Results of the
National Level Essay Competition
organized by
Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Cell of
Dnyanprassarak Mandal’s College and Research Centre, Assagao, Goa

The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Cell of the college recently organized a national level online essay writing competition on the theme *Opportunities and Challenges for my state post – COVID-19* from 29th May to 5th June, 2020.

A total of 50 students took part in this activity and the following are the results of the competition:

**First Place**: Kingshuk Chatterjee and Akshay Kumar from St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi.

**Second Place**: Naincy Verma from St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi.

**Third Place**: Sagarika Singh from St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi.

The essays were evaluated by Ms. Prashanti Talpankar, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Dnyanprassarak Mandal’s College and Research Centre, Assagao, Goa.
कोरोना:राज्य के लिए अवसर व चुनौति

बदलता दौर चुनौतियों के साथ अवसर भी लाता है वाहे वो कोविड-19 जैसी विश्व-व्यापी महामारी ही क्या न हो।
चलती का नाम जिजरी है और हमारा झारखंड राज्य कोरोना काल के साथ भी और इससे बढ़ भी पूर्णत: तैयार है।
अपने कथनों को आधार प्रदान करने हेतु हम झारखंड के विभिन्न पहलुओं से अवगत होगे।

वो कहते हैं न की किस्मत अच्छी हो तो लत छूटता है और किस्मत बुरी हो तो घर छूटता है। और हमारे राज्य की
गरीबी का आलम ही कुछ ऐसा रहा है कि देश की नेशनल वॉर्ड टीम में शामिल हो पुकी झारखंड की बेटियां हाऊज सबजी और रेजा का काम करके अपना गुजारा करने पर मजबूर हैं।

झारखंड दिव्यांग क्रिकेट टीम के पूर्ण कप्तान बिजेंद्र आज खेतों में कुदाल चला रहे, राष्ट्रीय व अंतरराष्ट्रीय फलक पर अपनी तींदाजी का लोहा मनाने वाली
सोनी खाद्य सबजी बेच गुजारा कर रही है। और न जाने कितने झारखंड के लाल देश के नाम रीशन करने में अपना
सबकुछ दायर पर लगा दिया और अज उनकी हालात ये है की वो किसी तरह अपना गुजारा कर रहे हैं।

कोरोना काल से पहले मे युद्ध झारखंड की जमीनी हकीकत से उतना र र नहीं था जितना आज हुआ है।
सम्पूर्ण भारत की चिंताओं को इसका प्रतिकूल पर दिखाया। जो नहीं कर सकता मगर हमारे झारखंड के पक्षी को कोरोना काल में
राजनेताओं की रैली और उनके छठे सच्चे बादों के विश्वसनेत्र से हटकर आम जनता के जीवन और उनके संस्कृति की
और केंद्रित हुआ है आज जब हमारे दैनिक अखबारों में बड़े-बड़े मूर्ति बड़े-बड़े योजनाओं के बाद नहीं बल्कि रोटी
कपड़ा मकान रस्ता और शिक्षा के मेनों की खबरें आने लगी हैं। और में ये कह सकता हूं की लोकल का यूथा
अस्तम्भ बढ़े जाने वाली बीमारिया का रूढ़ एक दफा फिर सामजिक पारदर्शिता दिखाने के साथ-साथ
होने परम आवश्यक हो जाता है।

पूरी भारत के 41% खनिज का हिस्सा झारखंड से निकाला जाता है। इसी बात का फायदा लेते हुए राज्य के
नेता गणेश ने इसके विकास के वादे के साथ बिहार से अवगत होने का उल्लेख करते रहे। और अंतर: 15 नवम्बर
2000 को बिहार से अलग होकर एक राज्य बना इस उमीद में की इसके संसाधनों के सही उपयोग से इसे एक
फलता-फूलता राज्य बनाया जा सके। यह बताते वक्त के साथ राजाने में बढ़ती गरीबी, बेवरोजगारी और यहाँ
के लोगों के बिना राज्यों में फसलने के देखते हुए झारखंड के युद्ध के खनिज सम्पदा को प्रवृत्ति के अभियान के साथ
राज्य ने हमें जन-जने देश-देश की खुशी प्रदान की श्रद्धा जीवन था अपने जीवन के लिए इसके अवसर
मेरे मानना है की भला प्रकृति विनाश भूखमरी का कारण कैसे हो सकता है ये तो
यहाँ के राजनेताओं के लाख का शिकार हो गई और इस लोगों ने झारखंड चंद्रमा में कोचने खोदने के साथ-साथ
है। जब कोरोना की मौत तो हो तो 15 लाख श्रमिक राज्य को वापस लौटे तो पता चला की यहाँ
किस मजबूती में अपना घर आगान खेत खिलाने चेत बिहार का जवाब आता है। झारखंड की बेटियाँ दिल्ली गुंडबूं तब उनके साथ-साथ
सहारों में नींवतांग का काम करती रहीं दो मजबूत भाई अपनी खुद खेतों ने ऊँची ऊँची खेतीयाँ को खड़ा करते
मेरे हाथों हो जाता है। ये तो फिर बर्टी के लाख का जवाब आता है। झारखंड चंद्रमा में फसलने के साथ-साथ
मानते हैं इन्हें विकास करने का अवसर जीये देश की अंजाम देने के लिए ही खोदला सा कर दिया।
मजदूर ये कह रहे थे की भईया अपने गाँव में सूखी रोटी खाकर गुजारा कर लेने मगर वापस से नहीं जाएंगे। तब एक बात समझ आई ‘ घर ही वो घोसला है उन हौसों का जो कभी भूखे नहीं मरने देता।

वो कहते हैं न की बुरे वक़्त में अपने ही साथ रखा है उन हौसों का जो कभी भूखे नहीं मरने देता। घर ही वो घोसला है उन हौसों का जो कभी भूखे नहीं मरने देता। घर ही वो घोसला है उन हौसों का जो कभी भूखे नहीं मरने देता। घर ही वो घोसला है उन हौसों का जो कभी भूखे नहीं मरने देता। घर ही वो घोसला है उन हौसों का जो कभी भूखे नहीं मरने देता।

उनके उतराते के साथ ही प्रशासन की ओर से उन्हें सेनेटाईज किया जाता है जबकि मुलबाबा का पूल, खाने के पैकेट और पानी देकर उनका अपनी धरी पे स्वागत किया जाता है। अब सहजता से स्टेशन के बाहर उनके हाथों में गुलाब का फुल, खाने के पैकेट और पानी देकर उनका अपनी धरी पे स्वागत किया जाता है। 2 मई को अखबार में मजदूरों दुनारा राय में गुलाब लेकिन जब राज्य सरकार ने केंट्रय यूनियन में पहली श्रमकर्मी रेंन 1200 मजदूरों को रोजगार से झारखंड के लिए रवाना हुई। पहली श्रमिक ट्रेन 8 बजे हटाई रेलवे स्टेशन पहुंचती है।

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एक तरफ जहाँ रेलवे दुनारा मजदूरों से किया जाता है राज्य की वापसी, तब दूसरी तरफ झारखंड में लोगों को हवाई जहाज से मुफ्त में लाया जा रहा राज्य की गहेरे वापसी का प्रयास जारी है। एक तरफ जहाँ लोग कहते नजर आ रहे हैं और रेलवे को ट्वीटर और फेसबुक पर फोटो देकर आपको ट्वीटर और फेसबुक पर फोटो देकर आपको ट्वीटर और फेसबुक पर फोटो देकर आपको ट्वीटर और फेसबुक पर फोटो देकर आपको ट्वीटर और फेसबुक पर फोटो देकर आपको ट्वीटर और फेसबुक पर फोटो देकर आपको ट्वीटर और फेसबुक पर फोटो देकर आपको ट्वीटर और फेसबुक पर फोटो देकर आपको 20 किमी की सीमा पे भोजन वितरित किया जा रहा है। अब जब भी देश पुकारेगा झारखंड सबसे पहले आएगा।
साथ ही हम कितना भी नीतियाँ बना ले मगर कोरोना के कुछ चुनौतियों को नकारा नहीं जा सकता है चूंकि कोरोना के अंत का रास्ता अभी साफ नहीं है और अगर ऐसा है रहा तो राज्य की आर्थिक हालात लागातार हो सकती है राज्य का खजाना खाली होने से मजदूरों के भुगतान में दिक्कत आएगी। मगर मैं आज गर्व के साथ अंकित करना चाहता हूं कि आज पुरा झारखंड एक परिवार की तरह इस मुसीबत से लड़ने के लिए कदम प्रयत्नशील है निषिद्ध ही हम सफल होंगे। हाँ मैं झारखंडी हूँ और आज एक बार फिर मुझे इसपे गर्व है।

“किसी ने रोटी बेचे किसी ने निचाले बेचे
हम संधर्ष करना जानते हैं
हमने अपने पैरों के छाले बेचे “

झारखंडी जोहार
Opportunities and challenges for my state post Covid-19

We are living through unprecedented times. The impact of the novel coronavirus has reverberated through every corner of the globe – taking lives, destroying livelihoods, and changing everything about how we interact with each other. At such time of crisis citizens more than ever rely upon governments to make decisions to mitigate harm and support their people. What’s more important is that given the grave impacts of the pandemic in our interconnected world, decisions made today will have consequences that will last far into the future, affecting people in every region and community. Hence the state government needs to make policies considering every smallest possibility, opportunities to solve existing challenges which became more troublesome due to the impact of pandemic as well as the new challenges created by it.

Some common challenges faced by the state

1. **Distorted production and employment structure** - excessive sectorial imbalance in productivity, income and employment of the workers.
   While agriculture, in which about 50 percent of the workers are engaged, contributes only about 16 percent to the GSDP of the state. The mining sector contributes about 12 percent to the GSDP of the state by employing only 2.3 percent of the workers. Manufacturing contributes about 14 percent to the GSDP of the state by absorbing only 7.7 percent of the workers (NSS, 68th round).
   It indicates high incidence of disguised unemployment in the agriculture sector on one hand and very low labour absorptive capacity of mining and manufacturing sectors on the other

2. **Development Gaps** - most of the development indicators, related with health, education, gender, amenities and infrastructure, Jharkhand lags behind the achievements made at all India levels. As a result, the gap has been narrowed down, but, the state has to strive to bridge this gap completely.

3. **Disparity within the State** - development indicators there exists wide disparity among the districts, among their blocks and between the rural and urban areas in the state.
   Districts of the state, those which are more urbanized and industrialized or are rich in mineral resources are more developed than the rest. The developmental efforts, therefore, should take the regional disparity into consideration. Planned efforts in multiple directions are required from all sources, government and non-government, for an overall, inclusive and sustainable development

Some of the major opportunities that can be created in the different sectors by the state government are as follows

**Doubling farmer incomes** - increase the income of farmers and subsequently double in the next few years.

1. Increasing the net irrigated area and its utilization Potential - by effectively implementing the PM KSY, restoring of existing water reservoirs, water management measures which focus on increasing the area under micro irrigation.

2. Increase in crop productivity by Sustainable agriculture:-
   - Proper soil management for improving crop productivity and sustainability
   - Soil health card scheme, Distribution of soil health cards to 100% farmers for judicious use of chemical fertilizers, including secondary and micronutrients along with organic manures and bio-fertilizers.
   - To promote organic farming under the **Parampragat Kheti Vikas Yojana**

3. Strengthening agricultural marketing - enroll all APMC markets on e-NAM to help farmers sell their produce directly to consumers/traders across the nation and fetch better prices + promote collective/cooperative marketing- approach through organized channels

4. Crop insurance - ensure 100% coverage of farmers under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

5. Expanding animal husbandry-based/non-farm livelihoods -
   - Improve animal health service by strengthening the existing veterinary hospitals
   - State should undertake research and development work to overcome the challenges faced in agriculture, like unavailability of improved varieties, post-harvest losses, poor soil quality, low water use efficiency.

**Healthcare services** is one of the most important issue exposed by the current situation especially at the rural levels
So there is a need for Universal, Affordable and Quality Healthcare Services for sustained growth of the State’ -
- Special effort needs to be made for districts/areas lagging behind and communities/section of the society which is most affected or deprived of quality health services.
opportunities and economic growth are critical for overall socio-economic development. Some initiatives that aim at empowering individuals by equipping them with industry-demanded skills leading to sustainable livelihood opportunities and economic growth are

- Owing to the diverse demographic profile of the State, various types of short-term and long-term training shall be offered to the youth
- Skill training shall be imparted through centrally sponsored programmes such as (PMKVY), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) as well as State flagship programmes

- Health infrastructure - the State should emphasize on upgrading the existing public health facilities to meet standards set by the Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS)
- Medical college, dental college, nursing schools should be opened to meet the gaps of skilled human resource for health.
- Health financing - targeting financial risk protection coverage to all its citizens with focus to cover more of the BPL population, and other vulnerable citizens under state health insurance and other central schemes

- Bring in a shift towards ‘preventive’ care from current ‘curative’ care.
- Communicable diseases - Diagnostic and treatment for prevalent diseases such as TB, HIV, other common vector borne diseases should be made available in all public health facilities

- Non-communicable diseases - implementation of the National Programs for Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke to all districts, though adequate infrastructure and deployment of health human resources.

**Access to safe drinking H2O & sanitation** - Ensuring the basic services of ‘safe drinking water and sustainable sanitation for all’

Strengthen initiatives in sanitation & safe drinking water through high priority programmes such as **Swachh Bharat Mission and National Rural Drinking Water Programmes.**

- Access to drinking Water:- The State shall provide access to safe drinking water to 100% of its citizens
- Ensuring water availability through Expediting laying of pipelines in rural areas and maximizing the use of surface water for drinking purposes through restoration of water reservoirs, rain water harvesting system, check dams
- Quality assurance through Enhancing the capacities of existing water treatment plants, establishment of new water treatment plants by government or through PPP/community ownership model

- Improving sanitation -

- to achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in all districts and towns in Jharkhand
- Implementing solid and liquid waste management system in Gram Panchayats, municipal corporations, ULBs and **Awarding and recognizing bodies that sustain ODF status**
- Waste segregation in all urban households and treating of solid waste in urban areas
- Setting up regional institution for capacity development, research and innovation in water sanitation and hygiene

Construction of toilets and awareness generation
Construction of individual household toilets
Strengthening ODF implementation plan with focus on Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategies

**Access to quality education** - education is a key enabler for human development and hence a ‘holistic, inclusive and quality education plan is the need of the hour to inflict a paradigm shift in the state literacy rate

- Increasing primary-level enrollment to 100% and achieving zero dropout by further strengthening of Initiatives such as ‘Zero Drop Out’, ‘Bal Sansad’ and ‘PRAYAS Scheme
- Setting up of new schools, infrastructure of the existing schools shall be upgraded in compliance with RTE norm
- Strengthening coverage and inclusion: To address the issue of regional disparity in remote areas, especially among the tribal students and girls, to resolve such issues universal access to education is required in the state

- Building of upper-primary schooling facility, secondary school, and higher secondary school within a range of 6-7 km of habitation across the State.
- Strengthen special allowance and facilities for girl students to promote gender equity and inclusion
- Promotion of education of girl child will be continued to raise awareness, increase enrolment and reduce dropouts
- Promote financial support through scholarship
- Enable distance education for students who cannot pursue regular mode of education
- Key focus for the State is to enhance access, quality, enrolment and equity in the higher and technical education along with industry and private sector collaboration through PPP in under-served areas

- Continuous professional development of faculty by promoting industry relevant research

**Skilled workforce + growing entrepreneurship** - skill and entrepreneurship development are critical for overall socio-economic development. Some initiatives that aim at empowering individuals by equipping them with industry-demanded skills leading to sustainable livelihood opportunities and economic growth are

- Skilled workforce + growing entrepreneurship - Industry and private sector collaboration through PPP in under-served areas
Institutions for training of trainers and assessors will be established •
Incubation centres can be established in all the 24 districts under Start Up India, Stand Up India
Establishing entrepreneurship Hubs across the State as part of national mandate
All skill-training programmes funded by State will be made National Skill Qualifications Framework compliant. And will adhere to the common norms as notified by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
Focusing on Entrepreneurship Development
Creating an eco-system of easy access to credit and strong market linkages.

Inclusive growth  - Jharkhand is home to 32 different tribes, comprising 26% of the State’s population. More than 50% of tribal population is below the poverty line, dependent on subsistence farming with no secondary source of income, resulting in high distress migration

- Ensuring holistic development of Scheduled areas & disadvantage communities, especially ST including PVTG has become very challenging as well as crucial
- Sustainable poverty reduction measures are curial for development of the ST population
- The approach should envison strengthening the overall policy for development of STs and PVTGs and enhancing the implementation of the ST/ SC Prevention of Atrocity Act.
- Providing educational and skill development initiatives for these groups,
- Considering distressing health indicators of SC, ST communities, hospitals will be made in the scheduled area
- Developing tribal museum as per Budget 20-21, Model Villages with all basic services and facilities for promoting tribal art, craft, culture and heritage as recently the Sohrai Kohvar art form got the GI Tag
- Enhancing community participation and ensure collective ownership of community assets for the sustainable enhancement of their livelihood.

Rural prosperity and quality of life  - Jharkhand is among those States which have very high percentage of rural poverty in the country, being at bottom 10 in the HDI ranking of the country

- Development of rural areas should be one of the key priorities for the State Government
  - ‘creating gainful and diversified livelihood opportunities for the poor and deprived, providing basic services, adopting comprehensive and inclusive social protection schemes
  - Targeting to be amongst the top States in the country in HDI ranking, moving from its current position in the bottom 10
  - Access to basic services for improving quality of life - All villages to be ODF, households to have a pucca house, Electricity for all households with 21-23 hours of power supply, Ensuring food security for all
  - Some of the key targets under State /Central government schemes will be-- Providing 100 days of employment for every household under MGNREGA.
  - Eligible households to have access to food security through NFSAand the enhanced PDS system.
  - Providing 100% coverage of all eligible beneficiaries under pension schemes.
  - Strengthening Jharkhand Rajya Sewa Dene ki Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011 to guarantee the delivery of all government services.
  - State government project Jharkhand Opportunity for Harnessing Rural Growth (JOHAR) with support from the World Bank can be a game-changer in this aspect

The current pandemic situation inflicted great disaster over the world paralyzing global chains and systems, made countries inward looking, made existing problems more subtle, even the most powerful economies are facing massive challenges to control it. But to see opportunity in every disaster and transform that negative situation into an education, a skill set or a fortune is what we need to do. This global pandemic has been a wakeup call for us to realize the damage that human beings have inflicted upon the environment, the loopholes in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors, the instability in rural livelihoods, problems of the migrant workers, and protection to the weaker section of the society. but in its wake it also created opportunities in the fields of AI, robotics, e-governance, e-healthcare system, e-courts, science and tech, proper sanitation, video conferencing, delivery services, online education etc. so now it is up to us to whether live in fear and trauma of the current situation or mark this event as an opportunity to create a world full of new possibilities.
Opportunities, what are they?...are they rare ?NO.. just like the sunrise which heads over the darkness, the doubts, come with immense hope shining on the flowers, blowing with the wind each day.. but what's the use if someone chooses not to embrace it... "opportunities is through curiosity and looking at it in new ways that we have always mapped our path"

When we talk about opportunities and challenges they form LIFE ....the most unpredictable thoery ...we have lots of discussions over it ...but still comes with greater unpredictnecess with each try , its simply closing eyes and turning your face into the wind ,feeling it on your skin in an invisible ocean if exultation and suddenly you know you are alive.. Everyone was busy with the pressure , excitement , love this life offers but suddenly a sunrise came with a pandemic... about which nobody heard of , nobody expected ...again life played its role of being unpredictable...with a pandemic..CORONA VIRUS. The morning seemed different , voice could be echoed in the streets,they were not as silent before. "The small children with a heavy bag which were so painful" ,were not seen ,the rush of life just stopped. The offices were dusted and closed for which many people use to leave their breakfast on the table. The morning came where only shop's closed door could be seen . But yes the birds chirping were louder ,echoed in each house ,now no horns could dominate their happiness of being "free" to fly till sky where no pollution could reach their eyes or scare their wings..Humans - who invaded the sky ,the moon ,the mars were limited till the soil , "from which they are made of". When we talk about challenges ,we should talk about the people whose hands get stained with blood , the people who sweat all day ,each day to have meal in their plate rather than the challenges for people sitting in sofa discussing over the lose of lakh of rupees in this pandemic for them or the discussion over which dessert to make today. A lot of people migrated or say revolted against the pandemic to not give up . They walked miles ,empty stomach , bare foot imprinting the road with their footprints of blood , to shout the failure of society and government "somewhere ". The challenges should be discussed about the cobbler who polish so many footwear ,the reflection from the polished Shoes on their eyes with a question that will it be enough for today to have meal tomorrow. We should discuss about the food vendors who are day roam and stand the whole day to ensure that everyone will sleep with full meal in the family . All the animals who suffered for their food . This pandemic came with great challenge ,ears , questions raised to the almighty or say the energy up there. The whole world got affected immensely. Through this pandemic the mankind experienced the power of nature as the nature was all free and mankind is chained . Nature showed that mankind belongs to this nature not nature belongs to mankind. A lots of lessons we got ,like we don't need to save or conserve mother Earth , nature itself know how to heal itself but at that point mankind will suffer and the source of power is THE NATURE . The power begins from it and end in it.

This pandemic came with full power of invading everyone's life , to bring change to mankind , to give the thought of embracing changes for the good but every change demands something but this pandemic challenged everyone . Being challenged is inevitable , being defeated is optional. We all are aware that after this pandemic ,the challenge will not over . A new form of challenges are waiting for us. The challenge to make life stable again especially for the people in below poverty line. The economy of not only states but whole country is shattered . Its not going to be easy to re-establish the economy of the state as well as whole country . But these
challenges came with a hope like the sunrise that we can make it. These pandemic helped us to reach out roots of moral values which was lost in the screens for watching serials, posting concern videos and articles on social media for helping people in need but this pandemic brought action in the behavior of people. They came out of their homes to help people in the streets. This created better understanding between people who came up through the status, religion, caste. I personally don't think that this is less than having an opportunity to eliminate barriers of caste, status and religion. "Sikhs offering food to "muslims" in gurudwara. This peace among people can add so much of grace to whole county. When people will work together despite the difference in religion. Soo many children invested their time on new skills in this pandemic. The foremost thing the greatest sweep of being independent not as state but as country is fragranced in every heart of youth full of energy and ideas wheres in the mind of people with experience. The government is now searching the all possible outcome for shining as independent country. State like jharkhand is full of mineral and coal, proper planning and execution can prove as milestone for it. Though ideas in words seems easy and smooth but landing into execution is way to difficult but during this time people came together like a movement for change and evolution and this is possible. Government need to focus firstly on the section of people who are affected the most. They should along with us have to ensure that nobody should remain empty stomach or sleep with Empty stomach because we can't celebrate or move forward if any person will sleep empty stomach. Government should ensure that every policy for such people who are affected the most should reach to them. We have to work under the thought that we are each other's harvest, we are each other's magnitude and bond. The only key for getting out of this challenge is UNITY. "UNITY IS VISION", it must have been a part of the process. When one have two give one to the person in need..we have to balance it. We can fly high above this storm of COVID like an eagle but the secret of flight is this - we have to do it immediately, before our body realizes it is defying the" laws". In the Constitution the word begins with "WE" the people of India..which means power lies in "we" not "i" ..we have to work together, we will convert challenges into opportunities and yes we can make it. The vision says- i am the ultimate power for them(people of India) and they are the ultimate source of it.
“No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn.” Hal Borland.

The Post COVID-19 world gives us an unprecedented opportunity for reimagining economies, as well as the technologies that will power growth. In India, the possibilities for “new economy” activities and employment based on several challenges and opportunities can be elucidated as:

1. Healthcare: In facing the kind of overwhelming pressure that the virus threatens to unleash, India’s healthcare system has transformed exponentially in a narrow timeframe. Public health departments and healthcare staff have built capacity and efficacy almost overnight, something that will accrue benefits for us long after the current threat has subsided. Our public communications and disaster preparedness functions have matured tremendously just by virtue of having to tackle such an unprecedented crisis.

2. Sanitation and public hygiene: The post-lockdown fight against the virus hinges on the efficacy of the healthcare system in isolating, testing and treating cases, and discipline in maintaining sanitation and hygiene practices. We’re hoping that the virus will necessitate behavioural change at scale. Masks are already being accepted as a ubiquitous accessory in public places.

3. Intra-governmental collaboration: In responding to this crisis, central and state leaders have come together in an encouraging display of intra-governmental and inter-party coordination. However, the migrant crisis is testament to the fact that there is ample room for improvement.

What we must take forward is this spirit of collaboration between leaders of diverse ideologies sitting across the table to work for the Indian people. Equally paramount is stronger coordination, cooperation and knowledge-sharing between states and within states to strengthen our federal structure and ensure decentralised governance.

4. Reducing dependence on animal products: Climate change activists have long advocated for plant-based diets to minimise the damage caused by environmentally exploitative industries fuelling a meat-based diet. Now’s a good time to start. Every epidemic that has threatened humans has largely been zoonotic — Covid-19, HIV, Sars, Mers, Nipah, Ebola, swine flu.... The future of pandemics is contingent on our relationship with animals. However, the very niche market for veganism in India is not yet viable for mass adoption.

Paradigm Shift
The other challenge is the massive economic cost — millions of people are employed in cattle, dairy and fisheries industries. The switch would be akin to moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Nevertheless, with a 30% vegetarian population, India can lead the way. We can start by making the process easier for those who want to reduce dependence on animal products. At the very least, we must make every effort to end animal abuse.

Work from home
The Work From Home (WFH) culture is here to stay! What began as a mark of precaution in many companies prior to the outbreak of Covid-19 in India, is set to be the norm for the coming times. Several companies across sectors as having even been rolling out WFH allowances and other benefits for their employees who are ensuring business continuity while operating remotely.

One of the major issues faced while working from homes and other remote locations is the unavailability of a proper workspace setup. The lack of ergonomic chairs, tables and...
other could lead to small discomforts such as back aches and neck aches, as a result of prolonged sitting.

We’re finding that most of us can, in fact, work from home for prolonged periods. Taking a step back from the current lockdown situation, one can see how these impacts may be overcome. There are plenty of tools such as monday.com, Zoom, Microsoft Teams and others that work equally as well when we’re at home, or in the office. So, inevitably, office culture and ergo, office space utilization will change. Companies will lease smaller space, and optimize their space differently than they did before. Personally, I believe corporate air travel will never return to more than two thirds of where it was pre-pandemic. With less travel, staff will have to overcome some challenges — like learning new languages to better interact with staff and vendors, manage morale across a diverse organization, and achieve ‘sign-off’ on things they can’t ‘touch.

Big opportunities: teamwork, remote work tools, authorization and SaaS management tools, digital signatures, prop-tech optimization and language translation/education, augmented reality.

Big challenges: Commercial real estate, etc., office furniture (and stationery), older on-premise software, Airlines, Hotels (Business).

Social networking
Humanity craves contact, especially in close proximity. The next 18 months or so will be difficult for sports, entertainment and other venues. We may find the NBA playing to empty stadiums, and the franchise will need to find a new way to capture the lost revenues.

Post the 2008 global financial crisis, consumers pared back the most on eating out, alcohol, and entertainment. Restaurants will suffer most, either never opening again or having to deal with small amounts of diners due to psychological after effects (not just financial ones). So too will restaurant supply chains be affected. A restaurant that operates at half capacity won’t order quantities it did before. This volume is not entirely taken up by consumers eating at home. Less alcohol and fewer meals out, translates to less procurement from distributors and ultimately less manufacturing, farming, etc. Will this be overcome by growth in population?

Social media
Social games and networks will help bridge contact. Mental, physiological and psychological tools will be a key part to treat a global population that requires support. Watch as D2C startups emerge, armed with apps and products that bridge psychology, physiology and nutrition.

Finally post school education will change — universities will trend towards research, where labs etc. are required. MBA’s, humanities, commerce and law degrees will trend to online. A move to greater social responsibility will also occur.

The small segment of challenges described above and others represent huge opportunities. Ultimately, I believe innovation will win. Those companies that increased R&D spending in 2008/9, are the ones that performed well ahead of their competitors in the last decade. So double down on R&D (or cut elsewhere, not in R&D).