

The Year 2020: Challenge to the World

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Abstract: The year 2020 has marked its name in the history due the uncertainty which it has brought with its death. This year really give tough challenge to the Government to run country smoothly as it has a stormy start. In this year, natural disasters, tragedies, number of deaths, regional conflicts take place. Not only this, a deadly virus, which already has taken plethora of death in its pocket, shake the whole world. The economy and progress of countries in the world has started declining, which is really a cause of worry and tension. Owing to these problems, mental stress, loss of job, psychological problems and other domestic problems have also surged up which is also a great challenge in front of state to tackle these things. This paper is an effort to put together all the mishappenings together to analyze what is a cause of it, along with the difficulty which authorities would face to provide safety to the citizen of their country.

Keywords: year2020, challenge, government, economy, progress, psychological problem.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is a common believe that one should commence the new year with great zeal and positivity, however, the year 2020 do not seem like that. It has a stormy start which brings number of problems with it. The whole world is waiting when this year will be finished and when it will come to an end. The whole world get stagnant, economy and progress also stopped, which is really a cause of worry.

Objective

This paper tries to analyze

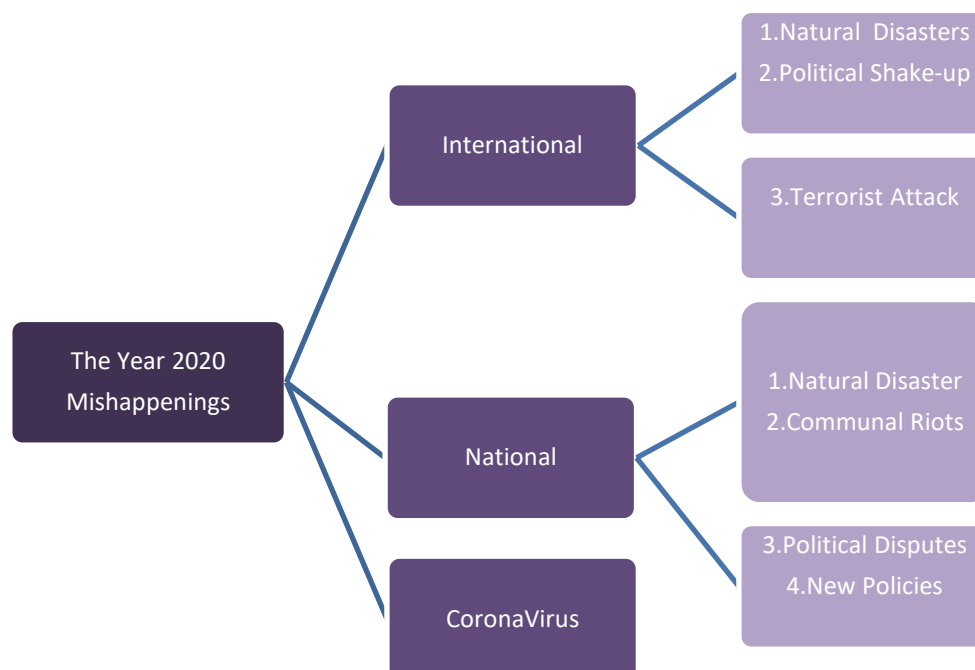
- Is 2020 really a misfortunate?
- Is there any cause of all these problems?
- What kind of challenges it bring for the world?

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The author tries to use descriptive method to write this article. The data has been gathered from the different sources like newspaper, Magazine, Social Networking sites, articles and people's opinion has also been analyzed to write this paper

The Year 2020: The challenging year

The year 2020 is very challenging year which brought many disasters on national and International level. Out of these, the breakdown of virus is the most damaging one.



➤ International

From massive earthquakes to geopolitical tensions, here are some potential disasters that could come in 2020.

❖ Natural Disaster

▪ Australia's Bushfire 2019-2020

The year has began with the outbreak of bushfire in Australia, which has taken the life of more than 500 billion animals. Australia has always had bushfires, but this year it's had an early and extremely intense start to the bushfire season. The country has been going through a very long drought (period without rain). Plants and trees everywhere are very dry, and burn easily. Entire towns have been engulfed in flames, and residents across several states have lost their homes. The heaviest structural damage occurred in NSW, the country's most populated state, where 1,588 homes have been destroyed and over 650 damaged. In total, more than 7.3 million hectares (17.9 million acres) have been burned across Australia's six states -- an area larger than the countries of Belgium and Denmark combined. The worst-affected state is NSW, with more than 4.9 million hectares (12.1 million acres) burnt

▪ Devastating Floods In Indonesia

On January 1, 2020 devastating floods destroyed Indonesia's capital, Jakarta and some neighbouring areas. Over 4 lakh people were forced to flee from their homes. The floods were accompanied by heavy rains lashing the city causing further damage as rivers overflowed and people were submerged in waters that were 5ft in depth. Several locals were victims to drowning or landslides, while others died of electric shocks or landslides. About 66 people lost their lives to this natural disaster of 2020.

▪ Volcano Eruption In The Philippines

The Taal Volcano is the second most active volcano in the Philippines and it started rumbling on January 12th in Luzon, followed by an eruption and ash dust over 100 km away. It had last erupted 43 years back. The Volcano left huge ash clouds which caused mass evacuations of over 300,000 people. On Feb 13th, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported a total of 2,484 volcano-tectonic earthquakes in the vicinity of the volcano, 176 of which were felt. The Philippines is still reeling from the volcano eruption with a number of countries sending in domestic aid.

- **Earthquakes In Turkey, The Caribbean, China, Iran, Russia, Philippines**

There have been so many earthquakes in 2020 that if I sat to categorise each as a natural disaster the list would be unnaturally long. So far there have been 45 earthquakes characterised over 6 magnitudes. Jamaica and Russia were the worst hit with earthquakes over magnitude 7. The earthquake in Turkey claimed 41 lives.

- **Locust Swarms In East Africa & Parts of Asia**

Millions of desert locusts have swarmed 5 states in India, namely Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and the videos are quite scary. First detected in East Africa and then Pakistan, the deadly locusts do not affect humans but they do cause damage to crops.

- ❖ **Political Shake -up**

- **The US-China trade war could turn very sour**

The recent decoupling of the United States and China is already disrupting tech-flow, talent, and investment between the two superpowers. Not only does this affect trade directly between the two nations, but it could contaminate the global tech sector market. If a deal is not reached, this could deepen geopolitical and economic tensions around the world. Some have even predicted it could spark actual conflict. Latin America is looking shaky. Over the last few years, Latin America societies have become increasingly polarized. Public anger is growing over sluggish growth, corruption, and low-quality public services, not to mention general malaise with various socialist policies. In countries like Venezuela, tensions have already boiled over and this is unlikely to be pacified anytime soon. What could 2020 have in store?

- **Could the Syrian civil war spark global conflict?**

With the recent news of Turkish soldiers being killed by a suspected Russian airstrike, many fear that the Syrian conflict could turn into something more global. While this is nothing new, the Syrian conflict could be a ticking time bomb. Let's hope cooler heads prevail.

- **Trump is acquitted by the Senate on both articles of impeachment.**

February 5, marked a historic day in presidential history after President Donald Trump became the third president to be impeached and subsequently acquitted by the Senate, which is controlled by the GOP. Trump was acquitted on both articles of impeachment — abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. On abuse of power, Sen. Mitt Romney broke with Senate Republicans and sided with Democrats. For abuse of power, he was acquitted 52-48; and for obstruction of Congress, Trump was acquitted 53-47.

- ❖ **Terrorist Attack**

- **Berlin Autobahn Crashes Are Deemed a Possible Terrorist Attack**

A man injured six by allegedly ramming motorcycles on a city highway. The public prosecutor is investigating whether it was an act of Islamist terrorism. A day after a bizarre series of crashes on a Berlin autobahn left several people injured, the city's public prosecutor's office announced on Wednesday that it was investigating whether what happened was part of an Islamist terrorist attack.

- **Attack on Kabul Gurudwara leaves 27 Sikhs dead**

A group of heavily armed gunmen attacked a Gurudwara in the Shor Bazar area of Kabul on Wednesday (March 25, 2020), killing at least 27 Sikhs and injuring over 150 people who were present during the time of the incident. New Delhi has strongly condemned the attack on the Sikh Gurudwara in Kabul. Though the Islamic State group has claimed the responsibility for the attack on the a Sikh Gurudwara located in central Kabul, according to the SITE intelligence group, the Indian security agencies believe that the deadly attack was orchestrated by Pakistan's 'ISI' which is backing ISKP to counter Taliban which has recently signed peace deal with the United States.

- **National**

India too is not behind from all the sufferings. Plethora of disasters along with several riots took place in 2020.

❖ **Natural Disaster**▪ **Cyclone Amphan In India**

Cyclone Amphan created havoc in West Bengal and Odisha in May, leaving behind trails of destruction. The meteorological department termed the cyclone to be an “extremely severe cyclonic storm” that made landfall in both the states with abundant rains, gust windows and lightning, destroying everything that came in its way, leaving chilling visuals all around. The super cyclone reportedly killed 12 people in Bengal, while power supply and phone networks also took a hit in states.

▪ **Forest Fires In Uttarakhand, India**

Uttarakhand has been burning for 4 days now with over 46 bush fires. So far only 2 deaths have been reported, but the fire is still nowhere under control. A report by the Times Of India has stated that Uttarakhand has lost nearly 51.43 hectares of forest cover and the forest department alone has incurred a loss of over 1 lakh.

▪ **Locust Attack**

Millions of desert locusts swarmed six states - Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh – in May-June. It was said to be one of the worst pest attacks in over 2 decades. The locusts which entered India were about 10-12 days old and were flying huge distances in search of food.

▪ **Flood**

Floods are common in India. Assam, Kerala and many more states face several flood like situation, which cause devastating damage, not only to the property but also to the people.

○ **Mumbai**

Mumbai witnessed incessant rainfall on August 4-5 bringing back the memories of 2005 floods in the city. Waterlogged roads, uprooted trees and abandoned cars added to the traffic mayhem. Train and bus services were also suspended and passengers from stranded local trains were rescued by NDRF teams.

Large parts of south Mumbai were inundated after the city recorded its heaviest single-day downpour in August in 46 years with 293.8 mm of rainfall. Areas like Churchgate, Marine Drive, Fort, Girgaum, Khetwadi, Walkeshwar Road, J J Marg, Gol Deol, Bhendi Bazaar, Kalbadevi were flooded and water entered several houses.

○ **Assam**

this year too Assam has witnessed a devastating flood, which has so far killed 113 people and over 56.9 lakh got affected in 30 districts. The annual monsoon floods damaged crops, infrastructure and assets.

▪ **Kozhikode Plane Crash**

On August 7, an Air India Express plane skidded while landing at Karipur Airport in Kozhikode, leaving 18 dead - including the two pilots - and over 100 others injured.

The Air India Express aircraft - carrying 190 persons, including six crew members - was flying in from Dubai. It skidded off the runway while landing amid heavy rain in Kozhikode and plunged into the deep valley below.

The flight was repatriating Indian nationals stranded abroad due to the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the Vande Bharat Mission. One of the 18 passengers, who died in the plane crash, had tested positive for COVID-19. The Kozhikode airport in Kerala has a table-top runway and is operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Generally, table-top runways are constructed on a hilly or an elevated terrain.

❖ **Communal Riots**

The 2020 Delhi riots, or North East Delhi riots, were multiple waves of bloodshed, property destruction, and rioting in North East Delhi, beginning on 23 February and caused chiefly by Hindu mobs attacking Muslims¹ Of the 53 people killed, two-thirds were Muslims who were shot, slashed with repeated blows or set on fire.² The dead also included a

¹ Ellis-Peterson, Hannah; Azizur Rahman, Shaikh (16 March 2020), "Delhi's Muslims despair of justice after police implicated in riots", *The Guardian, Delhi*, retrieved 17 March 2020

² Gettleman, Jeffrey; Yasir, Sameer; Raj, Suhasini; Kumar, Hari (12 March 2020), Photographs by Loke, Atul, "If We Kill You, Nothing Will Happen": How Delhi's Police Turned Against Muslims", *The New York Times*, retrieved 13 March 2020

policeman, an intelligence officer and over a dozen Hindus, who were shot or assaulted³ More than a week after the violence had ended, hundreds of wounded were languishing in inadequately staffed medical facilities and corpses were being found in open drains. By mid-March many Muslims still remained missing.

Muslims were marked as targets for violence.⁴ In order to have their religion ascertained, Muslim males—who unlike Hindus are commonly circumcised—were at times forced to remove their lower garments before being brutalised. Among the injuries recorded in one hospital were lacerated genitals. The properties destroyed were disproportionately Muslim-owned and included four mosque which were set ablaze by rioters.

❖ Political Disputes

In Country like India, who has diverse nature and culture, often face plethora of riots and this year too it has faced such riots but on different basis.

○ Over CAB & NRC

India's contentious Citizenship Amendment Act, which was cleared by parliament last week, has sparked violent protests across the country, for more than one reason. While there is anger that the legislation is discriminatory against Muslims, there are also fears of an influx of settlers. The legislation aims to fast-track citizenship for persecuted Hindus, Parsis, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Christians who arrived in India before Dec. 31, 2014, from Bangladesh, Pakistan, or Afghanistan. For the immigrant religious minorities, the law effectively amends India's Citizenship Act, 1955, which required an applicant to have resided in India for 11 years. Protestors believe that the exclusion of Muslims and a nationwide NRC are products of the same school of thought. The paranoia against "outsiders" and "infiltrators" rings strong in both narratives, though by the government's own estimates, the citizenship act will help a little over 31000 people. Given the exclusionary privileges, those protesting believe that the new law will only be used to polarise Indian communities, especially Hindus, against Muslims.

○ Verbal Dispute on Social Networking Site

The Facebook⁵ row has now intensified into a full-blown war, with the two main parties in India--the BJP and the Congress-- making allegations and counter-allegations over the issue. The political slugfest started after Tharoor's announcement that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology would like to hear Facebook's views on the report published in Wall Street Journal on Saturday. The report mentioned that Facebook overlooked its hate speech policies in the cases of Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party MLA T Raja Singh and three other "Hindu nationalist individuals and groups" in order to safeguard the social media platform's business prospects. Singh had said on Facebook that Rohingya Muslim immigrants should be shot, and had threatened to destroy mosques. It also stated that one of Facebook's top public policy executives in India "opposed applying hate-speech rules" to individuals linked with the BJP even though they were flagged internally for promoting violence".

❖ New Education Policy

The new National Education Policy unveiled by government on Wednesday introduces a number of reforms in the education system in the country. The policy, that comes after a span of 34 years, restructures school education by replacing the 10+2 structure with 5+3+3+4 structure, de-emphasises 'high stakes' boards and offers the option of four-year bachelor's degree.

➤ Outbreak of deadly Corona Virus

On National and International level, every year number of problems occur but this year, it has brought many disasters. The most dangerous of it is deadly Corona Virus which has taken many lives. While the first outbreak was identified in December 2019 in the now infamous Wuhan, no one realised the significant global and economic impact it would have. On January 11, China recorded its first COVID-19 death and on March 11, 2020 the WHO declared coronavirus a

³ Slater, Joanna; Masih, Niha (6 March 2020), "In Delhi's worst violence in decades, a man watched his brother burn", *The Washington Post*, retrieved 6 March 2020

⁴ Wamsley, Laurel; Frayer, Lauren (26 February 2020), *In New Delhi, Days Of Deadly Violence And Riots*, NPR, retrieved 25 March 2020

⁵ Facebook Post

pandemic. As of April 2nd, the global coronavirus cases surpassed one million. Today, most countries are gingerly stepping out of lockdown and trying to resume life. However, 5 months into 2020, there is still no vaccine or medication for Coronavirus. On March 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide lockdown till April 14, which was further extended till May 3. On May 1, the Union government announced that the lockdown has been extended till May 17. By mid-May, India with over 85,000 cases surpassed China's total number of cases reported. On May 17, the lockdown was further extended till May 31.

Challenges to Government

It is well said by Sabato , " People are now trying to find whether manmade disaster is better than mother natural disaster."With the breakdown of virus, the whole world is facing huge crisis. Citizens of every country are facing financial crisis as they find hard to meet basic needs to run their life. Along with that, rest of the disasters act as adding fuel to it. Authorities find it hard to deal with the situation, as mostly countries announce lockdown. The economy and market also break down at a huge level. The progress goes downward. To maintain the economy and to control the GDP again is a great challenge in front of the Government.

To conclude, I would pen down by saying that The year 2020 is really a mess and with a lot of problems. Now everyone is waiting when this year would come to an end and hoping that may this year not show any more disasters with it. Everyone is just looking to find a new ray in sunshine of hope and courage.

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