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# CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

## ESSAY

**TOPIC- What do you think will be the future of Nations after Corona in terms of economy, healthcare, work culture and geo-politics.**

**(WORDS- 1000 TO 1200) MARKS- 125**

### MODEL ANSWER:

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty.

The impact of coronavirus pandemic on India has been largely disruptive in terms of economic activity as well as a loss of human lives. Almost all the sectors have been adversely affected as domestic demand and exports sharply plummeted with some notable exceptions where high growth was observed. The economic impact of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic in India has been largely disruptive. India's growth in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2020 went down to 3.1% according to the Ministry of Statistics. The Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India said that this drop is mainly due

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to the coronavirus pandemic effect on the Indian economy. Notably India had also been witnessing a pre-pandemic slowdown, and according to the World Bank, the current pandemic has "magnified pre-existing risks to India's economic outlook".

India's investment in the health sector, dedicating only 1.3 per cent of its GDP, making it vulnerable to COVID-19. It contrasts with other developing countries like Brazil, which spends 7.5 per cent of its annual GDP on health; Bhutan, which has allocated 3.6 per cent; and Bangladesh, which dedicates 2.2 per cent. Among developed nations, South Korea has kept its healthcare expenditure at a whopping 8.1 per cent, Japan 10.9 per cent, and the US at 8.5 per cent.

India has a severe shortage of healthcare workers. There is one doctor for every 1,445 Indians as per the country's current population estimate of 135 crore, which is lower than the WHO's prescribed norm of one doctor for 1,000 people. India's healthcare infrastructure is incapable of dealing with this crisis today. Shortages in medical supplies and an inability to provide adequate testing are the major issues. However, the Prime Minister's announcement to allocate Rs 15,000 crore for building infrastructure can strengthen the fight against coronavirus. Further, state governments are trying to expand facilities to deal with this situation. In India, there is a major shortage in the availability of beds in the hospitals. Today's public health system will be able to withstand

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**existing and potential threats to the health of the nation only if its supporting infrastructure is strengthened. Unfortunately, major challenges confront those committed to assuring a strong infrastructure, and the research base needed for well-informed infrastructure development is sparse.**

**The Covid-19 pandemic has had tremendous and swift effects on workplace culture. The global lockdown and travel bans have upended assumptions about the nature of work and corporate interactions. People have discovered that they don't have to be in an office, that they can get most things done remotely. They do not need to commute to work. Others have gone from jet-set to home-bound with little effect on their business. As they adjust to operating during a pandemic and prepare for the recovery, organizational leaders need to consider which culture changes they want to retain and which they must counteract. Some private companies too have initiated steps to change their work culture in order to adapt to the pandemic. Tech giant Twitter, for example, was among the first global companies to allow employees to work from home. A shift in remote work could also lead to the movement of workers from big cities where the cost of living is higher.**

**Significantly, if workers are given the option to work from anywhere, it may also affect their pay. If remote work becomes the norm, salaries may be pegged to cost of living, which may bring down salaries for employees who shift locations to smaller cities with lower costs of living. The challenge is, as**

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**workforces continue to work from home, at least part-time, on a mass scale, many of the variables that make up corporate culture are not within the control of companies in the same way and to the same degree as they used to be. Consequently, it's important for business leaders to focus on how COVID-19 is impacting working experiences and what they can do to continue to ensure a positive organisational culture for their staff.**

**It is now undoubtedly clear that the post-COVID-19 world will not be the same as before. Many things will change. Even though some prominent international relations scholars argue that we are now on the cusp of a new world order in which the forces of uninterrupted globalization process will give way to the forces of protective nationalism and nation-states will strengthen their status as the most legitimate political community. Some others think that globalization is a never-ending process and the rise of such transboundary challenges as epidemics and environmental disasters will require more globally coordinated responses. While the former group of scholars is more predisposed to the view that the emerging world order will evince more intense geopolitical competitions among great powers – most notably between the United States and China – the latter is more inclined to believe that the degree of interdependencies, as well as the density of transnational interactions across the globe, is so high that turning back to the pre-globalization era is almost impossible. The war on COVID-19 has demonstrated that while the U.S. puts the main responsibility for the outbreak and mismanagement of the virus on China's shoulders,**

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**China has proven to be quite eager to play the role of the new provider of global public goods, of which economic reconstruction and medical health stand out.**

**The geopolitical rivalry between the two behemoths offers the main reason why the globalization process will continue. To score goals against each other, the most important weapon in their arsenal would be the number of allies and partners each has in their inventories. Given the recent attitudes of both countries to the globalization process in recent years, China seems to be in a more advantageous position than the U.S. Even though the U.S. is far ahead of China in terms of the number of treaty allies, strategic partners and economic partners, the resentment against the U.S. has recently reached high levels among traditional American allies in Europe and East Asia. Given that winning the emerging geopolitical competition requires as much soft power as hard power, China's pro-globalization stance and intensifying economic and medical diplomatic efforts might tilt the balance in China's favor. I think China's Belt-Road Initiative will be under more spotlight in the years to come. Unless the U.S. designs a new version of the Marshall Plan, we will increasingly live under a China-centric globalization era. Time will tell.**

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*Leadership through knowledge...*

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