

POEM BY

Mr. Nadir Godrej, Director, Godrej industries Ltd.; Dean's India Advisory Council

RECITED ON

Thursday, May 7, 2020 Webinar

Shaping the post-pandemic world - Focus on India:

The Critical Role of Leaders During and in the Aftermath of the Pandemic



Corona Virus

The Corona Virus strikes us all.
We don't know who is next to fall.
When will this war be finally won?
While lockdowns help, they are no fun.
Now every policy maker strives
To balance livelihoods and lives.
No livelihoods is such a cost
But once any life is lost
Nothing at all can bring it back
So let's keep lockdowns right on track.
No livelihood could mean starvation
But there's a solution for every nation.
Direct to home food supply,
A generous UBI
Is then the way that we can go.
These measures can soften the blow.
The fiscal prudes are bound to blush
But this is the time for the rest to rush
To Keynes and even further still.
This is the time to show some will!
Helicopter money can succeed
In serving all that are in need.
Lockdowns can't be a permanent trend
For at some stage they'll have to end.
South Korea and Taiwan showed the way
Large scale testing saved the day.
Germany also laid its trust
In massive testing which is a must.
Antibody tests are on the way
They could help to save the day.
Many more could be infected
This hypothesis should be inspected.
New York seems to think that's so.
Californian surveys also show
Asymptomatic cases could be high
There is a need to verify.
In every area of the world
Good surveys should be unfurled.
Now antibodies could protect
But we still need to detect
Whether the protection is weak or strong
And whether it lasts for very long
Or whether it works for every strain.
If we know the answers we can gain
From surveys that are widely spread.
They will point the way ahead!
If antibodies do protect
Then we should also expect
Convalescent plasma therapy
To be the panacea some can see
It's already being tried

And soon it will be verified.
If it fails we'll need a cure
And that will take more time for sure.
But if many people are immune
We can open up quite soon.
The vulnerable should isolate
The rest can start to pull their weight!
The immune should be allowed to roam
But many still could work from home.
And if we take a stance that's wise
The economy will slowly rise.
Reforms are now the need of the hour
And let us hope that those in power
Get the message straight and true
We need to build the economy anew!
There is a need in every nation
To recover from Corona's depredation
But progress we also need to see
In Climate Change and inequality.
I have some thoughts on what's the way.
I'll save them for another day!
And what should business leaders do
To both survive and then renew
Their organisations under threat.
What is the course that they should set?
Compassion comes first to mind
Timely solutions they must find
To the social problems all around.
Clever solutions should be found
To leverage both funds and skills.
First use your brains then pay the bills.
In India thanks to CSR
Business can go very far
In weighing all the pros and cons
And coordinating a response.
And when production can resume
The priority we must assume
Is safety and security
For all but most importantly
The vulnerable we must shield
Do not to temptation yield.
The crisis is indeed a pain
But there is so much to gain.
At first any major change
Will appear to be most strange!
But then we can begin to see
A striking opportunity.
While all of us are badly burnt
Indeed there's much that we have learnt.
Work from home is now a breeze
And we can now gain a release
From travel bills and office rent.
Indeed this time can be spent
To reimagine and reinvent
A better world, a broader tent.
Surely we can aspire to both
Sustainability as well as growth!
At first survival must be prized
So cash must be prioritised.
And when we're past survival fear
We can start to reengineer.
No good crisis should go to waste
All of us should now make haste
To completely redesign our world.
A new vision should be unfurled.
Our gaping wounds we should suture
For a happy, healthy future.