Corona Thwack: Socio-Economic Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic in India



Anuradha Bhattacharjee

Abstract The disruptive corona pandemic caused India to witness a devastating crisis common to the whole world. Earth turned into a "global village" (McLuhan in Understanding Media—The Extensions of Man, McGraw Hill, New York, 1964) where each and every person of each and every community and locality strived towards a common attack of the infectious disease Covid-19. It has been haunting India since January 2020 and its turbulent tremors led to a massive acquisition of the virus with lakhs of people becoming contagion to it and thousands dying. This phenomenon came as a blow towards the social and economic impetus of India. Covid-19s colossal wreck paved towards lockdown of the entire nation which, in turn, rendered a severe loss worth billions of earnings of the government, along with, the impairment towards employment, production process, cultivation, social order and many other national, economic and societal issues. The present study is an attempt towards a discourse analysis of the socio-economic impact of the common corona culture caused by coronavirus on India.

Keywords Corona culture · Impact · Socio-economic

1 Introduction

Corona is on earth. The new corona culture has engulfed the entire world, and, even, India could not restrict itself from its claw. The vibration of this infectious disease has made itself felt throughout the masses irrespective of sex, caste, creed, race and community. Coronavirus has forced people to be locked indoors and a new stigma has been set up amidst society.

In today's 'mechanical age', there is the extension of the methods of knowing of the human beings. This process has led to the diminishing of space and time, and the extension of technology has increased the vibes of the sense of responsibility towards humans of the whole world [1]. In such an advanced electric age, it is hard to grasp

A. Bhattacharjee (⋈)

as to how a virus has created such a pandemic throughout, where an anti-corona environment can be in the extended hands of humans.

The acceleration of the novel coronavirus reportedly originated from the Wuhan city of China which spread like a wildfire and the World Health Organisation considered the situation and declared it as a global pandemic. SARS-COV-2, a type of virus, is the cause of this disease, which has infected around 2,164,111 people and caused the death of 146,198 people of around two hundred nations of the world [2]. Some have claimed the bats to be responsible in spreading the virus through human consumption of it. This pandemic has put the entire humanity to danger and even the big economies are suffering a great loss of their resources [3]. This paper is a discursive look at the social and economic impact brought about by this pandemic in India.

1.1 Coronavirus: A Bird's Eye View

'Corona' is a Latin term which means 'crown' coined by the researchers Almeida and Tyrell and which has the imagery look of a solar corona [4]. The coronavirus is the largest RNA genome which can cause respiratory disease to mammals, birds and humans. SARS, COVID-19 are its harmful forms. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of WHO, termed this epidemic as Covid-19 and called it to be a global health emergency as it is highly contagious [5].

1.2 Covid-19 Acquisition

Covid-19 can cause acute respiratory disorder leading to respiratory failure. It is highly transmissible and the toddler, elderly and people originally afflicted with co-morbid disorder are more prone to get infected. This virus can hover up in the environment and onto surfaces for long. The virus can transmit through eyes, nose, mouth, ears or even by getting in contact with the contaminated surface.

1.3 Covid-19 Complications

Infected persons can be, both, symptomatic and asymptomatic. Incubation can range from two days to fourteen days, and the patient gradually develops the effects of the deadly virus (Table 1).

Table 1 Different ranges of complications of covid-19

Mild symptoms	Severe symptoms	Critical
Fever	Migraine	Myocardial infarction
Cough	Shortness of breath	Multiple organ failure
Cold	Pneumonia	
Sore throat	Lung damage	
Weakness		
Diarrhoea		

1.4 Safety Measures

It is said that prevention is better than cure and as such social distancing and isolation is the only way out. Wearing of masks in public places, avoiding crowds, washing hands frequently with soaps and keeping a sanitiser along while going out may help to prevent the acquisition of Covid-19. Sanitising even the food packets, mobile phones or keeping them under the heat of the sun is also, in a way, an attempt to safeguard the virus from entering the bodies. It has also been suggested to have ginger tea, green tea, turmeric milk, items rich in vitamin C like lemons, mangoes, oranges to raise the body's immunity level. Afterall, the stronger the immunity the lesser is the risk of Covid contamination.

2 Pathogenic Diagnosis

Investigative diagnosis of the presence of the extra parasite in human body is done through different testing of respiratory infections like viral infections—RSV, para influenza, metapneumovirus, non Covid virus, adenovirus, bacterial infections and atypical organisms like mycoplasma and chlamydia [6]. Molecular tests or swab tests play vital role in determining the presence of Covid-19. The C-reactive proteins also called CRP show rising signs when tested. The white blood cell (WBC) shows a decreased count, liver enzymes, LDH shows an increase in count while, lymphocyte shows a decreased count. Serologic diagnosis samples collected from naso-oropharyngeal tract or from faecal matter or blood are also done. Chest PA view, radiography, ultra-sonography, tomo-graphy of the chest and lung areas can also be done to examine if there is any abnormal formation.

3 Corona Cure

The appropriate cure for the Covid-19 virus has not exactly been developed, but, different symptomatic treatments are given to the patients to survive the virus. The patients are shifted to isolated wards in hospitals so that the droplets of virus do not fall out and do not contaminate, further.

Zhai et al. maintained in their paper about the different forms of treatment of the patients which include giving anti-viral agents, treatment through the medicines chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, providing antibodies, giving doses of corticosteroids, plasma transfer and the usage of vaccine, which is, however, under the process of the stages of development [7].

3.1 Treatment

The basic Covid-19 treatment includes the kind of treatment meted out for SARS or MERS. Anti-viral agent Lopinavir (LPV) for SARS and remdesivir for Ebola virus are used as novice. Lopinavir and ritonavir are to be given twice a day to the patients. Even, arbidol, ribavirin, interferon, alpha-1b are also effective. Tocilizumab, recognisable for diseases like rheumatoid, juvenile and giant cell arthritis, has also proved itself in Italy as an effective therapy [5].

Sanders et al. talk about chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine as valuable medicines which can cure chronic diseases of inflammation and malaria by the process of restricting the entry of the virus into the cells [8].

Even, corticosteroids are helpful to control inflammation of lungs which can cause acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) [8]. They are used only in severe cases. Shen et al. conducted a test on five number of patients who were at a critical stage of Covid-19 infection. The patients ranging between thirty-six and sixty-five years of age were on ventilation. They were given plasma transfusion treatment. Very soon, the body temperature decreased among four patients and the 'viral load' results became negative, and, gradually, the patients became normal [9].

3.2 Vaccine: The Ray of Hope

Vaccines are liable to mark a control on the infectious virus. Bharat Biotech is in the process of developing a safe vaccine candidate, Covaxin, which will create antibodies and increase human immunity [10]. Perappan and Koshy noted that trials are conducted to see if the vaccines produce any side effect and if not the vaccine might reach the public in the next year [10]. Nevertheless, Oxford has developed a new vaccine candidate to give "double protection" for Covid-19, which is to be manufactured by Serum Institute of India and Astrazeneca [11].

4 Covid-19 Pandemic in India

4.1 Cataclysm

The Covid-19 predicament in India has given rise to an upsurge of around 45,720 cases per day as per 23rd July, 2020 report and 49,931 cases as per 27th July, 2020 report (Fig. 1).

Table 2 and the diagrammatic representation are showing the data of the number of cases of 13th July in India. 13th July marked the total number of Covid-19 inflicted patients to be 878,254; where, active cases were 301,610; 553,470 of them got cured and 23,174 casualties have happened (Fig. 1).

Table 3 and the diagrammatic representation are showing the data of the number of Covid-19 inflicted people of the data of 23rd July in India. There were total 1,238,635 positive cases among whom 426,167 them were active patients; 782,606 became well, whereas, 29,861 deaths happened (Fig. 2).

Table 4 and diagrammatic representation reveals the data of Covid-19 cases available as of 27th July, in India. There is a total of 1,435,453 cases, where, 485,114 of them were active patients. 917,568 of them got discharged. 32,771 of them have died (Fig. 3).

As of now, India is in the third position in regard to the number of active Covid-19 cases in the world. The topmost country is U.S., the second one is Brazil. Table 5 will be worth explainable (Fig. 4).

Fig. 1 Covid-19 cases as per 13th July, 2020 report (*Source* www.mohfw.gov. in) [12]

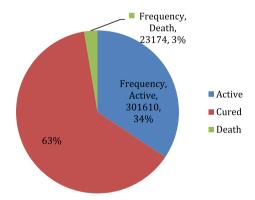


Table 2 Covid-19 cases as per 13th July, 2020 report

Cases	Number	Percentage
Active	301,610	34.34
Cured	553,470	63.02
Death	23,174	2.64
Total	878,254	100

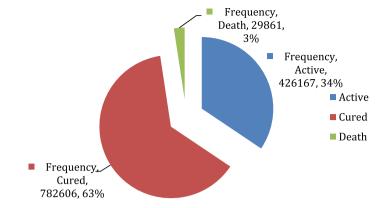


Fig. 2 Covid-19 cases as per 23rd July, 2020 report (Source Health Ministry Data) [12]

Table 3 Covid-19 cases as per 23rd July, 2020 report

Cases	Number	Percentage
Active	426,167	34.41
Cured	782,606	63.18
Death	29,861	2.41
Total	1,238,635	100

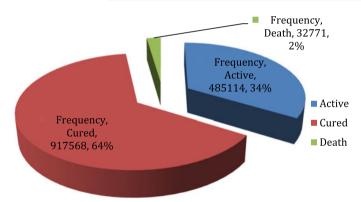


Fig. 3 Covid-19 cases as per 27th July, 2020 report (Source The Quint, https://www.thgequint.com) [13]

Table 4 Covid-19 cases as per 27th July, 2020 report

Cases	Number	Percentage
Active	485,114	33.8
Cured	917,568	63.92
Death	32,771	2.28
Total	1,435,453	100

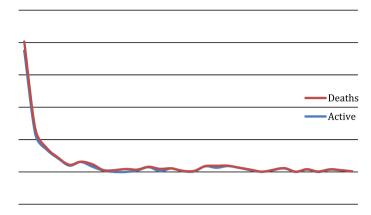


Fig. 4 Worldwide ranking of covid-19 infected countries (*Source* World data: worldometers.info: India data mohfw.gov.in; retrieved from https://www.cnbctv18.com) [12]

The table and the diagrams mentioned the serial list of the countries in accordance to their total cases of Covid-19 cases. USA has the highest number of cases with 3,695,025 total cases. Brazil is in the second with 2,014,738 cases, India, the third, with 1,003,832 cases, Russia has 752,797 cases, Peru has 341,586 cases, South Africa has 324,221 cases, Mexico has 324,041 cases, Chile has 323,698 cases, Spain has 305,935 cases, UK has 292,552 cases, Iran has 267,061 cases, Pakistan has 257,914 cases, Italy has 243,736 cases, Saudi Arabia has 243,238 cases, Turkey has 216,873 cases, Germany has 201,836 cases, Bangladesh has 196,323 cases, France has 173,838 cases, Colombia has 173,206 cases, Argentina has 114,783 cases, Canada has 109,264 cases, Qatar has 105,477 cases, Iraq has 86,148 cases, Egypt has 85,771 cases, China has 83,622 cases, Indonesia has 81,668 cases, Sweden has 76,877 cases, Ecuador has 71,365 cases, Kazakhstan has 66,895 cases and Belarus has 65,623 cases (Fig. 4).

This data is in accordance to 17th July of 2020

It is worth mentioning that at present (July, 2020) India is witnessing an increase in community transmission of the coronavirus in many parts of the country. Many places are undergoing a rapid spread of the infection among people without showing any signs of travel history. India is, however, facing the tally with a fighting spirit (Table 6).

The above information is in accordance to the data as per 17th July, 2020. It is revealed that Maharashtra has the highest number of Covid-19 cases with 284,281 persons infected [12].

Table 5 World-wide ranking in covid-19 cases as per 17th July, 2020 report

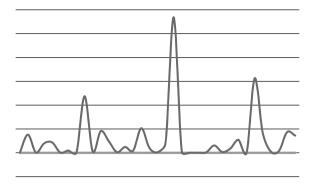
Country	Active	Deaths	Total
USA	1,874,274	141,118	3,695,025
Brazil	571,141	76,822	2,014,738
India	342,473	25,602	1,003,832
Russia	209,168	11,937	752,797
Peru	97,977	12,615	341,586
South Africa	153,961	4669	324,221
Mexico	83,003	37,574	324,041
Chile	21,107	7290	323,698
Spain	NA	28,416	305,935
UK	NA	45,119	292,552
Iran	22,845	13,608	267,061
Pakistan	73,751	5426	257,914
Italy	12,473	35,017	243,736
Saudi Arabia	53,246	2370	243,238
Turkey	12,613	5440	216,873
Germany	6279	9157	201,836
Bangladesh	86,864	2496	196,323
France	64,664	30,138	173,838
Colombia	91,013	6029	173,206
Argentina	63,551	2112	114,783
Canada	27,601	8827	109,264
Qatar	3157	152	105,477
Iraq	28,310	3522	86,148
Egypt	54,960	4120	85,771
China	251	4634	83,622
Indonesia	37,450	3873	81,668
Sweden	NA	5593	76,877
Ecuador	34,898	5207	71,365
Kazakhstan	26,264	375	66,895
Belarus	8223	485	65,623

Source World data: worldometers.info; India data mohfw.gov.in; retrieved from https://www.cnbctv18.com

4.2 History

India's beginning of Covid-19 pandemic journey can be traced back to 30th January, 2020. The first patient was detected in Kerala and then, some cases were among the tourists who came to visit India. The Sikh festival and the Tablighi Jamaat were

Fig. 5 State-wise total covid-19 cases [12]



regarded as the milestone for this pandemic journey in India. The virus began to spread in the Metropolitan cities. Dharavi, the largest slum area became the centre point of virus infected Mumbai. Celebrity Kanika Kapoor with her travel history, further, spread the virus because of her negligence. Gradually, the virus spread rapidly in the whole of India.

4.3 Initiatives

Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, came in live telecasts and delivered speeches on different issues of the pandemic.

The Government announced Janata Curfew for a day to make the people accustomed to the pandemic issue.

The Government announced complete lockdown in India to limit the spread of the virus. Later, the unlock 1.0 phase began where the country was divided into three zones—red, orange and green, depending on the severity of the Covid-19 cases. The Covid-19 suspected areas are kept as containment zones. Aarogya Setu app can now be downloaded in android phones which show the Covid-19 cases of our nearby place. Helpline numbers of medical team can be dialed anytime if any susceptible symptom of Covid-19 is felt in one's body.

4.4 Creating History

India has created history even during this national crisis. Narendra Modi requested the citizens to bang bells or that is at 5 pm without violating social distancing rules. Even on his urge, the whole of India lighted diyas and torches together at a particular time to unite together during this crisis.

 Table 6
 State-wise alphabetical covid-19 cases as per 17th July, 2020 report

States and union territories	Active	Cured	Deaths	Total
Andaman and Nicobar Island	47	133	0	180
Andhra Pradesh	18,159	19,393	492	38,044
Arunachal Pradesh	387	153	3	543
Assam	6818	12,888	48	19,754
Bihar	7549	14,018	197	21,764
Chandigarh	164	476	11	
	1260		21	651
Chattisgarh	179	3451	21	4732
Dadra and Nagar Haveli				552
Delhi	17,407	97,693	3545	118,645
Goa	1272	1817	19	3108
Gujarat	11,289	32,103	2089	45,481
Haryana	5495	18,185	322	24,002
Himachal Pradesh	382	984	11	1377
Jammu and Kashmir	5488	6446	222	12,156
Jharkhand	2069	2513	42	4624
Karnataka	30,661	19,729	1032	51,422
Kerala	5376	4862	37	10,275
Ladakh	176	970	1	1147
Madhya Pradesh	5562	14,127	689	20,378
Maharashtra	114,947	158,140	11,194	284,281
Manipur	635	1129	0	1764
Meghalaya	309	66	2	377
Mizoram	112	160	0	272
Nagaland	525	391	0	916
Odisha	4436	10,877	79	15,392
Puducherry	774	947	22	1743
Punjab	2587	6277	230	9094
Rajasthan	6666	19,970	538	27,174
Sikkim	155	88	0	243
Tamil Nadu	46,717	107,416	2236	156,369
Telangana	13,327	27,295	396	41,018
Tripura	676	1604	3	2283
Uttarakhand	937	2995	50	3982
Uttar Pradesh	15,720	26,675	1046	43,441
West Bengal	13,679	21,415	1023	36,117

 $Source\ Ministry\ of\ health\ and\ family\ welfare,\ Govt.\ of\ India;\ retrieved\ from\ https://www.cnbctv18.$

5 Socio-Economic Impact of Covid-19 in India

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, impact means the impression exerted on something by some other thing [14]. In a nutshell, impact means the effect caused by any means or any situation which can be both, positive or negative.

The Covid-19 crisis has also exerted a kind of impact in India in, both, social and economic arena.

5.1 Social Impact

The lockdown has increased the usage of internet; especially the social media sites have gained immense usage during the pandemic time. Twitter and facebook are used throughout with people tweeting on different issues and posting memes or write-outs in facebook. People are fighting together virtually for the controversial Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case through Hashtag Justice for Sushant Singh Rajput, to acquire permission for CBI probe into the incident. Even, in facebook app people are spending their lockdown times either talking about burning issues, playing ludos or posting about the making of Dalgona coffee at home or accepting different online challenges like the Saree Challenge. This sharing made Korea's Dalgona coffee famous allover India. Even, the social media sites proved helpful in spreading awareness among people about the Covid-19; its precaution or about the active cases of the locality. Excessive dependence on social media during the free time increased contacts with different people. It helped in making new friends and recovering contacts with the old ones.

People got a free outlet for the dormant passion that they had in their hearts. Some began playing guitars, some began music, some dancing; while, some put their hands in painting. Extra-curricular activities increased with the family members playing indoor games sitting together. The bonding of family grew stronger which was, however, somehow lost in our busy cosmopolitan life.

The pandemic time proved to be a boon for the researchers to stay at home and conduct their research with active participation. The reading habit of students, also, increased to an extent. Even, the online classes taken for the students encouraged digital learning. But, the education of students is hampered a lot. Without going to schools, colleges and universities, the disciplined life and education is suffering to a great level.

Due to social isolation, the geriatric and the children are suffering mental hardships. They cannot come out of their home as they are more prone to the virus and they are showing mood swings for that. Lovers cannot meet or get intimate to each other. Even, people of younger of middle generations have acquired depression and co-morbid disorders. Roy et al. conducted an online survey on 662 respondents to study as to how much people are suffering from anxiety. Their study showed that approximately eighty percent of the respondents should be given clinical sessions

as majority of them has acquired insomnia in the fear of getting infected by Covid-19 [15]. Sood wrote about the psychological impact that can inflict the psyche of the people and cause trauma, panic attacks or change in behaviour which can be minimised by giving counseling to the tensed people by suggesting them to meditate [16].

A new kind of 'corona phobia' has engulfed the minds of people. People look at every individual with suspecting eyes. This is becoming like an 'obsessive compulsive disorder'. The fear of corona has made the neighbours turn indifferent. Javadekar and Kannur in their article talked about how the neighbours do not let doctors or other medical professionals to come to their own homes in the fear of getting contaminated [17]. This shows the savage attitude, which is the result of 'corona phobia'.

Constant staying at home has caused obesity in some. Even, some people with illness other than Covid-19 are finding it difficult to go to doctors or hospitals for treatment. Suicide cases have, also, risen out of financial problems or because of depression and loneliness. The controversial Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case, the tiktok star Siya Kakkar's suicide or suicide caused by one of Sushant's fan or other students; or businessmen who have fallen in debt because of financial loss. Even, some corona patients are also found to make suicide attempts because of the 'corona phobia'.

Religious festivals and other celebrations have come to a halt due to the decorum of social distancing. The celebration of Eid and the celebration of the entire 'Ramzan month' was done in a simple manner. Even, the pious Ratha Yatra of Jagannath temple, Puri was kept low profile. The Ambubachi celebration of Kamakhya temple, where thousands of people flock to get special power and blessings from Goddess Kamakhya was restricted. Even, marriage parties, birthday celebrations, get-togethers, night-outs are totally stopped. Although, now, the parents can get their daughters married off at a low budget.

The ozone layer depletion has diminished and the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers are now experiencing much purity. This is a positive aspect for the society as water and environment is a society's basic exponent.

Death can come anytime. But, the last rites of the dead receive less people to take part in the mourning in fear of the virus culmination. Even, the dead bodies of the Covid-19 patients are not given to their families because this can spread the virus. This is leaving some sort of repentance or regret for not being able to perform the last rites; and this emotional turbulence might last throughout a person's life.

Films are not released in theatres. Television soaps have stopped their shooting. Thus, the channels broadcast old serials for the viewers. *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* have special place in the heart of people and to watch these serials, again, made the audience nostalgic. Religion indulged deep in the hearts of the people. People are also been heard discussing Indian mythologies and their own view-points over telephonic conversations. Thus, religious feeling has hiked.

Agarwal and Sharma discussed the social impact from the gender perspective. They noted that women are vulnerable to higher risk of domestic violence, abuse, and exploitation with the increase in their work-load [18]. Even, women tend to suffer from the virus because of lack of self-care. They discussed about how the increase

in the selling of pregnancy kits, condoms, contraceptives can point out the sexual atrocities on women during the social isolation [18]. Rise in alcoholism in men is curbing the physical and mental decorum of the women [18].

5.2 Economic Impact

Whenever a country faces any kind of national crisis, the first and foremost impact of the same, falls upon the economic condition of the country. The Covid-19 pandemic led India towards a lockdown of the nation for a long time. This lockdown resulted towards a heavy loss of capital. It has also negative impact on the GDP growth. However, in terms of sensex, India has shown a huge rise since a decade. The three offspring of GDP viz. "consumption, investment and external trade" is vulnerable to the impact of the Covid-19 crisis in the economic sector [19].

The economic slowdown led the banks to curb their loan interests of different schemes. Companies like Aditya Birla Group, Tata restricted their works. There has occurred a toll in the revenue income of the government. The revenues earned through alcohol, travel, tourism, pan masala encountered a huge loss [20]. Due to the virus scare, there arose a decline in the selling of alcohol. Travel and tourism are considered as an important source of earning revenue by the government of India. Many tourists visit India to enjoy the scenic beauty. People visit monumental places like The Taj Mahal, The Hawa Mahal, The Golden Temple and many other places. But, due to the restrictions imposed on international and national travels, India has to incur a great loss [21].

Regarding e-commerce, companies began to focus on the selling of essential ingredients. Their service, however, extended, as people feel it better to buy goods online than to go out themselves.

Supply chain has been restricted. This has harmed the farmers and the daily wage earners. Even, the domestic helps, vendor sellers have lost their source of income. People do not keep the domestic helps anymore, and do their household chores themselves in fear of becoming Covid-19 positive. As such, the domestic workers are losing their source of income. People no longer eat fast foods or bur things from vendor stalls. Even, people have restricted their visit to parlours, salons, gyms. This has inflicted the income of a certain group of people. Unemployment has increased. The employed ones are losing their jobs with no fresh recruitments.

There is a price hike in petrol, diesel, vegetables like potatoes, carrots, fruits. People are finding it hard to maintain a healthy diet by buying costly food stuff.

Bollywood, Tollywood, the producers and directors of Television serials are facing a lot of downfall in their economic earning because of the pandemic. Bollywood has to release different big budget films on Netflix or Amazon Prime. Even, the Television serials are unable to shoot on the daily basis. Many Television stars have, even, talked of being unpaid in this time of crisis.

India's relation with China has soared. India has stopped China's different apps to function in India, and also, the export import business has declined leading to disrupt

in the economic activity of India. India is highly dependent on China's electronic imports, machinery, organic chemicals, indigo medicines and mainly the mobile phone [19] and as a result, it will certainly have an effect on Indian economy.

Indian government is spending huge on the treatment of the virus patients including the cost of ventilators, sanitisers, kit, gloves, medicines. Even, the government of India has announced the "Atmanirbhar Abhiyan" in which there will be a package of twenty lakh crores to enhance the poor mass to become self-dependent. The country has even made ration (rice, dal, sugar) available to the people below poverty line at free of cost.

6 Conclusion

The dire strait of Covid-19 pandemic has endangered the normal life of India. The corona disaster has not only stirred the lifestyle of the people, but, it has also wrecked the social and economic growth of India. This extremity can be swiped out only with the successful arrival of anti-viral vaccine and the necessary distribution of the same among every Indian. Apart from following social distancing and taking other precautionary measures; maintaining patience, unity and solidarity can help us to stand strong against the crisis with positive vibes.

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