% of service exports in OECD countries.

The potential loss of income in affected nations could be huge, with global GDP declining by up to 3.9%, and developing nations hit the hardest (4% on average, however some over 6.5%). It is

still too early to make an appraisal of the effect of the virus dependent on full measurable proof. High recurrence information are giving a few pointers, yet it is difficult to survey the profundity and the expansiveness of the pandemic as it spreads, and to absolutely assess to what extent it will take nations to come back to normal activity levels.

Beyond the tourism industry economy, the pandemic has set off a global monetary emergency, and numerous economies are falling into downturn. Early OECD macro-economic appraisals showed that for every month severe control measures are set up, there would be lost yield comparable to 2 percentage points in annual GDP growth. If the shutdown proceeded for a quarter of a year, with no counterbalancing factors, annual GDP growth could be between 4-6 percentage points lower than it in any case may have been.

According to experts related to the world economy, the effects of Covid-19 can't yet be assessed, and forecasts depend on suppositions, in spite of the fact that they coincide to date, that are likely to exceed those of the global financial crisis of 2007-2009. In any case, institutions, companies and States must take measures to cushion the economic impact of the current circumstances, since the duration of this situation is only based on presumptions, mainly because there is some vulnerability about the behavior of the virus and the real effectiveness of the quarantine measures of the population. This situation is what some economists call "radical uncertainty". The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts a complicated scenario for the world economy in the short term and something brighter on a longer time horizon. The forecasts for 2020 are for a recession as severe as during the financial crisis of 2007 to 2009, or more.

The quickly evolving nature of the COVID-19 crisis creates a number of issues that make it difficult to estimate the full cost to

global economic activity. These issues include, but are not limited to:

1. How long will the crisis last?
2. How many workers will be affected both temporarily and permanently?
3. How much economic activity will be lost as a result of the viral outbreak?
4. What temporary and permanent effects will the crisis have on how businesses organize their work forces?
5. How many countries will be infected and how much economic activity will be reduced?
6. When will the economic effects peak?
7. What are the most effective monetary and fiscal policies at the national and global level to address the crisis?

Conclusion

Covid-19 is spreading quickly over the globe. At the hour of composing, the essential spotlight is fundamentally on control, rewarding the evil and helping networks adapt to the epidemic. Illustrative situations demonstrate that the likely loss of income in influenced nations could be huge, with global GDP declining by up to 3.9%, and creating nations hit the hardest (4% by and large, yet some over 6.5%). Governments should offer critical help to influenced organizations and family units. The analysis is likely to underestimate the potential economic costs of the epidemic. We don't fully capture several important channels, such as the uncertainty-driven contraction in demand and FDI, and other real effects of a financial shock. We capture some aspects of global value chains trade through input-output linkages and assumptions that mimic the durability of relationships between firms in value chains but plan to extend the analysis using a richer data set. We have examined, but not yet finalized, the effects of raising domestic trade costs as well as demand switching away from activities requiring direct contact with other people. Our

analysis will evolve as we bring assumptions and scenarios in line with more recent health and economic indicators. Early signs of the monetary expenses and the extent of assessed impacts exhibit the requirement for a planned worldwide reaction to the crisis. A global crisis requires a global reaction and there is a requirement for worldwide joint effort on wellbeing, yet in addition on exchange, fund and macroeconomic approaches. Luckily, global establishments are starting to catalyze and facilitate global endeavors, just as to offer specialized and budgetary help to nations adapting to the wellbeing and financial results of the flare-up.

“Stay home stays safe let’s dream for tomorrow’s tour”

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COVID-19's Impact on Tourism : and International Economy

Prof. Satish Dubey

The impact of covid 19 on the tourism sector and on the international economy. We all know that The inflow and outflow of tourists from almost all over the world has stalled resulting in down trend in Tourism and Aviation industry impacting adversely on the tourism sector as a whole. India has already announced the cancellation of existing e-visas issued to all foreign nationals and advised Indians to avoid travelling to China and to other corona affected countries. India has suspended all visas issued to nationals of Italy, Iran, South Korea and Japan who have not yet entered India. After lockdown was announced all national and international flights remain suspended. India's tourism sector -with the industry estimation- may face an overall loss of Rs 5 lakh crore and job cuts for 4-5 crore people.

On the basis of the information available on public platform, hotels, tour operators, travel agencies etc may be hit with an estimated loss of around Rs 1.58 lakh crore, according to Confederation of Indian Industry estimates. CII estimate around 4-5 crore job losses of people who are directly or indirectly related to the tourism sector”.

Last year, 10.89 million foreign tourists arrived in India, while the number was 10.56 million the year before .But due to lockdown and With travel restrictions for fear of the pandemic , in February 2020. Only 1.01 million foreign tourists arrived in India as compared to 1.08 million in February 2019.

Tourism sector is undergoing an immediate crisis in some other countries of the world also. Due to covid menace more than 200 countries have imposed restrictions to prevent people from entering their borders.

Such travel bans have turned the travel and tourism industry into one of the largest casualties of the coronavirus pandemic. Never before in history has international travel been restricted to such an extent.

From flight suspensions to border closures has cost countries billions of tourism dollars, airlines are running out of money and millions of people have lost their jobs.

According to the International Air Transport Association, Airlines' passenger revenue is estimated to cut down by 314 billion Dollar in total and it comes to about 55% from 2019 levels, Job losses in the travel industry is estimated to reach more than 100 million this year, according to an analysis by World Travel and Tourism Council.

The World Travel and Tourism Council was responsible for 10.4 percent of all economic activities. The council estimates that travel and tourism are responsible for 319 million jobs around the world and these jobs are at the greatest ever danger today.

Governments are locking down their borders and people around the world staying home for weeks. Several companies are struggling to survive. At least three regional airlines have applied for bankruptcy in the United States and United Kingdom. U.S. carriers have accepted 58 billion Dollar in loans and payroll grants as part of the U.S. government's stimulus package to save the collapse. The pandemic has caused bankruptcies in the cruise industry also.

The world's 20 biggest economies, including Thailand and the Philippines mostly rely on tourism for more than a fifth of their GDP. Two other worst-hit countries are Spain and Italy. They also depend heavily on tourism. The United States will see the greatest loss in large part because of the size of the economy. Six of the world's top 10 countries by tourism suggest a strong correlation between rates of travel and the spread of infections.

The small island nations which are fully dependent economies on foreign travellers touring their beaches and resorts, are likely to see most severe economic collapses. Of the top 20 countries most dependent on travel and tourism 15 are small island nations. They are seeming to lose heavily, as more than a third of their GDP come from travel and tourism.

Travel restrictions around the world became more stringent as more cases of Covid-19 were reported, according to United Nations' World Tourism Organization report.

There are four broad categories of restrictions of a total of 217 destinations,

1. 97 destinations (or 45%) implemented total or partial border closures;
2. 65 countries and territories (or 30%) suspended flights totally or partially;
3. 39 locations (or 18%) enforced border closures for a specific group of destinations;
4. 16 countries and territories, or the remaining 7%, implemented other measures such as requiring visitors to quarantine.

Till last month none of these destinations had opened their borders. The effect of these limitations on travel is the reduction in the number of commercial flights.

The average number of commercial flights per day fell from more than 100,000 in January and February this year to around 78,500 in March and around 29,000 in April. Such a decline has led airlines to a large proportion of their fleet on ground, resulting in many of them running into financial difficulties. Passenger revenue for airlines is estimated to plunge by 314 billion Dollar in 2020 or a 55% drop from 2019 levels. The aviation industry may take years to fully recover from this great loss. The recovery is estimated to be very slow, it's a long road especially for

international travel .Some domestic recovery can be seen this year, but the international recovery is going to be a himalyan task.

In addition to airlines, hotels have also been hit by the reduction in travel and tourism.

Hotel rates are presumed to fall across all regions. Several major hotel chains have announced layoffs and reduction in wages.

Other companies in the industry, such as online traveling platform Expedia Group, announced in late February that it was cutting 3,000 jobs. Another, travel site Booking Holdings which has 27,000 employees said it was on a hiring freeze.

The World Travel & Tourism Council has warned that 75 million jobs worldwide are at risks. Several European countries are particularly reliant on tourism. Italy, Spain and France - the three member states have been most heavily impacted by COVID-19 and together they accounted for half of the total nights spent by non-residents in the EU in 2018.

The tourism industry contributes around 10.3% of global gross domestic product and generates roughly one fourth of the world's new jobs over the last five years .But the sudden halt in global travel due to the pandemic can result in an estimated 100 million or more job losses this year. That can contribute to an estimated 2.7 trillion Dollar decline in travel and tourism GDP in 2020, This is a deeply worrying situation. The industry is facing an intense crisis today The whole cycle of tourism is seeming to be destroyed by the pandemic.

As per the World Economic Forum (WEF), the coronavirus pandemic is putting up to 50 million jobs at risk in the global travel and tourism sector. Of these around 30 million would be in Asia. The World Travel & Tourism Council received over 1,000 applications from over 100 countries for the Healing Solutions for Tourism Challenge.

At the beginning of 2020, the tourism industry in the Asia Pacific region experienced the unexpected outbreak of the novel coronavirus . Indonesia in particular faced a decrease of 13.5 percent of its tourist arrivals. China, Vietnam, and Thailand all faced great deal of tourist decreases.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has hit the tourism plans badly .This in turn resulted in both domestic and international travel cancellations and thus losses to the tourism industry.

The pandemic, which has already killed about a million sufferers, would result in global tourist arrivals declining by 20 to 30 percent. This would then turn into a loss of between 30 billion dollar to 50 billion dollar. In Europe the pandemic may face airlines passenger revenue drop by 76 billion dollar this year, second only to the Asia Pacific region. The countries that were hit hardest by the coronavirus are Spain and Italy. Both are heavily reliant on tourism and they struggled economically even before the crisis with high levels of public debt and unemployment. As a result, they are among the most economically vulnerable countries. Data from the World Travel & Tourism Council shows that travel and tourism industry contributed 14.3 and 13% to Spanish and Italian GDP respectively in 2019. That figures comprise of direct contributions from hotels, travel agents, airlines, restaurants etc.

Australia's economy is expected to contract in the first quarter of the financial year, which may push the country into recession for the first time in three decades. According to reports, economists have predicted the Australian economy to shrink by 0.3% in the first quarter of the financial year. If that happens, it will be Australia's first quarterly decline in nine years. Australian economy like the rest of the world is hit hard by the novel coronavirus outbreak and the restrictions on tourism sector that followed.

The Australian economy was already in trouble since the country suffered a major blow by bushfire last year with the tourism sector down. Many economists have also predicted a

significant decline in this sector in the second quarter of the financial year, saying that unemployment may loom large in the country.

The coronavirus outbreak became a major problem in Australia when cases jumped from being 100 in early March to be in thousands now. Australia shut down its borders and restricted movements of people to curb the disease, but it also took a major toll on its economy. Now, several states in the country have further eased restrictions in a bid to revive its economy.

In the United States, travel and tourism's contribution to GDP is considerably lower at 8.6% of GDP but the impact seems considerable. Last month, a report from The U.S. Travel Association and Oxford Economics found that an estimated 8 million Americans have already lost their jobs in the tourism industry while direct travel spending is expected to decline by more than 500 billion dollar this year.

UN estimates indicate that tourism employs more than a million people in each of these countries: Nigeria, Ethiopia, South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania. And, they estimate that tourism accounts for more than 20% of total employment in these countries.

Under the average scenario, the tourism and travel sectors in Africa could lose at least 50 billion Dollar and at least two million direct and indirect jobs. International Air Transport Association estimates the economic contribution of the air transport industry in Africa at 55.8 billion Dollar, supporting 6.2 million jobs. The travel decline is also impacting export industries like cut flowers that depend on cargo freight on passenger planes.

In recent years, The Gambia lost many tourist arrivals following the collapse of the British travel group Thomas Cook, and Sierra Leone and Uganda lost tourists due to Ebola. COVID-19 has aggravated the situation further in these and other African Least Developed Countries. For instance, tourism contributes up to 30% of Rwanda's export earnings with gorilla viewing and

trekking being the most significant contributor to this sector. In response to coronavirus threats, the Government of Uganda has closed its national parks

The current crisis poses a great challenge to the retention of jobs in the tourism sector in Asia. Of the 50 million jobs that could be lost worldwide, around 30 million would be in Asia. Prior to the pandemic, the World Travel and Tourism Council reported that by 2023, the travel and tourism industry in Bangladesh could directly generate 17,85,000 jobs and support a total of 38,91,000 jobs, or 4.2% of the country's total employment. The pandemic would adversely affect these projections.

In the Maldives, a Commonwealth member that recently came out of the Least Developed Country status, tourism is the largest industry, accounting for more than 60% of foreign exchange receipts. The country is conducting aggressive testing to minimise the disruption to business

Though tourism is a sector with a capacity to bounce back and multiply recovery to other sectors of the suffering countries. However, tourism's recovery can not be expected fully even after lifting of bans imposed due to COVID. To encourage a return of visitors the sector will have to recover and the tourist points where people stay become safe for inhabitants. This will need to include tourism in national and global recovery packages .

LDC's capacity to deal with the pandemic is modest. Therefore, the road to recovery will be longer and more difficult, especially because these economies have a large percentage of poor (40%) and a very small share of global GDP (2%) and trade (1%).

Looking at the scale of loss, a super-sized monetary and fiscal policy stimulus package would be required to contain the damage. Some countries would need a fiscal stimulus of around 10% of GDP, while others may require a higher amount. Monetary stimulus

in the form of central bank loans at minimum interest rate to the affected businesses is also needed. Twenty-two LDCs have announced this kind of stimulus package. Other than these packages, demand of taxes and VAT for small and medium-sized business can be deferred or waived to prevent companies from collapse. Measures that the Govts are taking are depending upon the need and capacity of business houses. As we all know that the Time is the best treatment always and everywhere. So the governments all over the world should try their best and also should rely on time giving first priority to control the pandemic and then to recovery measures. We should be hopeful. No need to worry and no need to panic. Humanity has innumerable abilities and capacity unlimited to fight tough situations like this. Though the world is suffering on economic front and the worst hit is tourism but soon we will win the race and stand again firmly like before.

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Trend between Tourism and global economy during Covid-19

S. Tamrakar

S. Verma Tamrakar

Introduction

In this health emergency all most each and every sector, every people got effected but among of all sectors, tourism sector is the one who's got directly affected by this pandemic disease Covid-19.

Tourism sector is not only a single sector. It is a group of various sectors or it's a package deal as you know many tour operators offer tour packages included with transport, sight-seeing and accommodation with food. This all is a like a chain, comes under tourism sector.

The tourism industry, also known as the travel industry, is linked to the idea of people travelling to other locations, either domestically or internationally, for leisure, social or business purposes. It is closely connected to the hotel industry, the hospitality industry and the transport industry, and much of it is based around keeping tourists happy, occupied and equipped with the things they need during their time away from home.

Tourism offers a wide range of benefits, including economic benefits for countries attracting a large number of visitors, due to the money they spend not only on their actual stay, but also in local businesses. It also provides a large number of jobs for people working in the transport and hospitality industry, among others.

Moreover, tourism has the potential to improve relationships between nation states or businesses, to create opportunities for entertainment and recreation, and to improve the value of a currency. It can also open up cultural exchange opportunities,

while for tourists, it can lead to improved happiness, well-being and education.

Sectors comes within the Tourism Industry are:

- 1) **Transportation** - The transportation sector is concerned with helping tourists to get where they need to go, via the provision of transport. Included services related to road, rail, air and sea travel.
- 2) **Accommodation** - The accommodation sector is central to the travel and hospitality industry, because people travelling to different areas require somewhere to stay, rest, sleep and unwind. In fact, by many definitions, a tourist is only classed as such if their stay exceeds 24 hours and they use some form of overnight accommodation.
- 3) **Food and Beverage** - The food and beverage sector have an interesting role within the tourism industry, providing tourists with essential refreshments at all stages of their travel experience.
- 4) **Entertainment** - Some tourists travel to new locations in the pursuit of entertainment. Such travelers may be drawn to entertainment options that are not available in their home location.

Entertainment attractions or venues are sometimes the main thing drawing travelers to a particular tourist location.

- 5) **Connected Industries** - Finally, there are also a number of industries that are either directly or indirectly connected to the tourism industry. These include industries based on actually connecting customers with travel services.

Tourism sectors is directly affected due to various reason in this health emergency such as all people is focusing on priority needs and they are avoiding un wanted expenses such as to go out as tourist, In this pandemic time all people fear to go out, avoiding to go on public places, avoiding to eat out side, avoiding

to travel in public transport even in plane, avoiding to stay outside or others home/hotel.

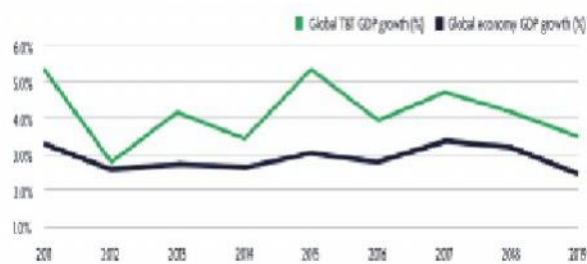
The current COVID-19 global pandemic has redefined the term “business as usual” in regards to the tourism industry. As partial and even full lockdowns are now becoming commonplace, travel restrictions have likewise taken effect across the globe. This can be seen in the number of national and international events which have been cancelled. Examples include the UEFA Euro 2020, the 2020 Olympic games and the ITB Berlin Travel Trade show.

Global Economic Impact in tourism industry

Tourism industry has a wide and deep impact on many other sectors that it’s involved in. From the infrastructure and the country’s economy, to the cultural and social environment.

It is becoming a certainly one of the huge and an important economic activity in the world, contributing a major part of the global economy. According to Lew (2011), tourism is among the top five sources of international export income for more than 80 per cent of countries in the world.

Take a look at why Travel & Tourism is key to global growth



WTTC’s latest annual research, in conjunction with Oxford Economics, shows the Travel & Tourism sector experienced 3.5% growth in 2019, outpacing the global economy growth of 2.5% for the ninth consecutive year. Over the past five years,

one in four new jobs were created by the sector, making Travel & Tourism the best partner for governments to generate employment.



In 2019, Travel & Tourism’s direct, indirect and induced impact accounted for:

1. US\$8.9 trillion contribution to the world’s GDP
2. 10.3% of global GDP
3. 330 million jobs, 1 in 10 jobs around the world
4. US\$1.7 trillion visitor exports (6.8% of total exports, 28.3% of global services exports)
5. US\$948 billion capital investment (4.3% of total investment)

Conclusion

Tourism is not an onlsingle sector it’s a group of many sector that beyond of geo political line and directly involve in relation of any two countries, two state, two cities even in two people. It’s a one of big source of foreign trade that directly responsible of any country’s wealth. It was a big employment generating sector. Millions of peoples already loss his employment in this sector due this pandemic disease. This all is not going to end here only, it will also affect and going to slow down tourism sector even after the end of Covid-19 era.

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Post Covid-19 Tourism of India

Dr. Susan Manohar,

Tourism is one of the important factors of India which adds a feather to the development of the country. From Kashmir to Kerala, our country has a rich heritage which has resulted in becoming a centre of attraction, worldwide. Moreover, the diversity of the country like landscapes such as mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, forests, ocean and seas, climate, culture food, religious places etc. has drawn attention of people from outside and within the country. Thus, it generated crores of rupees i.e. about 9.2% of Indian GDP, supporting millions of jobs in different sectors like tours and travels, hotels, site seeing, handlooms and fabrics, other craft items etc. Thus, directly or indirectly a number of skilled and unskilled people are attached to these industries, hence earning their livelihood. Therefore, it has resulted into the socio-economic upliftment of our urban and rural folk.

The disaster caused by the outbreak of covid-19 has brought the tourism industry to an abrupt halt. The disease originated in China entered our country, first to the state of Kerala which earns a good revenue through tourism and slowly crept into the whole country which resulted to loss of crores of rupees to Indian government, through tourism. In addition, many have been thrown to unemployment, resulting in debt, poverty and hunger, pushing our country back to a decade.

Looking into the present scenario, it is important for the department of tourism to look into the matter seriously by framing various post-covid policies in which the industry shall be revived by keeping in action various health and hygiene aspects. Thus, we can fulfil the slogan said by Our Honourable Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi Ji “*Jaan Bhi Jahan Bhi*”.

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Effects of COVID-19 pandemic on hospitality industry

Mr. Rahul Rathore

Introduction

COVID-19 outbreak has presented unprecedented circumstances before the fragile tourism and hospitality industry. The highly infectious novel corona virus continues to thwart the sector and raises serious questions about the present and future survival of the sector. The research addresses two important concerns, first, pertains to the major challenges that hospitality and tourism industry faces amid current conditions; and second relates to the vital learning's for the industry. The study draws on the interviews with 15 participants in senior positions in hospitality industry, and tourism and hospitality education services. Responses to the interviews were content analyzed, which resulted in 27 sub-themes that were further condensed into 4 major themes. The dominant sub-themes that emerged out of the qualitative enquiry included need of multi skilling and professional development of the employees, increased sense of hygiene, sanitation and related SOPs, optimism toward revival of the industry, media roles, and need of better crisis preparedness. Subsequent overarching themes included "Human Resource Management", "Health and Hygiene", "Continuity" and "Concerns". The study critically discusses prominent themes in the light of the existing arguments from the literature and reflects on implications for the decision makers. The major implications of the study are in the form of determined themes adding to the evolving theory on Covid-19 pandemic and tourism & hospitality industry; and managerial recommendations to address host of issues while taking essential learning's stemming from the current circumstances.

Covid 19 and World's Economy

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the world's economy was shut down almost overnight (UNWTO, 2020). The pandemic has confronted the hospitality industry with an unprecedented challenge. Strategies to flatten the COVID-19 curve such as community lockdowns, social distancing, stay-at-home orders, travel and mobility restrictions have resulted in temporary closure of many hospitality businesses and significantly decreased the demand for businesses that were allowed to continue to operate (Bartik et al., 2020). Almost all restaurants were asked to limit their operations to only take-outs. Restrictions placed on travel and stay-at-home orders issued by the authorities led to sharp decline in hotel occupancies and revenues. However, the reopening process has slowly begun and authorities have started to ease restrictions, for example, allow dine-in restaurants to reopen at a reduced capacity with strict social distancing guidelines, and gradually reduce restrictions on domestic and international travel.

While the hospitality industry is slowly recovering, the COVID-19 crisis continues to exert profound impacts on how hospitality businesses operate. Hospitality businesses are expected to make substantial changes to their operations in the COVID-19 business environment in order to ensure employees' and customers' health and safety, and enhance customers' willingness to patronize their business (Gössling et al., 2020). This pandemic is also likely to have a significant impact on the research agenda of hospitality marketing and management scholars. With unprecedented challenges faced by the hospitality industry in the COVID-19 era, hospitality scholars are expected to shift their research focus to develop solutions for the industry. Hospitality scholar will need to provide answers to a number of critical questions such as: what are the customers' sentiments about patronizing a restaurant or a hotel in the time of coronavirus? Are they ready to return? If not, what will make them return?

Preliminary findings of a longitudinal study conducted by the editorial team of the *Journal of Hospitality Marketing & Management* suggest that reopening the sit-down restaurants and easing travel restrictions will not bring customers back immediately (Gursoy et al., 2020). A large portion of individuals (over 50%) are not willing to dine in at a restaurant immediately. The same is true for staying at hotels. Most customers (over 50%) are not willing to travel to a destination and stay at a hotel any time soon. Only around a quarter of the customers have already dined in a restaurant and only around one-third are willing to travel to a destination and stay at a hotel in the next few months (Gursoy et al., 2020). These findings suggest that customers in general still do not feel comfortable to dine in at a sit down restaurant, travel to a destination and stay at a hotel. Since the breakeven point in the hospitality industry is relatively high due to high operating costs, the survival of many hospitality businesses heavily depends on increasing the demand for their services and products. Thus, figuring out what will make customers return is essential and this requires intensive research efforts. The industry and the academia are in urgent need of behavioral and operational hospitality marketing and management research to guide the hospitality operations in the time of COVID-19 pandemic.

The research findings also indicate that around a quarter of the customers will only feel comfortable to patronize a sit-down restaurant when their communities' ability to test, trace, and isolate COVID-19 cases is significantly improved. Around 18% of the customers will only feel comfortable to travel to a destination and stay at a hotel when that destination has very few COVID-19 cases and has the ability to test, trace, and isolate COVID-19 cases. Furthermore, there is a group of customers who will only feel comfortable to patronize a sit-down restaurant (around 14%) and travel to a destination and stay at a hotel (around 17%) when the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available (Gursoy et al., 2020). These findings clearly suggest that we need further research on

factors that can drive customers back to the hospitality businesses.

While preliminary findings indicate that visible sanitizing efforts (such as hand sanitizers at the entry, staff wearing masks and gloves), implementing social distancing, limiting the number of customers served, more rigorous and frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces in common areas, and employee training of health and safety protocols are the most important safety precautions customers expect from a restaurant and a hotel (Gursoy et al., 2020), more behavioral and causal research is needed to determine the (differential) effects of these operational strategies on customers' attitudes and behaviors.

Preliminary findings also suggest that around one-third of restaurant customers and around 40% of the hotel customers are willing to pay more for increased safety precautions. While customers expect hospitality businesses to implement more rigorous safety/cleaning procedures, a portion of them are willing to pay for those added safety measures (Gursoy et al., 2020). Further research is needed to determine the importance of each of these safety precautions, how such measures will influence customers' attitudes and behaviors and whether customers are indeed willing to pay for them and by how much more.

Preliminary findings also indicate that a large proportion of restaurant customers (64.71%) and the majority of hotel customers (70.42%) believe that the use of various technologies in service delivery will be necessary in the COVID-19 environment in order to minimize human-to-human contact (examples: service robots, contactless payment such as Apply pay or contactless bank cards, digital menus that can be viewed on personal mobile devices via QR codes, contactless digital payments, keyless entry, touchless elevators, etc.) (Gursoy et al., 2020). These findings strongly suggest that technology integration and adoption into hospitality operations will likely be integral in the near future. While hospitality researchers have been

studying the use of various technologies in hospitality service delivery over the years, most of those studies have focused on unintelligent technology adoption. Recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI) and social service robot technologies have enabled the use of AI technologies in service delivery and the Covid-19 pandemic may precipitate the popularity of such technology for public safety reasons. Therefore, it is crucial for hospitality researchers to investigate how AI device use in service delivery will impact operations, employees, and customers. Furthermore, it is critical to identify the factors, both physical and psychological, that can influence customers' and employees' acceptance of AI device use in service delivery.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has dealt the hospitality industry and the academia with uncharted challenges, it also presents great research opportunities for hospitality scholars. The magnitude of this crisis and its devastating effects on operations, employees, and customers are unrivaled compared to previous crises. Therefore, while using previous conceptual and theoretical frameworks may benefit future research, it is critical to generate new knowledge that can provide insight to the industry about how to transform their operations according to newly emerging customers' needs and wants due to COVID-19 pandemic. The editorial team of the *Journal of Hospitality Marketing & Management* welcomes studies that promote new ideas, models, approaches, and paradigms that contribute to the development of knowledge and theory of hospitality marketing and management in the COVID-19 business environment. It is important that the study makes significant theoretical and/or practical contribution to the hospitality theory and practice. COVID-19 related studies submitted to the *Journal of Hospitality Marketing & Management* must offer something new and original, make an important contribution to the field, develop/propose a better/more efficient way of solving a problem, have good science and a sound

methodology, offer sound conceptual and theoretical framework, and provide sound theoretical and practical implications.

Enhancers and inhibitors in BMI of hospitality firms

The main reasons for initiating BMI are related to the firms' respective situations but can be narrowed down to the topics of financial pressure, responsibility, and available time. The results show that available time capacities are not automatically sufficient to start a BMI, as all firms had those capacities available, but only three of them innovated their BM. However, the combination of free capacities and financial pressure as well as great responsibility, has led to a BMI (Case A, D, and E). Firm A has a special responsibility due to its size. However, only with the free capacities, the BMI could be realized. In the case of firms D and E, it is striking that even after the end of the lockdown, both would still hardly make any sales due to their situation (no garden areas and closing time at 23:00). As a result, the financial pressure on the firms became greater, and they had to come up with new ideas.

Although only three firms have responded to the crisis with a BMI, two other firms (Case C and F) have also looked into it and developed ideas, without eventually pursuing them due to their marginal financial value. Both these firms own their premises and thus have the advantage to not have to pay rent. Other firms, which have been involved in BMI, are dependent on the goodwill of the lessor for their rent payments.

Besides the cost reduction through rent savings, all investigated firms praised the state support. Extensive government programs have allowed firms to reduce their personnel costs and ensure liquidity, which has eased the pressure to implement innovative ideas.

For all firms, furlough was the most important factor in surviving the crisis. In addition, a regional tourism promotion scheme was highlighted because of its unbureaucratic payment (Case C and

E). Other government measures included the reduction of VAT on non-alcoholic beverages, the distribution of bridging loans, the entrepreneur hardship fund, and the assumption of fixed costs. In general, the entrepreneurs mainly mentioned state measures.

Crisis management in the hospitality industry

The handling of crises in the hospitality industry has already been investigated from different perspectives. Above all, the significance of terror and violence in tourism regions played a major role in this consideration (Anson, 1999; Butler and Baum, 1999). Other crisis situations were the financial crisis (del Mar Alonso-Almeida and Bremser, 2013) or crises from natural hazards (Biggs et al., 2012). Early ideas to cope with crisis situations were established by Mansfeld (1999) and consisted of increased marketing efforts to target local customers, the dismantling of infrastructure, and the call for governmental support. Further investigations of Israeli and Reichel (2003) built on a preset of 21 different practices hospitality firms can use to overcome a crisis. Their results showed that the most important factor for surviving a crisis at that time was the possibility of a grace period for local payments. Additionally, hospitality firms can recognize opportunities during crises and charge more from customers through added value. Moreover, in other studies cost reductions play an important role for surviving a crisis (Kraus et al., 2020; Wenzel et al., 2020).

Innovation in the hospitality industry

Considering the importance of loyal and local customers in the recovery from crises (del Mar Alonso-Almeida and Bremser, 2013), it is important to consider that customers value innovations of hospitality firms (Chen and Elston, 2013; Pikkemaat et al., 2018). In tourism, innovations are defined as “everything that differs from business as usual or which represents a discontinuance of previous practice in some sense for the innovating firm” (Hjalager, 2010, p. 2), and occur in the form of product/service,

process, managerial, marketing, or institutional innovations. Hospitality firms themselves are also aware that their customers expect constant innovation (Kallmuenzer, 2018; Tajeddini and Trueman, 2012), and thus attempt to continuously innovate to be able to compete on the market (Thomas and Wood, 2014). However, in most cases and due to often limited financial opportunities and capacities, these are mostly incremental innovations (compared to radical innovations associated with rather technical advancements like the creation of smartphones) of products and services (Pikkemaat and Peters, 2006). As destinations are competing with each other and are often perceived by tourists as one product bundle (Svensson et al., 2005), innovations also often happen jointly by a large number of actors (Baggio, 2011).

Open innovation in crises

An increasingly important form of innovation is open innovation, which, compared to traditional in-house innovation, is also inspired by external stakeholders (Chesbrough and Bogers, 2014). This form of innovation is still in its infancy in the hospitality sector, and initial research results refer to the guest as an important innovation driver, often evoked by the informal exchange of ideas (Binkhorst and Den Dekker, 2009; Kallmuenzer, 2018). However, hospitality firms first have to implement a culture and processes to systematically follow an open innovation approach (Iglesias-Sánchez et al., 2020), but feedback of guests can already be a fruitful source of inspiration. During crises, open innovation shows to be a viable alternative to keep up with rapidly changing environmental conditions and to identify emerging opportunities (Chesbrough, 2020).

Business model innovation in crises

Business model innovation (BMI) promises to be a strong response to the COVID-19 crisis (Kraus et al., 2020). Any enterprise has a BM, i.e., a unique configuration of the three

mutually enforcing elements value proposition, value creation and value capture (Clauss, 2017; Clauss et al., 2019; Foss and Saebi, 2017), which is either consciously articulated or not (Chesbrough, 2007). The dimension of value proposition describes the firm's portfolio of proposed solutions and how the firm offers those solutions to the customer (Johnson et al., 2008; Morris et al., 2005). Value creation defines how the firm creates value along its value chain based on its resources and capabilities (Achtenhagen et al., 2013) while value capture refers to how the firm transforms its value proposition into revenues (Clauss, 2017).

BMs are important when firms seek to commercialize their innovations (Chesbrough, 2010; Teece, 2010). BMs are innovation drivers (Schneider and Spieth, 2013), representing the structure in which firms create and capture value from innovative technologies or ideas which, by themselves, do not provide any "single objective value [...] until it is commercialized in some way via a business model" (Chesbrough, 2010, p. 354). Given their role in innovation, BMs have become subject to innovation themselves (Schneider and Spieth, 2013).

Foss and Saebi (2017) define BMI as "designed, nontrivial changes to the key elements of a firm's BM and/or the architecture linking these elements" (p. 207). Further, they propose a BM typology that distinguishes four types of BMI based on two dimensions, namely scope (modular changes versus architectural changes) and novelty (new to firm versus new to industry).

Evolutionary BMI evolves as rather voluntary and emergent changes (Demil and Lecocq, 2010) in individual BM components. In contrast, adaptive BMI refers to changes in the entire BM and its architecture (Foss and Saebi, 2017), hence the way how BM components are linked together, as a reaction to changes in the external environment (Teece, 2010). The changes in evolutionary and adaptive BMI are typically new to the firm while not

necessarily new to the industry (Saebi et al., 2017). Focused and complex BMI are modular or architectural BM changes, proactively initiated by the firm's management to disrupt market conditions within a respective industry (Foss and Saebi, 2017). Hence, these changes are not only new to the firm, but new to the industry. Focused BMI represents changes in one BM element, whereas complex BMI affects the entire architecture of the BM.

BMI has gained increasing attention among scholars and practitioners over the last years (Foss and Saebi, 2017), but research on BMI in the hospitality industry remains scarce and thus also misses to address its elements and typology. Although innovation is of great importance for hospitality firms' business growth (Thomas and Wood, 2014) and competitiveness (Pikkemaat and Peters, 2006), the role of BMI has – with some exemptions (Bogers and Jensen, 2017; Cheah et al., 2018; Souto, 2015) – been widely neglected. This study therefore attempts to explore how these elements and types of BMI are adhered to in the hospitality industry.

Interestingly, Cheah et al. (2018) already revealed that BMI helps hospitality firms to generate a sustainable competitive advantage, mainly when operating in turbulent environments. In fact, BMI often occurs as a consequence of external drivers, such as globalization (e.g., Lee et al., 2012), changes in the competitive environment (e.g., De Reuver et al., 2013), new technological opportunities, or new behavioral opportunities (e.g., Wirtz et al., 2010). BMI is vital for firms' success in today's fast-changing, turbulent and volatile environments (Giesen et al., 2010; Pohle and Chapman, 2006). In such environments, well-established and previously successful BMs may be no longer profitable (Chesbrough, 2007, 2010), and the “superior capacity for reinventing your BM before circumstances force you to” (Hamel and Valikangas, 2004, p. 53) becomes an essential source of competitive advantage. In contexts characterized by high

environmental volatility, BMI can provide opportunities (Giesen et al., 2010) in, for instance, reacting to altering sources of value creation and value capture (Pohle and Chapman, 2006) and developing new, innovative ways to create and capture value (Amit and Zott, 2010).

Further observations indicate a positive link between BMI and performance (Foss and Saebi, 2017). For instance, financial performance was positively linked to BMI in the IBM 2006 Global CEO Study (Pohle and Chapman, 2006) and BMI may positively influence firm performance in entrepreneurial (Zott and Amit, 2007), small (Aspara et al., 2010) as well as established firms (Cucculelli and Bettinelli, 2015).

Discussion and Conclusion

The present study shows that BMI is a useful strategy for hospitality firms to overcome and restart after a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic. We find that the identified BMIs are rather small incremental changes that can be implemented quickly (Foss and Saebi, 2017). We highlight the driving factors for a BMI, namely available time, overall pressure to change because of the crisis, and the important role of stammgasts during BMI. The state-ordered closure and the associated reduction of operational tasks freed up time resources in the firms, especially for decision-makers. These resources can now be invested in strategic developments instead of operational activities.

In addition to the free resources, general pressure has also emerged as an essential criterion. Firms that receive less support (from landlords or the state), are threatened by longer lockdowns (nightclubs, bars) and are responsible for many employees, react more proactively than others in their BMI. Stammgasts provide psychological safety, which supports and induces hosts to innovate their BM. In addition, the personal relationship ensures that stammgasts support and contribute to BMI throughout the process as partners in the implementation, early users and therefore providers of feedback.

Based on these results, we propose the crisis – BMI relationship model for the hospitality industry (Fig. 1). The model comprises the results and shows that a crisis can be a trigger event (Sigala, 2020) to start BMI in the hospitality industry, which can help firms that are shut down to create new BM and open up again. The lockdown of the COVID-19 crisis led to the total loss of income streams and thus to a particular pressure on firms to innovate. Enhancing factors such as stammgasts' psychological support, free time, and financial pressure create a need to change and further support a BMI. However, in the course of a crisis, comprehensive support packages are also put together by governments, which cause firms not to adjust their BM if liquidity is already secured.

This study contributes to the discourse on crisis management in the hospitality industry, which has so far been mainly addressed for the context of terrorism, but also for natural disasters and financial crises (Anson, 1999; Butler and Baum, 1999). Literature shows that, above all, government support and targeted advertising of local populations help to overcome a crisis (Mansfeld, 1999). Our findings confirm these particular effects also for the COVID-19 crisis. However, the results of this study extend previous knowledge by showing that BMI can be another potential solution to overcome a crisis in the hospitality industry.

This general finding is in line with recent evidence provided by Kraus et al. (2020) in a cross-industry setting from different European countries as well as with initial evidence that has shown that BMI is a relevant approach for hospitality family firms in increasing their innovation capability (Souto, 2015). We support the importance of BMI but also show that the role of BMI might be even more strategically relevant in a crisis context. While individual firms adapt BMs only temporarily to maintain liquidity, we find that BMI – initiated as a response to a crisis – can also have long-term implications. Put differently, a crisis can result in

new perspectives and profit potentials for firms that seize the opportunity of change.

In this context, our study also dealt with the antecedents of BMI during the crisis. One particular focus was on the stammgasts, as literature sees guests as a source of innovation in the hospitality industry. Contrary to the suggestions in the literature (e.g., Kallmuenzer, 2018; Pynnönen et al., 2012), our study could not identify them as a principal trigger/idea generator and thus contributors to open innovation, but rather primarily as a facilitator of BMI. This may be explained by the nature of the given innovation context. Usually, customers become innovators as they want to improve their own situation and have the opportunity to provide critical feedback. The rigid lockdown, however, changed this context, as the measures for social distance also create distance for the exchange of ideas. Nonetheless, open innovation is still also little known in the hospitality sector and processes and foundations for open innovation are only gradually being created (Iglesias-Sánchez et al., 2020). A lack of structures in combination with the lockdown situation where communication between external stakeholders and decision-makers was limited apparently lead to a lack of open innovation and thus also indicates that missing foundations during a crisis can have significant consequences. However, our study unveils a different and potentially even more important role of the stammgasts during the crisis – namely their psychological support, especially in the implementation and establishment of a BMI, where they helped the firms to get over a first shock and motivated decision-makers to work creatively.

Above all, changes in the environment play a significant role (Foss and Saebi, 2017), and perceived threats were an important antecedence of BMI (Saebi et al., 2017). Our study supports these findings for the hospitality industry as the COVID-19 pandemic also represents a turbulent environment that significantly threatens the firm.

The crisis, as such, is a trigger for the general BMI, but not necessarily sufficient. A range of influencing factors is responsible for the final decision to implement a BMI. While the literature generally states that financial resources are a key driver for innovation in tourism (Kallmuenzer et al., 2019), in the specific context of this study, extensive financial resources only ensure that firms get through the time of crisis and continue to work without change. This finding may be explained as the threat (see Saebi et al., 2017) that is induced by the crisis is reduced, and therefore the pressure to alter the BM is much smaller. This persevering strategy helps the hospitality firms to survive the crisis (Wenzel et al., 2020), but its long-term development remains open as global crises, in particular, cause not only business but also social changes (Clark et al., 2020).

On the other hand, there are supporting factors that favor BMI. Kraus et al. (2020) found that lower operative utilization creates more available time and slack resources for strategic considerations. In particular, small and medium-sized enterprises that do not have dedicated capacities in strategy development can benefit from this (Legohérel et al., 2004). Furthermore, while extensive financial support inhibits BMI, financial pressure can lead a firm to engage in it. Eggers (2020) states that small and medium-sized enterprises, which usually have less financial resources available, come under even higher pressure during a crisis. But it is precisely this financial pressure that leads these firm to question the existing and develop a new BM.

Limitations and future research opportunities

This study is subject to limitations due to its methodology and the crisis situation. It is a first investigation on the relationship of BMI during a crisis in the hospitality industry. However, the purposive sampling of firms that were investigated is a general limitation of the method used. As BMI is a growing research field its effects on the hospitality industry should further be investigated. This paper can be seen as a foundation for further research.

The identified inhibiting and enhancing factors should be investigated in further quantitative approaches to check their robustness. Furthermore, our findings are particularly grounded on cases of restaurants, bars, and a hotel in Austria. Future research should extend both the scope of types of hospitality firms and the cultural context to further explore the phenomenon and add to the validity of findings.

The unique setting of the COVID-19 crisis is another limitation of this study: Since this crisis is described as unprecedented and special in its scope, the comparability with other crises is impaired. Closed borders were not known to Central Europe in the past decades, and has led to a special situation. By testing our results in the course of other crises and contexts, this limitation could be mitigated.

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The Impact of Covid-19 on tourism and Hospitality Sector in Indian Economy

Dr. Praveen Swami

Introduction

The novel corona virus (COVID-19), which is one of its kinds of humanitarian disasters, has affected people and businesses worldwide, triggering a global economic crisis. In this aspect, the tourism sector is not being left behind. The pandemic has not only affected the foreign exchange earnings (FEE) but also affected various regional developments, job opportunities, thereby disrupting the local communities as a whole. As there has been a substantial decline in the arrivals of overseas tourists in India in 2020, the paper aims to predict foreign tourists' arrival in India and FEE using artificial neural networks (ANN). Furthermore, we analyze the impact of COVID-19 based on four scenarios considering with and without lockdown in terms of loss and gain in FEE. Lastly, the results obtained will help policymakers make necessary strategic and operational decisions, along with maximizing the FEE.

Introduction

The recent corona virus (COVID-19) has triggered a concern worldwide in early January 2020, and by the end of March 2020, the outbreak has infected several people globally (WHO, 2020). The severity of the pandemic may be assessed based on the figures of the past epidemics such as SARS, Spanish Flu, etc. Tourism and hospitality businesses are profoundly affected by COVID-19 that has been declared as pandemic on 12th March 2020 (WHO, 2020). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the travel and tourism industry's employment loss is predicted to be 100.08 Million worldwide (Statista, 2020). The pandemic has not only affected economically but as well as politically and socially

(Cohen, 2012). As the number of infected cases rising throughout the nation, and with the implementation of certain measures and campaigns like social distancing, community lockdowns, work from home, stay at home, self- or mandatory-quarantine, curbs on crowding, etc., pressure is created for halting the tourism industry/business (Gretzel et al., 2020; Sigala, 2020). This change in the current system has led to the beginning of the recession and depression, seeking a transformational change in society. According to Liu et al. (2019), the most dynamic sector is the tourism industry that benefits many other sectors like lodging, catering, transportation, retail, entertainment, etc. contributing to economic growth and recovery globally. It has been reported that tourism growth has outperformed the world GDP growth record from the past consecutively from the year 2011–2017 (WTTC, 2018). Furthermore, it has been estimated that there is a drop of international tourists of about 78%, causing a loss in export revenue of US\$ 1.2 trillion and representing the largest decline in the tourism job cuts, which is about seven times the impact of the 9/11 incident (UNWTO, 2020). Additionally, the drop in the tourists' demand has led to severe financial problems (Tsionas, 2020).

India is one of the developing nations known for its uniqueness in its tradition, culture and unparalleled hospitality. It is a major destination for many international tourists, creating several employment opportunities and generating enormous taxes (Ahmed & Krohn, 1992). The Indian tourism industry can be divided into three major segments, such as (i) international inbound tourism; (ii) domestic tourism; and (iii) outbound tourism. The Indian tourism industry has created about 87.5 million jobs, with 12.75% of total employment, thereby contributing INR 194 billion to India's GDP (WTTC, 2018). Moreover, the sector recorded a 3.2% growth from 2018, with 10.8 million foreign tourists arriving in India with a foreign exchange earning of USD 29.9 billion in 2019. In this regard, India ranked 8th with respect to total direct

travel and contribution towards tourism of about USD 108 billion (FICCI, 2020). Also, there is a 66.4% decline in overseas tourists' arrivals in India in March 2020 compared to last year (TAN, 2020). It has been estimated that there will be about 40 million direct and indirect job losses in India, with an annual loss in revenue of around USD 17 billion in India (FICCI, 2020; Scroll, 2020).

Tourism is a major source of revenue and employment in many countries. It is a generator for employment, income, tax collections and foreign exchange earnings. The tourism industry became highly competitive; hence, accurate tourism demand forecasting is important to make an appropriate strategic and operational decision. Strategic decisions are planning for opening attractions, modes of transport, accommodation, and tourism promotion for which colossal investment is required. In contrast, operational decisions are the number of parking areas, attendants, number of shuttle buses, hours of service per day, and employees' hiring. Accurate tourism demand forecasting is a challenging task. Forecasting tourism demand help to identify the future pattern which guides planning and policy formation. Forecasting plays a crucial role in tourism planning (Cho, 2001). Moreover, accurate forecasting helps managers and practitioners make appropriate decisions in policy-making, staff and capacity utilization and management, resource management, pricing strategies, etc. during disruption to reduce the risk and uncertainty. Hence, tourism forecasting is one of the significant areas of research.

Many authors proposed different models and methods, such as traditional time series models (Athanasopoulos & Hyndman, 2008; Goh & Law, 2002; Song et al., 2003; Witt et al., 2004; Witt & Martin, 1987; Wong et al., 2006; Wong et al., 2006), artificial intelligence models (Claveria & Torra, 2014; Tsaor & Kuo, 2011) and hybrid models (Hadavandi et al., 2011; Shahrabi et al., 2013; Silva et al., 2019). The time-series ARIMA model is univariate model and applicable to stationary and

homoscedastic data series. Hence, before applying the model, it is essential to identify the pattern through various statistical tests. In contrast, artificial neural network (ANN) predicts by mapping the input and output. It has the capability to learn, self-organize and adapt the data pattern. ANN model does not require past statistical information related to the data series. The major benefit of using ANN models is non-parametric data-driven models that capture the functional relationships with the empirical data. Unlike traditional forecasting models like ARIMA, the model can map the linear and non-linear properties, homoscedastic or heteroscedasticity of the data without any prior assumption. Therefore, many researchers applied the ANN model for prediction and proved that it is a suitable model for prediction irrespective of the data pattern (Cho, 2003; Claveria & Torra, 2014; Höpken et al., 2020; Law, 2000; Palmer et al., 2006).

Due to COVID-19, tourism is such a highly affected sector and may remain affected in the long term, i.e. approximately more than 1.5 years. Hence, in this scenario, it is necessary to measure the losses due to pandemic so that policies can be redesigned to manage tourism activities. There is a fall in foreign tourists' arrival rate by 68% from February to March 2020 and hence fall in foreign exchange earnings (FEE) by 66.32%, which has a significant impact on the economy (Statista, 2020). Therefore, accurate forecasting of the number of foreign tourists and FEE is crucial in managing tourism activity. Researchers studied different forecasting models to predict the tourism demand, i.e. both inbound and outbound tourists; however, predicting foreign tourists' arrival in India and its impact on the revenue in terms of FEE are scarce. Further, no analysis has been done to measure the impact of a pandemic like COVID-19 on tourism and its leading effect on FEE. Therefore, this paper addresses the following key research questions:

- i. What are the impacts of the black swan event like Covid-

19 on Indian tourism sector?

- ii. What are the impact of COVID-19 on foreign tourists' arrival and foreign exchange earnings?

Specifically, the main objectives of the paper are three-fold which is as follow: (i) predicting the number of foreign tourist arrivals, particularly in India using ANN model, (ii) analysing the impact of COVID-19 on tourism in terms of loss and gain in FEE, and (iii) suggesting the appropriate theoretical and managerial implications.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. The next Section reviews the relevant literature, including the impact of the epidemic outbreak on tourism, and forecasting models for predicting the tourists demand followed by sections on the methodology and data analysis, prediction on the number of foreign tourist's arrival, impact of COVID-19 on the tourism economy, implications of the study, limitations and future research, and conclusion.

Literature review

This paper considers two streams of literature: (1) impact of epidemic outbreak on tourism and (2) forecasting models used for predicting tourism demand.

Impact of epidemic outbreak on tourism

Global tourism is affected by many types of disruptive events, such as terrorist attacks like 9/11, epidemic outbreaks like SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV, Ebola, Swine flu, etc. in the past (Wen et al., 2020). However, the recent epidemic outbreak (COVID-19) originated from Wuhan, China has severely impacted almost every industry, including Tourism worldwide (Yeh, 2020). The virus spread to all continents through air transport and still propagates infection exponentially (Nicolaidis et al., 2020). To contain the spread, many countries completely/partially close their boarder and cancelled all flights, and events including sports, entertainment, pilgrimages, conferences etc. UNWTO (2020)

estimated that international tourists would decline by 1%–3% compared to 2019 rather than the forecasted 3%–4% growth. As a result, global tourism has slowed down significantly. The number of international flights dropping by more than half following the tourism industry temporarily laid off half of their workforce (Gössling et al., 2020). The World Travel & Tourism Council predicts a tourism-related loss of up to US\$ 2.1 trillion in 2020 and up to 75 million jobs (WTTC, 2020).

The travel industry, which includes airlines, hotels and restaurants, will shrink by 50% in 2020, which would mean a significant loss of jobs and revenue. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Airlines worldwide are expected to lose a record of \$84 billion in 2020, more than three times the loss made during the Global Financial Crisis (The World Economic Forum, 2020). Most of the airlines are undergrounded. Hotels are being closed due to fewer tourists and many five-star hotels turning into quarantine facilities. Most restaurateurs see operating costs rising further because of social distancing, hygiene, and sanitation-related costs. Therefore, sustaining during this crisis is a challenging task for the tourism industry.

Forecasting models used for predicting tourism demand

Tourism forecasting has been an important topic of discussion and has evolved over the decades (Liu et al., 2019; Song et al., 2019). Researchers used different forecasting models to predict international tourism demand (Table 1). For example, Witt and Martin (1987) used econometric models, such as Ordinary Least Square (OLS) and Cochrane-Orcutt (CO), to predict international tourist demand. Song et al. (2003) applied six different econometric models to forecast inbound international tourism demand for Denmark. The models are static co-integration regression; two error correction model (ECM); reduced autoregressive distributed lag model (ADLM); time-varying parameter (TVP) approach; vector autoregressive (VAR);

autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model for six different origin countries such as Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK and USA. Further, they tested the forecasting accuracy of the models and ranked over the time horizon. The traditional time series models such as VAR (Witt et al., 2004), BVAR (Wong et al., 2006), ARIMA (Kulendran & Wong, 2005), MARIMA, SARIMA (Goh & Law, 2002), Statistical models like regression model, exponential smoothing (Athanasopoulos & Hyndman, 2008), Basic structural time series model (BSM) and causal structural time series model (STSM) (Kulendran & Witt, 2003; Turner & Witt, 2001), Autoregressive Moving Average with External Variables (ARMAX) (Yang et al., 2015). Witt et al. (2004) used vector autoregressive model to forecast inbound international tourists to Denmark to predict the foreign tourist expenditure. They also discussed the impact of foreign tourist expenditure on employment in Denmark. Wong et al. (2006) applied the Bayesian vector autoregressive (BVAR) model to forecast the tourism demand for Hong Kong, compared with the VAR model, and showed that the BVAR model outperforms the VAR model. Wong et al. (2007) forecasted tourism demand for Hong Kong from ten different countries using four different forecasting models: ARIMA, ADLM, ECM and VAR. They observed that the performance of single and combined forecasting models varies according to the origin-destination tourist flow. Goh and Law (2002) used Seasonal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (SARIMA) and Multiplicative-seasonal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (MARIMA) considering intervention like the bird flu epidemic (December 1997–January 1998) in Hong Kong, Asian economic crisis and the reversion of Hong Kong to China sovereignty and SAR administration to predict the inbound tourism demand for Hong Kong. They proved that the SARIMA and MARIMA model's performance outperforms the other time series models through comparative study.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on tourism economy

The foreign exchange earnings (FEE) from tourism is one of the major revenue source for the Government of India. The FEE is the revenue generated by inbound foreign tourists, and decrease in foreign tourists' number leads to reduce FEE. The entire world is affected by COVID-19, including India. Following the border closure, cancellation of international flights, and a series of lockdowns, the tourist's arrival rate in India has been highly affected. To show the impact of COVID-19 on FEE, a comparative analysis has been done. Here, it has assumed that the effect of COVID-19 will remain until next year. The FEE depends on the arrival of the number of tourists and exchange rate. To analyse the impact, the monthly data related to number of tourists, FEE from tourism and exchange rate are collected from 31st January 1993 to 31st March 2020 from CMIE (economic outlook, 2020).

The scatter plot (Figure 1) describes the high correlation between foreign tourists' arrival and foreign exchange earnings, and the calculated correlation coefficient is 0.9718. It signifies that both are highly correlated. Similarly, Figure 2 depicts the correlation between exchange rate earnings and foreign exchange earnings, and the calculated correlation coefficient is 0.8570. This signifies that both are highly correlated. Thus, the arrival of the number of foreign tourists and the exchange rate are taken as input to predict the FEE and to measure the impact of COVID-19.

Figure 1. Correlation between the number of tourists arrived and foreign exchange earnings.

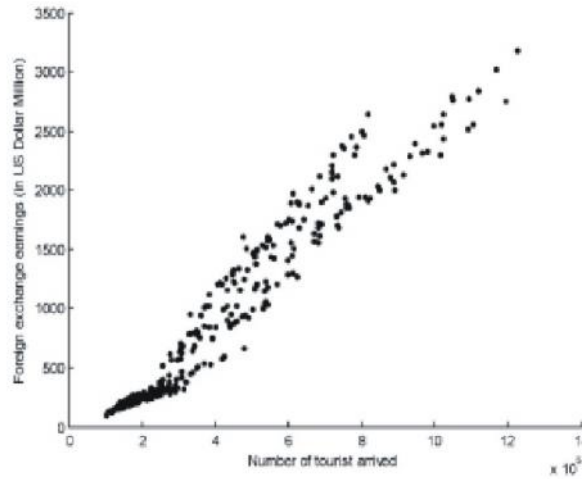
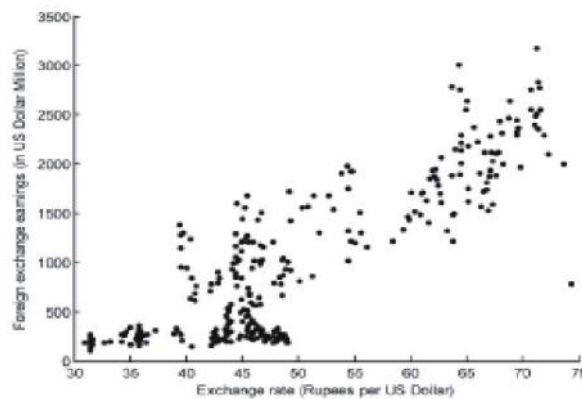
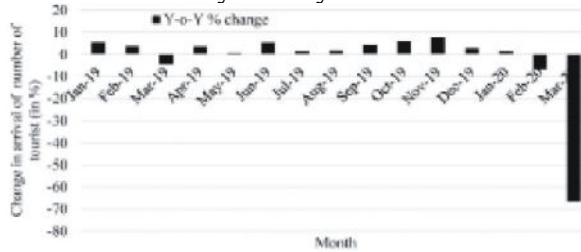


Figure 2. Correlation between the number of tourists arrived and foreign exchange earnings.



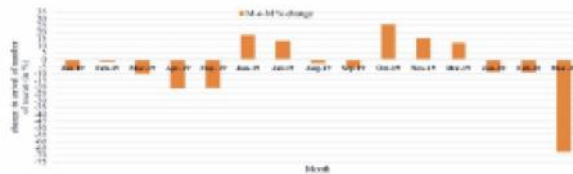
There is a positive change in the year-to-year arrival rate of foreign tourists in India, as shown in Figure 3. However, it has decreased by 6.63% in February 2020 and further decreased by 66.42% in March.

Figure 3. Change in the arrival of number of foreign tourist year-to-year.



If the monthly data are compared, a negative change can be observed in Figure 4 from January to March 2020. It means the number of tourists decreases by 67.66%. It is because the COVID-19 virus was first identified on 31st December 2019 in China, and WHO declared a pandemic on 11th March 2020. Hence, there is a need to analyse impact of COVID-19 on arrival of foreign tourists in India in subsequent months and its impact on FEE until next year. Next, to analyse the impact of COVID-19 on FEE, we perform comparative analysis.

Figure 4. Change in the arrival of number of foreign tourist month-to-month.



A comparative study is carried out to measure total FEE from tourism with and without the COVID-19 situation. For this purpose, monthly FEE values for the year 2020–2021 have been predicted considering the number of tourists and exchange rate as the input. Before applying forecasting model for prediction, the past pattern of the exchange rate and FEE has been analysed. In methodology and data analysis section, we already predicted the number of tourists. Next, we analyse the pattern for the exchange rate and FEE.

The actual arrival of tourist and exchange rate data from 31st January 1993 to 31st March 2020 has taken as input for ANN model to predict the next 14 months (August 2020 to September 2021) FEE under the normal situation, as represented in scenario 1 (Table 5). Scenario 2 of Table 5 listed the monthly forecasted FEE earnings under normal situation considering the tourist and exchange rate's predicted arrival rate. Table 5 shows that the predicted total FEE for scenario 1 and scenario 2 is USD 31325.52 million, and USD 32053.01 million, i.e. the difference is 2.32%. It signifies the fitness of selected ANN model, i.e. the predicted FEE is very close by considering actual or the expected arrival rate of tourist and exchange rate. Table 5, scenario 1 and scenario 2 confirm that Indian tourism could have earned at least USD 31325.52 million from August 2020 to September 2021 if there was no COVID-19 situation. Scenario 3 describes the monthly forecasted FEE considering COVID-19 situation, i.e. continuously falling in the arrival rate of tourists by 68% from the previous month and hence predicted total FEE is USD 1790.53 million. Scenario 4, the monthly forecasted arrival rate of tourists reduced by 68% and the exchange rate is taken as input to forecast FEE. It has assumed that if Indian tourism industry will somewhat manage the tourist activities and foreign tourists will come to India but with less by 68% from the predicted value. Scenario 4 describes that if tourism activities are managed, and tourists come to India, the FEE would be USD 13351.07 million. Comparing all four scenarios, we conclude that if the tourism activities are not managed well, the FEE falls below USD 1790.53 million and may be lost entirely. If it can be managed at some level, then the FEE value will be at least USD 13351.07 million.

Implications of the study

This study has significant theoretical and managerial implications. The total contribution of travel and tourism to India's GDP from 2018 is USD 247.37 billion, and 2019 is USD 268.29 billion (Statista, 2020). Tourism not only generates revenue; it

also creates employment. The revenue from tourism to GDP in India is through foreign visitor spending, which is 12.8%. The estimated unorganized workforce in the tourism sector across India from 2017 is 401,000. The predicted employment loss in the travel and tourism industry due to COVID-19 in India is 9 million. The FEE is the revenue generated from tourism and profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this study, we predict the number of foreign tourists and its impact on the generated FEE. As observed in scenario 3, there is a reduction in FEE due to a continuous decrease in the tourists' arrival. These predicted values are an alarm to restructure the tourism sector and make policy to manage the activities better to maximize the FEE. From the study, the major theoretical implication exhibited is that if the policies in the tourism sector are not restructured, then the FEE will fall below USD 1790.53 million and maybe entirely lost to the economy. If it is managed at some level, then the FEE value will be at least USD 13351.07 million. On the other side, if the demand is reduced, proper resource utilization will not be possible, which leads to a lower return on investment as the government has already made huge investments under various schemes. Further, it will affect the employment rate in the tourism sector.

Lastly, this study contributes towards managerial implications by laying a foundation towards reacting against the epidemic outbreak. It further helps the decision-makers to make an appropriate and immediate decision based on the forecasted values. The decision-makers may also promote tourism destinations, ease the visa regulations, find better financing options, etc. that may subsidize demand and sustainably boost the international flow of tourists with all the sanitizing protocols followed. It is quite imperative that COVID-19 has also impacted the education sector. In this context, programmes and courses related to hospitality and tourism are affected with a smaller number of students registering for those programmes. There is

also a need to make the curriculum more resilient and agile. Again, there is more scope for social entrepreneurs in this regard, thereby creating social ventures, helping people solve social problems (Sigala, 2020).

Limitations and future research

The shortcomings of this study are worth mentioning. Due to lack of updated information related to this pandemic, the study could not consider other economic variables for the analysis. The study is only limited to a specific country that may be extended further by considering cross-country data. Lastly, the study has only considered international inbound tourists, whereas the situation may be analyzed for domestic and outbound tourists.

In light of the further research avenues, the following future perspectives may be stated. First, a further detailed study of the tourism sector may be conducted to analyze the effects of the epidemic outbreak on the tourism industry with respect to triple bottom line approach (social, financial and environmental) to achieve sustainability and make it resilient (Ying et al., 2020). Second, participation from various stakeholders is also required since millions of people are dependent on the sector. Therefore, forecasting tourism demand may be studied from the macro-level to the micro-level through an inter-disciplinary approach. Lastly, this study can be extended by including the other economic parameters, such as consumer price index (CPI). Instead of ANN model, different other machine/deep learning methods, such as support vector machines, can be used for prediction.

Conclusion

The tourism sector has dramatically affected by the widespread of COVID-19 and may remain for a longer time. The arrival of foreign tourists to India from different parts of the world has reduced by 68% in March 2020 compared to the previous month. It has a great impact on revenue generated from tourism in the form of FEE. A suitable forecasting model can help in strategic

and operational decision-making. Hence, this study has predicted the number of foreign tourists using the ANN model with respect to COVID-19 outbreak. Also, the FEE has been predicted using the number of tourists and exchange rates. Further, to analyze the impact of COVID-19, four different scenarios are generated, and impact has been measured through predicting FEE.

Our findings suggest that if the tourism sector and policies are not restructured, then the FEE will fall below USD 1790.53 million and maybe entirely lost. If it is managed at some level though reforming policies, then the FEE value will be at least USD 13351.07 million.

In this paper, we make three contributions as well as novelties. Firstly, a well understanding of the mutual interplay between the COVID-19 pandemic and the tourism sector is well explained through a novel approach. Secondly, an enriching contribution is made by predicting foreign tourist arrivals and FEE with the number of foreign tourists and exchange rates (monthly data) as an input to the ANN model. Finally, a decision has been proposed for the various stakeholders of the tourism industry to help recover the sector from the current scenario, which is quite novel. Consequently, the findings presented in this paper will help the stakeholders and the policymakers facilitate strategic and operational planning based on the forecasted value. As per the study, FEE is reduced because of foreign tourists' fewer arrivals in this pandemic outbreak. Therefore, instead of investing more in adding new resources, policymakers and stakeholders can think about making the existing resource more efficient and effective.

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कोविड-19 का भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर प्रभाव (चुनौतियाँ एवं अवसर)

डॉ.गणेश सिंह राठौर,

प्रस्तावना

वर्तमान समय में काविड-19 के केसेस पूरी दुनिया में 85 लाख से अधिक हो चुके हैं और इससे लगभग 4.5 लाख लोग काल के गाल में समा चुके हैं। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने इसे मार्च के दूसरे सप्ताह में वैश्विक महामारी घोषित किया है। आज विश्व के लगभग सभी देश इस बीमारी से ग्रसित हैं। इस बीमारी से अपने नागरिकों को बचाने के लिये अधिकांश देशों ने लॉकडाउन का रास्ता अपनाया और सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग को अपनाया। इससे वैश्विक स्तर पर व्यापार एवं वित्तीय बाजार बंद होने की कगार पर आ गये हैं।

कोविड-19 ने पूरी दुनिया की अर्थव्यवस्था की हालत खराब कर रखी है। विश्व बैंक ने कहा है कि इसने भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को जबरदस्त झटका दिया है जिससे देश की आर्थिक वृद्धि दर में भारी गिरावट आएगी। कोविड-19 का झटका उस समय लगा जब भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पहले से सुस्त है। इस महामारी पर अंकुश के लिये सरकार ने देशव्यापी बंदी लागू की हैं। इससे लोगो की आवाजाही रूक गई और वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई हैं।

आयात में भारत की चीन पर निर्भरता बहुत बड़ी हैं। शीर्ष 20 उत्पादों में से जो भारत दुनिया से आयात करता हैं, चीन उनमें से अधिकांश में एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सेदारी रखता है। भारत का कुल इलेक्ट्रानिक्स आयात का लगभग 45 प्रतिशत चीन पर निर्भर है, लगभग 33 प्रतिशत मशीनरी और 40 प्रतिशत कार्बनिक रसायन जिन्हें भारत दुनिया से खरीदता है, चीन से आयात करता हैं।

मोटर वाहन के पुर्जे और उर्वरकों के लिये भारत के आयात में चीन की हिस्सेदारी 25 प्रतिशत से अधिक हैं। लगभग 65 प्रतिशत से

70 प्रतिशत सक्रिय फार्मास्यूटिकल्स सामग्री और लगभग 90 प्रतिशत मोबाईल फोन चीन से भारत में आते हैं। इसलिये हम कह सकते हैं कि कोविड-19 के प्रकोप के कारण चीन पर आयात निर्भरता का भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव पड़ा है। प्रवासी मजदूरों की घर वापसी के कारण उत्पादन एवं निर्माण कार्यों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है।

चुनौतिया

1. व्यापार एवं उद्योग बंद होने से बड़े स्तर पर लोगों की नौकरियों चली गयी हैं जिससे बेरोजगारी की दर में वृद्धि हुई है।
2. कच्चे माल एवं कल पुर्जों का आयात बाधित होने के कारण उद्योग अपनी पूरी क्षमता से कार्य नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। इससे उबरने के लिये भारत सरकार ने आत्मनिर्भर भारत की तरफ रुख किया है।
3. दवाओं के निर्माण के लिये जो कच्चा माल चीन से आता था उसकी आपूर्ति बाधित होने के कारण इनका भारत में उत्पादन प्रभावित हुआ और दवाओं के दामों में वृद्धि देखने को मिली। अभी हाल ही में चिकित्सा सुरक्षा उपकरण पी.पी.ई. किट का चीन को जो आर्डर दिया था उसमें चीन से जो माल सप्लाई किया गया वह निम्न स्तर के थे। अतः भारत सरकार द्वारा निर्णय लिया गया की मास्क और P.P.E. किट के साथ ही वेंटिलेटर्स का उत्पादन देश में ही किया जाएगा। जिससे विदेशों पर निर्भरता खत्म की जा सकें।
4. पर्यटन : भारत में वर्ष पर्यन्त घरेलू एवं विदेशी पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करने के लिये सांस्कृतिक एवं ऐतिहासिक पर्यटन करता है। कोविड -19 के कारण बीजा निलंबित होने एवं पर्यटन आकर्षण अनिश्चित काल के लिये बंद रहने के कारण पूरी पर्यटन श्रृंखला जिसमें होटल रेस्तरां, एजेण्ट, परिवहन और ऑपरेटर शामिल है को हजारों करोड़ के नुकसान का सामना

करना पड़ रहा है। विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि पर्यटन उद्योग भविष्य के लिये अपंग बन सकता है।

5. **विमानन** : लॉकडाउन के कारण आवाजाही बंद होने के कारण घरेलू एवं अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ाने प्रभावित हुई हैं। लगभग 600 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय एवं घरेलू उड़ाने रद्द होने के कारण इस उद्योग को हजारों करोड़ रू. के नुकसान का अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है।
6. आपूर्ति श्रृंखला बाधित होने से वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति में समस्या आयी और वस्तुओं के दामों में वृद्धि देखने को मिली। इससे किसानों को भारी नुकसान हुआ क्योंकि उनकी फसलों को खरीददार न मिल पाने के कारण उन्हें अपनी फसल को नष्ट करना पड़ रहा है।
7. उपभोक्ता गतिविधियों में कमी आने के कारण अनेक वस्तुओं की मांग में भारी गिरावट आयी है और इन पर बंद होने का संकट आ गया है।
8. युवा स्टार्टटप्स पर इस लॉकडाउन का बुरा असर पड़ा है। वित्त उपलब्ध न होने से इनकी गतिविधियाँ बंद हो गयी हैं।
9. उत्पादन की मात्रा में भारी गिरावट आयी है।
10. भारतीय शेयर बाजार में लगातार गिरावट दर्ज की गयी है।
11. बेरोजगारी की दर में वृद्धि हुई है। लगभग 14 करोड़ भारतीय लॉकडाउन की इस अवधि में अपना रोजगार खो चुके हैं।
12. लॉकडाउन के कारण भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रतिदिन 32000 करोड़ रू. का नुकसान हो रहा है।
13. व्यवसायिक गतिविधियाँ बंद होने से सरकार को कर के रूप में मिलने वाली आय लगभग बंद सी हो गयी है और राज्य सरकारों के सामने आर्थिक संकट पैदा हो गये हैं।

अवसर

कोविड-19 के कारण चीन की साख पर विपरीत प्रभाव पड़ा है।

इसी का नतीजा है कि वैश्विक निर्माताओं ने भारतीय कम्पनियों के साथ बातचीत शुरू की है ताकि चीन से उनकी आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं के एक हिस्से को भारत से पूरा किया जा सकें। विदेशी कम्पनियाँ चीन से अपनी आपूर्ति को भारत से पूरा करने पर तेजी से विचार कर रही है ताकि भविष्य में कोरोना जैसी परेशानी आने पर किसी देश पर उनकी निर्भरता कम हो सकें।

1. आटोमोबाईल एवं इलेक्ट्रानिक्स उत्पादों की सोर्सिंग में रूचि रखने वाली कम्पनियाँ भारत में रूचि ले रही है।
2. आटो पार्ट्स बनाने वाली कम्पनियाँ भारतीय कम्पनियों से सम्पर्क कर रही हैं।
3. जापान चीन से अपनी कम्पनियाँ हटाना चाहता है अतः इन्हें भारत में आकर्षित करने का अच्छा अवसर है।
4. जॉनसन एवं जॉनसन सहित कई दवा निर्माता कम्पनियों ने भारत में रूचि दिखाई है।
5. 1000 विदेशी कम्पनियाँ भारत आने का विचार कर रही है। ये कम्पनियाँ मोबाईल, इलेक्ट्रानिक्स, मेडिकल, डिवाइसेज, टेक्सटाइल्स और सिंथेटिक्स फेब्रिक्स के क्षेत्र की हैं।

भारत सरकार के प्रयास

भारत सरकार द्वारा कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को जो आर्थिक नुकसान हुआ है उससे देश को उबारने के लिये RBI एवं वित्त मंत्रालय द्वारा कई घोषणाएँ की गयीं। इसी के अंतर्गत वित्त मंत्री द्वारा भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में जान डालने के लिये लगभग 21 लाख करोड़ रु. के आर्थिक पैकेज की घोषणा की गयी जिसके अन्तर्गत प्रथम किस्त में 5,91,500 करोड़, द्वितीय किस्त में 3,10,000 करोड़, तृतीय किस्त में 1,50,000 करोड़ रु. की घोषणाएँ शामिल हैं। इसमें विभिन्न क्षेत्रों को राहत मिलने की संभावना है।

वर्तमान में भारत सरकार द्वारा दिशा निर्देश जारी कर सुरक्षा निर्देशों को पालन करते हुये पहले 33 प्रतिशत एवं अब 50 प्रतिशत

कर्मचारियों के साथ गतिविधियाँ चालू करने की अनुमति प्रदान की है जिससे धीरे-धीरे ही सही भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पुनः वापस पटरी पर लौट आएगी। प्रश्न यह उठता है कि इसमें कितना समय लगेगा यह एक शोध का विषय है। सीखने की अवस्था – प्रत्येक संकट संगठनों के लिये सीखने के अवसर के रूप में कार्य करता है और यह महामारी एक सबक साबित हो रही है।

दूर से कार्य करना

लॉकडाउन की इस अवधि में work from Home को प्रोत्साहन दिया गया है। लेकिन इसकी अपनी सीमायें हैं। इन्हें रिटेल, हॉस्पिटैलिटी या मैनुफैक्चरिंग जैसे अन्य सेक्टर्स में लागू नहीं किया जा सकता है। जिससे उन्हें अपना व्यापार बंद करने के अलावा कोई विकल्प नहीं है।

भारत की तरह कई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अर्थव्यवस्थाएँ एक बाजार पर अत्याधिक निर्भर होने के कारण होने वाले जोखिम के प्रति जागरूक हो रही हैं। वर्तमान स्थिति को एक सीखने का अवसर बनाते हुये स्वदेशी उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देकर प्रतिस्पर्धी बाजार के 40 प्रतिशत हिस्से पर कब्जा करने का है। अपने देश में उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देना भारत के आत्मनिर्भर भारत एवं मेक इन इण्डिया अभियान को सफल बनाने के लिये अति आवश्यक है।

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कोविड-19 पर्यटन उद्योगों को चुनौतियां एवं संभावनाएँ

डॉ. पी. के. जैन, डॉ. सविता जैन

वैश्विक महामारी ने अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रभावित किया है। चीन के वुहान शहर से वायरस का प्रसार विश्व के अनेक देशों में हुआ था। इस महामारी से विश्व की कई महाशक्तियां भी प्रभावित हुई थी। कोरोना की चुनौती को विश्व के सभी देशों को विचार-विमर्श के लिए बाध्य होना पड़ा था। कोरोना संकट विश्व के लिए एक चुनौती थी। जिसे अवसर के रूप में देखा गया तथा इस संकट का सामना विश्व के अनेक देशों के द्वारा अपने ढंग से स्वीकार किया गया इस महामारी से नियंत्रण का प्रयास जारी हैं। चीन की सत्ता ने वैश्विक महामारी को विश्व के अन्य देशों को सूचना का प्रसार नहीं किया। चीन की सत्ता इस बीमारी को स्थानीय स्तर पर समाप्त कर सकती थी। परंतु बीमारी को विश्व के अन्य देशों में प्रसार हो गया। जिससे विश्व की सभी देशों की अर्थव्यवस्था पर संकट आ गया। 17 जून 2020 तक विश्व में कुल संक्रमित व्यक्तियों की संख्या 83.27 लाख थी। जिसमें 4.48 लाख मौतें हुईं एवं 43.57 लाख मरीज स्वस्थ हुए हैं। विश्व में महामारी का सबसे अधिक प्रभाव अमेरिका में 22.19 लाख व्यक्ति संक्रमित हुए थे। ब्राजील में 9.35 लाख, रूस में 5.53 लाख, इंग्लैंड में 2.19 लाख संक्रमित हुए भारत में 3.58 लाख मरीज संक्रमित हुए।

कोरोना वायरस की वजह से विश्व की अर्थव्यवस्था में भारी मंदी की आहट देखने को मिली है। इतिहास में पहली बार मंदी का कारण अर्थव्यवस्था व्यापार नहीं बल्कि मानव की तेजी से गिरती हुई उत्पादकता है। विश्व में कोरोना वायरस से लगभग 3 लाख अरब रुपये का नुकसान हुआ, जो कि विश्व की जीडीपी का 5 प्रतिशत रहेगा। कोरोना वायरस पर नियंत्रण करना बहुत जरूरी है। हमारे

देश में अन्य देशों की तुलना में स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं का अभाव था। कोरोना वायरस की दवाई बाजार में उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, अनुसंधान चल रहा है। सिर्फ लॉकडाउन के द्वारा स्थिति पर नियंत्रण किया जा सकता है। कोरोना का संक्रमण सबसे अधिक शुगर, रक्तचाप एवं हृदय रोगी व किडनी रोगी पर हुआ है। हमारे देश में वेंटीलेटर, पीपीई किट एवं मास्क का अभाव था। देश में चिकित्सकों की कमी थी। इस बीमारी पर नियंत्रण के लिए लॉकडाउन ही सर्वोत्तम रहा है। गृह मंत्रालय एवं स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय दिल्ली के द्वारा समय-समय पर स्थिति को नियंत्रण करने के लिए मार्गदर्शन दिया जाता रहा है। हमारे देश में लॉकडाउन चार चरणों में प्रस्तुत किया गया है। देश में संक्रमण के प्रभाव को तीन जोन में विभक्त किया गया था। रेड, ऑरेंज एवं ग्रीन जोन में। सबसे अधिक संक्रमण को रेड जोन में तथा कम संक्रमण के प्रभाव को ग्रीन जोन में विभक्त किया गया था। देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों से रोजगार के लिए महानगरों की ओर मजदूर गए थे। महामारी से घबराकर प्रवासी मजदूर अपने गृह नगर वापस आए हैं। उन्हें पुनः रोजगार की समस्या है चूंकि काफी समय से महानगरों में रोजगार में शामिल थे। इन मजदूरों को कार्य का कॉफी अनुभव है। परंतु अपने गृह नगर/कस्बों में बेरोजगार बैठे हैं। पर्यटन को सिर्फ मनोरंजन तक सीमित नहीं रखना चाहिए। इससे अच्छा ज्ञान प्राप्त होता है। विश्व पर्यटन संगठन के अनुसार पर्यटक में व्यक्तित्व सामान्य वातावरण से बाहर निकलकर विशेष पर्यटन केंद्रों पर यात्रा करते हैं। यह भ्रमण, मनोरंजन, व्यापार एवं धार्मिक आस्था व अन्य उद्देश्य से किया जाता है। पर्यटन दुनिया भर में आराम पूर्व गतिविधि के रूप में होता है। अर्थव्यवस्था में नरमी एवं कोरोना वायरस के कारण पर्यटन कारोबार में प्रभाव आया है। मेक माय ट्रिप के प्रवक्ता ने कहा है कि कोरोना से विदेशी यात्रा की बुकिंग मां निश्चित तौर पर कमी आई है। कुल विदेश यात्रा कारोबार में दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई देशों की हिस्सेदारी में लगभग 20 प्रतिशत कारोबार पर व्यापक असर देखने को मिला है।

भारत में ताजमहल, लखनऊ का इमामबाग, मध्यप्रदेश के खजुराहो के मंदिर एवं कई पर्यटक केंद्रों पर विदेशों से पर्यटक आते थे। इन दिनों पर्यटक कोरोना वायरस से चिंतित है। जिससे देश में पर्यटन उद्योग प्रभावित हो रहा है। इन पर्यटन केंद्रों से व्यापारियों को होटल, रेस्टोरेंट, टैक्सी संचालकों एवं अन्य व्यवसायिक गतिविधियों पर असर हुआ है। पर्यटक उद्योगों में संलग्न उद्योगों में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों पर प्रभाव हुआ है। इन उद्योगों पर महामारी का प्रभाव होने के कारण पर्यटकों का आगमन कम हुआ है। व्यवसायियों के द्वारा अप्रत्याशित बाजार की स्थिति के संबंध में सूचित करके कर्मचारियों को वेतन एवं वेतन वृद्धि नहीं करने का निर्णय लिया था। कोरोना के प्रसार से दुनिया भर में विमानन एवं पर्यटन क्षेत्र को नुकसान उठाना पड़ा है। सरकार के द्वारा महामारी के चलते हुए वीजा निलंबित कर दिए गए थे। पर्यटकों के द्वारा यात्रा करने के उद्देश्य से अग्रिम यात्रा टिकट एवं होटलों की बुकिंग हो गई थी। महामारी से चिंतित होकर यात्रा की टिकट एवं होटलों की बुकिंग को निरस्ते करा लिया गया।

देश में प्रधानमंत्री के द्वारा 22 मार्च 2020 से जनता कर्फ्यू का आह्वान किया गया एवं 25 मार्च से नियमित लॉकडाउन हुआ। इससे पर्यटन उद्योग में कोरोना का असर उक्त अवधि में रहा है। वर्तमान में एक जून 2020 से अनलॉक की घोषणा की गई है। परंतु पर्यटकों को कोरोना वायरस से संक्रमित होने की चिंता है जिससे पर्यटन केंद्रों पर यात्रियों का आगमन कम है। पर्यटक यात्रा करने के लिए निकलते हैं तो चिंतित होते हैं कि यात्रा सुरक्षित रहेगी या नहीं। इसका असर पर्यटन केंद्र एवं संलग्न व्यवसायी पर कार्यरत कर्मचारियों जैसे पर्यटन सेवा कंपनियां, रेस्टोरेंट, ट्रेवल एजेंसी, मनोरंजन पार्क, कारपोरेट पर्यटन और साहसिक पर्यटन उद्योग प्रभावित हुए हैं।

हमें महामारी से लड़ना सबसे ज्यादा जरूरी था। अर्थव्यवस्था को गतिशील बनाए रखने के लिए अन्य व्यवसायिक गतिविधियों के साथ पर्यटन केंद्रों पर ध्यान देना आवश्यक है। इन उद्योगों के साथ संलग्न

उद्योगों पर सरकार को ध्यान देना होगा। इससे पर्यटन उद्योग में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों को पुनः रोजगार के साधन उपलब्ध हो जाएंगे। व्यवसायियों को अपनी जीविकोपार्जन का साधन पुनः प्राप्त होगा। पर्यटन व्यवसायियों को सरकार के नियमों का पालन करते हुए अपना व्यवसाय का सुचारु संचालन करना चाहिए। पर्यटन उद्योग से संलग्न उद्योगों, सेवा एजेंसी एवं अन्य को आय का साधन बढ़ेगा इसके साथ ही सरकार की आय में वृद्धि होगी तथा देश की प्रगति भी तीव्र होगी।

विदेशी पर्यटक का देश में आगमन होने से विदेशी मुद्रा की प्राप्ति होती है तथा व्यवसायिक गतिविधियां में बढ़ोतरी होती है पर्यटकों में विश्वास जागृत करना होगा। पर्यटक के लिए हर प्रकार की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने से विश्वास जागृत होगा। इससे पर्यटन उद्योग में खुशहाली की स्थिति आएगी सरकार को पर्यटन केंद्र में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों के कौशल विकास के संबंध में आंकड़ों का संकलन करके स्थानीय स्तर पर उनकी योग्यता के आधार पर उन्हें रोजगार के साधनों की व्यवस्था करना चाहिए इसमें सरकार एवं सामाजिक संस्था का योगदान होना चाहिए।

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कोविड-19 के पर्यटन उद्योग पर प्रभाव

डॉ.जयंत कुमार डी. गुप्ता

प्रस्तावना

मानव क्रियाशील प्राणी है उसकी यही प्रवृत्ति उसे गतिशील अर्थात् भ्रमण हेतु उत्प्रेरित करती रहती है। भारतीय परिपेक्ष में भ्रमण या पर्यटन इसकी विविधता, संस्कृति संरचना मानसिक बदलाव, स्वास्थ्य आदि अनेक कारणों से पर्यटन का प्रचलन पुरातन काल से रहा है परंतु आज पर्यटन मनुष्य के आनंद तो कभी धर्म या कार्यदशाओं से जुड़ रहा है। अतः देश में पर्यटन एक उद्योग का रूप ले चुका है तथा इस व्यवसाय से देश में वर्ष 2018 में 28.6 अरब डालर की आय हुई इस उद्योग का भारत की जी.डी.पी. में 6.8 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है। कुल रोजगार में 8.78 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है आज पर्यटन उद्योग रोजगार का उभरता हुआ क्षेत्र बन गया है। यह प्रत्यक्ष व अप्रत्यक्ष रोजगार सृजन का अच्छा माध्यम है परंतु अभी भी हमारा वैश्विक पर्यटन में हिस्सा 1.97 प्रतिशत है जो शनैः-शनैः बढ़ रहा है। यह उद्योग पूरी तरह से निजी क्षेत्र में आता है।

शब्द कुंजी

पर्यटन, बेरोजगारी, अर्थव्यवस्था, कोविड।

वैश्विक स्तर पर कोरोना विषाणु का पता सर्वप्रथम चीन के वुहान शहर में हुआ इसे विश्व के बाकी देश एक स्थानीय समस्या के रूप में देख रहे थे तथा इस रोग के वास्तविक रूप को चीन के नेत्र रोग विशेषज्ञ डॉक्टर व्हेनलियांग ने पहचाना यह एक विषाणु है जो चमगादड़ में पाया जाता है परंतु वह मनुष्यों को संक्रमित कर रहा है। चीन की यात्रा करने वाले विदेशी नागरिक इसे अनजाने में गिफ्ट के रूप में अपने देश में ले गए व कुछ ही समय में इस विषाणु के संक्रमण न एक महामारी का रूप ले लिया तथा इसके इलाज हेतु कोई वैक्सीन व दवा न होने से इसे रोकने का एक मात्र उपाय

संक्रमण को फैलने से रोकना था तथा और एक ही सूरत थी कि मनुष्यों का संचरण समाप्त करना और उसके लिए एक मात्र उपाय था तालाबंदी अर्थात् लाकडाऊन भारत में भी इस रोग की गंभीरता को देखते हुए 23 मार्च 2020 को देशव्यापी 21 दिन की तालाबंदी की घोषणा की जो बाद में क्रमशः बढ़ती रही और 31 जून तक जारी रहने की बात कही एवं इस दौरान मात्र जीवन आवश्यक व अत्यंत आवश्यक सेवाओं व वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति ही प्रारंभ थी शेष सारी गतिविधियां ठप्प हो गए तथा इसी कड़ी में पर्यटन उद्योग भी शामिल है तो यहां जब मनुष्यों का संचरण ही बंद हो गया तब पर्यटन पर इसका काफी गहरा असर पड़ा साथ ही पर्यटन के साथ अन्य सहायक उद्योग जैसे ट्रांसपोर्टेशन, होटल, मनोरंजन व अन्य कई छोटे-छोटे उद्योग भी प्रभावित हुए तथा अनिश्चितकालीन बंद का पर्यटन उद्योग व इससे जुड़े क्षेत्रों में देशव्यापी प्रभावों को समझने तथा इसे पुनर्संजीवनी देने हेतु सुझावों को जानने के उद्देश्य से यह शोध पत्र प्रस्तुत है तथा कोविड-19 के प्रसार से भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में पर्यटन उद्योग पर क्या प्रभाव हुआ ।

अध्ययन के प्रमुख उद्देश्य

प्रस्तुत शोध पत्र के निम्नांकित उद्देश्य हैं:

1. भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में पर्यटन की स्थिति का चित्र प्रस्तुत करना ।
2. कोरोना विषाणु का संक्षिप्त परिचय व देश में भाव प्रसार की स्थिति का संक्षिप्त ज्ञान ।
3. कोविड-19 के दौरान उद्योगों पर हुए परिणामों को स्पष्ट करना ।
4. कोविड-19 के पश्चात् भविष्य में पर्यटन उद्योग के समक्ष समस्याओं को चिन्हित करना ।
5. कोविड-19 के प्रभावों से पर्यटन उद्योग को भरने हेतु संस्तुति प्रस्तुत करना ।

प्ररिकल्पनाएं

- H₀**-1. कोविड-19 व बेरोजगारी के मध्य कोई संबंध नहीं है।
H₀-2. कोविड-19 से पर्यटन उद्योग पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं हुआ।
H₀-3. कोविड-19 से अर्थव्यवस्था में पर्यटन की हिस्सेदारी प्रभावित नहीं हुई।

शोध प्रविधि

प्रस्तुत शोध पत्र विश्लेषणात्मक एवं वर्णात्मक शोध प्ररचना पर आधारित है। इसमें भारतीय पर्यटन उद्योग को समग्र माना गया है कोविड-19 के प्रदुर्भाव के पश्चात होने वाले परिणामों को ज्ञात करने हेतु द्वितीयक समकों का प्रयोग किया गया है जो तालाबंदी समय अवधि में उपलब्ध अखबार शोध सर्वे पत्रिकाओं एवं विद्वानों के कथनों के आधार पर किए गए हैं। शोध की समयावधि 20 मार्च से 15 जून 2020 की अवधि की घटनाओं तक सीमित होगा।

पूर्व शोध साहित्य

कोरोना के अर्थव्यवस्थाओं पर पृथक-पृथक प्रभावों का अध्ययन करते हुए कुछ विद्वानों ने जो अपने निष्कर्ष एवं वक्तव्य प्रस्तुत किए उन्हें यहां में पूर्व शोध सामग्री के रूप में प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूं।

संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस ने कहा कोरोना महामारी से वैश्विक स्तर पर पर्यटन उद्योग को वित्तीय वर्ष 2020 के पहले 5 माह में 32,000 करोड़ अमेरिकी डालर निर्यात का नुकसान हुआ। पूरे विश्व के पर्यटन उद्योग में 12 करोड़ नौकरियां खतरे में हैं।

मेक माय ट्रिप के प्रवक्ता का कथन है कि कोरोना वायरस से विदेशी यात्रा की बुकिंग में निश्चित तौर पर कमी आई कुल विदेशी यात्रा कारोबार में दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई देशों की हिस्सेदारी करीब 20प्रतिशत है ऐसे में कारोबार पर व्यापक असर पड़ने की संभावना है हालांकि घरेलू यात्रा की बुकिंग में ज्यादा अंतर नहीं आया तब हम घरेलू यात्रा पर ध्यान दे रहे हैं जाहिर है कि पर्यटन उद्योग सिमट गया है।

सिक्किम पर्यटन विकास निगम (एस.टी.ओ.सी.) के अध्यक्ष लोकेंद्र

रसोली ने कहा महामारी की वजह से पर्यटन क्षेत्र को इस साल 600 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान हुआ पर्यटन उद्योग की 3.8 करोड़ लोगों की नौकरी जाने की संभावना है जिससे अर्थव्यवस्था को 1,25,000 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान होगा। संगठित पर्यटन उद्योग को 25 अरब डालर का नुकसान होने की संभावना है।

वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में पर्यटन परिदृश्य

पर्यटन वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था का ईंधन और रसायन के बाद तीसरा बड़ा उद्योग है 2019 में वैश्विक व्यापार में पर्यटन क्षेत्र की हिस्सेदारी 7 प्रतिशत है वैश्विक पर्यटन के आर्थिक योगदान का परिदृश्य निम्नांकित तालिका में देखा जा सकता है।

तालिका क्रमांक 1 : चुनी हुई वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की जी.डी.पी. में पर्यटन की हिस्सेदारी

क्र.	वैश्विक देश	पर्यटन उद्योग का जी.डी.पी. में प्रतिशत हिस्सा
1.	मेक्सिको	15.5
2.	स्पेन	14.3
3.	इटली	13.0
4.	चीन	11.3
5.	आस्ट्रेलिया	10.8
6.	जर्मनी	09.1
7.	ब्रिटेन	08.6
8.	फ्रांस	08.5
9.	ब्राजील	07.7
10.	जापान	07.0
11.	भारत	06.8
12.	कनाडा	06.3
13.	रूस	5.0
14.	दक्षिण कोरिया	4.2

(स्रोत : वर्ल्ड ट्रेवल्स टूरिज्म काउंसिल)

उपरोक्त तालिका से स्पष्ट है कि मेक्सिको की अर्थव्यवस्था में टूरिज्म की हिस्सेदारी सर्वाधिक है तो स्पेन व इटली दूसरे व तीसरे क्रम में क्रमश 14.3 प्रतिशत व 13 प्रतिशत जी.डी.पी.में योगदान करते हैं। इसी क्रम में भारत की जी.डी.पी. में पर्यटन की हिस्सेदारी मात्र 6.8 प्रतिशत है जो तालिका के देशों में 11 वे स्थान पर है यह अन्य राष्ट्रों की तुलना में काफी कम है। वहीं रूस व दक्षिणी कोरिया की कुल जी.डी.पी. का क्रमशः 5 एवं 4.2 प्रतिशत हिस्सा ही पर्यटन से आता है यहां यह ध्यान देने योग्य बात है कि प्रकृति द्वारा प्रदत्त सौंदर्य व जलवायु पर्यटन का मुख्य आधार है तो पर्यटन सेवाएं भी इसमें भागीदार हैं इन्हें नजरअंदाज नहीं किया जा सकता।

समंक संकलन व विश्लेषण

कोविड-19 के दौरान लंबे समय लॉकडाउन के पर्यावरण व इससे जुड़े उद्योगों पर प्रभावों को अध्ययन के दौरान देखा गया जो अग्रंकित बिंदुओं में प्रस्तुत है:

1. **बेरोजगारी में वृद्धि:** कोरोना के कारण लाकडाउन में जब संचारबंदी हो गई तो पर्यटकों की आवक अचानक रुक गई जिससे पर्यटन से जुड़े होटलप्रबंध, गाइड, ट्रेवल्स, हस्तकलाउद्योग, खानपानउद्योग, खुदरा व्यापारियों एवं वेंडर आदि का कार्य अचानक ठप्प हो गया वे बेरोजगार हो गए एक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार लॉकडाउन से नौकरी व व्यवसाय बंद होने से 3.8 करोड़ लोग बेरोजगार हो गए तथा इस उद्योग को 1,25,000 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान हुआ।
2. **देशी आय में कमी:** कोरोना के चलते विदेशी पर्यटकों के न आने के कारण राष्ट्र में राज्यों को इससे प्राप्त होने वाला महत्वपूर्ण राजस्व जो विगत वर्ष में 25 अरब डालर था न मिलने से राजकोष पर विपरीत असर हुआ जिससे आर्थिक विकास एवं अधोसंरचना विकास के कार्य ठप्प हो जाएंगे।
3. **लघु उद्योगों के बंद होने की संभावना:** पर्यटकों के लंबे समय तक न आने से पर्यटन स्थलों में चलने वाले स्थानीय

हस्तशिल्प व कुटीर उद्योगों की बिक्री गिर जावेगी तथा वे अपनी स्थाई लागतें भी पूरी न कर पाने से घाटे तथा कर्ज की किश्त न चुका पाने के कारण बंद हो जाएंगे।

4. **स्थानीय श्रम का पलायन:** जब पर्यटन ही न होगा तब इस उद्योग में लगा स्थानीय श्रम बेरोजगारी के कारण अन्यत्र रोजगार की तलाश में पलायन को मजबूर हो जावेगा और अर्थव्यवस्था के किसी नए क्षेत्र में अनावश्यक दबाव पैदा करेगा।
5. **समाजिक अराजकता में वृद्धि:** जब लोग बेरोजगार और बेकार हो जाएंगे तब वह अपने उदर निर्वहन हेतु अनैतिक कार्यों से भी नहीं हिचकते जिससे समाज में अपराध एवं अशांति की वृद्धि को नकारा नहीं जा सकता।
6. **देश की जी.डी.पी.में पर्यटन उद्योग की भागीदारी कम होगी:** जब देशों में पर्यटन उद्योग जो लाकडाउन के पूर्व 6.8 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी कर रहा था इसके लंबे समय तक बंद रहने से सीधा असर राष्ट्रीय राजस्व पर होगा एक अनुमान है कि इस उद्योग को बीते साल के मुकाबले 40 प्रतिशत कम राजस्व प्राप्त होगा अप्रैल से जून 2020 में इस उद्योग से 69,400 करोड़ रुपए के नुकसान का अनुमान है कि आगामी वर्ष में देश की जी.डी.पी. में पर्यटन की हिस्सेदारी अवश्य घट जावेगी।

पर्यटन उद्योग के बंद रहने से कुछ सकारात्मक प्रभाव भी अध्ययन के दौरान देखे गए जिनका संक्षिप्त वर्णन यहां आवश्यक समझता हूँ। पर्यावरण प्रदूषण कम हुआ। जिससे ओजोन परत का क्षय अचानक कम हो गया वनस्पतियों से होने वाली अनावश्यक छेड़छाड़ रुकी व उन्हें धूल से निजात मिलने से उनमें हरियाली और विकास अधिक हुआ। जल प्रदूषण का स्तर अचानक कम हो गया जिन कार्यों के लिए वर्षों से प्रयासरत थे वे करोड़ों के प्रोजेक्ट स्वयं शुद्धि की ओर अग्रसर होते दिखाई दिए।

सुझाव

पर्यावरण प्रदूषण बढ़ने से कोरोना जैसे विषाणुओं के पैदा होने के खतरे तो अब आते रहने के संकेत वैज्ञानिक दे ही रहे हैं। इस महामारी ने विश्व की अर्थ व्यवस्था को सजग कर दिया है अतः पर्यटकों को सुरक्षित एवं संतुलित बनाने हेतु पर्यटकों एवं प्रशासन को निम्नांकित उपायों को अपनाना चाहिए:

1. पर्यटन स्थलों पर सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग के साथ थोड़े-थोड़े पर्यटकों को परमिट देकर जाने की अनुमति दी जाए।
2. स्थानीय पर्यटन उद्योग में संलग्न व्यवसायियों एवं सेवाप्रदाताओं का इस रोग से बचाव का पर्याप्त प्रशिक्षण तथा सुरक्षित सुरक्षात्मक उपायों के साथ व्यवसाय व सेवा प्रदाय हेतु प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए।
3. पर्यटकों को पुनः आकर्षित करने के उनके भय को दूर करने हेतु प्रशासन को सोशल मीडिया पर सुरक्षित पर्यटन के उपायों का प्रचार प्रसार करना चाहिए जिसमें विशेषज्ञों की परिचर्चा सुरक्षात्मक उपायों को लगातार दिखाया जावे।
4. पर्यटन उद्योग के सहायक उद्योग जैसे ट्रांसपोर्ट, होटल, खानपान आदि उद्योगों के ऋण पर ब्याज को कुछ समय के लिए माफ कर दिया जावे जैसे-जैसे पर्यटन बढे वैसे-वैसे किस्तों को भरने का विकल्प दिया जाए।

निष्कर्ष

कोरोना महामारी ने निश्चित ही सारे विश्व की पर्यटन इंडस्ट्री को हिला दिया है परंतु इससे स्वच्छता और स्वास्थ्य के मुद्दे को सर्वोपरि बना दिया है अब स्वच्छता एवं स्वास्थ्य केंद्रित पर्यटन को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। लोगों के मन का भय धीरे-धीरे कम होगा और वे पुनः पर्यटन करेंगे। सरकार भी आवागमन पर बंदिशें धीरे-धीरे ढील देंगी व पर्यटन पुनः प्रारंभ होगा। यदि वैश्विक पर्यटन में कमी है तो हमें उससे अपना ध्यान हटाकर स्थानीय क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर पर्यटन को

प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए। पर्यटन विकास हेतु स्थानीय स्तर पर सहकारी समितियां बनाई जाएं व पर्यटन उद्योग में संलग्न लोगों को स्व-सहायता समूह बनाकर उन्हें बैंक संरक्षण में नवीन ऋण देकर उनके बंद होते उद्योगों को संजीवनी देने का प्रयास करना चाहिए।

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पर्यटन एवं वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था पर कोविड-19 का प्रभाव

डॉ. मीना राय

पर्यटन देश के आर्थिक विकास और रोजगार सृजन का एक महत्वपूर्ण कारक है। पर्यटन क्षेत्र के महत्व को इसी बात से समझा जा सकता है कि दुनिया की दुनिया करीब डेढ़ सौ देशों में विदेशी मुद्रा की कमाई करने वाले पांच प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में पर्यटन भी एक है। पर्यटन को आर्थिक विकास और रोजगार सर्जन एक सशक्त माध्यम माना जाता है।

कोरोना पैंडेमिक से जमाने भर में सफरबाजों की दुनिया उलट पुलट हो गई है। ट्रैवल इंडस्ट्री में हड़कंप है सफर विखर गए हैं और मंजिलों पर सन्नाटा है। महामारी के चलते पूरी दुनिया में पर्यटन के पहिए को जाम कर दिया है। एयर लाइंस से लेकर मनी एक्सचेंजर तक और टूरिस्ट गाइड से नेचर पार्क तक की आमदनी पर ताले लटक गए हैं, और किसी को नहीं मालूम की यात्राओं की दुनिया पर छायीमनहूसियतकब दूर होगी। ग्लोरिया का कहना है “यात्रा संसार में आई यह रुकावट इसलिए भी गंभीर है। क्योंकि ट्रैवल एंड टूरिज्म अर्थव्यवस्था की रीढ़ है। इसमें सुधार लाएं दुनिया में कहीं भी अर्थव्यवस्था को उवारना आसान नहीं होगा, और आने वाले कई सालो तक लाखों लोग आर्थिक और मानसिक तबाही झेलने का अभिशप्त होंगे। यूनाइटेड नेशंस वर्ल्ड टूरिज्म ऑर्गेनाइजेशन यूएन डब्ल्यूटीओ के महासचिव जुराब पोलो लिंक सेल ने दो टूक कह दिया है और अर्थव्यवस्था के मोर्चे पर सबसे बुरा हाल टूरिज्म सेक्टर का है। सरकारों को कोविड-19 पैंडेमिक से खतरे में पड़ी अजीबकाओ को बचाने के लिए ठोस कदम उठाने होंगे उन्होंने सरकार को सलाह दी है। कि यात्राओं पर लगी बंदियों को जितना जल्दी हटाया जाना सुरक्षित हो हटा लिया जाना चाहिए लेकिन यह तय है इस धक्के से

उभारने में लंबा वक्त लगेगा और वापसी की रफ्तार भी धीमी होगी। टूरिज्म जैसे संवेदनशील उद्योगों को 9/11 के बाद पुराना रूतबा हासिल करने में 2 साल लगे थे। इसी तरह सार्स और स्वाइन फ्लू ने भी पर्यटन के दौड़ते पहियों ब्रेक लगाई थी। कोविड-19 इस लिहाज से और भी गंभीर परिणाम लेकर आने वाला है।

मूडी एनालिटिक्स की नई रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक कोरोनावायरस में 2020 की वैश्विक विकास दर को प्रभावित किया है। अब इसकी वृद्धि दर 1.9 प्रतिशत तक धीमी होने की उम्मीद है। इससे पहले इसी महीने जारी किए गए ग्लोबल माइक्रो आउटलुक 2020 21 में मूडी ने वासरस के चलते दुनिया भर की अर्थव्यवस्था को 0.1 0.4 तक धीमा बताया था। मूडीज एनालिटिक्स के नए मूल्यांकन में कहा गया था कि ऐसी उम्मीद थी के मिड जनवरी में एक व्यापार समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर के बाद 2020 में वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था मजबूत हो जाएगी लेकिन ऐसा हुआ नहीं। कोरोना वायरस के चलते 2020 में प्रमुखता से जीडीपी में गिरावट आ गई। कोरोनावायरस के चलते दुनिया एक बड़ी आर्थिक मंदी की ओर जा रही है। एंड पी ग्लोबल टेस्टिंग ने कहा है कि कोरोनावायरस के बढ़ते खतरे के बीच ग्लोबल इकोनामी बड़ी मंदी के दौर में प्रवेश कर रही है। इसके चलते चीन भारत और जापान जैसी बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं पर बड़ा असर पड़ेगा।

विश्वव्यापी महामारी कोविड-19 के कारण विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था इसका एक फीसदी तक सिकुड़ सकती है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र आर्थिक एवं सामाजिक मामलों के विभाग न्छवै। का एक नया विश्लेषण दर्शाता है। कि अगर लोगों की आवाजाही और आर्थिक गतिविधियों पर पाबंदियों की डिमांड बढ़ती है। और पर्याप्त वित्तीय उपाय नहीं किए गए तो वैश्विक स्तर कोरोनावायरस का प्रभाव और भी ज्यादा व्यापक हो सकता है।

UN विभाग का विश्लेषण बताता है। लाखों करोड़ों की संख्या में श्रमिकों के रोजगार का संकट खड़ा हो गया। क्योंकि लगभग हर देश ने अपनी राष्ट्रीय सीमा को बंद कर दिया है। अगर हालात ऐसे

ही रहे तो 2020 के अंत तक वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था 0.9 होकर फिसदी सिकुड़ जाएगी। यूरोप उत्तर कोरिया और अमेरिका में तालाबंदी होने से लोगों की आवाजाही पर भारी असर पड़ा है। जिससे सेवा क्षेत्र प्रभावित हुआ है इनमें तौर से फुटकर व्यापार विलास एवं अतिथि सत्कार मनोरंजन और परिवहन उद्योग शामिल हैं इन क्षेत्रों की अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में उद्योग 25 फीसदी से ज्यादा रोजगार का अवसर प्रदान करते हैं।

विकसित देशों में खराब हालात

यूरोपीय संघ और अमेरिका में उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा किए जाने वाले खर्च में तेजी से गिरावट आई है। जिसका प्रभाव विकासशील देशों के उपभोक्तासामान की आयात पर पड़ेगा। वैश्विक विनिर्माण उत्पादन में भी गिरावट आने की आशंका है। जिसका प्रभाव वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला ग्लोबल सप्लाय चैन पर पड़ने की आशंका है। रिपोर्ट बताती है कि बेहद खराब परिदृश्य में वैश्विक जीडीपी वर्ष 2020 में 0.9 फिसदी सिकुड़ जायेगी जबकी उसमें 2.5 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी होने का अनुमान बताया गया था। वर्ष 2009 में वैश्विक वित्तीय संकट के दौरान विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था में 1.7 फिसदी की कमी आई थी। पर्यटन माल निर्यात और पूंजी के देश से बाहर जाने पर कमजोर विकासशील देशों पर असर पड़ेगा विशेषकर विदेशों जो पैटर्न और माल निर्यात पर निर्भर हैं। उदाहरण के तौर पर पर्यटनो की संख्या में अचानक तेजी से गिरावट आई है। जिससे लघुद्वीपीय विकासशील देश (Small Island Developing States) में लाखों की संख्या में श्रमिक प्रभावित हुए हैं जो आजीविका के लिए पर्यटन सेक्टर पर निर्भर है।

वैश्वीकरण को झटका

रोजाना हजारों लोगों को शिकार बनाने के अलावा कोरोनावायरस संकट का सबसे स्पष्ट प्रभाव समूची दुनिया में राजनीतिक, आर्थिक और सामाजिक उथलपुथल के रूप में नजर आया। वायरस चुटकियों में पूरी दुनिया में फैल गया। यात्रियों ने विमान यात्राएं बंद कर दीं, दुनिया भर में पर्यटन थम गया और मनोरंजन जैसे संबंधित उद्योग

भी कुछ हफ्तों में ही बंद हो गए। देश अपने आप में सिमट गए। उन्होंने अपनी सीमाएं बंद कर लीं और जनता के आवागमन पर ढेरों प्रतिबंध लगा दिए। कोरोनावायरस ने वैश्वीकरण को करारा झटका दिया है।

वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था

साल 2020 की पहली तिमाही में चीन की सकल घरेलू उत्पाद में 36.6 फिसदी की गिरावट देखी गई है। जबकि दक्षिण कोरिया आउटपुट 5.5 फीसदी गिरा है। हालांकि दक्षिण कोरिया ने अपने देश में लॉकडाउन नहीं लगाया लेकिन ज्यादा टेस्टिंग क्वारंटीन और कंटेंटमेंट टेस्टिंग की योजना पर ज्यादा जोर दिया था। यूरोप की ओर देखे तों फ्रांस की सकल घरेलू उत्पाद 1.3, फीसदी, स्पेन की 19.2 की फीसदी, इटली की 17.5 फीसदी तक गिरी है।

पर्यटन और कमोडिटी निर्यात पर निर्भर विकासशील देश विशेष रूप से आर्थिक जोखिम का सामना कर रहे हैं। इस महामारी के प्रभावस्वरूप वैश्विक विनिर्माण उत्पादन में उल्लेखनीय कमी कर सकता है और यात्रियों की संख्या में हुई तीव्र गिरावट ऐसे देशों की अर्थव्यवस्था को काफी प्रभैत करेगा जो मुख्य रूप से पर्यटन पर निर्भर हैं।

संदर्भ सूची

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कोरोना महामारी का पर्यटन उद्योग पर प्रभाव एवं सरकार द्वारा किए जा रहे उपाय डॉ. सुधीश पटेल

प्रस्तावना

हाल ही में संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस ने कोरोना वायरस और पर्यटन की नीति पर बोलते हुए कहा है कि कोरोना महामारी से वैश्विक स्तर पर पर्यटन उद्योग को वित्तीय वर्ष 2020 के पहले पांच महीनों में 32.000 करोड़ अमेरिकी डॉलर के निर्यात का नुकसान हुआ है। पूरे विश्व के पर्यटन उद्योग में 12 करोड़ नौकरियां खतरे में हैं। पर्यटन, वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था का ईंधन और रसायन के बाद, तीसरा सबसे बड़ा निर्यात क्षेत्र है। वर्ष 2019 में वैश्विक व्यापार में, पर्यटन क्षेत्र का हिस्सा सात प्रतिशत रहा था। वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रत्येक 10 में से एक व्यक्ति को इस क्षेत्र में रोजगार मिला हुआ है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह क्षेत्र अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को आगे बढ़ने में मदद भी करता है, इसलिए यह जरूरी है कि सभी देश अब मिलकर पर्यटन क्षेत्र का पुनर्निर्माण करें। लेकिन यह एक तरह से सुरक्षित न्यायसंगत और जलवायु के अनुकूल होना चाहिए।

पूरे विश्व में 28 देश ऐसे हैं जिनकी पूरी अर्थव्यवस्था ही पर्यटन के ऊपर टिकी हुई है। भारत में भी रोजगार एवं राजस्व में पर्यटन क्षेत्र का योगदान लगभग 12 से 13 प्रतिशत का रहता है। कोरोना महामारी के चलते भारत में भी पर्यटन उद्योग को बहुत अधिक नुकसान हुआ है। भारत में प्रति वर्ष 110 लाख विदेशी पर्यटक आते हैं एवं विदेशों में रह रहे 60 लाख भारतीय भी भारत आते हैं। इस प्रकार, कुल मिलाकर 170 लाख पर्यटक प्रति वर्ष विदेशों से भारत आते हैं। साथ ही, 280 लाख भारतीय भी पर्यटन के उद्देश्य से भारत से अन्य देशों में जाते हैं। कुल मिलाकर प्रति वर्ष 450 लाख लोग भारत से बाहर एवं भारत में विदेशी पर्यटन करते हैं। यदि भारत के

सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का आकार लगभग 200 लाख करोड़ रुपए का है तो इसका 10 प्रतिशत अर्थात् 20 लाख करोड़ रुपए का भारतीय पर्यटन का आकार है। भारत में 2800 से 2900 करोड़ अमेरिकी डॉलर के विदेशी मुद्रा का अर्जन भी विदेशी पर्यटकों से होता है।

पर्यटन उद्योग

पर्यटन एक ऐसा उद्योग है जिसमें कम निवेश से रोजगार के अति अधिक अवसर बनते हैं। भारत सरकार के पर्यटन मंत्रालय द्वारा किए गए एक आकलन के अनुसार पर्यटन पर प्रति रुपए 10 लाख के निवेश पर 47.5 रोजगार के अवसर प्रतिपादित होते हैं जबकि कृषि एवं विनिर्माण के क्षेत्र में इसी निवेश की राशि से क्रमशः 44.7 एवं 12.6 रोजगार के अवसर प्रतिपादित होते हैं। एक अनुमान के अनुसार, वर्ष 2017-18 में देश में 8.11 करोड़ लोगों को पर्यटन के क्षेत्र में रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा था, जोकि देश में कुल रोजगार के अवसरों का 12.38 प्रतिशत था। इस उद्योग में रोजगार एवं विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जन की असीम सम्भावनाएँ मौजूद हैं। यात्रा एवं पर्यटन क्षेत्र, वर्तमान में भारत का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जन करने वाला क्षेत्र है। साथ ही देश के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद में भी इस क्षेत्र का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान रहता है।

पर्यटन उद्योग में कई प्रकार की आर्थिक गतिविधियों का समावेश रहता है। यथाए अतिथि सत्कार, परिवहन, यात्रा इंतजाम, होटल आदि। इस क्षेत्र में व्यापारियों, शिल्पकारों, दस्तकारों, संगीतकारों, कलाकारों, होटल, वेटर, कुली, परिवहन एवं टूर ऑपरेटर आदि को भी रोजगार के अवसर प्राप्त होते हैं।

द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद पर्यटन क्षेत्र पर शायद सबसे अधिक विपरीत प्रभाव कोरोना महामारी के दौरान देखने में आया है एवं कोरोना महामारी का असर विश्व के सभी देशों के पर्यटन स्थलों पर पड़ा है। इसके चलते विभिन्न देशों में राजस्व, रोजगार एवं अर्थव्यवस्था तीनों को बहुत भारी नुकसान हो रहा है। वस्तुतः पर्यटन उद्योग एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है जिसे कोरोना महामारी के कारण सर्वाधिक नुकसान हुआ

है। इसलिए आज सभी देशों के सामने सबसे बड़ा प्रश्न यह आकर खड़ा हुआ है कि पर्यटन उद्योग को कोरोना महामारी के चलते हुए भारी नुकसान से किस प्रकार उबारा जाये। एक नजरिया तो यह है कि कोरोना महामारी के पूर्ण रूप से ख़त्म होने पर ही पर्यटन उद्योग में सुधार/बदलाव देखने को मिलेगा। क्योंकि, लोग जब तक स्वयं को सुरक्षित महसूस नहीं करेंगे तब तक यात्रा के लिए घरों से बाहर ही नहीं निकलना चाहेंगे, और वैसे भी पर्यटन, लोगों के लिए दरअसल एक मूलभूत आवश्यकता की श्रेणी का कार्य नहीं है। सामान्यतः पर्यटन तो फुर्सत के क्षणों में किया जाता है, जब सभी मूलभूत आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति हो जाती है। आज की विशेष परिस्थितियों में तो पर्यटन वैसे भी अंतिम प्राथमिकता की श्रेणी का कार्य बन गया है। इस प्रकार पर्यटन उद्योग को वापस पटरी पर लाना बहुत ही टेढ़ी खीर साबित होने जा रहा है।

जैसा कि उपरोक्त पैरा में वर्णित किया गया है कि वैश्विक स्तर पर पर्यटन उद्योग एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है जिसका पूरी अर्थव्यवस्था पर गुणात्मक असर पड़ता है। पर्यटन उद्योग में रोजगार के सीधे अवसरों के अलावा अपरोक्ष रूप से भी रोजगार के कई अवसर निर्मित होते हैं। इस उद्योग के माध्यम से देश में गरीबी का निदान सम्भव है एवं इस उद्योग में गतिविधियों के माध्यम से ही देश को भारी मात्रा में विदेशी मुद्रा का अर्जन भी होता है। इसलिए इस उद्योग को यू ही नहीं छोड़ा जा सकता कि कोरोना महामारी के पूर्णतः ठीक होने के बाद यह उद्योग अपने आप उबर जाएगा। इन्हीं बातों को ध्यान में रखकर दुनिया के कई देशों ने न केवल अपने यहाँ के पर्यटन क्षेत्रों को देशी एवं विदेशी पर्यटकों के लिए खोल दिया है। बल्कि कई देशों ने तो पर्यटन उद्योग के लिए विशेष राहत पैकेज की घोषणाएँ भी की हैं। भारत में भी केंद्र सरकार अब पर्यटन क्षेत्र को कुछ राहत प्रदान करती दिखाई दे रही है। जैसे, कुछ रेलगाड़ियों को प्रारम्भ कर दिया गया है। एक प्रदेश से दूसरे प्रदेश में लोगों को आने जाने की छूट प्रदान कर दी गई है। मुंबई में लोकल ट्रेन को चालू कर दिया गया

है एवं दिल्ली में मेट्रो की शुरुआत भी 7 सितम्बर 2020 से हो गयी है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी कुछ उड़ानों को प्रारम्भ कर दिया गया है। पहले हर राज्य द्वारा क्वॉरंटीन सम्बंधी नियमों को अपने स्तर पर ही लागू किया जा रहा थाए परंतु अब राज्य सरकारों को इन नियमों को लागू करने के पूर्व केंद्र सरकार से अनुमति लेनी होगी। इस प्रकार पूरे देश में क्वॉरंटीन सम्बंधी नियमों में एकरूपता लाई जा रही है, ताकि नागरिकों में विश्वास बड़े। साथ ही वैष्णो देवी मंदिर में श्रद्धालुओं कोए कुछ नियमों का पालन करते हुए, जाने की अनुमति प्रदान कर दी गई है। कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने भी अंतरराज्यीय बसों को चलाने की अनुमति प्रदान कर दी है।

पर्यटन उद्योग का महत्व

पर्यटन उद्योग की महत्ता को देखते हुए अब यह लगने लगा है कि केंद्र एवं राज्य सरकारों को पर्यटन क्षेत्र को खोलने के सम्बंध में कई और भी महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय शीघ्र ही लेने पड़ सकते हैं। हाँ, कोरोना बीमारी के प्रति सावधानी बरतना भी जारी रखना होगा। इस सम्बंध में केंद्र सरकार ने जो भी नियम जारी किए हैं उनका कड़ाई से पालन करना अनिवार्य है। भारत एक बहुत बड़ा देश हैए यहाँ नियमों का कड़ाई से पालन कराना भी अपने आप में एक बहुत बड़ी चुनौती है। कोरोना बीमारी से स्वयं को तथा अपने परिवार और समाज को सुरक्षित रखने का कार्य भी वर्तमान समय में, देश के नागरिकों के लिए धर्म और संस्कृति का ही कार्य माना जाना चाहिए। अतः इसके बचाव के लिए जो भी दिशानिर्देश केंद्र एवं राज्य सरकारें समय-समय पर जारी कर रहे हैं उनका पालन करना राष्ट्र धर्म के पालन की श्रेणी में माना जाना चाहिए। परंतु साथ ही, कोरोना बीमारी के प्रति लोगों के मन से भय निकालना भी अब जरूरी है। केंद्र सरकार एवं राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सुझाई गई सावधानियों का पालन करते हुए, लोग यदि घरों से बाहर निकलते हैं तो यह उनके लिए भी एक अच्छा कदम होगा क्योंकि वे लगातार पिछले चार/पाँच माह से घरों में ही बैठे हैं जिसके कारण कई लोग अब मनोवैज्ञानिक

दबाव में हैं। जीवन का तनाव, घर से बाहर निकल करए दूर किया जा सकता है। अतः अब कोरोना बीमारी से बचाव एवं पर्यटन को प्रारम्भ करने के बीच सामंजस्य बिठाना जरूरी है।

अभी पर्यटन की दृष्टि से लोगों का घरों से बाहर निकलना बहुत कम है। नागरिकों में विश्वास की भावना जगाने के लिए होटलों को सेनेटाईज सम्बंधी नियमों का अनिवार्य रूप सेए कड़ाई से पालन करना आवश्यक होना चाहिए। पर्यटन उद्योग में कुशल श्रमिकों की भी जरूरत होती है, इन्हें कार्य करने हेतु उद्योग में वापस लाया जाना चाहिए। हाल ही में केरल एवं कर्नाटक राज्यों ने पर्यटन उद्योग को पुनः प्रारम्भ करने के उद्देश्य से कुछ राहत देने की घोषणा की है। इसी प्रकार की घोषणाएँ कुछ अन्य राज्य भी शीघ्र ही कर सकते हैं। देश में अति महत्व वाले धार्मिक स्थलों को भी, केंद्र एवं राज्य सरकारों द्वारा कोरोना बीमारी के सम्बंध में घोषित किए गए नियमों के कड़ाई से पालन करने की शर्तों के साथ वापस खोला जा सकता है।

हरिद्वार, वाराणसी, वृंदावन, अयोध्या, तिरुपति बालाजी, बद्रीनाथ, केदारनाथ एवं अन्य धार्मिक महत्व वाले स्थलों को खोला जाना चाहिए जिस प्रकार वैष्णो देवी मंदिर को खोल दिया गया है। हमारे देश के पुराणों में वैसे भी धार्मिक स्थलों पर दर्शनए पूजा एवं अनुष्ठान कार्य आदि के लिए नियमों का अनुशासन के साथ पालन करने का वर्णन है। अतः कोरोना महामारी के चलते अथवा अन्यथा भी हमें हमारे धार्मिक स्थलों पर इन सभी नियमों का पालन करना ही चाहिए।

हालाँकि अब कुछ अच्छी ख़बरें भी आने लगी हैं। देश के कुछ होटलों में सप्ताह अंत के समय के लिए बुकिंग अब फुल होने लगी है। धीमे-धीमे ही सही घरेलू पर्यटन तो प्रारम्भ हो रहा है। यह अब और आगे बढ़ेगा, ऐसी उम्मीद की जा रही है। आसपास के शहरों में ऐसे कई स्थान पाए जाते हैं जहाँ सप्ताह अंत में जाया जा सकता है। ऐसे इलाकों में एवं देश के ग्रामीण इलाकों में पर्यटन की अपार

सम्भावनाएँ मौजूद हैं। अब लोग दरअसल अपने घरों से बाहर निकलना चाह रहे हैं। केंद्र सरकार एवं राज्य सरकारों द्वारा मिलकर किए जा रहे प्रयासों के कारण ऐसा महसूस होने लगा है कि देश में अब घरेलू पर्यटन तो शीघ्र ही पुनर्जीवित हो जाएगा। हाँ, विदेशी पर्यटन के पुनर्जीवित होने में अभी जरूर कुछ समय और लग सकता है।

कोरोना वायरस का अर्थव्यवस्था पर दुष्प्रभाव

कोरोना वायरस के बढ़ते संक्रमण ने सेहत के साथ-साथ जिस तरह अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए भी गंभीर संकट पैदा कर दिया है, वह एक तरह से दोहरी मुसीबत है। सरकार को लोगों की सेहत के साथ-साथ अर्थव्यवस्था को संभालने की भी चिंता करनी पड़ रही है। भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर कोरोना वायरस का दुष्प्रभाव तभी पड़ना शुरू हो गया था, जब उसका संक्रमण चीन में ही कहर बरपाए हुए था। चीन में सारी आर्थिक गतिविधियां ठप होने के कारण वहां से कच्चे माल और उपकरणों की आपूर्ति थम जाने से भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के समक्ष जो संकट पैदा हुआ था वह अब इसलिए और बढ़ गया है, क्योंकि देश में इस वायरस का संक्रमण बढ़ता जा रहा है। इसके चलते तमाम आर्थिक एवं व्यापारिक गतिविधियां सुस्त पड़ती जा रही हैं।

फौरी तौर पर भले ही एयरलाइंस, होटल और पर्यटन उद्योग प्रभावित होता हुआ दिख रहा हो, लेकिन यह लगभग तय है कि आने वाले समय में कुछ और सेक्टर संकट से घिर सकते हैं। इसकी वजह यह है कि कोरोना वायरस के संक्रमण ने पूरी दुनिया को अपनी चपेट में ले लिया है। इसी कारण दुनिया भर के शेयर बाजारों में गिरावट का सिलसिला कायम है।

निःसंदेह कच्चे तेल के दामों में कमी भारत के लिए एक राहत की बात अवश्य है, लेकिन फिलहाल इसका आकलन करना कठिन है कि इससे आर्थिक सुस्ती के नकारात्मक प्रभाव को कम करने में कितनी मदद मिलेगी? वित्त मंत्रालय को न केवल इसके लिए सक्रिय होना

होगा कि कोरोना वायरस से उपजा संकट अर्थव्यवस्था को कम से कम नुकसान पहुंचा, बल्कि यह भी देखना होगा कि आर्थिक—व्यापारिक गतिविधियों को आवश्यक प्रोत्साहन मिलता रहे। वित्त मंत्रालय के साथ—साथ रिजर्व बैंक को भी सक्रिय होना होगा। इस सबके बीच केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों को इसके लिए भी कमर कसनी होगी कि न तो आवश्यक वस्तुओं की कमी होने पाए और न ही उनके दाम बढ़ने पाएं। इसकी अनदेखी नहीं की जा सकती कि दुनिया के कुछ देशों में ऐसा होने लगा है। चूंकि अब यह कोई पहली नहीं कि अर्थव्यवस्था कुछ समय के लिए संकट से घिरेगी ही इसलिए उससे जल्द से जल्द उबरने की रणनीति बननी चाहिए।

अर्थव्यवस्था के संकट को दूर करने के लिए दूसरे देशों से भी संवाद.संपर्क तेज किया जाना चाहिए ताकि एक—दूसरे की सहायता करते हुए मुसीबत को कम किया जा सके। इसी के साथ संकट में छिपे अवसरों की भी पहचान की जानी चाहिए। ध्यान रहे हर संकट कुछ अवसर भी लेकर आता है। इसी तरह हर संकट कुछ सबक भी सिखाता है। एक सबक तो यही है कि चीन सरीखे देशों पर एक सीमा तक ही निर्भर रहा जाना चाहिए।

कोरोना वायरस के कारण भारत में पैदा हुई आर्थिक चुनौतियां

कोरोना वायरस ने न केवल भारत की बल्कि दुनिया की अर्थव्यवस्था की हालत खराब कर रखी है। विश्व बैंक की ताजा रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक कोरोना वायरस के कारण भारत की इकोनॉमी पर बड़ा असर पड़ने वाला है। कोरोना के भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि दर में भारी गिरावट आएगी।

वर्ल्ड बैंक के अनुमान के मुताबिक वित्तीय वर्ष 2019—20 में भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था की वृद्धि दर घटकर मात्र 5 प्रतिशत रह जाएगी, तो वहीं 2020—21 में तुलनात्मक आधार पर अर्थव्यवस्था की वृद्धि दर में भारी गिरावट आएगी जो घटकर मात्र 2.8 प्रतिशत रह जाएगी, रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि यह महामारी ऐसे वक्त में आई है जबकि

वित्तीय क्षेत्र पर दबाव के कारण पहले से ही भारतीय इकोनॉमी सुस्ती की मार झेल रही थी। कोरोना वायरस के कारण इसपर और दबाव बढ़ा है।

दरअसल कोरोना वायरस के कारण देशभर में लॉकडाउन है। सभी फैक्ट्री, ऑफिस, मॉल्स, व्यवसाय आदि सब बंद है। घरेलू आपूर्ति और मांग प्रभावित होने के चलते आर्थिक वृद्धि दर प्रभावित हुई है। वहीं जोखिम बढ़ने से घरेलू निवेश में सुधार में भी देरी होने की संभावना दिख रही है। ऐसे में अर्थव्यवस्था मुश्किल दौर में पहुंच सकती है। रिपोर्ट में सरकार को वित्तीय और मौद्रिक नीति के समर्थन की जरूरत पर जोर देने की सलाह दी गई है। चुनौती से निपटने के लिए भारत को इस महामारी को फैलने से रोकने के लिए जल्द से जल्द ज्यादा प्रभावी कदम उठाना होगा। साथ ही स्थानीय स्तर पर अस्थायी रोजगार सृजन कार्यक्रमों पर भी ध्यान देना होगा। विश्व बैंक ने आगाह किया है कि इस महामारी की वजह से भारत ही नहीं बल्कि समूचा दक्षिण एशिया गरीबी उन्मूलन से मिलें फायदे को गँवा सकता है। इंटरनेशनल लेबर ऑर्गनाइजेशन ने कहा था कि कोरोना वायरस सिर्फ एक वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य संकट नहीं रहा, बल्कि ये एक बड़ा लेबर मार्केट और आर्थिक संकट भी बन गया है जो लोगों को बड़े पैमाने पर प्रभावित करेगा।

दुनिया भर में बचत और राजस्व के रूप में जमा खरबो डॉलर स्वाहा हो चुका है। वैश्विक जीडीपी में रोज कमी दर्ज की जा रही है। लाखों लोग अपना रोजगार खो चुके हैं अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष ने बताया है कि 90 देश उससे मदद मांग रहे हैं। आईएलओ के अनुसार कोरोना वायरस की वजह से दुनियाभर में ढाई करोड़ नौकरियां खतरे में हैं। Covid-19 के कारण चीन से होने वाले आयात के प्रभावित होने से स्थानीय और बाहरी आपूर्ति श्रृंखला के संदर्भ में चिंताएँ बढ़ी हैं, सरकार द्वारा Covid-19 के प्रसार को रोकने के लिये लॉकडाउन और सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग (Social Distancing) जैसे प्रयासों से औद्योगिक उत्पादन प्रभावित हुआ है। लॉकडाउन के

कारण बेरोजगारी बढ़ी है, जिससे सार्वजनिक खर्च में भारी कटौती हुई है। लॉकडाउन के कारण कच्चे माल की उपलब्धताएँ उत्पादन और तैयार उत्पादों के वितरण की श्रृंखला प्रभावित हुई है, जिसे पुनः शुरू करने में कुछ समय लग सकता है। उदाहरण के लिये उत्पादन स्थगित होने के कारण मजदूरों का पलायन बढ़ा है, ऐसे में कंपनियों के लिये पुनः कुशल मजदूरों की नियुक्ति कर पूरी क्षमता के साथ उत्पादन शुरू करना एक बड़ी चुनौती होगी। जिसका प्रभाव अर्थव्यवस्था की धीमी प्रगति के रूप में देखा जा सकता है। खनन और उत्पादन जैसे अन्य प्राथमिक या द्वितीयक क्षेत्रों में गिरावट का प्रभाव सेवा क्षेत्र कंपनियों पर भी पड़ा है। जो सेक्टर इस बुरे दौर से सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित होंगे वहीं पर नौकरियों को भी सबसे ज्यादा खतरा होगा। एविएशन सेक्टर में 50 प्रतिशत वेतन कम करने की खबर तो पहले ही आ चुकी है। रेस्टोरेंट्स बंद हैं, लोग घूमने नहीं निकल रहे, नया सामान नहीं खरीद रहे लेकिन, कंपनियों को किराया, वेतन और अन्य खर्चों का भुगतान तो करना ही है। ये नुकसान झेल रहीं कंपनियां ज्यादा समय तक भार सहन नहीं कर पाएंगी और इसका सीधा असर नौकरियों पर पड़ेगा। हालांकि, सरकार ने कंपनियों से नौकरी से ना निकालने की अपील है लेकिन इसका बहुत ज्यादा असर नहीं होगा। विश्व बैंक के मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री हैंस टिमेर ने कहा कि भारत का परिदृश्य अच्छा नहीं है। टिमेर ने कहा कि यदि भारत में लॉकडाउन अटि तक समय तक जारी रहता है तो यहां आर्थिक परिणाम विश्व बैंक के अनुमान से अधिक बुरे हो सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इस चुनौती से निपटने के लिए भारत को सबसे पहले इस महामारी को और फैलने से रोकना होगा और साथ ही यह भी सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि सभी को भोजन मिल सके। लॉकडाउन का सबसे ज्यादा असर अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र पर पड़ेगा और हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था का 50 प्रतिशत जीडीपी अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र से ही आता है। ये क्षेत्र लॉकडाउन के दौरान काम नहीं कर सकता है। वो कच्चा माल नहीं खरीद सकते, बनाया हुआ माल बाजार में नहीं बेच सकते तो उनकी कमाई बंद ही हो जाएगी।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय वित्तीय संस्था आईएमएफ ने एक टास्क फोर्स का गठन किया है। इस टास्क फोर्स का उद्देश्य है कि बिगड़ती हुयी अर्थव्यवस्था को कैसे पटरी पर लाया जाए। इस टास्क फोर्स में आरबीआई के पूर्व गवर्नर रघुराम राजन भी हैं। रघुनाथ राजन पहले भी आईएमएफ के साथ रह चुके हैं और वे एक काबिल अर्थ विशेषज्ञ है। भारत को भी चाहिए कि आर्थिकी को संभालने के लिए भारत में प्रतिभाशाली अर्थशास्त्रियों की एक कमेटी का गठन किया जाए, जिसमें प्रोफेशनल हों और वे भारतीय चुनौतियों के अनुसार देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को पटरी पर लाने के लिए चरणबद्ध तरीके से नीतिगत समाधान सरकार के सामने रखें। पिछले साल के ही आर्थिकी सूचकांक को देखें तो ऑटोमोबाइल सेक्टर, रियल स्टेट, लघु उद्योग समेत तमाम असंगठित क्षेत्र में सुस्ती छाई हुई थी।

बैंक एनपीए की समस्या से अब तक निपट रहे हैं। हालांकि, सरकार निवेश के जरिए नियमों में राहत और आर्थिक मदद देकर अर्थव्यवस्था को रफ्तार देने की कोशिश कर रही थी पर बहुत अटि तक सफलता सरकार को नहीं मिली है। इस बीच कोरोना वायरस के कारण पैदा हुए हालात ने जैसे अर्थव्यवस्था का चक्का जाम कर दिया है। न तो कहीं उत्पादन है और न मांग, लोग घरों में हैं और कल कारखानों तथा दुकानों पर ताले लगे हुए हैं। यह स्थिति अभी 3 मई तक तो रहेगी ही। कोरोना से लड़ाई अब दोहरी है। ज्यादातर देश सेहत और अर्थव्यवस्थाएँ दोनों का विनाश सीमित करने में जुटे हैं। भारत में संक्रमण रोकने की कवायद जोर पकड़ रही है लेकिन आर्थिक राहत में भारत पिछड़ गया है।

अमेरिका को मंदी से बचाने के लिए डोनाल्ड ट्रंप, अपनी संसद दो ट्रिलियन डॉलर के पैकेज पर मना रहे हैं। अमेरिकियों को एक मुश्त 3.000 डॉलर (करीब 2.25 लाख रुपए) दिए जाने का प्रस्ताव है। केंद्रीय बैंक (फेडरल रिजर्व) ब्याज दरें शून्य करते हुए बाजार में सस्ती पूंजी (4 ट्रिलियन डॉलर तक छोड़ने की तैयारी) का पाइप खोल दिया है।

ब्रिटेन की सरकार टैक्स रियायतों, कारोबारों को सस्ता कर्जए तरह-तरह के अनुदान सहित 400 अरब डॉलर का पैकेज लाई है जो देश के जीडीपी के 15 फीसद बराबर हैं। बैंक ऑफ इंग्लैंड ब्याज दरें घटाकर बाजार में पूंजी झोंक रहा है। कोरोना से बुरी तरह तबाह इटली की सरकार ने 28 अरब डॉलर का पैकेज घोषित किया है, जिसमें विमान सेवा एलिटालिया का राष्ट्रीयकरण शामिल है। इमैनुअल मैकरां के फ्रांस का कोरोना राहत पैकेज करीब 50 अरब डॉलर (जीडीपी का 2 फीसद) का है। स्पेन का 220 अरब डॉलर, स्वीडन 30 अरब डॉलर, ऑस्ट्रेलिया 66 अरब डॉलर और न्यूजीलैंड का पैकेज 12 अरब डॉलर (जीडीपी का 4 फीसदी) का है। सिंगापुर अपनी 56 लाख की आबादी के लिए 60 अरब डॉलर का पैकेज लाया है। रिकार्ड घाटे, राजस्व में कमी के कारण भारत का राहत पैकेज इसके जीडीपी की तुलना में केवल 0.8 फीसदी है जबकि अन्य देश अपने जीडीपी का 4 से 11 प्रतिशत के बराबर पैकेज लाए हैं। भारत सरकार का करीब 1.7 लाख करोड़ रुपये का पैकेज कोरोना प्रभावितों को सांकेतिक मदद पर केंद्रित है। जिसमें सस्ता अनाज प्रमुख है। जिसके लिए पर्याप्त भंडार है। रबी की खरीद से नया अनाज आ जाएगा, किसान सहायता निधि और अन्य नकद भुगतान स्कीमों की किश्तें जल्दी जारी होंगी। इसके लिए बजट में आवंटन हो चुका है। उज्जवला के तहत मुफ्त एलपीजी सिलेंडर के लिए तेल कंपनियों को सब्सिडी भुगतान रोका जाएगा, भारत में भविष्य निधि पीएफ का संग्रह करीब 11 लाख करोड़ रुपये का है, इससे एडवांस लेने की छूट और छोटी कंपनियों में नियोक्ताओं के अंशदान को तीन माह के टालने के लिए इस निधि का भरपूर इस्तेमाल होगा। सरकार के मुकाबले रिजर्व बैंक ने ज्यादा हिम्मत दिखाई है। सभी बैंकों से सभी कर्जों (हाउसिंग, कार, क्रेडिट कार्ड सहित) पर तीन माह तक किश्तों का भुगतान टालने को कहा है। ब्याज दरों में अभूतपूर्व कमी की है और वित्तीय तंत्र में करीब 3.74 लाख करोड़ की पूंजी बढ़ाई है ताकि कर्ज की कमी न रहे। अन्य देशों की तरह भारत सरकार कोरोना के

मारे मजदूरों, छोटे कारोबारियों, नौकरियां गंवाने वालों को सरकार कोई नई सीधी मदद नहीं दे सकी है। भविष्यनिधि से मिल रही रियायतों के लाभ केवल 15.16 फीसदी प्रतिष्ठानों को मिलेंगा।

“हमारे देश में छोटे-छोटे कारखाने और लघु उद्योगों की बहुत बड़ी संख्या है। उन्हें नगदी की समस्या हो जाएगी क्योंकि उनकी कमाई नहीं होगी। ये लोग बैंक के पास भी नहीं जा पाते हैं इसलिए ऊंचे ब्याज पर कर्ज ले लेते हैं और फिर कर्जजाल में फंस जाते हैं।”

अनौपचारिक क्षेत्रों में फेरी वाले, विक्रेता, कलाकार, लघु उद्योग और सीमापार व्यापार शामिल हैं। इस वर्ग से सरकार के पास टैक्स नहीं आता, लॉकडाउन और कोरोना वायरस के इस पूरे दौर में सबसे ज्यादा असर एविएशन, पर्यटन, होटल सेक्टर पर पड़ने वाला है। यह स्थिति सरकार के लिए चुनौतीपूर्ण है अचानक ही उसके सामने एक विशाल समस्या आ खड़ी हुई है। 2008 के दौर में कुछ कंपनियों को आर्थिक मदद देकर संभाला गया। लेकिन, आज अगर सरकार ऋण दे तो उसे सभी को देना पड़ेगा। हर सेक्टर में उत्पादन और खरीदारी प्रभावित हुई है, कोरोना वायरस का असर पूरे दुनिया पर पड़ा है। चीन और अमरीका जैसे बड़े देश और मजबूत अर्थव्यवस्थाएं इसके सामने लाचार हो गए हैं। इससे भारत में विदेशी निवेश के जरिए अर्थव्यवस्था सुदृढ़ करने की कोशिशों को भी धक्का पहुंचेगा। विदेशी कंपनियों के पास भी पैसा नहीं होगा तो वो निवेश में रूचि नहीं दिखाएंगी, हालांकि, जानकारों का कहना है कि अर्थव्यवस्था पर इन स्थितियों का कितना गहरा असर पड़ेगा ये दो बातों पर निर्भर करेगा। एक तो ये कि आने वाले वक्त में कोरोना वायरस की समस्या भारत में कितनी गंभीर होती है और दूसरा कि कब तक इस पर काबू पाया जाता है।

संदर्भ सूची

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कोविड-19 और पर्यटन क्षेत्र

डॉ. विपिन रॉय

कोरोना वायरस महामारी ने घरेलू पर्यटन और यात्रा क्षेत्र की पूरी आपूर्ति श्रृंखला की कमर तोड़ कर रख दी है। भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ और आतिथ्य परामर्श कंपनी होटेलिवाटे (Hotelivate) की एक रपट के मुताबिक इस संकट से क्षेत्र को पांच लाख करोड़ रुपये यानी 65.57 अरब डॉलर के नुकसान का अनुमान है। रपट में कहा गया है कि सिर्फ संगठित पर्यटन क्षेत्र को ही इससे 25 अरब डॉलर का नुकसान होने की संभावना है। यह आंकड़े चेताने वाले हैं और उद्योग को अपना अस्तित्व बचाने के लिए तत्काल राहत की जरूरत है।

रपट के अनुसार, “भारतीय पर्यटन क्षेत्र के सामने यह सबसे बड़े संकटों में से एक है। इसने सभी श्रेणियों घरेलू अंतरदेशीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्यटन को प्रभावित किया है। लकजरी, साहसिक, विरासत, क्रूज, कॉरपोरेट इत्यादि सभी तरह के पर्यटन पर असर पड़ा है।” पहले अक्टूबर तक ही लॉकडाउन और उससे बाजार में आयी नरमी के असर रहने का अनुमान था। लेकिन अब आंकड़े कुछ और दर्शाते हैं। मौजूदा रुख के हिसाब से अगले साल की शुरुआत तक होटलों (Hotels) में लगभग 30 प्रतिशत ही कमरे भरना शुरू होंगे। इससे होटलों की आय में 80 से 85 प्रतिशत तक कमी आएगी।

उद्योग को करीब पांच लाख करोड़ रुपये के नुकसान का अनुमान

रपट के मुताबिक, “कोरोना वायरस महामारी ने भारतीय यात्रा और पर्यटन उद्योग की कमर तोड़ दी है। इसका असर पूरी आपूर्ति श्रृंखला पर पड़ा है। इससे उद्योग को करीब पांच लाख करोड़ रुपये यानी 65.57 अरब डॉलर के नुकसान का अनुमान है। इसमें अकेले संगठित पर्यटन उद्योग को ही 25 अरब डॉलर के नुकसान की

संभावना है।”

अध्ययन के मुताबिक इस साज जनवरी में सबसे व्यस्त समय में होटलों में 80 प्रतिशत कमरे भरे थे। फरवरी में यह घटकर 70 प्रतिशत, मार्च में 45 प्रतिशत और अप्रैल में सात प्रतिशत पर आ गया। मई, जून, जुलाई और अगस्त में यह दर क्रमशः 10 प्रतिशत, 12 प्रतिशत, 15 प्रतिशत और 22 प्रतिशत रही। रपट में इसके सितंबर में बढ़कर 25 प्रतिशत, अक्टूबर में 28 प्रतिशत, नवंबर में 30 प्रतिशत और दिसंबर में 35 प्रतिशत पर पहुंचने का अनुमान लगाया गया है।

कोरोना वायरस अंटार्कटिका को छोड़कर तकरीबन पूरी दुनिया में फैल चुका है। कोरोना की दहशत वास्तव में टूर एंड ट्रेवल सेक्टर को नुकसान पहुंचाने लगा है। इस घटनाक्रम से वाकिफ टूरिज्म मंत्रालय के एक एग्जिक्यूटिव ने कहा कि ऐसी हालत सिर्फ भारत में नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि कोरोना की वजह से पूरी दुनिया में लोग डरे हुए हैं। उन्होंने कहा “वास्तव में लोग अब घर से बाहर ही नहीं निकलना चाह रहे हैं। अगर पूरी अर्थव्यवस्था इसकी चपेट में आ रही है तो टूरिज्म सेक्टर पर भी इसका असर जरूर पड़ेगा।” भारत ने चीन के लोगों के साथ ही वहां जाने वाले अन्य लोगों का वीजा भी रद्द करने का फैसला किया है। इसके साथ ही भारत ने कोरोना से प्रभावित कई देशों की यात्रा पर पाबंदी लगाई है या एडवाइजरी जारी की है।

यूरोप और अमेरिका में कोरोना से संक्रमण के नए मामले सामने आने के बाद अब सैर सपाटे और कारोबारी यात्रा, दोनों पर असर पड़ा है। वास्तव में कोरोना के डर की वजह से भारत से बाहर जाने और भारत आने। दोनों तरह की यात्रा पर असर पड़ा है। लोग इस बात की वजह से भी कहीं आने-जाने से बच रहे हैं कि अगर उन्होंने किसी कोरोना प्रभावित इलाके का दौरा किया या वायरस की चपेट में आ गये तो उन्हें लंबे समय तक निगरानी में रहना पड़ेगा। इंडियन एसोसियेशन ऑफ टूर ऑपरेटर्स के प्रेसिडेंट प्रणब सरकार ने कहा, “कुछ समय तक पूरी दुनिया में ट्रेवलिंग बंद रह सकती है। भारत

सरकार ने कुछ देशों के लिए वीजा निलंबित कर दिया है। हम मुश्किल दौर से गुजर रहे हैं और होटल एवं लग्जरी ट्रेन इन यात्रियों को रिफंड नहीं देना चाह रही हैं। देश की छवि पैसे कमाने से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण होनी चाहिए।" थॉमस कुक इंडिया में प्रेसिडेंट राजीव काले ने कहा, "कंपनी स्वास्थ्य प्रशासन ए टूरिज्म बोर्ड ए एयरलाइन्स और होटल के साथ हालात पर नजर बनाये हुए है। अनुभवी विशेषज्ञों की सलाह के आधार पर फैसला लेना उद्योग और ग्राहक, दोनों के हित में है।"

संयुक्त राष्ट्र की कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑन ट्रेड एंड डेवलपमेंट (UNCTAD) ने ख़बर दी है कि कोरोना वायरस से प्रभावित दुनिया की 15 सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में से एक भारत भी है।

चीन में उत्पादन में आई कमी का असर भारत से व्यापार पर भी पड़ा है और इससे भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था को करीब 34.8 करोड़ डॉलर तक का नुकसान उठाना पड़ सकता है।

यूरोप के आर्थिक सहयोग और विकास संगठन यानी ओईसीडी ने भी 2020-21 में भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था के विकास की गति का पूर्वानुमान 1.1 प्रतिशत घटा दिया है।

ओईसीडी ने पहले अनुमान लगाया था कि भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था की विकास दर 6.2 प्रतिशत रहेगी लेकिन अब उसने इसे कम करके 5.1 प्रतिशत कर दिया है। भारत सरकार, देश की जनता को ये भरोसा दिला रही है कि उन्हें घबराने की कोई जरूरत नहीं।

हालांकि विपक्षी दलों ने कोरोना वायरस के भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर प्रभाव के बारे में सरकार से सवाल पूछने शुरू कर दिए हैं।

तेलुगू देशम पार्टी (TDP) के सांसद जयादेव गल्ला ने इस बारे में अपनी चिंता लोकसभा में जताई थी। गल्ला ने कहा था, "हमें ये बात समझनी होगी कि कोरोना वायरस से हमारे देश की अर्थव्यवस्था पर क्या असर पड़ेगा।"

किन सेक्टरों पर सबसे ज्यादा असर पड़ा दवा कंपनियाँ

ये केवल फार्मा कंपनियों की आमदनी का मामला नहीं है। किसी भी बुरे प्रभाव की एक मानवीय कीमत भी होती है। मेडिकल स्टोर में दवाओं की कमी हो रही है। तमाम बड़े शहरों में केमिस्ट, सैनिटाइजर और मास्क के ऑर्डर तो दे रहे हैं लेकिन उन्हें एक हफ्ते से माल की डिलिवरी नहीं मिल पा रही है।

अब जब बहुत से भारतीय अपने यहां दवाएं, सैनिटाइजर और मास्क जमा कर रहे हैं, तो ये सामान अधिकतम खुदरा मूल्य से भी अधिक दाम पर बिक रहे हैं।



मुंबई के मलाड इलाके में स्थित जे के मेडिकल के हेमंत येवाले ने बीबीसी को बताया “हमने एन-95 मास्क के ऑर्डर पिछले हफ्ते ही दिए थे लेकिन हमें वो मास्क अब तक नहीं मिल सके हैं, यही हाल सैनिटाइजर्स का है। हमारे पास छोटी बोतलें नहीं हैं। इस हफ्ते सैनिटाइजर्स और मास्क की मांग और बढ़ गई है और मुझे लगता है कि आने वाले समय में ये मांग और बढ़ेगी।”

मुंबई के खार इलाके में स्थित नोबल प्लस फार्मसी के बिछेंद्र यादव भी हमें यही बातें बताते हैं। बिछेंद्र यादव कहते हैं, “हमारे पास मास्क तो हैं लेकिन इन पर ये नहीं लिखा है कि ये एन-95 मास्क हैं। फिर भी लोग इन्हें खरीद रहे हैं। हमारे पास सैनिटाइजर्स की 500 मिलीलीटर की बोतलें हैं लेकिन, नया स्टॉक आ नहीं रहा है।

हमने बहुत.सा स्टॉक बेच दिया है। फिर भीए लोगों की मांग कम नहीं हो रही है।”

मुंबई के ही धवल जैन ने शुक्रवार को दोपहर बाद का पूरा समय बांद्रा इलाके में स्थित तमाम मेडिकल स्टोर्स में मास्क तलाशने में ही खर्च किया।

धवल कहते हैं, “मैं आम तौर पर खुद को प्रदूषण से बचाने के लिए मास्क पहनता हूं। लेकिन अब वही मास्क मुझे तीन गुनी ज्यादा कीमत पर मिल रहे हैं। मैं ये कीमत भी देने को तैयार हूं, पर मुझे वो मास्क नहीं मिल रहे हैं। किसी मेडिकल स्टोर पर मास्क है ही नहीं। मैंने एन-95 मास्क का ऑर्डर ऑनलाइन दिया था। उन्होंने कहा था कि ये सोमवार को पहुंचेगा लेकिन अब ये हफ्ता खत्म होने को है और मुझे वो मास्क अब तक नहीं मिला है।”

थोक ऑनलाइन कारोबार की सबसे बड़ी भारतीय कंपनी ट्रेड इंडिया डॉट कॉम (TradeIndia.com) के अनुसार पिछले तीन महीनों में सैनिटाइजर और मास्क की मांग में 316 प्रतिशत का इजाफा हो गया है। ट्रेड इंडिया के सीओओ संदीप छेत्री ने बीबीसी को बताया, “भारत के मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग उद्योग ने इस मांग को पूरा करने के लिए अपना उत्पादन कई गुना बढ़ा दिया है। ऐसे अन्य निजी सुरक्षात्मक उत्पादों की मांग भारत में भी बढ़ रही है और बाकी दुनिया में भी, तो मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग सेक्टर इसका फायदा उठाने की कोशिश कर रहा है।”

भारत, जेनेरिक दवाओं का दुनिया भर में सबसे बड़ा सप्लायर है। चीन में उत्पादन बंद होने से भारत ने ऐहतियाती कदम उठाते हुए कुछ दवाओं के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है ताकि भारत को अपनी जरूरत पूरी करने में कोई कमी न हो।

इसीलिए पैरासेटामॉल ए विटामिन B1, B6 और B12 के साथ-साथ अन्य एपीआई और फॉर्मूलों की दवाओं के निर्यात पर पाबंदियां लगाई गई हैं।

केंद्रीय जहाजरानी, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री मनसुख मंडाविया ने कहा, “देश में दवाओं की कमी होने से रोकने के लिए एक टास्क फोर्स बनाने का सुझाव दिया गया है। मंत्रियों का एक स्थायी समूह लगातार स्थितियों का आकलन कर रहा है। हम एक्टिव फार्मास्यूटिकल इन्प्रेडिएंट्स (API) और इंटरमीडियरी का निर्यात भी करते हैं और आयात भी।”

“अगर निर्यात जारी रहता है, तो कुछ एपीआई के मामलों में भविष्य में भारत में संकट खड़ा होने की आशंका है। इसीलिए हमने थोड़े समय के लिए ऐसे एपीआई के निर्यात पर पाबंदियां लगाई हैं जो कोरोना वायरस के इलाज में काम आ सकती हैं।”

वित्तीय वर्ष 2019 में भारत ने अपने कुल एपीआई का 68 प्रतिशत हिस्सा चीन से आयात किया था।

1. **कोरोना वायरस:** सऊदी से भारत लौटे व्यक्ति की मौत।
2. क्या लहसुन खाने से खत्म हो जाता है कोरोना वायरस।

पर्यटन उद्योग

1. कोरोना वायरस के प्रकोप के चलते, जब से आने-जाने में पाबंदियां लगी हैं, एहतियात के लिए दिशा-निर्देश और एडवाइजरी जारी की गई हैं, तब से अश्विनी कक्कड़ का फोन बजना बंद नहीं हुआ है।
2. उन्हें लगातार कॉर्पोरेट ग्राहकों और व्यक्तिगत कस्टरमर के फोन आ रहे हैं। फोन करने वाले या तो अपना सफर रद्द करना चाहते हैं या फिर आगे के लिए स्थगित करना चाहते हैं।
3. अश्विनी कक्कड़ पिछले तीस बरस से पर्यटन के कारोबार में हैं। वो कहते हैं कि उन्होंने कभी भी अपने कारोबार में इतना बुरा वक्त नहीं देखा।
4. वो बताते हैं, “मैंने अपनी जिंदगी में इससे बड़ी मेडिकल इमरजेंसी अब तक नहीं देखी। इसके आगे सार्स (SARS), मार्स (MARS) और स्वाइन फ्लू का संकट कुछ भी नहीं है। जितना

बुरा असर कोरोना वायरस का हुआ है, उतना किसी बीमारी के प्रकोप से नहीं हुआ। बाहर जाने वाले कम से कम 20 प्रतिशत टूर या तो कैंसिल कर दिए गए हैं या फिर आगे के लिए टाल दिए गए हैं। आने वाले तीन महीनों में 30 फीसद कॉरपोरेट यात्राओं पर इसका प्रभाव पड़ना तय है। इनमें से अधिकतर या तो अपनी यात्राएं रद्द कर देंगे, या अभी स्थगित कर देंगे। इसके बाद हमें और भी कोशिशें करनी पड़ेंगी।”

5. अश्विनी कक्कड़ ने ये भी कहा, “भारत आने वाले पर्यटकों की यात्राओं का अनुमान लगाना भी बहुत मुश्किल है। क्योंकि सरकार हर रोज नई नीति की घोषणा कर रही है और हमें पता नहीं है कि आगे किन और देशों के नागरिकों के भारत आने पर प्रतिबंध लगाया जा सकता है।”
6. स्वास्थ्यकर्मी पर्यटकों को कोरोना वायरस से बचाव के तरीकों के बारे में बता रहे हैं।
7. एहतियात के तौर पर सरकार ने कोरिया और इटली से आने वाले लोगों को कहा है कि वो अपनी यहां कि आधिकारिक लैब से इस बात का प्रमाणपत्र लेकर आए कि वो कोरोना वायरस से संक्रमित नहीं हैं।
8. स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी एक प्रेस रिलीज के अनुसार, “इटली, ईरान, दक्षिण कोरिया और जापान के नागरिकों को जो भी वीजा और ई.वीजा 3 मार्च 2020 या उससे पहले जारी किए गए हैं और जिन्होंने अभी भारत में प्रवेश नहीं किया है, वो सभी वीजा तत्काल प्रभाव से निलंबित किए जाते हैं। सरकार ने नागरिकों को ये भी सलाह दी है कि वो चीन, इटली, ईरान, रिपब्लिक ऑफ कोरिया, जापान, फ्रांस, स्पेन और जर्मनी की यात्रा तब तक न करें, जब तक ये बहुत जरूरी न हो।”
9. सरकार नियमित रूप से यात्रा से जुड़े दिशा-निर्देश अपडेट कर रही है। इससे सफर पर निकलने वालों के बीच अनिश्चितता का माहौल है।

10. अश्विनी कक्कड़ ने बतायाए “होटलों के कमरों की ऑक्यूपैंसी में 20 से 90 प्रतिशत तक की गिरावट आ गई है। दुनिया भर में बहुत से अंतरराष्ट्रीय आयोजन रद्द किए जा रहे हैं। सबसे बुरा असर तो डेस्टिनेशन वेडिंग पर पड़ा है।”



11. हाल ही में शादी करने वाली पीआर अधिकारी अनु गुप्ता, लंबे हनीमून पर थाईलैंड जाने की योजना बना रही थीं लेकिन वायरस के प्रकोप के चलते उन्हें अपनी योजना रद्द करनी पड़ी।
12. अनु कहती हैं, “मेरी ये पहली विदेश यात्रा होती। हमने सभी टिकट बुक कर लिए थे। होटल में बुकिंग कर ली थी। घूमने जाने का प्लान बना लिया था। लेकिन अब हम नहीं जा सकते। और मुझे तो ये भी नहीं पता कि हमारा पैसा वापस भी आएगा या नहीं।”
13. ट्रैवेल ऐंड टूरिज्म काउंसिल और ऑक्सफोर्ड इकोनॉमिक्सए विश्व के पर्यटन उद्योग पर कोरोना वायरस के प्रभाव का अध्ययन कर रहे हैं। उनके शुरुआती आकलन इशारा करते हैं कि कोरोना वायरस की महामारी से दुनिया के पर्यटन उद्योग को करीब 22 अरब डॉलर का नुकसान होगा।
14. इंटरनेशनल एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन (IATA) का अनुमान है कि विमानन उद्योग को यात्रियों से होने वाले कारोबार में कम से कम 63 अरब डॉलर का नुकसान हो सकता है। इस अनुमान में माल दुलाई के व्यापार को होने वाला नुकसान शामिल नहीं

है।

15. पर्यटन उद्योग पर कोरोना वायरस का जो एक और बुरा प्रभाव पड़ रहा है, वो है कि वायरस के संक्रमण के डर से बहुत से आयोजन रद्द हो रहे हैं, बहुत से जश्न टाले जा रहे हैं। बाहर से आने वाले यात्री और यहां से बाहर जाने वाले लोगए दोनों ही अपनी यात्राएं रद्द कर रहे हैं।
16. सीएआईटी (CAIT) के महासचिव प्रवीण खंडेलवाल ने मीडिया को जारी एक बयान में कहा, “अलग-अलग व्यापार संगठनों द्वारा देश भर में आयोजित किए जाने वाले करीब 10 हजार कार्यक्रम रद्द कर दिए गए हैं।”



ऑटोमोबाइल उद्योग

1. सोसाइटी ऑफ इंडियन ऑटोमोबाइल मैनुफैक्चरर्स (SIAM) का कहना है कि भारत के ऑटोमोबाइल उद्योग में करीब 3.7 करोड़ लोग काम करते हैं। भारत में ऑटो उद्योग पहले से ही आर्थिक सुस्ती का शिकार था। अब चीन में मंदी के कारण भारत के ऑटो उद्योग को भी कल-पुर्जों की किल्लत हो रही है।
2. निर्मल गर्ग, पश्चिम बंगाल में एक ऑटो डीलर हैं। राज्य भर में उनके चार शोरूम हैं। निर्मल गर्ग कहते हैं, “हर गुजरते दिन के साथ हालत बिगड़ती ही जा रही है। हम पहले ही मंदी के दौर से गुजर रहे थे और अब तो लोग भविष्य को लेकर और

भी आशंकित हैं। इसीलिए वो एक नई कार में पैसा नहीं लगाना चाहते हैं।”



3. ऑटोमोटिव कम्पोनेंट मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया के महानिदेशक विनी मेहता ने बीबीसी को बताया कि अभी तो घबराहट की स्थिति नहीं है।
4. विनी मेहता कहते हैं, “हम अभी तो घबराहट के शिकार नहीं हैं लेकिन चिंतित जरूर हैं। बाजार के बड़े खिलाड़ियों ने हमें बताया है कि उनके पास अभी मार्च तक का स्टॉक है। अगर अप्रैल में चीन से सामान की सप्लाई नहीं शुरू होती, तो हालात चिंताजनक हो सकते हैं। तब हमें स्थानीय स्तर पर अपने लिए नए विकल्प तलाशने शुरू करने होंगे।”
5. ऑटो उद्योग की कई बड़ी कंपनियों ने कहा है कि उन्हें कल-पुर्जों की आपूर्ति में परेशानी उठानी पड़ रही है। टाटा मोटर्स, टीवीएस मोटर्स, हीरो मोटर कॉर्प और बजाज ऑटो ने कहा है कि वो कोरोना वायरस के प्रभावों पर अपनी नजर बनाए हुए हैं।

जूलरी कारोबार पर प्रभाव

1. एक और उद्योग जो कोरोना वायरस के प्रकोप से प्रभावित है, वो है जवाहरात और जूलरी का कारोबार। कोरोना वायरस से इस सेक्टर को करीब सवा अरब डॉलर का नुकसान होने की आशंका है।

2. भारत के तराशे और पॉलिश किए हुए हीरों के निर्यात के सबसे बड़े केंद्र चीन और हॉन्ग कॉन्ग हैं और इन दोनों ही जगहों पर वायरस का बहुत बुरा असर पड़ा है।
3. कीर्ति शाह, सूरत स्थित हीरा तराशने वाली कंपनी, 'नेकलेस डायमंड' के संस्थापक हैं।
4. कीर्ति शाह ने बीबीसी को बताया, 'हमारे पास ऐसे बहुत से छोटे-मोटे कारोबारी हैं, जो हीरे और जवाहरात तराश कर हमें देते हैं और हम उन्हें भुगतान करते हैं। हमें चीन और हॉन्ग-कॉन्ग से कोई भुगतान नहीं मिल रहा है। हम इन जगहों पर अपने ग्राहकों से संपर्क करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। ये बहुत बड़ी चुनौती है। हम अपने छोटे सप्लायर्स को भुगतान नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। दोनों ही तरफ पैसा अटका हुआ है।'
5. कीर्ति शाह ने कहा कि कारोबारियों के पास अपने कर्मचारियों को देने के लिए भी बहुत पैसा नहीं है। अगर बाजार के ऐसे ही हालात रहे, तो उनके लिए धंधा करना बहुत मुश्किल होगा।
6. इसी तरह जेम ऐंड जूलरी एक्सपोर्ट प्रमोशन काउंसिल (GJEPC) के उपाध्यक्ष कॉलिन शाह ने बीबीसी को बताया, "इन परिस्थितियों के चलते भारत के हीरे और जवाहरात के पूरे उद्योग को एक अरब डॉलर का और भी घाटा उठाना पड़ सकता है क्योंकि इनके निर्यात के प्रमुख केंद्र वायरस के प्रकोप के शिकार हैं।"

संदर्भ ग्रंथ पुस्तकें

1. बीबीसी हिन्दी के एंड्रॉएड ऐप
2. फेसबुक
3. ट्विटर
4. इंस्टाग्राम
5. यूट्यूब

—XXXX—

भारतीय पर्यटन क्षेत्र पर कोविड-19 से प्रभाव

डॉ. शिल्पा शर्मा

कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण पिक लोगों की जान पर ही खतरा नहीं पड़ा है। बल्कि इसकी वजह से उद्योग पर आर्थिक संकट पैदा हो गया है। अकेले पर्यटन उद्योग से जुड़े करीब 3.8 करोड़ लोगों की नौकरी जाने की आशंका भी गहरा रही है। भारत भी कोरोना वायरस से अछूता नहीं रहा है। इस वायरस ने हास्पिटैलिटी से जुड़े उद्योग खास कर टूर एवं ट्रेवल, होटल पर अपना गहरा असर डाला है। इन तीनों ही सेक्टर पर मंदी छा गयी है, कर्मचार की छंटनी का डर सताने लगा है।

कोरोना वायरस के चलते पर्यटन उद्योग से जुड़े होटल, ट्रेवल एजेंट, पर्यटन सेवा कम्पनियां, रेस्तरां, परिवारिक मनोरंजन पार्क विरासत स्थल, क्रूज, कारपोरेट पर्यटन और साहसिक पर्यटन इत्यादि उद्योग इससे प्रभावित हो रहे हैं।

कोरोना महामारी के चलते घरेलू यात्रा और पर्यटन उद्योग को हजारों करोड़ों उद्योगों को नुकसान होने की अशंका है। भारतीय उद्योग संघ के अनुसार यह भारतीय पर्यटन उद्योगों के लिए सबसे बुरे संकट में से एक है। इसके घरेलू पर्यटन के साथ-साथ पर्यटन के लिए विदेश जाने वाले लोग भी प्रभावित हुए हैं उसमें कुल मिलाकर घरेलू एवं विदेशी पर्यटन बाजार पर असर पड़ा है। कोविड-19 का होटल एवं टूरिज्म इन्डस्ट्री पर सबसे ज्यादा असर पड़ा है। वैश्विक महामारी के चलते ट्रेवल, होटल, रेस्तरां सब कुछ बंद है। टूरिज्म इन्डस्ट्री को अब तक का सबसे खराब दौर से गुजरना पड़ रहा है सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग के चलते लंबे समय तक लोग यात्रा करने से बचेंगे और घूमने के बजाय घर पर रहने पर जोर देंगे ये सब पर्यटन उद्योग के लिए अच्छे संकेत नहीं है।

कोविड-19 महामारी निरंतर तेज गति से बढ़ती जा रही है और

इसको खत्म करने के लिए अभी तक कोई कारगर वैक्सीन या दवा देया में नहीं बन सकी है। जिससे यह संकेत मिल रहा है कि यह महामारी जल्द खत्म होने वाली नहीं है।

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Dr. Ganesh Singh Rathore

Dr. Ganesh Singh Rathore (Birth- 01 July 1975) is Head, Department of Commerce, Government College Saikheda, Narshinghpur (M.P.) He did his M.Com., M.A. Economics, M.A. Sociology, B.Ed,L.L.B. and M.B.A. (Finance). He has been also awarded Ph.D. in Applied Economics in 2014. Dr. Rathore Contributing for the development of Higher Education from Last 19 Years. He has got two achievements for Best NSS Programme Officer Award at Rani Durgavati University Jabalpur and Passed in State Eligibility Test. He has published 03 books. He has Conducted One National Webinar and One International Webinar. He has also presented research papers in more than 25 deferent national levels and published 18 research papers at National level and 02 research papers at International

Dr. Harshit Dwivedi

Dr. Harshit Dwivedi (Birth-Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, 1984) is Head, Department of Economics, government College Saikheda, Narshinghpur (M.P.). He did his M.A. (Economics) in 2008 and Economics and Industrial Economics. He has been also awarded Ph.D. in Economics in 2016. Dr. Dwivedi Contributing for the development of Higher Education from Last 11 years. He completed on Minor Research project funded by UGC, Bhopal and he has got fellowship in Ph.D. funded by ICSSR, New Delhi. He has got two awards for all India Conference of IEA. He has published more than 45 Research Paper in various national and international conferences or journals and he has published 14 books. He has conducted on national webinar and one international webinar. He has guided many students in projects at graduate level. He is life member of many societies, i.e. IEA, ICA, MPEA, JMA, SAMA and IAA.



ADITI PUBLICATION

Near Ice Factory, Opp. Shakti Sound, Service Gali, Kushalpur, Raipur (C.G.)

Mob. 91 94252 10308, E-mail:shodhsamagam1@gmail.com, www.shodhsamagam.com



₹ 199