

**POST COVID-19 ERA : MILITARY AND SECURITY
ISSUES OF INDIA**

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Abstract

The uncertainties of life and helplessness of human endeavours glared at the humanity in 2020, when COVID-19 spread around the globe. Even though the calamities and diseases are not new to the people of the world, the unexpected reality frightened the core of their belief system. The military forces fought for this health-emergency, efficiently. The major task in front of the combat forces is to balance between the internal and border security of the nation. Because the gravity of the situation can make them negligent towards the external enemies. This may lead to serious blunders in safeguarding the nation's LOC. The 'young' India, has been fighting with the neighbouring countries, since independence. Corona Disease arouse much suspicion and doubts about the hidden agenda of the possible biological war. As the origin of this deadly disease is believed to be Wuhan, China, the possibilities of the next move of this country should be considered seriously. Corona hit many 'birds' in a single shot. When China tried to curb Ladakh, by breaking the rules on 15th June 2020, Indian military reacted in a matured way. Thispaper assesses the challenges to Indian security and the role of military issues in curbing the challenging situations in the Post-COVID era .

Keywords: Uncertainties, calamities, emergencies, momentum , biological war, globalization.

Introduction:

Post COVID-19 era is crucial to all the countries of the world. Because, till then these countries were busy in strengthening the economic status, GDP, local elections and internal issues. Even though the situations differ in developed, developing and under-developed countries, all were caring for the protection of the borders of their countries. The Corona Virus Disease, which spreads from the affected persons' droplets, over raided the very belief of 'border'. As the virus entered through international travelers and spread among the local migrants, panic overpowered the situation. India's measures of security will be decisive and has long-lasting effects on international relationships. The native challenges were also many. As a country of villages, the mortality rate was not high in India. The agriculture and the healthy native practices of food and hygiene, protected the people

from the rapid spread of this new disease. The condition challenged the original integrity and will power of the citizens as well as nations.

“Life is not always perfect. Like a road, it has many bends, ups and down, but that’s its beauty.”-Amit Ray

The condition everywhere in India, during March /April onwards awkwardly affected the ideal of universal brotherhood. Everywhere there was Man v/s Man situation. Wearing face masks and social distancing could only make the people to lose their daily income or wages and along with social distancing, came depressed mindsets. So Corona brought changes in all walks of life. The adapting skills were not trained or taught to people either at home, or at schools and colleges. But this is not the case of military. Armed forces have different work culture altogether. The most talented and physically fit men and women of the country, are trained vigorously to prove their persistence and fortitude. They are prepared for any unforeseen threat or risk; their exposure to the most challenging conditions, prepares them to face the danger or death, with valour. Their care for the country and its honour is commendable and praiseworthy. The sacrifice of self and selfhood is the prominent feature of the military.

Main Body:

The scope of this study enables us to perceive the need to strengthen the arms and ammunitions and provides the rationale for huge amount of budget for military and security of our country. Post- COVID era is challenging to the people of all departments. Service to people in seclusion is impossible. The mutual cooperation and understanding the humane side of the existence is a reality. Under the able leadership of our prime minister, Sri. Narendra Modi, India is extending its friendly relationship with developed and big nations like USA and Israil. The Gandhian principle of self- reliance is observed by the Indian policy makers. At the same time, balancing the micro and macro systems of the economy is also crucial. The labour force and the poor, who have taken shelter in big cities are going back to their hamlets to reach the safety zone and be with their dear and near ones. At the face of death and disease, family and emotional security have taken prominence over financial gain.

“Goodbye, proud world! I’m going home; Thou art not my friend, and I’m not thine” -Ralph Waldo Emerson

The hypothesis of my paper is that India is strategically prepared to face the COVID- 19, a health emergency. The world which was like a global village, till Dec.31, 2019, changed its face and drifted back to decades and fell apart due to COVID-19(Corona Virus Disease-2019). World Health Organization faced much comments for overlooking the pneumonia cases at Hubei province of Wuhan city, China. A man’s true colour or a community’s solidarity is judged by the behavior during the hardships. Corona lock-downs and relaxations proved the basic animal instincts of humanity. All were busy at their own safety measures and medication. The poor countries and their citizens were taken care by the rich NGOs. Here we can witness the failure of world leadership also. Corona Pandemic, changed its colour as an endemic, and inflicted misery, to the already suffering populace. The economic devastation and fallen sex ratio, made the Indian government to take rapid actions. The suspended state of the economy is criticized in

several articles by the intellectuals. They discussed the situation and their observations are the proof of the crucial role of military to protect and preserve, not only the health and safety but also the spirit of the nation. The simultaneous threats of war by the ‘neighbours’ highlighted the momentum of the time. Stabilization of the government is also very important to assure steadfast remedies to the infected community. As the threats are non-traditional, the solutions must be sought by forging new alliances.

The methodology of the study is to follow, Survey Method and Literature Review

The retired Air Vice Marshall AVM Arjun Subramaniam has commented on the need of Bharat Shakti- ‘Self- reliance in Defence’. The pitiable and horrific migration of the poor, who walked thousands of miles towards their home , hinted at ‘life –coaching’. The officer has observed the changing character of war. But many countries, including India have shown resilience. Like phoenix, these countries have proven, greater altruism to volunteer despite the possible hazards and teamwork and admit sacrifices.

The economic crisis of 1991, the Kargil conflict of 1999 and the global financial crisis of 2008 prove the adversary dynamics of world affairs and the rise of new power blocks of economic giants like USA and China. AVM Arjun has hinted at proxy wars and its everlasting damages caused to the economy and policy decisions. The firefight in Kupwara sector proved China’s crave for becoming the Big Boss! In this situation, effectiveness of ideal planning is more important than old- school efficiency. The most experienced and strategist, retired US Army General, Stanley Mc Chrystal pointed towards the ‘capacity buiding’ of the community. He opined that as the service to the civilian safety is the secondary task of the armed forces, there is a dire need to re-learn, recognize and nurture intellectual capital innovation. The senior military leadership can handle the situation in a candid manner, which will fetch long-lasting benefits to the people. The two contemporary articles, published in May 2020, written by Manvi Hindwan :“India’s War against COVID-19: Impact on Defence and India’s Emergence as a Global Hub” “Defining Moments for Mankind: Combating the Outbreak of Coronavirus” hint at the possibility that we may transform India as the hegemonic economy of world order and rescue from economic paralysis. The start ups, availability of instant liquidity and creation of constant demand by qualitative manufacturing aid in making India, not only the survivor but also as a winner to witness the future’s wonderful world! This optimism and dream to build a new, nice nest with valid grounds of practical efforts unveil the dangers. With the GDP growth rate at 1.9 % and round the clock surveillance will change the tides for betterment. The vision of making India a prospective global hub, need united efforts of million committed warriors, not only at the borders but also within the borders . The relief and rescue operations of the military may delay the proposed projects of the armed forces, due to the scattering of the manpower. The investment in remaking and medical aids may cut the funding, planned earlier for security purposes. If the Indian government will look into these challenges and curb its effects on the military, then the role of the veterans will prove miraculous. Jenny and Sara Jerving’s essay , “COVID-19- a Timeline of the Coronavirus Outbreak”, emphasize on the steps to be adopted to curtail the pitfalls of measures, taken to eradicate COVID.

CONCLUSION:

Joseph Stalin has said, “ A million deaths is a static. But one death is a tragedy.” The loss of precious lives of men, women and infants along with the pets and other animals of husbandry mark a shattered, shallow trench in the path of history annals in the coming years. The year, 2020, reminded the mankind the swine flu of 1920 and a similar epidemic in 1820. This destined cycle of suffering from the micro organisms like viruses will give future research in the military as well as civilian areas. The possibility of using virus and bacteria as weapons of mass destruction will give ample scope for dedicated research and innovations to find the permanent remedy for chaos and search for peace. The armed personals have been serving the motherland not only during peacetime, war, conflicts but also in health emergencies like COVID. The world is expecting Corona virus to be a magic wand by its negative capabilities and change the thought process of the multitudes. Nature, as a true teacher and warrior is teaching man the lesson of altered thinking and adaptability. The history of several thousands of civilizations and different geographical areas have proven the mortality of human ego and ambitions. The wars could not win the hearts, it will only aggravate the perpetual damaged memory of human race. When the men will realize this eternal truth, then he may expect the paradise on earth, otherwise such COVID situations will make ‘Paradise Lost’. The energy and wisdom of several brave hearts like, Caesar, Ashoka, Alexander and Chandraguptha Maurya will be utilized by the posterity for constructive building of efficiency and maturity. The Indian path of neutral attitude, since immemorial will bring returns in the long run. COVID has proven that the invisible enemy can create havoc and the changed order in the system will check one’s integrity. The chain link of all humanity irrespective of colour, creed and caste is proven to everyone in 2020. So the new avenues of peaceful existence and security will be explored. The definition of military and security forces will be altered in the coming decades. The new inventions in science and technology will be applied to defence for the betterment of not only a nation’s citizens, but to the humanity as a whole. The need for ‘mending wall’ must be hindered and the bridge must be built among the hearts of all humanity to realize the ideal, ‘Vasudaivakutumbakam’.

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