

Turn the Tide

Unlock the new consumer
path to purchase

Category: Mobile

June 2020





**Consumer behavior
has fundamentally
changed**




**The new normal
has transformed the
purchase pathway**



**Businesses must unlock
the new normal to help
revival**

Turn the Tide

Unlock the new normal



“ *Great [leaders] rejoice in adversity just as brave soldiers triumph in war*

—Lucius Annaeus Seneca

Covid-19 is an
unprecedented
epidemic

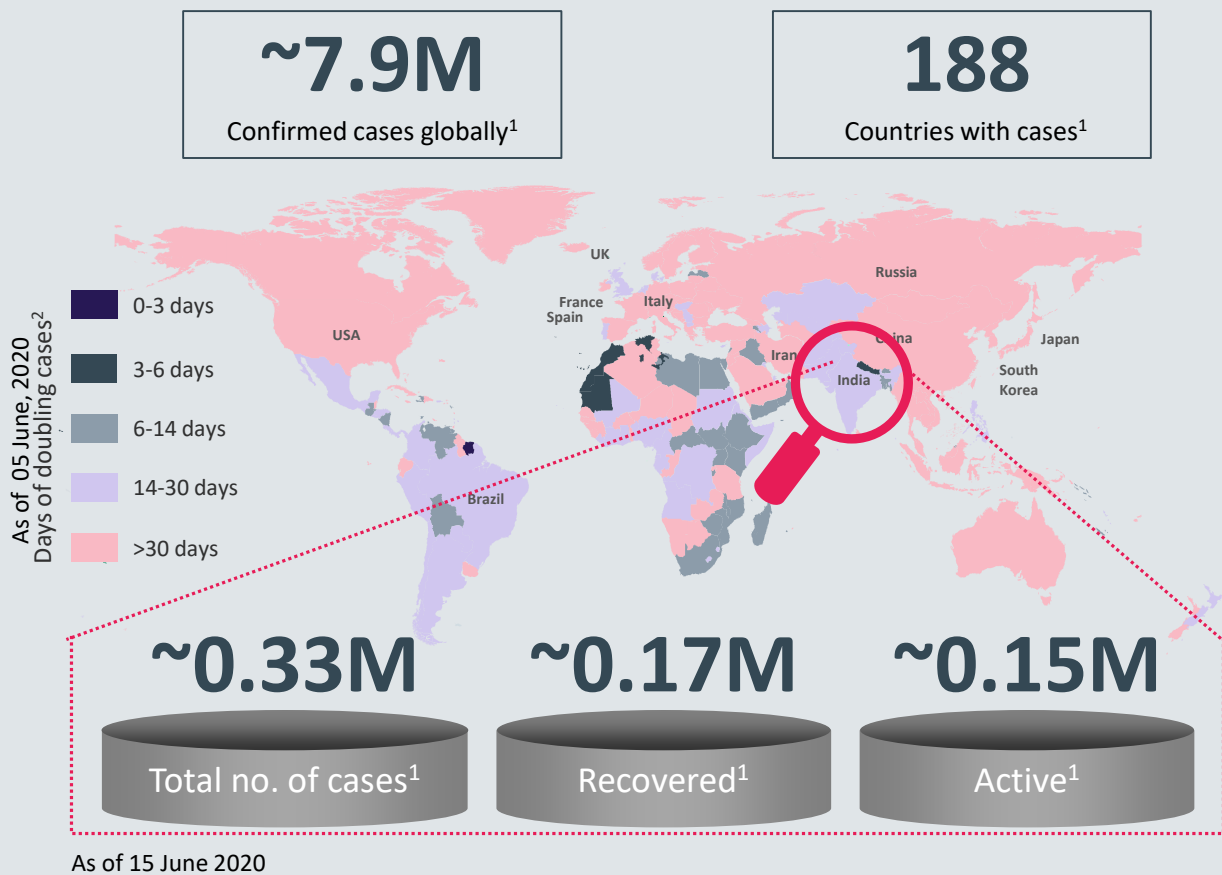
However to win in
adversity, companies
need to **tailor strategies**
to today's unique
context and look
through layers

Turn the Tide
Unlock the new normal

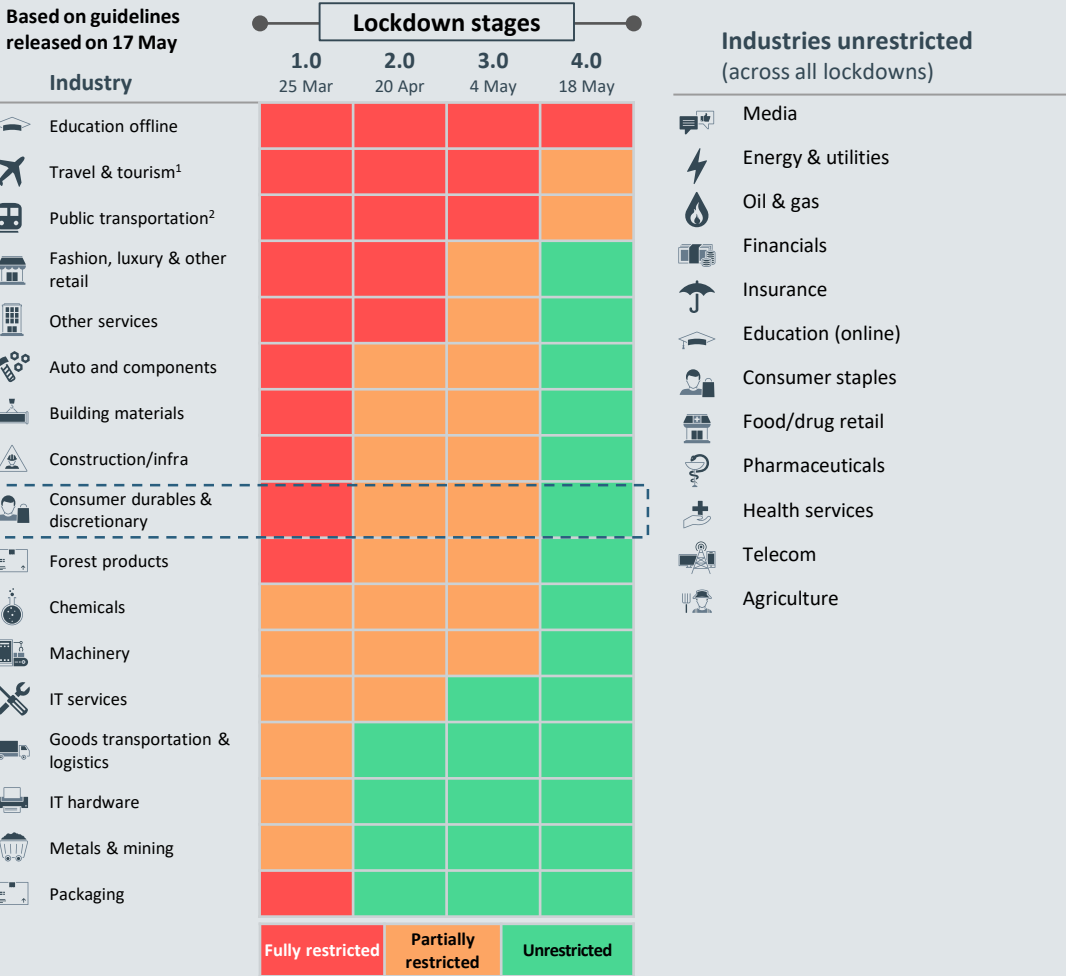
While the pandemic is far from over, calculated means to open-up the economy are in progress

Pandemic spread in different degrees across the globe

As of 15 June 2020



India gradually moving towards opening up economy³



Note: Continued cases and fatalities are subject to different testing, propensity, reporting standards and hence imperfect measures
1. [NDTV Corona Virus - Live Statistics Data - accessed on 15th June, 2020] 2. [BCG Analysis - No. of doubling days based on 7 day CAGR, Source: John Hopkins CSSE data] 3. [Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), BCG Analysis]

The pandemic has impacted the socio-economic fabric of India

Mobile industry impacted by income uncertainty but deemed essential in the new consumer reality

The pandemic has created a never-before focus on health & safety

Social distancing and structural interventions will drive faster recovery

Uncertainty around income and weakened demand potential in near term

Consumer priorities being re-calibrated; certain behavior changes will stick long term



HEALTH & SAFETY

1

COVID-19 Cases

0.33M+ total cases in India¹



2

Web Trends

~120% spike in online searches on health & immunity in India post COVID²



3

Demand of health products

49% consumers intend to buy more vitamins, herbs and supplements in the coming days³



PUBLIC POLICY

4

Public Health Measures

Social distancing enforced via nation-wide lockdown



5

Industry Guidelines

Mobile phones industry in unrestricted category as per latest government guidelines⁴



6

Monetary Relief Measures

~\$13Bn infusion by monetary relief measures by RBI⁵



ECONOMICAL

7

Income Uncertainty

- **60%** of total household expenditure in hotspots; **45%** of consumption in hotspots non-essential⁶
- **198M** workforce employed in hotspot districts⁷



8

Inflation / Price Indicators⁸

- **70 bps** drop in CPI
- **130 bps** drop in WPI



9

Trade / Logistics Indicators⁹:

- **35%** decline in exports and
- **29%** decline in imports
- **14%** decline in retail freight traffic



10

Market Sentiment Indicators¹⁰:

20% decline in Nifty index since 1st Feb



SOCIAL

11

Consumer Sentiment

500Mn+ Smartphones users in India¹¹; **Mobile** category showing mixed consumer sentiment in the next 6 months¹²



12

Media, Smartphone Usage

16% increase in smartphone screen time (May vs Pre-COVID)¹³
Globally, **~3Bn** average **MAUs** across Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram & Messenger¹⁴



13

Web Traffic trends

Medicine and Beverages with highest traffic growth¹⁵



14

Mobility

40%+ reduction in number of visits to public places due to lockdown and social distancing¹⁶



Source: 1. [NDTV Corona Virus - Live Statistics Data - accessed on 15th June, 2020] ; 2. [Online Search Trends (India)] 3. [BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey, April 30- May 03 (N = 1,327)] 4. [Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Govt. of India; Do not apply for containment zones, States and Union Territories may prohibit certain activities] 5. [RBI Notification - 17th April] 6. [BCG Analysis, Source: Nielsen-Indicus database 2017-18, Hotspot list as of 15th April (MoHFW), data compiled in 2017-18 , Press Search] 7. [BCG Analysis, Source: Hotspot list as of 15th April (MoHFW), PLFS workforce survey 2017-18, Census 2011-12 district workforce report] 8. [CPI (MOSPI), WPI (Office of economic advisor) - Change comparison Feb 20 vs March 20] 9. [Import-Export movement (Ministry of Commerce & Trade), Railway Traffic (Ministry of Railways) - YoY decline in March'20] 10. [Bloomberg data - As of 23-April] 11. [Source: TechArc] 12. [Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey] 13. [BARC Nielsen - TV + Smartphone consumption report during crisis, 7th May 2020] 14. [Facebook Q1 2020 Earnings Release/ Call Transcript - 2.6Bn users just on Facebook] 15.[BCG Analysis, Source: SimilarWeb data *www.similarweb.com] 16. [Source: COVID-19 Community Mobility Report - India - Apr 17, 2020]

Turn the Tide

Unlock the new normal

'Social distancing' has been the key to fight disease globally and in India; making it the new way of living



Social distancing advocated as key measure to control COVID spread

CDC

Social Distancing

Keep Your Distance to Slow the Spread

Johns Hopkins University

Now is not the time to ease social distancing measures, experts say

Amid talk of restarting the economy, Johns Hopkins public health officials and leaders urge people to remain at home to slow the spread of COVID-19



South Korea

South Korea keeps social distancing post COVID-19
-qz.com



Hong Kong

Hong Kong extends social distancing measures as cases drop
-Bloomberg

Globally strict measures followed to ensure social distancing

Up to 15 April 2020

10+ Closed public transportation¹



19+ Closed workplaces¹



Countries

Countries



India is actively following social distancing guidelines

India has observed a stark drop in number of visits across public places



RETAIL & RECREATION



Reduction in number of visits compared to baseline



WORKPLACE



Reduction in number of visits compared to baseline

Strict social distancing guidelines issued for reopening workplaces³

Non-Exhaustive



Seating at least 6 feet away from others on job sites



Gap of 1 hr. between shifts & stagger lunch breaks

Turn the Tide

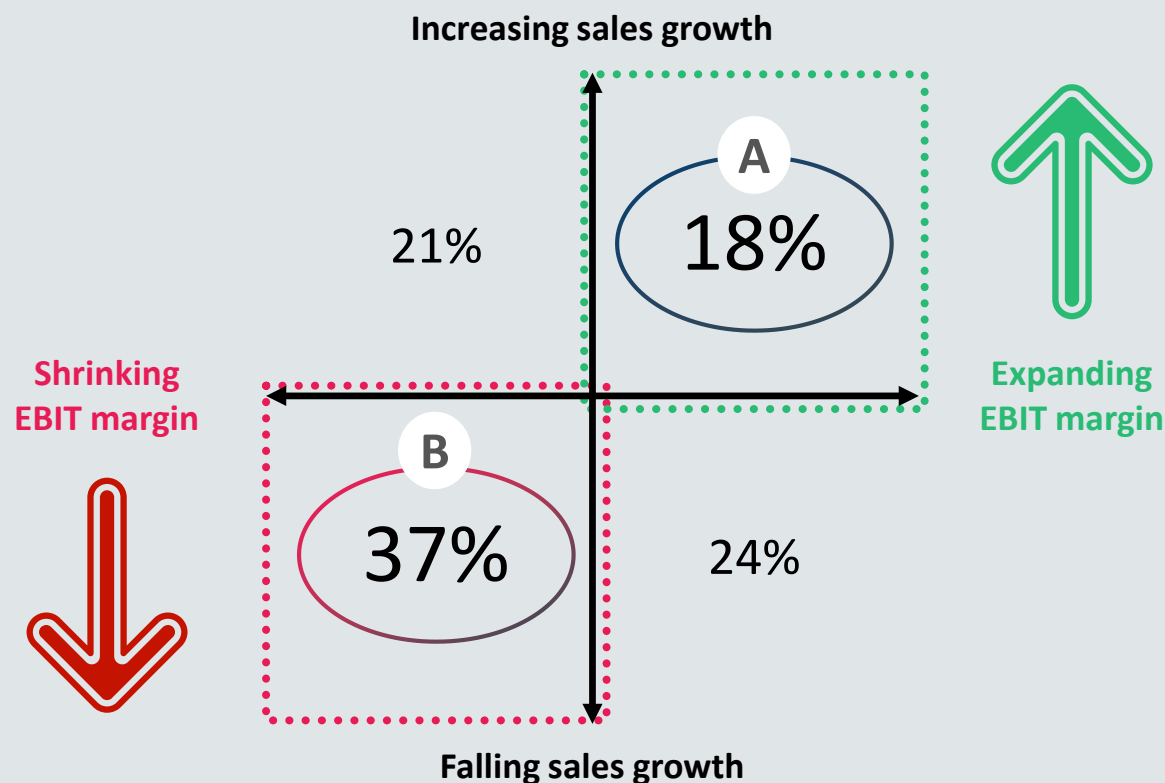
Unlock the new normal

1. [Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker] 2. [COVID-19 Community Mobility Report (April 17, 2020) - The baseline is the median value, for the corresponding day of the week, during the 5-week period Jan 3–Feb 6, 2020]; 3. Press Search; [Live Mint]
[Coronavirus lockdown rules for offices: 6 feet apart seats, one hour gap between shifts]

Even in the face of adversity, historically there are organizations that have found opportunities to grow



18% of Indian companies¹ improved both growth & margin during the 2008-09 Global Financial Crisis, while 37% declined in both²



There are many success stories of Indian companies weathering historical crisis³

HCL TECHNOLOGIES

While most players were struggling to survive the 2008 crisis, HCL increased its revenues by 23.5% in 2009 with a three-pronged approach: enhanced customer centricity, strategic shift towards sophisticated value adding services and an "employee-first" mantra. The stock price has increased 18X since 2009

MARUTI SUZUKI

While the global recession of 2008 affected the sales of all car manufacturers, Maruti Suzuki embarked on a forward-looking journey. The reaction included capacity expansion, increased headcount in R&D, flexible product-mix and breaking new ground in consumer markets. Stock price has soared 10X since 2009

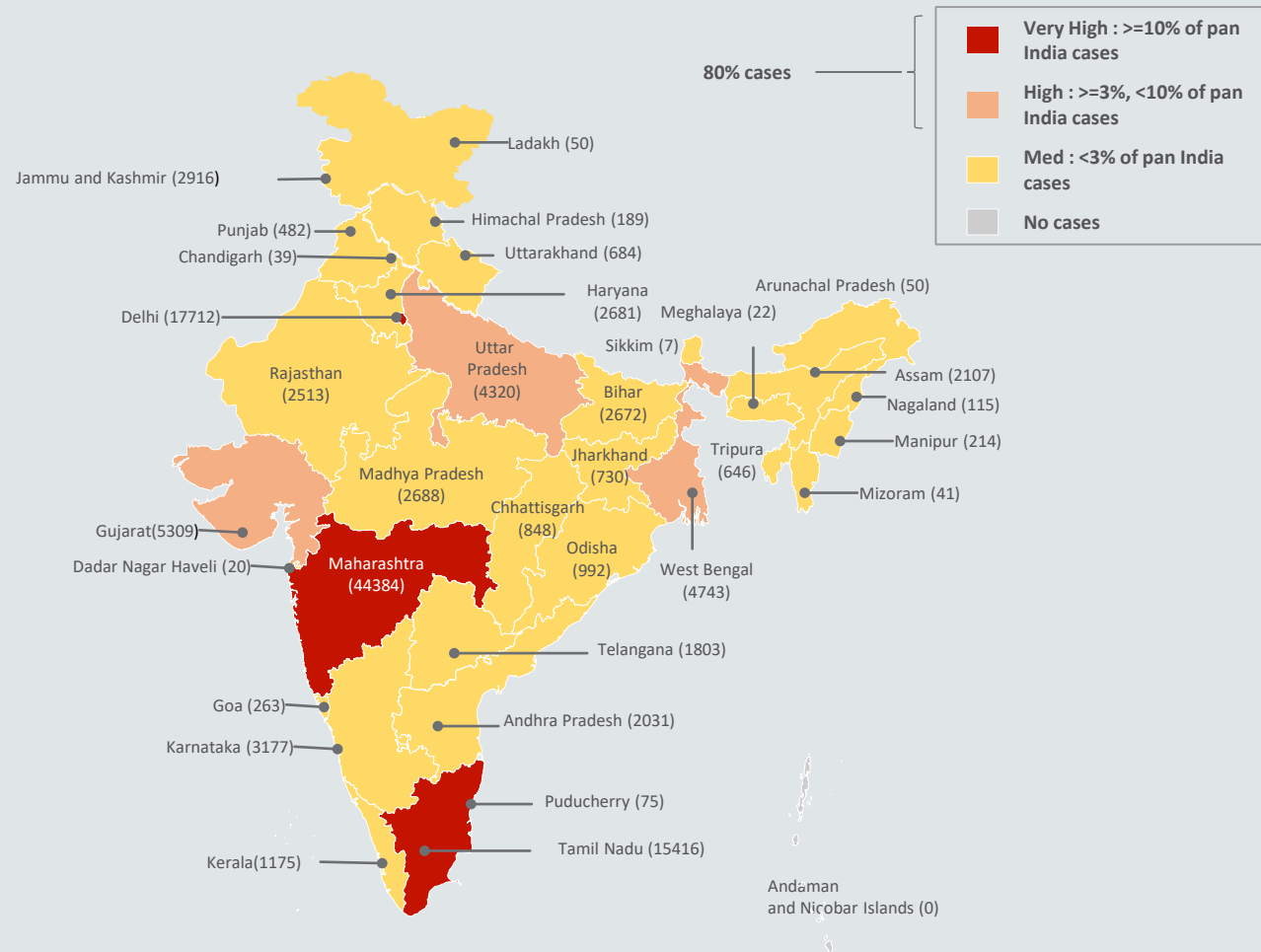
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As the current crisis unfolds in India, near term potential exists in pockets; need to look at the de-averaged picture

25 states have less than 20% active cases¹

Data as of 09 June



1. [BCG Analysis, Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) website; Press reports]



Companies should **strategically prioritize re-opening** and scaling up business as lockdown starts easing across regions



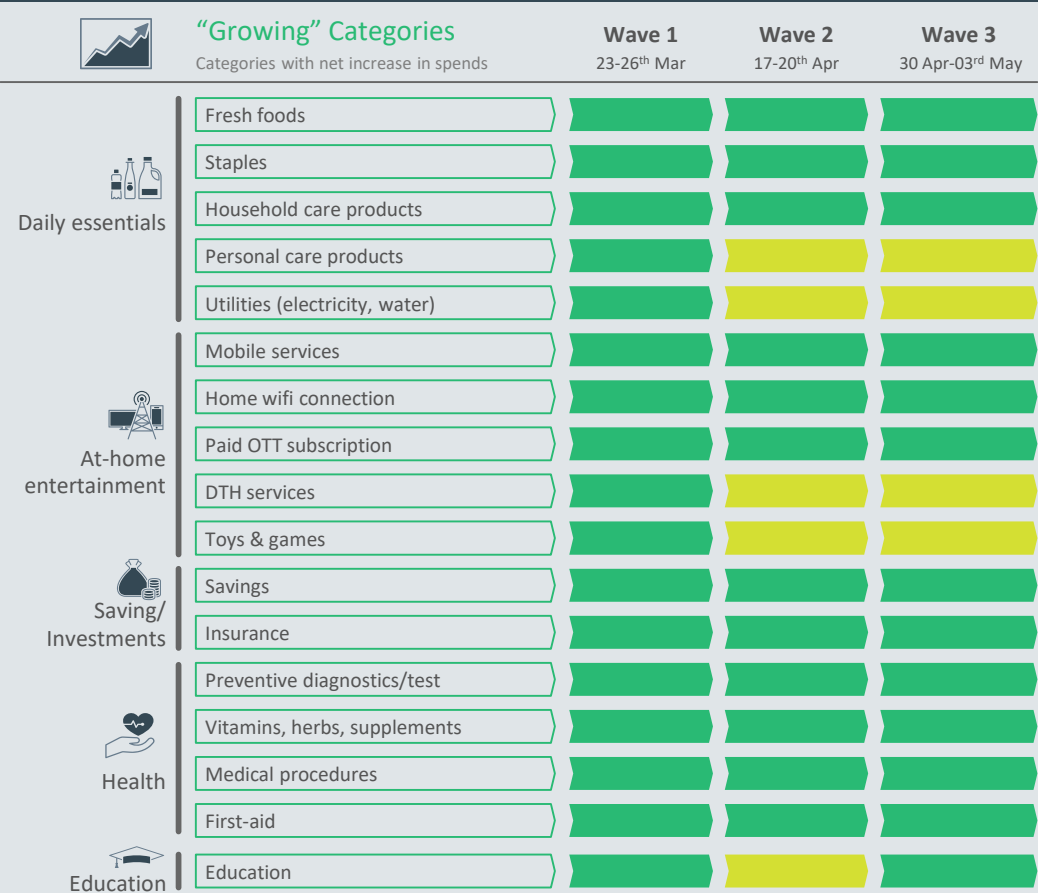
Potential to target **specific micro-markets** further along recovery to 'normal'

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Given consumer dependence on the mobile category, it has more positive sentiment v/s other electronics

Right strategic actions needed to win disproportionate share



Marketers will need to identify pockets of opportunities



Consumer sentiment Positive Neutral Negative

Note: Question text: "How do you expect your spend to change in the next 6 months across the following areas?" Categories with Top 2 Box > (5% more than average) classified as winning categories. Categories with Bottom 2 Box > (5% more than average) classified as losing categories. Categories neutral across waves: Baby/children's food, Non prescription medications, Prescription medicines, House rent, Home purchase & Home loans.
Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey March 23-26, April 17-20 2020, April 30-May 03 2020 (N = 2,106, N = 2,324, and N=1,327 respectively)

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The pandemic will create different types of changes in consumer behavior – some more long lasting than others

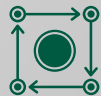


REVERSAL OF PAST TRENDS

Wild cards; likely to be temporary surges



These are complete reversal of how consumers were behaving in the past



These changes have mostly risen out of a constraint or fear vs. convenience or choice



These trends will likely last in line with recovery period



ACCELERATION OF EXISTING TRENDS

High potential permanent shifts in behavior



Consumer behavior was already moving towards these trends



With the pandemic, the trends have gained momentum and accelerated



Positive reinforcement is essential for consumers to adopt them in the long term



NEW HABITS

Stickiness of change is yet to be determined



Entirely new habits developed during the pandemic and while social distancing



Consumers who gain positive reinforcement out of the habits may retain them



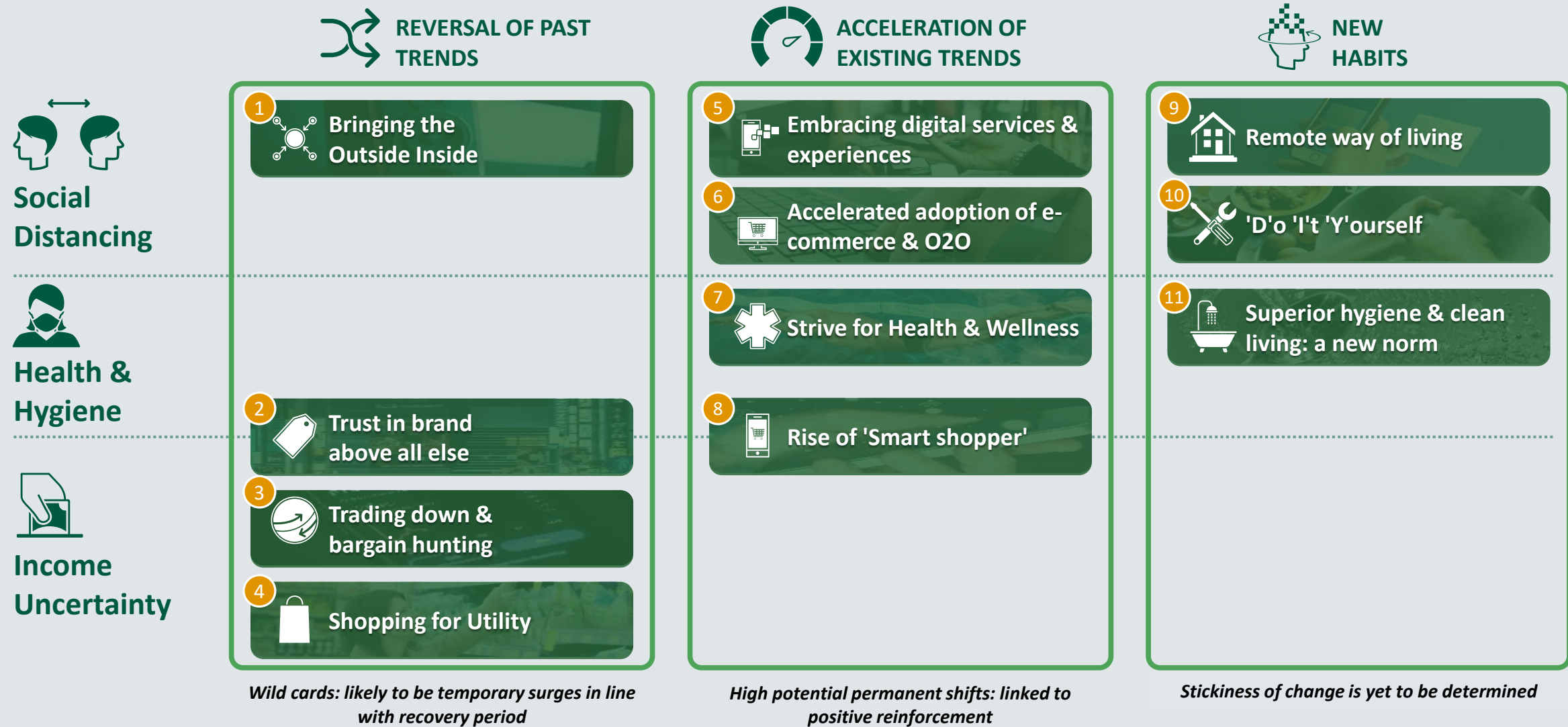
Ecosystem facilitating and feeding these changes can make it last longer

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New trends of consumer behavior emerge across categories

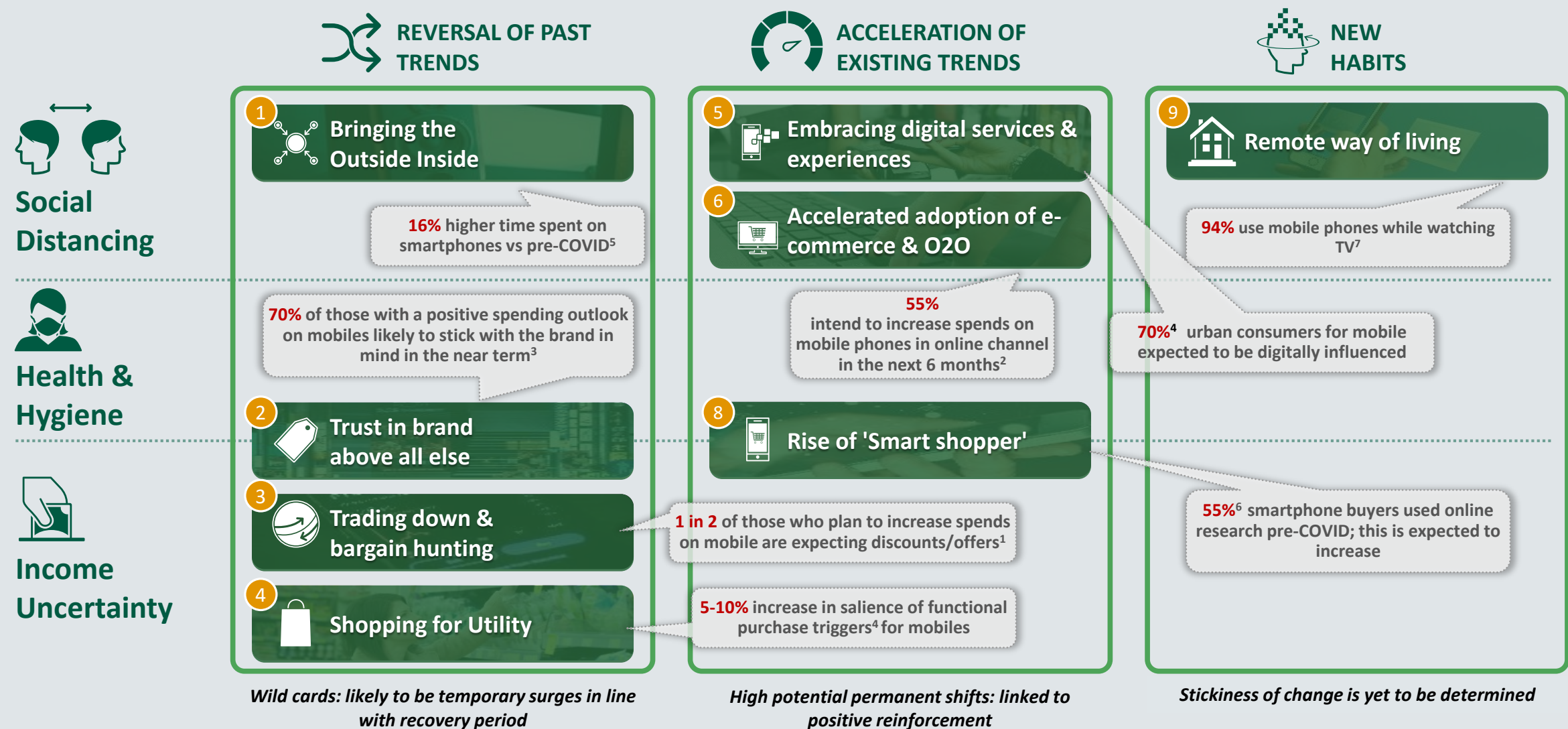
This will deeply impact purchase pathways in the new normal



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8 consumer trends will have a higher impact on the Mobile category

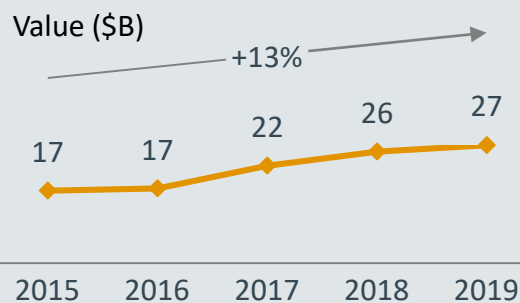


1. [Q. "Please state the reason to spend more/ less in near future?" Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey April 30-May 03 2020, N=1,327] 2. [Q. "In the next 6 months, how do you expect your online spend for the following types of products to change?" Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey April 30-May 03 2020, N=1,327] 3. [Q. "In the next 6 months, how do you expect the choice of your brand to change" (for those increasing spends) Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey March 23-26, N=2106] 4. [Expert interview and BCG analysis] 5. [BARC Nielsen – TV + Smartphone consumption report during crisis, 7th May 2020] 6. [Percentage of the smartphone users; BCG CCI Mobile consumer study, N=2000] | 7. [GWI, All Internet Users 18-45, Coronavirus Research | April 2020 Multi-market research wave 2 and Core Research Respondents on COVID-19 from Q1-Q4 2019]

Pre-COVID, Mobile category in India was the fastest growing in the world



India was steadily growing faster than other major markets



13% CAGR (2015-19); higher than other major markets
(CAGR¹, %)

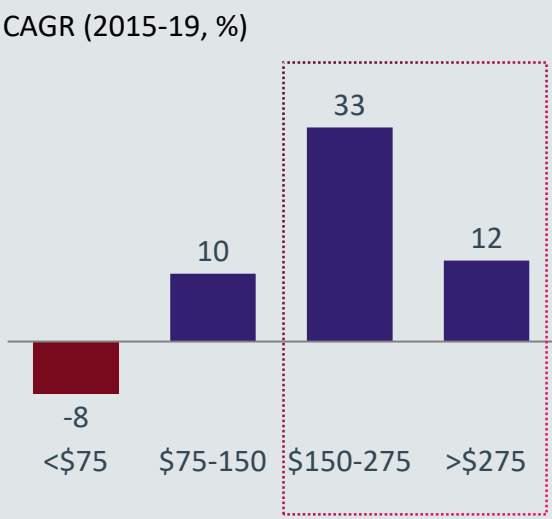


11GB per user per month – one of the highest in the world³

\$0.1 per GB data plan – one of the cheapest in the world³



Mid & premium segment were growing the fastest

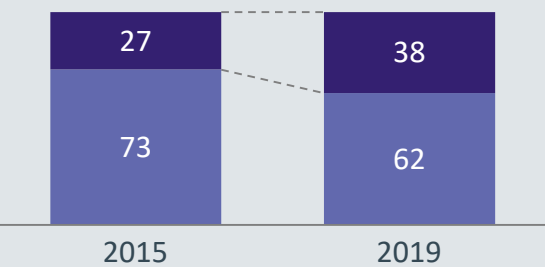


Industry was trending towards premiumization:
Average selling price had increased **1.5X** between 2015-19



Share of online was high & growing

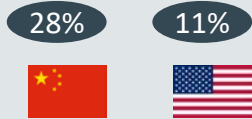
Channel share (%) by value



Online Offline

India has the highest share of online globally (38%)

% Share by value²



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1. [CAGR (2014-2018)] 2. [Share of value as on 2018] Source: IDC Mobile tracker, Press search, BCG Analysis 3. [Source: Press Search and BCG analysis]

The pandemic has led to mixed spending sentiments from mobile consumers



May increase in spends in the next 6 months¹

With social distancing and a more remote lifestyle, mobile has become even more "**essential**" in a consumer's daily life



May decrease spends in the next 6 months¹

Even most of those planning to reduce spends are looking at down-trading

40%

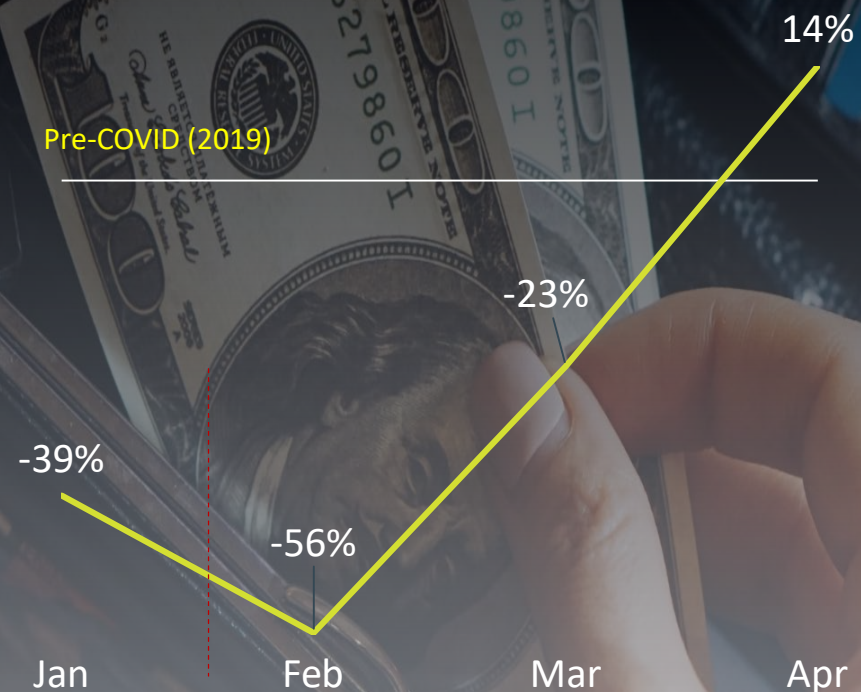
Will buy a cheaper variant²

15%

Will buy a cheaper brand²

Trend from China indicates recovery of demand likely in short term

YoY growth in sales (by Volume) in China after COVID outbreak³



Initiation of lockdown (Jan 23, Wuhan)

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1. [Q. "How do you expect your spend to change in the next 6 months across the following areas?" Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey April 30-May 03 2020, N=1,327] 2. [Q. "In the next 6 months, how do you expect the choice of your brand to change?" Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey March 23-26, N=2106] 3. [CAICT data; YoY growth in shipments for Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr 2020 vs 2019]

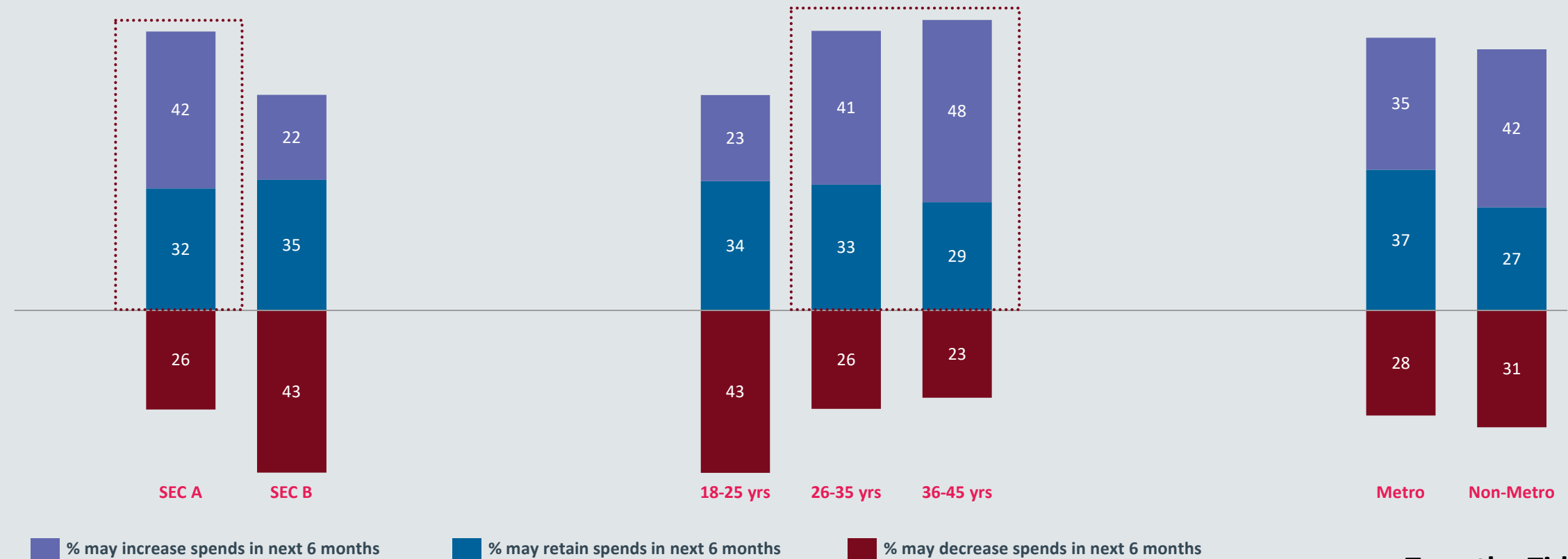
Some micro-markets likely to have a more positive spending outlook for the mobile category

% of consumers looking to increase / decrease / retain spends in the next 6 months – Demographic profile¹

Affluent consumers less impacted by income uncertainty and hence have a more positive spending outlook for mobile phones

Older segments intend to increase spends on mobile in the next 6 months

Similar trends in spending sentiments for mobile observed in **both metro and non-metro cities**



1. [Q. "How do you expect your spend to change in the next 6 months across the following areas?" Source : BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey April 30-May 03 2020, N=1,327]

THE PURCHASE PATHWAY
FOR MOBILES IS
UNDERGOING
FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES

UNDERSTANDING THIS WILL
BE KEY TO TAP EMERGING
OPPORTUNITIES



Turn the Tide
Unlock the new normal

Consumer Behavior Change in P2P: Pre-Purchase



DISCOVERY

1 With higher value consciousness, functional triggers to become more important

% mobile consumers with pure replacement as purchase trigger¹ to go up by 5-10%² ...

60%



65-70%

Pre-COVID

Post-COVID

e.g., "Screen is not clear"
e.g., "Phone is slow"

40%



30-35%

Pre-COVID

Post-COVID

e.g., "Bored with phone"
e.g., "I Like the new model"

2 Higher average replacement time in near-medium term

2.4 Yrs³



8-10%² increase in near-medium term
for mobile phones

+8-10%

Pre-COVID

Post-COVID

Reversal of past trends,
likely to be temporary

SHOPPING
FOR UTILITY



3 Salience of digital influence for mobile will rise even more

~70%² urban consumers for mobiles expected to be digitally influenced

Pre-COVID, 55-60%⁴ urban mobile consumers were digitally influenced (used online to discover or research or compare products)

55-60%



70%

Pre-COVID

Post-COVID

Acceleration of
existing trends, likely
to last longer term

EMBRACING DIGITAL
SERVICES &
EXPERIENCES



Turn the Tide

Unlock the new normal

1. [Q: Best description of the need for purchase of your current mobile; Source: CCI Survey and BCG analysis, N=840] 2. [Expert interview and BCG analysis] 3. [Q. "Frequency of purchasing mobiles over last 5 years" Source: CCI Survey and BCG analysis, N=840] 4. [BCG CCI Digital influence Study 2017, N=18,000, BCG CCI Mobile consumer study, N=2000 and BCG analysis]; Data for urban consumers shown

Consumer Behavior Change in P2P: Pre-Purchase



DISCOVERY

4 With social distancing, importance of online research to increase

55%



Likely to increase

% smartphone users using online research (pre-COVID)¹

- Both salience and maturity of online research to increase
- More price, feature, performance comparisons expected



53%



Likely to decrease

% smartphone users using retailer recommendations (pre-COVID)¹



- Retailer influence may go down as consumers look for more contact-less shopping

Acceleration of existing trends, likely to last longer term

RISE OF 'SMART SHOPPER'



CONSIDERATION

5 With a value seeking mindset, importance of pricing as a choice driver to go up

25%



Salience of price-conscious consumers may increase

% respondents with "Price" in top 3 choice driver for mobiles (pre-COVID)²

Consumers may trade down in their choice of purchase/look for offers and deals

59%

Of those looking to increase spends on mobiles are looking for deals³

40%

Of those looking to decrease spends on mobiles will buy cheaper variant⁴

% respondents (post-COVID)

Reversal of past trends, likely to be temporary

TRADING DOWN AND BARGAIN HUNTING



Turn the Tide

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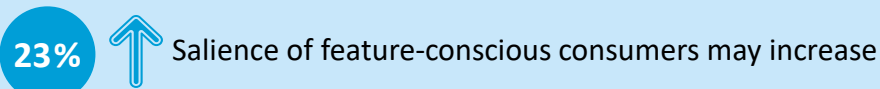
1.. [Percentage of Smartphone users; Source BCG CCI Mobile consumer study and BCG analysis, N=2000] 2. [Considering average of Rank 1-3 responses. Q: "Thinking about your most recently purchased mobile phone, can you tell me the 3 most important factors which helped decide what product should be bought?" Source: BCG CCI Survey and BCG analysis, N=840] 3. [Q. "Please state the reason to spend more/ less in near future?" (for those increasing expenses) Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey April 30-May 03 2020, N=1,327] 4. [Q. "In the next 6 months, how do you expect the choice of your brand to change" (for those decreasing expenses) Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey March 23-26, N=2106]; Data shown for urban consumers

Consumer Behavior Change in P2P: Pre-Purchase



CONSIDERATION

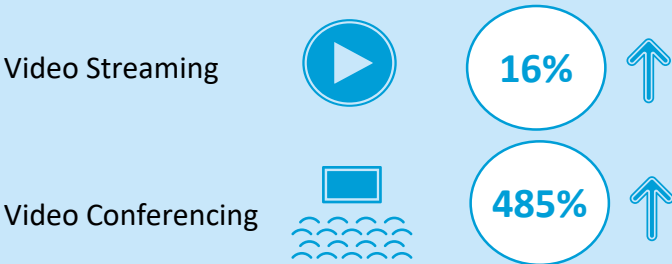
6 With changing use cases, consumers will be more feature conscious



% respondents with "Features" in top 3 choice driver for mobiles (pre-COVID)¹

7 Certain features may become more important

Post-COVID increase is screen-time² spent on



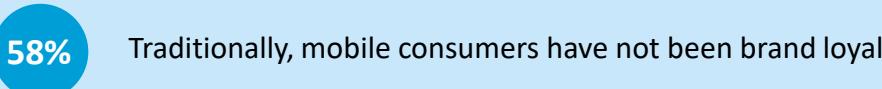
Leading to need for higher video stability, security etc.

New habit, stickiness unclear

REMOTE WAY OF LIVING



8 Uncertainties due to pandemic may lead to some consumers experimenting less



% pre-COVID Consumers who switched brands³

Post-COVID, 70% Consumers with a positive spending outlook for mobiles likely to stick with brand choice already in mind⁴



% respondents (post-COVID)

Reversal of past trends, likely to be temporary

TRUST IN BRAND ABOVE ALL ELSE



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1. [Considering average of Rank 1-3 responses. Q: "Thinking about your most recently purchased mobile phone, can you tell me the 3 most important factors which helped decide what product should be bought?" Source: CCI Survey , N=840] 2. [BARC Nielsen – TV + Smartphone consumption report during crisis, 7th May 2020] 3. [Q: "Which brands do your current and previous phones belong to?" Source: CCI Survey & BCG analysis , N=840] 4. [Q: "In the next 6 months, how do you expect the choice of your brand to change" (for those increasing expenses); Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey March 23-26, N=2106] ; Data shown for urban consumers

Consumer Behavior Change in P2P: Purchase and Post-Purchase



PURCHASE

9 Affinity for online will accelerate even more

Online share for mobile phones (in value terms) likely to reach 45% in the next 2 years¹ from pre-COVID 38%²

38%



45%

Pre-COVID

Post-COVID

55% consumers intend to increase online spends on mobile in the next 6 months³

55%

% respondents
(Post-COVID)

Acceleration of existing trends, likely to last longer term

10 Consumers will expect positives of offline along with safety and convenience of contact-less purchase

Traditionally, 3 key barriers to online purchase of mobiles⁴ - must be addressed for digital conversion



1 Lack of product experience before buying



2 Lack of opportunity to leverage salesperson knowledge



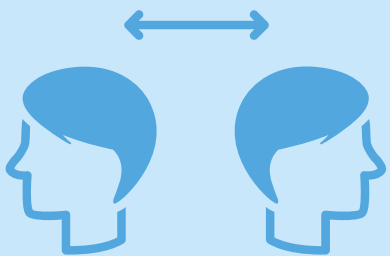
3 No personal relationship

ACCELERATED
ADOPTION OF E-
COMMERCE AND O2O



POST-PURCHASE

11 Higher need for at-home or virtual post sales service



With social distancing, mobile consumers will want to limit store visits for after-sales service

Reversal of past trends, likely to be temporary

BRINGING THE
OUTSIDE INSIDE



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1. [Expert interview and BCG analysis] 2. [IDC India Mobile Phone Tracker ; % by value] 3. [Q. "In the next 6 months, how do you expect your online spend for the following types of products to change?" Source: BCG COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Survey April 30-May 03 2020, N=1,327] 4. [Q: "List of statements read out for 4 channels and asked to choose which channels are applicable to each of the statement"; Source: CCI Survey, N=840] ; Data shown for urban consumers

THE NEW NORMAL FOR
MOBILE CATEGORY
WILL SEE A NEW
PATHWAY

WHAT WILL IT TAKE
FOR YOUR BRAND TO
WIN CONSUMERS?



Turn the Tide
Unlock the new normal

✓ The new pathway is changing and filled with opportunities

PRE-
PURCHASE



Digital proliferation and more functional, value seeking choice drivers

PURCHASE



Fulfilling core needs of assistance & experience in a contact-less way

POST-
PURCHASE



Growing importance of brand advocacy and personal touch

Portfolio & Messaging

STRENGTHEN BRAND POSITIONING
Tweak messaging and portfolio focus to play in targeted micro-markets

Channel & Engagement

CAPTURE THE EXPANDING ONLINE WALLET:
Further enhance online and provide seamless O2O experience

Value Focus

TAP THE HERE & NOW OPPORTUNITY:
Enhance perceived affordability and reduce total cost of ownership of mobile

Presence & Influence

ADJUST TO THE NEW NORMAL OF ENGAGEMENT:
Significantly re-design digital engagement with your consumers leveraging influencers and brand communities

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Digital proliferation & choice drivers present opportunities



Embracing digital services and experiences



Shopping for utility



Trust in brand above all else



Trading down and Bargain Hunting

Bring alive discovery with digital

1



Digital discovery through virtual product launches and virtual roadshows

Educate consumers on feature benefits

4



- **Sequential messaging** by cohort
- Interactive & engaging story-telling

Optimize portfolio for value creation

7



- Segmenting consumers to drive differential value
- Showcase value for money: discounts, bundles, EMIs

Drive digital influence via influencers

2



Partner with creators and publishers to unbox, review the products

Enhance value proposition

5



Potential bundling with other in demand services that drive consumer value, eg: free subscriptions, data packs

Focus on Hyper-localization

3



Leverage social media for **targeted campaigns and lead gen**

Relook Media Mix Model to build efficiency in acquisition

6



- Align to new media landscape
- Catalogues for prospecting customers for adjacent categories like mobile accessories



Medium Term



Short Term

Turn the Tide

Unlock the new normal



Fulfill the need of assistance & experience in a contact-less way



Accelerated adoption of E-commerce and O2O



Remote way of living



Bringing the Outside Inside



Embracing digital services and experiences

8 Replicate in-person experiences to improve sales conversion



- Leverage digital enablers like AR/VR and livestreaming to enhance **virtual product experience and comparisons**
- Facilitate **virtual in-purchase query resolution** (via Messenger / Chatbots / other tools)



9

Strengthen online-offline supply chain to meet customer expectations



Direct to Consumer models

- Lead Ads for immediate potential consumer connect
- Partner with online retail partners, dynamic ads



Medium Term



Short Term

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Unlock the new normal



Build brand advocacy via personal connect



Rise of “Smart Shopper”



Embracing digital services and experiences

Drive Value by repeat purchase and consumer up-trade

10



- Use **brand communities to incentivize**: Special previews, offers or features
- **Incentivize social peer recommendation**: online product reviews, ratings

Strengthen CRM Solutions

11



- Messaging for post sales communication and other digital CRM tools



Medium Term



Short Term

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Pre-purchase

Brand Showcase (1/3)



Virtual launch to aid discovery

Vivo

Launched **Vivo V19 with an Augmented Reality unboxing filter** on Facebook and Instagram to enable users experience the new phone and its features, while staying at home



- Walkthrough on key specifications and overall design via AR filters
- User friendly option for consumers to switch colors and view the phone from different angles

Xiaomi

Launched new flagship smartphone - the Mi 10 **via livestream** during lockdown



Unlock influencer partnership

Xiaomi

Reviews of newly launched Mi 10 on **Gadgets 360** highlight technical features, design and value

Review teaser on Instagram with directions to website



Showcase of features like design, battery life, camera performance and wireless charging



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Pre-purchase

Brand Showcase (2/3)



Leverage social media for targeted campaigns & innovative storytelling

OnePlus

Leveraged Facebook playable ads to introduce its OnePlus 7T series and OnePlus TV in a fun and innovative new way to raise awareness and led to a lift in brand awareness.



Created pre-launch buzz by gamifying the user experience

Interactive ads compelled customers to find out more about the new products via a call-to-action button at the end of the gaming experience



Enhance value proposition

Samsung and Eros Now: Early movers partnering with ecosystem to provide integrated solutions



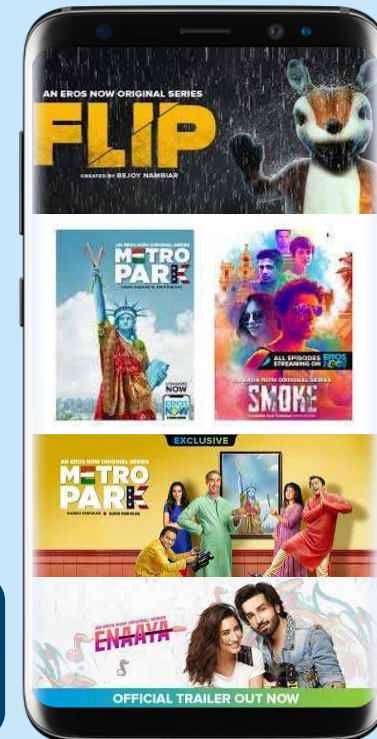
Eros Now

26 Mn+
Paid
Subscribers



30%
users watch
> 9 hrs of video
content per week

Gives all Samsung smartphone users access to **12K+** digital movies, music, original content



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Purchase

Brand Showcase (3/3)



Strengthen online-offline supply chain

Samsung

Partnered with Facebook to enable offline retailers build a digital presence through the **Facebook family of apps**

Offline retailers would be able to **discover and target local consumers digitally** while consumers can now easily access product information and shop for smartphones via social network pages

Vivo



Launched “Vivo Smart Retail” initiative for business continuity; leveraging **30k+** Vivo Brand ambassadors and **20k+** retailers

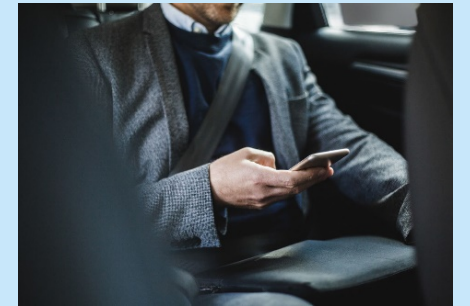
Offline Vivo partners can connect with customers via Facebook page



Strengthen CRM Solutions

Xiaomi

Launched ecommerce platform **Mi Commerce** to let local stores sell smartphones online while consumers limit store visit due to social distancing



Stores being directly connected to consumers via **WhatsApp**

Last mile "contactless" delivery being facilitated by the offline store

Turn the Tide

Unlock the new normal

THERE IS ADVANTAGE
IN ADVERSITY ...

BRANDS THAT TAILOR
STRATEGIES TO THE NEW
PATHWAY WILL EMERGE
WINNERS



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