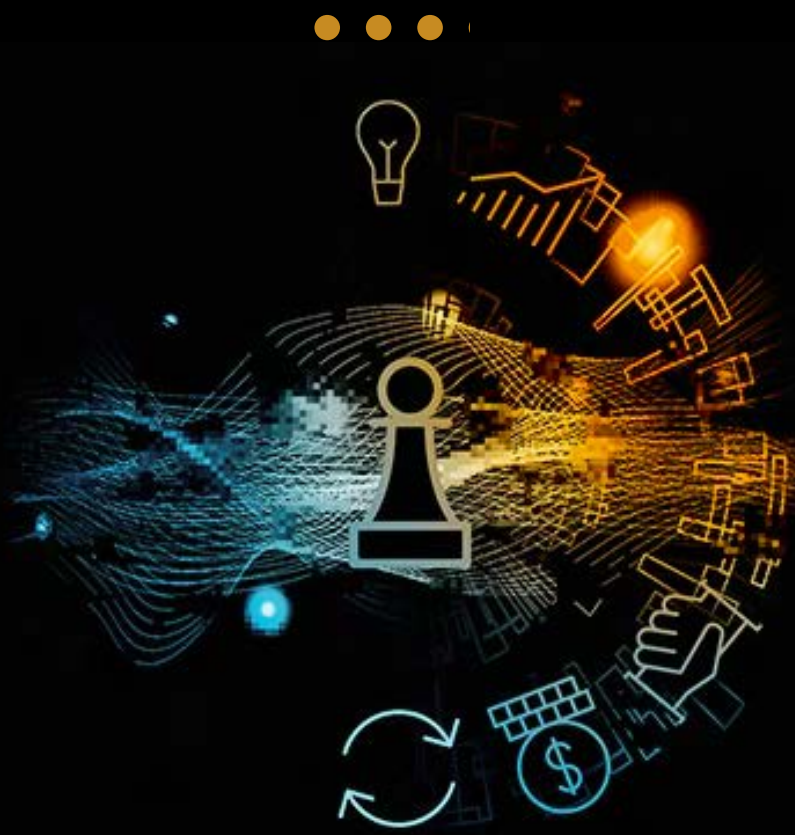


ECOTRIUM

BY THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AT MIT WPU



THE ERA OF
RISING
FINTECH

HYDROGEN
ECONOMY:
THE VISION VS
THE REALITY

ACADEMY
AWARDS
NOMINATIONS
2021

2021 BUDGET
HIGHLIGHTS

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We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation for the encouragement and support provided by MIT-WPU.

It is the state of our own minds that matter the most.

—John Maynard Keynes

LETTER FROM DEAN



Dr. Shailashree Haridas ,
Dean, Faculty Of Economics

Economics education plays a very important role in the changing business world. It is the most important key, which leads to success in all sectors of the economy.

Tremendous growth of global multi-million-dollar companies and global connectivity has led to the rise of the Economics as never before. Growth of a nation is determined by economic factors and hence a career in Economics has gained tremendous clout. Economics as a subject has its applications in diverse fields for e.g., Entrepreneurship, Insurance, Banking, Policy Analysis, Business Law, forecasting, Accounting, Trade, Commerce, Taxation, Finance, Insurance and so on.

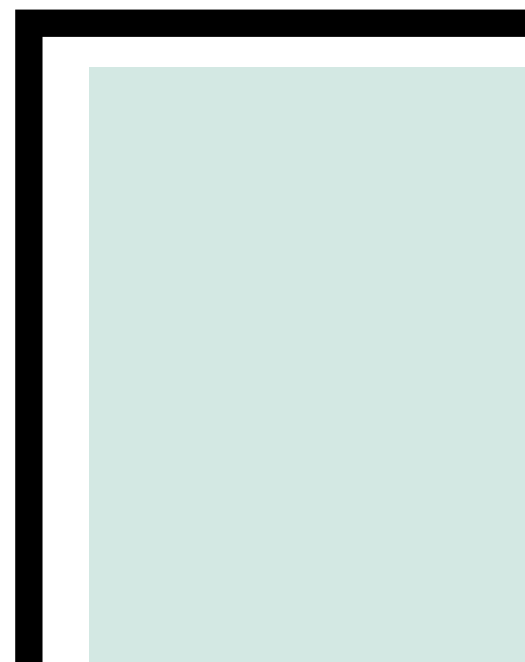
Moreover, diverse, intellectually stimulating and well rewarding opportunities are available in the field of Economics, as one can select from the plethora of opportunities offered by both the Corporate and the Public sectors.

Some of the opportunities in the Private sector include that of Freelancing careers such as economic analysts, critic, or reviewers, also in Economic news portals, magazines or News channels who offer high paying jobs. Corporates also offer various well-paid jobs like that of Actuarial analyst, Data analyst, Economist, Financial risk analyst, Investment analyst, Stockbroker, Business development manager, Data scientist, Diplomatic services officer, Management consultant, Policy Maker, Quantity surveyor, Credit analyst, Management Trainee.

Government sector also offers prominent and prestigious careers, of which most aspired are Indian Economic Service, Indian Administrative Service, Grade B officers, Economists in the Reserve Bank of India, Consultants, Research Associates in the NITI Aayog, and various other Policy level central government as well as State Government openings.

The field of Economics Research also is a field worth treading for those who have a flair for writing and researching. Various posts like Policy Researcher/ Development Researcher/ Economic Researcher/ Environmental Researcher/ Agricultural Researcher, Business Researcher, Ph.D. Researcher (International/ National), Post Doctorate Fellow (International/ National) are offered by Research Institutions and Policy Think Tanks and reputed Universities and Research Centres across the world.

A career in economics is thus decorated one which also assures financial stability. Economics is a very broad and versatile field. The global outreach by government and companies has widened the scope of this sector. Post the economic crises and recession-era, there is a larger role to play for economists as they tend to predict the rise and fall of the world market economy. Every other industry is intertwined and linked to what happens to the economy and here the role of a young Economist is crucial. In short, the options are many, but hard work matters, as the field has become very competitive where students are also replacing their career choices of Engineering with BSc or MSc Economics. Quantitative base and skill of reasoning and analysis are the quintessential requirements for crafting a notable career in this field. Hence, I urge all to take up the trending subject Economics as the opportunities it offers are plenty and luring.



MESSAGE FROM THE HOD

My warm greetings to you all! And congratulations to the first batch of B.Sc Economics on graduation, and best wishes for the next adventure!

We are going through an unprecedented global predicament today. Each of us and the entire world is affected by the coronavirus pandemic; our economy, our families, communities and our entire way of life are adversely affected by the scare of contagion. I would like to share your anxiety and preoccupations and express my solidarity with you and your family. Let us in spirit wish and pray for all people who have been affected by the virus directly and indirectly. We, at MIT WPU School of Economics, are concerned about the health and safety of our students, staff and their families and friends.

MIT WPU School of Economics has carved out space within the Institute by offering a Bachelor of Science (Hons), a Master of Science and a PhD in Economics.



Dr Jayaraj Rajaiah

Professor and Head, School of Economics at MIT WPU

The second batch of B.Sc. Economics students would also be graduating this year. The lockdown since March 2020 due to the Covid-19 virus has totally transformed how we ran our school, the way we conducted classes, interacted with students and evaluated their performance. Despite all the challenges, the School has achieved the following:

1) School of Economics has successfully and efficiently completed its second-year training team India for International Economics Olympiad (IEO). In the earlier year team has bagged one gold and one bronze medal along with personal ranks. Prof. Dr S.S. Haridas was selected as one of the international jury members in IEO. With the guidance of the School of Economics, Team India bagged Bronze Medal & Individual Ranks at IEO 2020

2) School of Economics and School of Commerce successfully conducted an international conference, 'ECOCOM I' and 'II', marked by the presence of over 100 experts from industry, trade, government, banking, finance, and academia. 1000+ participants showed their enthusiastic presence.

3) B.Sc Final year student Devyosha Singh published an article in a book chapter titled Politics, Finance and Infrastructure: Evidence from Emerging Economies in the title, "Optimum Size of Government Intervention, Emerging Economies and Their Challenges", published by Routledge Taylor and Francis.

4) B.Sc Final Year batch has achieved 100% of the placements and internships.

5) M.Sc Students have got International internships.

As faculty, we look forward to a fresh batch of students every year. I earnestly hope that this phase would be over in the coming days, and our regular academics, sports, cultural, and other co-curricular activities will begin like before.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GP. CAPT. (RETD.) D.P. APTE

On 29th April, we lost our dear Apte Sir. He might have been gone but his memory lives on in his family, friends, and the lives he has touched. Some words of memory from our faculty and students that pay tribute and remembrance to the brave heart we will dearly miss.



2013 I was creating and implementing school programmes for NGO in Pune. In one such programme named Skool Sansad I invited Apte sir as speaker of House. He without even asking about time, place said yes and said he would love to spend time with students. He came before time to venue talked to students even after session ate lunch with them. He was officer in air force but for me he remains as a true teacher who just loves spending time with students.

Prof. Swanand Galgale

My memories of Apte sir are the stories told by my colleagues who worked with him at SoB. He was a tough task master but a genuine and caring human being at heart. He always took care of his team and inspired them through his dedication and discipline. With whatever less time I had with Sir, I was inspired by his dedication, sincerity, earnestness and never say no attitude. He was a mentor, teacher and above all an empathetic human being.

I feel I could have the privilege of working with him and learning from him more...

I hope we all can live upto his legacy and his teachings in life...

Apte sir, we will miss you but we will definitely tread the road you laid down for us...

Prof. Anuradha S Pai

I am highly indebted to you sir for the values and virtues in professional as well as personal life learnt from you. It is the ship called MITSOB and it's captain in real sense ...Apte sir because of whom we all enjoyed the enriching journey of knowledge and experience. trying to explore the path of happiness you showed.

Prof. kavita Ingale

Thousands of students and their families owe their entire lives and livelihoods to you! You didn't just design curriculums and courses, you especially made sure that young adults were ready to take the blows of the outside world!

Your love for discipline and your incessant desire to imbibe the same in every student, might have been cumbersome for many back then as students. However, when they look back, it is this very discipline that has taken these students to wherever they are today in life. You genuinely are, and will continue to remain an inspiration for thousands of us, who were privileged enough to know you!

Rest in Peace Prof. (Group Captain) Deepak Apte sir.

Prof. Gaurav Petkar

It was a shocking news we received that day. Our beloved Prof. GP. Capt. D. P. Apte sir is no more. No one expected it as it was just recently, we had regular classes with him.

As a teacher, Apte sir always looked for our benefits, be it through conducting extra classes or by teaching the same topic again and again till every single student in the class will understand it. A strict person who demanded discipline from us. But at the same time, he cared for us. He shaped us all to be a better version of ourselves in the little time we had together. Above all, he was a good human being. He had a strong personality and a pure aura which instantly demanded respect from everyone. I never got to meet him in person, but when I used to think of the faculty members, we will hopefully get to meet soon, he was on the top of that list. Unfortunately, now we will never get to meet him in person. I wish he could stay with us for some more time. I wish we could meet him in person.

He didn't deserve this end. He will always be missed. May his soul rest in peace.

Archita Joshi,
FY BSc Economics

The news of Apte sir's passing away came as a huge shock to me and I am sure to all of us. The fact that we had regular classes with him and that we were waiting for it to resume after exams made the process of understanding the news extremely difficult.

He was a wonderful teacher, mentor and an even amazing personality. His way of teaching was the most unique. His words always had an impact on me. On my second day in college, we had session with him. It was the first time we were introduced to him. Everything he said that day, he made sure he had our attention. It was that interesting.

Even though he might not be physically with all of us, his presence will always be there through his words. Sir, you will be missed. Rest in peace.

- Sheril Anna Thomas
SY BSc Economics

Quotes from faculties

1. Knowledge is power, but shared knowledge is far more powerful. Sharing the knowledge of economics builds not only the new knowledge but also enables our ability to achieve.

-Prof. Jayaraj Rajaiah

2. While Intelligence quotient is a necessary condition for successful life, emotional quotient is a sufficient condition for its sustainability.

-Prof Kavita Ingale

3. "Keep trying - it works!"

-Prof. Ashok Dhingra

4. "Teamwork makes Dream Works..."

-Prof. Gaurav Petkar

5. Research is about finding new ideas and newer ways of looking at the facts and data. It implies using available tools and established methods innovatively or inventing new methods altogether. Thus, experiment is a life pulse of research.

-Prof. Kaustubh Saurkar

6. Success in life is a continuous struggle to be better. It can be achieved through perseverance and strong believe on oneself.

-Prof. Agamoni Majumder

7. In our life, what most of us aim is a good career, making money, having all material pleasures and ensuring a good life for our family. This ultimately resonates with the rationality assumption of economics where all consumers are utility maximizers. But we as human beings should be able to give back something to the society also as What we earn is not just ours, a part of which should be used for helping others. The concepts of sharing, being empathetic, lifting up others from their misery, lending a helping hand for those who need is being taught from nursery school, but unfortunately these values are lost somewhere in this world of mad rat race where all are running towards success, money and fame. Its time we revive these lessons and start practising in our daily lives as adults. Let us start thinking about others too. Lets share and care as the nursery rhyme goes, Sharing is caring.....

-Prof. Anuradha Pai

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

“To look for context, insight and amazing stories, Enter this magazine.”

It has been more than a year since we have been locked inside our homes, struggling to find a little freedom and dealing with loneliness. In these unprecedented times, the Editorial team is here to provide you with some freedom and take the loneliness away with an amazing reading experience this magazine will provide.

After all, you are never alone when you are lost in the magic of reading, as sometimes, reading is all the therapy a person needs.

With this brand-new issue of **ECOTRIUM**, we continue our promise to offer both hard-hitting, original reporting and idea-driven articles about the people, institutions, and issues that matter in India and beyond, as well as provide the fun, appealing and challenging content that will tickle your economist brains. We'll be opinionated but never biased, and we hope to bring you perspective, not more punditry. We aspire to provoke and inspire, never to bore or lecture.

And we hope you will soon come to rely on the magazine as a place to find the best writers and thinkers engaged with the biggest stories, most inspiring ideas and those that should be and applied to in the real world. Perhaps most importantly, the magazine aims to fill a dangerous vacuum in the rapidly transitioning world of Economics with also few big takes on vast subjects and how we as students play a big role in determining the future of the same.

So, gear up to begin the amazing experience of reading through this magazine.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

PRIYASHA GUPTA
PRESIDENT

FIRST YEAR, BSC. ECONOMICS (HONS.)

Dear Readers,

We welcome the release of Ecotrium's third issue with great joy, gratitude, and anticipation. I'd like to extend a warm reception to the Ecotrium readership on behalf of the Ecotrium Editorial Team.

We celebrate the interesting field of economics in this edition through the ebbs and flows of the pandemic, the volatile world of politics, path-altering career advice, enthusiastic writeups on modern culture, and a smidgeon of creativity from both our board members and from fellow college students of MIT-WPU School of Economics.

There is an Italian proverb translating to "when the game ends, the king and pawn end up in the same box", which I believe sits quite well for our team, no one is superior or inferior. We, at the editorial board, are humbled to be working for the magazine, together and as equals. We have come a long way, developed and are proud of the fruit of our efforts.

I'd like to end this message by encouraging everybody to send Ecotrium their exciting work. Once again, I welcome you to this magazine – your magazine! With your help as writers, reviewers, and editors, I believe Ecotrium will be able to better serve our community in the future. In the end, we will have improved more lives and, as a result, our economies.



ATREYEE SENGUPTA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

FIRST YEAR, BSC. ECONOMICS (HONS.)

Dear Readers,

After months of earnest effort, the editorial team is extremely delighted to present to you this third edition of Ecotrium. We are back with a wide range of topics, some of which would inspire you to contemplate your reality while others would help you escape the mundane.

While scrolling through the pages of this magazine, get a deeper insight into the developments in the national and global economic environment. Learn about the major political events which occurred in the recent past and their widespread impacts on the social and economic realms. Find the answers to those crucial questions that you often ask regarding your career and personal development. Since our society immensely influences our thoughts and actions, broaden your understanding of some of the significant social episodes shaping our world. The 360-degree perspective given to various topics will surely enrich your minds!

Our magazine is a celebration of the voices of the creative minds here at the MIT-WPU School of Economics. We hope that you enjoy reading this magazine as much as we enjoyed creating it!



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

ASHWIN AGARWAL
MANAGING EDITOR
FIRST YEAR, BSC. ECONOMICS (HONS.)

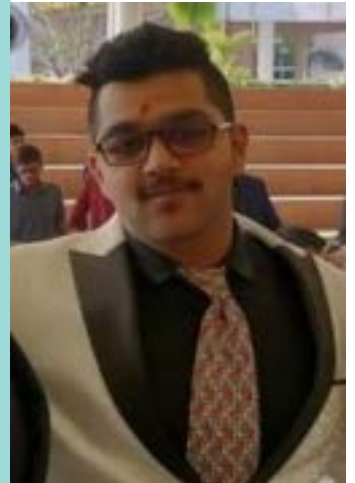
DEAR FELLOW MATES,

How different would our everyday lives be if we were all blunt? What would happen if we said what was on our minds, all day every day? Well, that is what we do with our articles at our stupendous editorial club.

This time we are back with a little pinch of everything that has been around us, from a little bit of politics to some stocks and light reading all with a few wisecracking puns and illustrations. But whatever it is, it's been written from the bottom of our heart with some turmoil here and there because what would you do if your college didn't let you post something you wrote they saw as illogical and unambiguous. Maybe this magazine of ours will help the rebel in us come out. We do it the hard way, the kind way and make it work no matter what, together, even if we get chewed out and that's what makes us love this club and my annoying need to be organized and scheduled keeps me thriving here.

Now what I need from each and every one of you is a little support and feedback if not input so we can together, take our beloved Ecotrium to an unstoppable prominence.

Stay Tuned, Jai hind!



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E C O N O M I C S



BY KSHITIJA KUSRAY

Here are some of the principal proposals
made in the 2021-22 Union Budget of India:

A. Expenditure

- The government put up a proposition of ₹34,83,236 Cr for the current financial year. This amount is 13% higher than that of the previous year.

B. Receipts

- The estimate is to be at ₹19,76,424 Cr, which is also 23% higher than that of the previous year.

C. GDP Growth

- Nominal GDP is estimated to increase up to 14.4% this year.

D. Deficits

- The revenue deficit is directed at 5.1% of the GDP in 2021-22, which is lower than that of the previous year (7.5%).
- The fiscal deficit is fixed at 6.8% of the GDP, which is lower than 9.5% of the previous year.
- The government is also aiming at reducing the fiscal deficit up to 4.5% by 2025-26.

E. Ministry Allocations

- The highest allocations areas are- Ministry of Jal Shakti (64%), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (48%) and Ministry of Communications (31%).

Tax Proposals

- There aren't any specific changes related to individuals & corporations.
- Now, the tax exemption in the situation of Provident Fund will have a limit of ₹2.5 lakh.
- There has been a tax deduction of up to ₹1.5 lakh on housing loan interests.
- Moreover, a tax holiday is proposed for housing projects, startup profits and investment capital in start-ups.
- Agriculture and Infrastructure Development Cess will get levied on imported items including gold, silver, alcohol, petrol, diesel, etc. Since this cess comes under the indivisible earning between states, it will affect the States' Revenue.
- The time limit for the reopening of the income tax assessment got reduced to 3 years.
Now, those businesses who have 95% of their transactions online and a turnover less than ₹5 Cr will get exempted from audits. This limit is said to increase to ₹10 Cr.

Changes in the legislation include:

- Introduction of a Securities Markets Code to consolidate existing acts like the SEBI Act of 1992.
- Amendments will be made to the Insurance Act of 1938 for increasing the FDI Limits from 49% to 74%. This amendment will also include an allowance of foreign control with safeguards.
- The definition of small companies will get revised to what existed in the Companies Act of 2013. The thresholds of paid-up capital and annual turnover will also be increased.

Disinvestment

- Disinvestment of 'Air India', 'IDBI Bank' and 'Pawan Hans' will get completed this year. With this, the Initial Public Offer (IPO) for LIC will also get completed.

Finance

- Committees will get established to take over the stressed debts, management and disposal of assets.
- The framework will get introduced in the corporate bond market for instilling confidence.

Commerce and Industry

- 7, textile parks will get constructed over three years for increasing exports through the establishment of infrastructure.
- Incorporation of one-person companies will be made easier, and NRIs would be allowed to start them too.

Labour

- A portal will get developed to gather information on daily wage workers. This portal will help in framing further schemes for these workers in the areas of health, insurance, etc.

Health & Nutrition

- The 'Atmanirbhar' & 'Swasth Bharat Yojana' is launched to increase the capacity of health systems, national institutions as well as to establish new institutions for detecting and curing new diseases.
- 'Mission Poshan 2.0' will get launched to strengthen the daily nutritional consumption.



Education

- A higher education commission will be set up with the correct legislation.
 - Plans made for the establishment of higher education institutes in 9 cities.
- 15,000 schools will get strengthened by the National Education Policy (NEP).

Infrastructure & Real Estate

- A bill for the establishment of a Development Financial Institution (FDI) for helping infrastructure financing.
- Debt financing will be enabled the case of real estate and infrastructure investment trusts by foreign investors.

Transportation

- Economic corridors to increase road Infrastructure in places like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and West Bengal.
- Launch of a scheme to allow the private sector to finance, operate, acquire and maintain public transport buses.
- Introduction of a voluntary vehicle scrapping policy for discarding old vehicles.
- Introduction of new technologies for building efficiently, the metros in tier-1 and tier 2 cities.

Science & Technology

- Proposal for providing financial incentives in case of digital payment modes.
- Launch of 'Deep Ocean Mission' for conducting survey explorations and projects related to biodiversity conservation.

Water & Sanitation

- 'Jal Jeevan Mission' launched with the goal of universal water supply and liquid waste management in urban cities.
- 'Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0' launched to focus on wastewater management and against single-use plastic & air pollution.



OIL PRICE FLUCTUATIONS : THE CURRENT SCENARIO

Crude oil is the lifeline of industrialised nations and has not only become the world's most important source of energy since the mid-1950s, but its products underpin modern society, mainly supplying energy to power industry, heat homes and provide fuel for vehicles and aeroplanes to carry goods and people all over the world.

Oil meets 97% of our planet's transport sector demand and also benefits our lives in being vital to the production of many everyday essentials. Oil's refined products are used to manufacture almost all chemical products such as plastics, fertilizers,

detergents, paints and even medicines. While the spontaneous global events continue to disrupt the supply chain of crude oil, for those managing risk, the previous year has been a challenging time, while for other market participants, there have been opportunities to consider. The global benchmark Brent crude futures went up briefly, moving above \$70 a barrel for the first time in more than a year, after the surge in oil prices came, following Saudi Arabia stating its oil facilities were targeted by missiles and drones.

Rising Taxes in India

In the last few months, the one commodity that has been on a steep upswing is crude oil. As per a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report, every \$10/barrel increase in crude oil prices leads to an additional \$12.5 billion deficit, which is roughly 43 points (or bps) of India's GDP. So, every \$10/barrel increase in crude price shoots up the GDP ratio by 43 bps.

The above one-year chart of the increase in crude prices can be classified into three time-partitions.

- The first phase was the crash in crude prices between February and April 2020, when crude crashed from \$52 per barrel to \$18 per barrel, being driven by the COVID-19 lockdowns.
- The second phase was the short covering and consolidation between May and October as short-covering took crude prices to above \$40 per barrel, but it did not have the steam for much more and hovered around that level till late October.
- The most crucial phase following was between November 20 and February 21, which saw an 81% jump in crude prices to \$67 per barrel, which was driven by demand expectations, but more importantly, because of a series of supply-side shocks.



GDP growth and crude prices tend to be positively correlated, and higher GDP generally leads to more crude demand resulting in better prices. But the real boost to oil prices here came from supply shocks after OPEC plus with Russia, in its last meet in January 21, committed to sustaining their supply cuts to the tune of 7.7 million barrels per day (bpd) at least till the end of March and longer if required. That was a major supply shock as the markets were expecting a supply boost from OPEC.

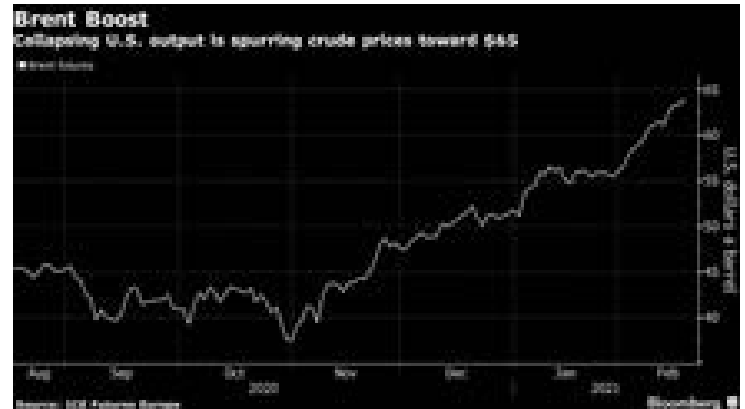
The question that comes to mind is, what does this oil price shock mean for the Indian economy? Its answer stands at several implications that a sharp spike in oil has for the Indian economy in general and Indian markets in particular.

The first impact of this spike in oil prices is on the trade deficit. As for December 20 and January 21, the merchandise trade deficit crossed the \$15 billion monthly average, which was largely driven by higher crude prices and India relies on crude imports to meet at least 85% of its daily oil needs. And while the everyone-dollar rise in crude prices raises the landed cost and negatively impacts the trade deficit, a sharp spike in the prices can throw household budgets in disarray. In many states, the price of petrol crossed Rs100/litre, and diesel was hot on its heels as nearly 60% of this price paid goes towards central and state taxes, as well as duty. When crude prices were falling, the government opted to monetise the fall by raising excise duties on petrol and diesel and now that crude is rising, the government fiscal constraints do not permit any duty reduction. Hence, every hike in crude price is being passed on to the Indian consumer as higher prices of petrol and diesel, throwing household budgets into a quandary. Crude is inflationary at a primary and secondary level, and as we have seen how higher crude prices lead to higher cost of petrol and diesel. The increased transportation costs created by the rise in petrol and diesel prices build up inflation into almost every product and service. These add to cost-push inflation.

This impact of the rising crude oil prices on domestic inflation is through two channels. First, the direct channel where crude products themselves appear as constituents in the consumer price index (CPI). In the short run, a change in prices of crude products will affect the CPI directly due to their weighted contribution to the index. Second, on the other hand, over time, the retail prices of all other commodities manufactured using crude as an input will also increase and in turn, will affect the CPI again, which is the indirect effect.

One may wonder why stock markets tend to do well when oil prices are rising? That is because

sectors like oil extraction, oil refining, oil marketing, petrochemicals, gas extraction, gas distribution all gain when crude prices are high, and since these sectors have a substantial weightage in the Nifty and Sensex, they appear to be conducive to stock markets.



The Texas Problem

The bigger supply shock came from the Arctic burst in Texas, surprisingly freezing temperatures and blocking most of the state's waterway outlets connecting the rest of the United States. Texas produces 4 million bpd of crude and accounts for 40% of the total United States oil output. The supply shock could be because of the recovery taking long to be drawn. The rally in oil prices was also driven by growing hopes of a stimulus package in the states. The result has been a surge in the value of crude barrels in other parts of the world. North Sea traders have been frantically bidding for the region's cargoes as replacements are being sought for U.S. crude exports, following Europe's supplies getting more expensive and Asian buyers snapping up Middle Eastern shipments at higher premiums. Even though headline crude futures are at their highest level in over a year, they are yet to rip higher because the loss of refining capacity is equally acute. The country's largest plant has closed, and at least 3 million barrels a day of processing got taken offline; traders rushing to send millions of barrels of diesel across the Atlantic to the U.S., a potential boon for Europe's downtrodden refining industry.

By Ashwin Agarwal



HYDROGEN ECONOMY: THE VISION VS THE REALITY

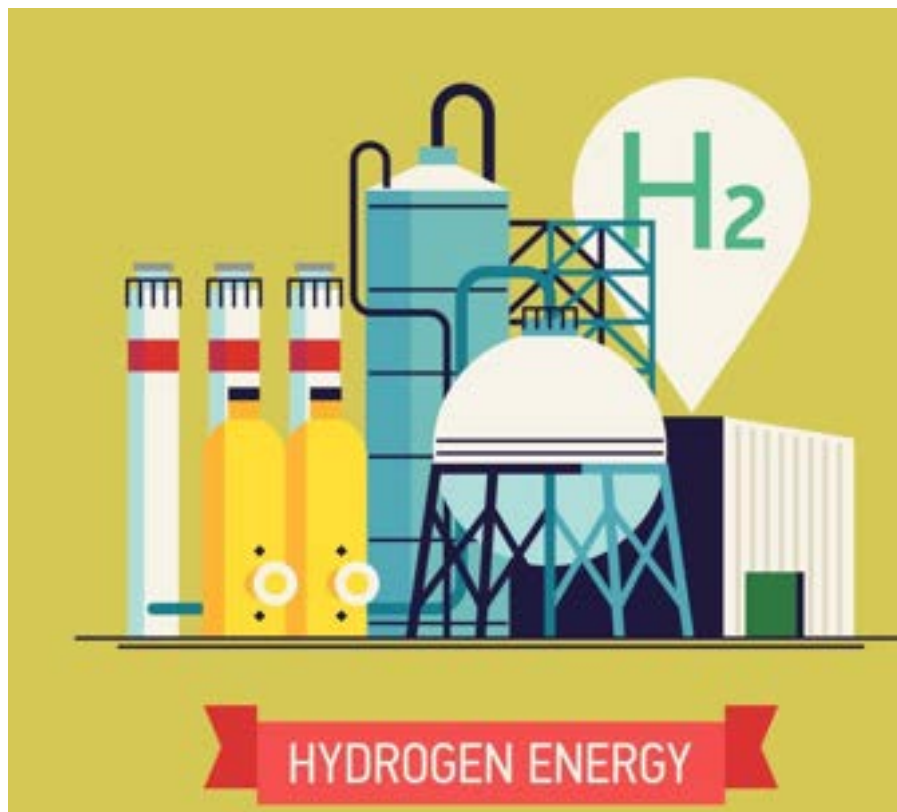
-BY ATREYEE SENGUPTA

With the widespread environmental disasters taking place worldwide, global citizens are increasingly becoming aware of the need for choosing greener lifestyles. World leaders have also started recognising the importance of sustainable economic development for survival in the long run. So, as consumer focus shifts from conventional energy to renewable energy, the age-old element Hydrogen is being placed under the spotlight for addressing the main problems of global warming and environmental degradation.

Hydrogen, the most abundant element in the Universe, is a massive energy carrier in its molecular form and is almost like a battery in itself. When combined with oxygen in a fuel cell, it can generate large volumes of electricity, with water and heat as the only by-products.

. These zero-carbon fuel cells prove to be a perfect alternative for transportation fuel and can also be used to power any device that uses batteries. Methanol produced with the help of hydrogen can be a fuel to jets and ships. Further, cement and steel industries- which are well-known emitters of Carbon Dioxide- can be entirely decarbonised when provided with hydrogen-based electricity. Hydrogen is not only derived from renewable energy sources but is also helpful in the production of more clean energy. Hence, it is regarded as the fuel of the future and has the true potential to unlock the doors to a future envisioned hydrogen economy, where all toxic hydrocarbons would get replaced by green hydrogen.

India allocated Rs. 1,500 crores for renewable energy development and Hydrogen Energy Mission, in its 2021-22 Union Budget. It aims to achieve 175 Gigawatt of renewable energy capacity by 2022 and to decarbonise by 2050.



Companies such as the Indian Oil Corporation and the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd. are working towards the production technology for green hydrogen. TATA Motors' partnership with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has developed India's first-ever hydrogen fuel bus and is planning to introduce it on the Delhi-Jaipur route soon. The government might also incentivise hydrogen production through PLI schemes for encouraging the iron, steel and cement industries to switch over to hydrogen-based electricity



Apart from solving the problem of air pollution, the initiation of Hydrogen use will benefit the Indian economy in several other ways. India's dependency on imports of crude oil will reduce to great extents through the domestic production and consumption of hydrogen. It will save the economy from the risks of supply disruptions, volatile oil prices and geopolitical uncertainties. The distribution of hydrogen does not require grids, and unlike most renewable energy, the production of hydrogen is not affected by seasonal changes. It means that there is no resulting supply-demand mismatch. So, a highly flexible energy system will get created across the nation, helping the rural areas to thrive, reducing the regional disparities in the economy and improving the aggregate economic welfare.

Despite being around for several years now, hydrogen power has not yet been

commercialised on a large scale. The possible reason behind this can be the challenges it posed to both the consumers and the producers. The element is highly inflammable and raises safety concerns in the market. Vehicles and devices fitted with hydrogen cells can blow up under extreme heat. Storage is also a problem as hydrogen requires compact and lightweight storage components. Moreover, public and private investors are reluctant to invest in hydrogen production due to uncertainty and high investment costs.

With its limitations, hydrogen can never be a complete solution to the global economy's green energy needs. It would have to undergo several stages of R&D, right from the initial stages of production to final consumption, before it gets out to transform world economies into hydrogen-based ones.

STORY OF OUR LIFE TAKE II- Filed Your Taxes Yet?

Imagine close friends having the same standard of living but different sources of income and paying different tax amounts. Ever wondered why?

This is a conversation between two best friends discussing their taxes. Xavier Gates is a successful businessman who is well known in the real estate industry and Noah Johnson is the best Surgeon in the city.

Xavier's Point of View:



Business can be unpredictable. Sometimes, your day goes effortlessly and sometimes it's frantic. But through this unpredictable schedule, one thing always remains in my schedule and that is the weekly get together with my best friend.

It used to be our daily routine to meet up when we were in university with our other friends as well but with work and everyone having different schedules, it's become a weekly routine. Today we are meeting for dinner. When I get to the location, I can see Noah has already arrived.

"Hey, finally got time to breathe?" I asked.

"Hey, yeah, just took some time off after the heavy schedule from the past few days. What about you? Anything interesting?" Noah replied.

"If you consider taxes and all the year-end accounting interesting, then my life is indeed a lot interesting" I replied.

"I don't understand why you are always so worked up on it" he said.

"Well, when you run a business, you need to look into the business's accounts and taxes along with your personal taxes."

"What's the difference?"

"Well, you want to know in detail right now?" I asked.

"Yeah, I am curious. I always pay attention to who I am saving and never to where my money is going while you are always worked up at this time of the year, keeping an eye on your money. But now I have time, so start talking."

"Okay so, for starters, taxes are like an involuntary fee we pay to the government to fund the government spending for public transport services to our country's defence. There are two types of taxes- direct and indirect. Direct taxes are the ones we pay directly to the government and we cannot shift it to another entity, like our income taxes which we pay directly. Whereas indirect taxes are the ones we pay when we consume any good or service. It is collected from us and paid to the government by some other entity, so it reaches the government indirectly, like the Value Added Tax (VAT) or the excise duties."



"So, there are only two types of taxes, right?" he asked.

"Primarily yes. All types of taxes can be classified into direct or indirect, but that is just on the top level as there are many subcategories of taxes in it."

"Hmm. Okay. So, in my profession, and for me, the direct tax will be the income tax and the indirect tax will be what exactly?"

"Well, if you consider the hospital as an entity, its direct tax will be the income tax- which is called the corporate tax for any business and the property tax for the building (if it is owned by the entity). The indirect taxes will be involved in

the equation when we talk about the goods and services. So, when the hospital buys various medical equipment, medicines, and other things like the sanitation equipment and stationery, they pay the indirect taxes in form of VAT, GST, excise duty, and customs duties, depending on the goods and services- their types as well as their manufacturing locations. When the hospital treats a patient, they are likely to charge service tax along with their fees sometimes, but it may or may not be mentioned in the payment receipts separately. Sometimes, there are some exemptions on taxes, where medical treatment is exempted from taxation but there are some other factors considered for these exemptions."

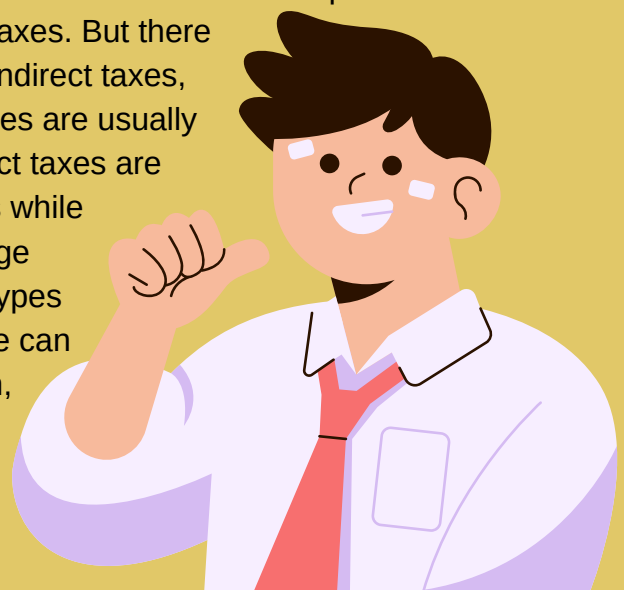
"Also, in your case, the direct tax will be your income tax while the property tax will be for the properties you own. But I think that as an employee, you will be getting the Tax Deducted at Source or the TDS facility, so you won't have to pay your income tax separately. The indirect tax will be the tax you pay for any goods or services you consume. Have you ever noticed, there is generally written on packed food products "inclusive of taxes"?" I continued.

"Yeah"

"They are the selling prices that include the indirect taxes. If these taxes are reduced, then the price of that product will likely go down as well."

"I get it. Now I have a little bit more insight into my finances and of the hospital as well. But what about your business, is it something different than your schedule that turns hectic during this period?"

"If you look into my personal taxes, it will be the same as yours- income tax, property tax, and the indirect taxes on the products I consume, only the proportion will change. Being in the real estate business, I may have more properties than income at the end of the year so my property tax will be greater than income tax which may be the opposite in your case. Indirect taxes will depend on our consumption. Also, it will be the same with direct and indirect taxes. But there might be more property tax that we need to look into than the indirect taxes, even though we face direct as well as indirect taxes. Direct taxes are usually involved when we are directly trading the properties, but indirect taxes are added to it when we sometimes remodel or construct buildings while using construction materials. It gets hectic because usually large amounts are involved in the transactions plus all the different types of taxes with different amounts to be paid and a simple mistake can make a huge impact. So, I need to proofread every transaction, every document, and confirm if we are right on track." I explained.





“Now I understand it but is it the same with all the sectors?” Noah asked after some time.

“Mostly yes. Employees' worry mainly about their income taxes. If you look at my business, its mostly the property taxes that I am concerned about, in the case of retail stores, their main concern are indirect taxes like VAT or GST, for someone more into international trade - imports and exports, their main concern will be the custom duties. I am not saying it's their only concern when it comes to taxes. They need to pay other taxes too, but a majority of their taxation will be focused on these areas with other taxes in small proportions. It depends on their work and their consumption.” I replied.

“And you mentioned some exemptions before. What are those?” he inquired further.

“Exemptions are some things for which we don't need to pay or sometimes pay only a little tax. Like generally a woman will have to pay less tax than a male. Then if you show your investments or if you are paying for someone's education like your child or other family members, you will pay less income tax (but there are some limitations and factors involved). There are tax brackets for income tax and below a particular income level, there is no income tax applied for that person. Then the senior citizens are exempted from paying income taxes on their pensions and interest returns. These are some exemptions that are applied mostly in the case of direct taxes. There are some exemptions in indirect taxes as well, but they are less than what we see in the case of direct taxes. But there are some other factors or conditions applied to these exemptions.” I answered.

“Wow, it seems that it can get complicated so how is this humongous system managed?”

“Yes, the system can get complicated for individuals like us. But government manages it pretty well. The indirect taxes go from the middle entities to the government. We can pay our income tax at nationalized banks. There is this TDS service where the employer deducts the taxes from the salary and pays it altogether on the employee's behalf. The property tax goes to the local authorities and from there it goes to the government. The government has made lots of departments like the income tax department which handles particular taxes. There are online payment options and assessment systems provided by the government which handle the taxes quite easily.”

“Ooh. For an individual, it is such a simple process but on the macro level it gets intricate when it is such an important part of the economy.”

“Yeah, true”

“Well as much as I love these discussions, I have to get back to treating patients.”

“Even I need to get back and finish all the pending work”.



Thus, we briefly looked into the concept of taxation, which is an important concept that supports government spending, brings stability to the economy, and reduces the inequality between the citizens by redistributing the wealth. Although, it is a vast topic with various points of views, this conversation briefly explained the government as well the taxpayers' point of view.

INDIA'S NEW SOCIAL MEDIA RULES

- BY ARCHITA JOSHI

The Central government of India announced new Social media rules on 25th February 2021 to regulate social media entities, streaming services (OTT platforms), and digital news channels. The Indian government took this action weeks after Twitter refused to cooperate with the authorities' instructions during the farmer's protest in Delhi when governments worldwide are trying to incline the social media giants to take responsibility for and regulate the content available on their platforms.

A press conference was addressed by Union ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Prakash Javadekar, sharing details and warning that "double standards of social media will not be acceptable".



A three-level grievance redressal mechanism, with the levels of self-regulation by publishers, self-regulation by the self-regulating body of the publishers, and an oversight mechanism, would be developed to prevent media violence and the spread of false news. A grievance officer will monitor the system with the complaints' registration within 24 hours and their resolution within 15 days.

The officer should be an Indian resident, and the platforms are to submit monthly compliance reports. If there are any complaints against a user's dignity (especially women), within 24 hours after receiving the complaint, the platforms would be required to remove the offensive content.

Furthermore, when asked by the court or the government, social media platforms will have to disclose the first originator of "mischievous" information. The said message should be concerning India's sovereignty, security of the state, relations with foreign states, abuse, and assaults. When there is any immediate action required, the government will set up an oversight mechanism with a committee having representatives from ministries of Defence, Home, External Affairs, Law, Information and Broadcasting (I & B), IT, and Women as well as Child Development.

The minister went on to say that the websites would provide a voluntary verification system for users.



Furthermore, when posting or publishing content on digital media, publishers must adhere to the Press Council of India's Norms of Journalistic Conduct and the programme code developed under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act. The I & B Ministry will also issue a charter for self-regulating bodies, including Codes of Practices, and establish an inter-departmental committee for hearing grievances. These rules will be notified under Section 87 of the Information Technology act.

For the OTT platforms, the service providers will have to self-classify the content in five age-based categories, and publishers will have to prominently display the classification specific to each content with a content descriptor informing the user about the nature of the content. Parental locks would be implemented, according to the minister, on the content classified for 13+ age groups and a reliable age-verification mechanism for content under "Adult" is to be used by the platforms.

Lastly, there will be a grievance redressal system for OTT platforms and digital portals, and for the platforms having a self-regulating entity, headed by a retired Supreme Court or High Court judge or a quite eminent person in the category.



AUSSIERS VS FB: CHALLENGES BEFORE GLOBAL MEDIA

The Australian parliament recently passed a new law aiming to force all digital platforms like Google and Facebook to pay a certain amount of their revenue from advertisements and features to Australian news media platforms. The law "News Media and Digital Platform Bargaining Code" aims to provide a negotiation power for news outlets with the big digital platforms so that the digital platforms pay a fair amount to the news outlets. If these negotiations fail, an arbitrator will set the price according to this law.



Why was the law introduced?

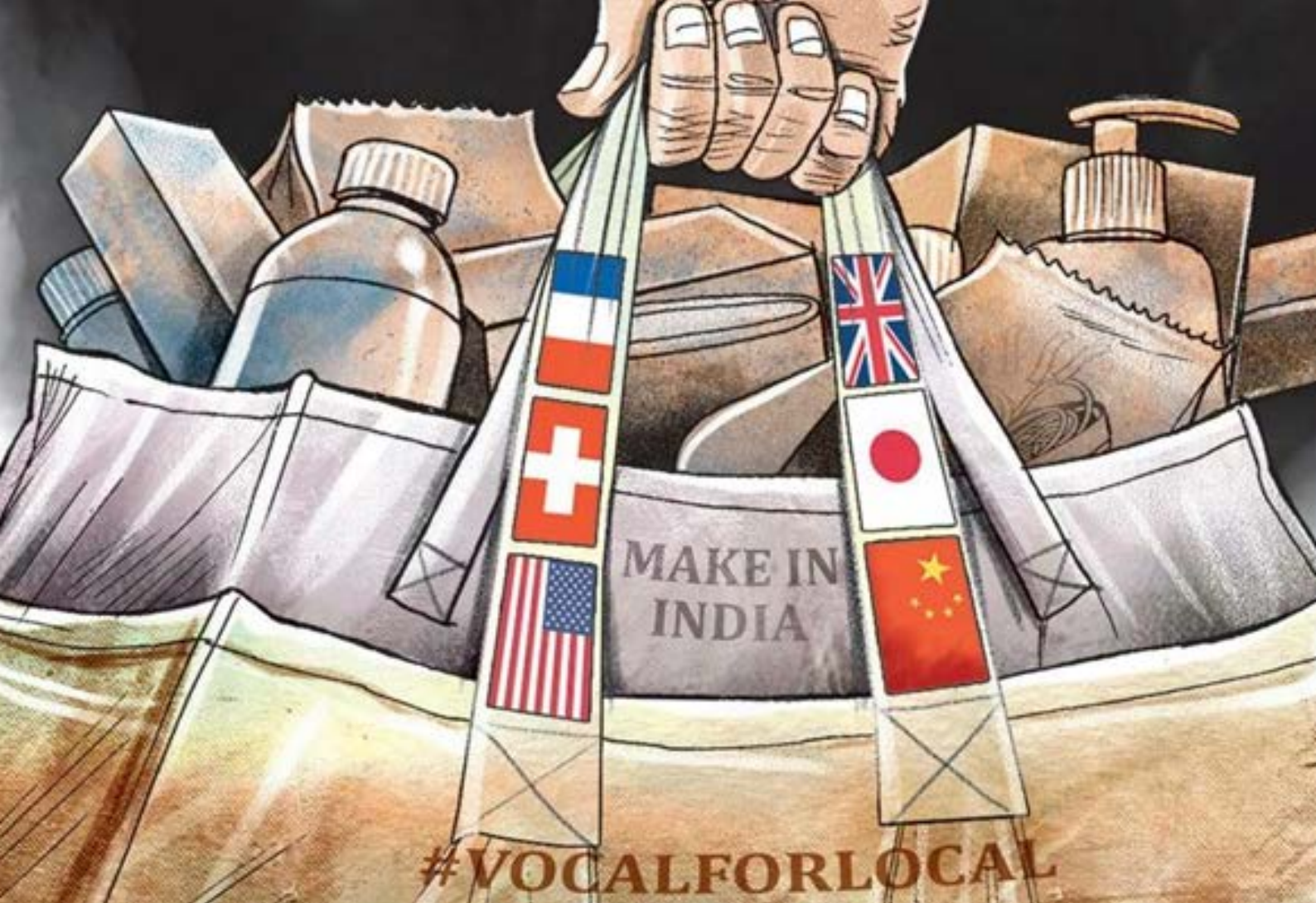
The need for this legislation arose out of disagreements over compensation between local Australian television networks and big tech/social media mega corps (mainly Google and Facebook). The big tech giants had started to pay lower and lower amounts to the local media platforms while using their content on their platforms. This reasonably raised questions from these media outlets. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) recommended in 2017 that there be an arbitration mechanism between the media and the digital platforms. Meanwhile, digital platforms have failed to raise their pay to media groups, claiming that doing so would significantly increase their costs and reduce their earnings.

Following the ACCC's advice and media pressure, Australian lawmakers and policymakers began to debate the law's needs and consequences. The Australian government then started negotiating with the two major digital platforms refusing to pay the media channels. Eventually, Google agreed and began talking terms with the local media outlets by late 2018 and pulled itself out from the issue. However, Facebook kept resisting pressure to increase payment to media. The company decided to start a complete blackout of media and news connections on its platforms across Australia in mid-2020. Facebook had hoped that the

blackout strategy would bring Australia to its knees and that it would save itself from paying millions of dollars while also showing to the world that governments should not pressurize tech giants. Unfortunately, the decision backfired, and not just the Australian media and politicians, but also the general public, were outraged. It disrupted critical information resources such as national health services amid the coronavirus outbreak. The unexpected move only pushed Australia to move ahead with its bill. It also helped the country gain support from other countries, including India. It made governments globally realize that though big tech companies like Facebook are necessary for the modern way of life, there is also a need not to let them go out of control and start taking things into their hand.

The passing of the law and the subsequent payments made by Facebook to Australian news outlets have now seemed to end the controversy. With the law's implementation, countries from all over the world have shown interest in it. It is posing to be a big challenge for software behemoths like Apple and Google. However, this might not become a bigger problem as these companies already pay the local media in most nations for broadcasting their content on their media platforms.

By-Aaryan Shreshtha



VOCAL FOR LOCAL

The slogan 'Vocal for Local' was used by PM Narendra Modi for the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat campaign during his national address back in 2020. The purpose of this campaign was to create a self-reliant nation by promoting India's local brands. It intended to change the way people thought about our local products and be more forthcoming and prouder of them. In his speech, the Prime Minister stated that all global brands started local and became global after their manufacturers started marketing and branding them. He believed that if all Indians made 'Vocal for Local' their mantra, it would globalize Indian products and help India achieve its goal of a five trillion-dollar economy.



The government has been aiming to reduce India's dependency on Chinese goods and has been inspecting all the incoming investments from Chinese companies to control their acquisition of Indian enterprises and small businesses amidst the crisis. It is also true that the MSMEs have been facing unfair competition against foreign markets. The central ministries and departments also started purchasing more from the micro and small enterprises (MSEs) after the government announced a mandate for the public sector to procure 25% from the MSEs.

Indian brands are now leading in the Indian market in products like hair oils and Chyawanprash health supplements in the FMCG sector. In the food sector, 60% of the brands are Indian. Top local brands like Patanjali, Khadi Naturals, Parle Products Private Limited, Amul, Dabur, and others may get an opportunity to showcase their products in the international market to get ahead.

Cadbury India has adopted a clever marketing technique to promote local retailers through advertisements for Cadbury celebrations. They reached out to 1800+ retailers across 260+ pin codes and featured their stores along with their product category. Companies like ITC and Dabur are also campaigning on social media platforms and emphasizing their Indian roots.

During the Covid crisis, contributions of the Indian medical sector were also well received by the world. But a concern that remains is that China is still a prime exporter of pharmaceutical ingredients. India is trying to increase its local drug ingredient output to become an alternative source for bulk drugs. Domestic manufacturers will get incentives, as well as subsidies for reviving old drug-making facilities.

The 'China Plus One' strategy tends to diversify businesses in other countries and avoid concentration of investments in China and instead turn towards other Southeast Asian countries. Ever since the pandemic, global firms have started shifting their interests towards India and reduced their dependence on China. During the first India Toy Fair, the promotion of 'Handmade in India' was also initiated to increase handicrafts production. India has a very, particularly, small contribution towards the toy industry as 85% of the toys are imported mainly from China and Taiwan. The Indian toy manufacturers have been advised to minimize their plastic use and make recyclable and environmentally friendly toys. These toys can launch into foreign markets with the help of

technology. India is also rich in its knowledge and resources in the field of Ayurveda. We have a wide variety of Ayurvedic goods from various regions with a scope of acclaim in the national market.

Further, India possesses 100+ types of weaves from various geographical locations across the country. It's necessary to preserve and endorse the skills and creations of these artisans to encourage their growth. By promoting local handicrafts, it is possible to discourage rural people from migrating to urban areas as they will have employment opportunities in their regions themselves, which will help in reducing the regional economic inequality.

But being vocal does not limit us to only our products even our art and architecture hold high regard as they reflect our ancient culture and value systems. Yoga has also been recognized internationally for its health and mental benefits. Yoga coaching can become a lucrative profession with minimum investment and maximum benefit. One can see that a gym requires investments for installing various equipment for workout whereas, in yoga, the body itself is the main instrument to perform any yoga asana.

It is necessary to raise awareness of our indigenous products in the domestic market. Social media platforms can help collect feedback and are used as a barometer to introduce hit Indian products in the international market.

India is capable of becoming a global player. An excellent example is the current situation of locally made vaccines produced by our domestic manufacturers.

By Kaavya Shetty

THE ERA OF RISING FINTECH

- By Priyasha Gupta



Technology has revolutionised almost every aspect of our lives, from shopping to socialising, and it is also reshaping the financial services industry. Fintech start-ups have sprung up in recent years, using technology to make it easier for people to invest, pay bills, and even get a loan. Now, people consider financial services to be a consumer product, which is a very different perspective.



This industry is possible not only because of its fresh perspective on financial markets, but also because it's a convergence of technology and big data which allows all kinds of businesses to harness and analyse data in novel ways, whether it's developing a personalised investment strategy or approving a loan using a new underwriting process.

WHAT IS FINTECH?



Fintech, or financial technology, is a broad term that refers to various businesses that use software to provide financial services. Financial technology firms are typically described as start-ups that aim to disrupt existing finance models and larger financial institutions that are less technologically integrated. Larger corporations, on the other hand, are increasingly recognising the value of software solutions and turning to fintech for expanding and improving their financial service offerings. In recent years, global investment in financial technology has exploded. Fintech has grown into a multibillion-dollar industry dominated by start-ups that provide technological solutions for financial services and products.

Fintech start-ups came up with novel solutions to problems, took risks, filled the innovation gap in banks, and created products that outperformed traditional banks in terms of customer experience. In the years to come, the widespread use of cell phones accelerated this growth. Banks are actively interested in Fintech firms and start-ups and are attempting to build or acquire their capabilities.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE:

Companies like Affirm, Credit Karma, Betterment, Kickstarter, Avant, Kabbage, Square, Stripe, Venmo, and others kicked off the fintech revolution around the 2008 financial crisis. In general, a recession is a good time to start a business. Between 2008 and 2010, WhatsApp, Groupon, Instagram, Uber, Pinterest, Slack, GV, and Cloudera were all founded.

When comparing various quarters of 2020, there is a revival in acquisitions in Fintech start-ups. Most people nowadays believe they have the ability to invent a product and launch a business on their own. Starting a new fintech company is much simpler today than it was a decade ago. As compared to conventional large financial companies,

start-ups can launch quicker, cheaper, develop new products faster, and spend less on IT upkeep.

We will continue to have many Fintech companies for different financial service in the post-COVID world. However, cost, the advantage it offers to an existing approach, clarity, customer service, and, most significantly, superior architecture would be their differentiators. Across all sectors, mandatory digitisation is taking place, which has stimulated Fintech progress.

Fintech will play a key role in the global economic turnaround because it will continue to be lucrative while still providing new markets for SMEs and mergers and acquisitions. More companies will continue to operate their businesses and use Fintech services through a cloud-based approach. The Fintech business model's virtual existence makes it well-suited to succeed in the modern world, which sees a decline in in-person contact across society.

ADVANTAGES OF FIN TECH?

Fintech has levelled the financial playing field for the general public, granting them access to resources that were traditionally only accessible to the rich or anyone belonging to a specific economic class. Take, for example, investing. Technology and analytics have made it much simpler and less expensive to offer financial advice to the masses, which means that something that was once only available to anyone with a certain amount of money is now obtainable to all. There are several players and providers in fintech, particularly in the more basic facets of financial services like lending, trading, borrowing, and saving. It's now making its way into mortgage applications and even insurance purchases, offering customers a slew of new opportunities.

SCOPE OF IMPROVEMENT:

During COVID-19, households cut back on their discretionary spending. Industries are now looking to save money in whatever direction they can by engaging in improved virtual customer experiences across all of their device touchpoints. In the past few months, user behaviour and priorities have changed. Consumers are spending more time on the internet. Customers' perceptions of all online interactions have grown as a result of this understanding. Designers will be in higher demand than ever before to boost digital experiences around the board. In fintech app designs, the design language of 2021 will place a greater focus on the combination of convenience and stability.

CRYPTOCURRENCY BAN IN INDIA AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT

By Prathmesh G Upadhye

Lately, there has been a lot of buzz around the cryptocurrency ban in India as the central government has proposed "The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021" in favour of the digital rupee. Before we jump into the topic, cryptocurrencies are essentially decentralised digital currency to reward the miner for maintaining the legitimacy of peer to peer transaction history. It was invented by a pseudonymous investor/engineer called "Satoshi Nakamoto" in its earliest form called Bitcoin in 2009. It is key to the complex digital cash problem because it solves the issue of upholding integrity and consensus across independent and potentially malicious actors.



The proposed ban by the central government of India under the given act is considered one of the world's strictest against cryptocurrencies. It will criminalise holding, issuance, mining, transferring and trading of such assets. Currently, crypto assets have global market capitalisation hovering around \$ 2 Trillion for more than 7,800 different types of cryptocurrencies. Surprisingly, the market cap doubled in the past two months because of gushing institutional demand and rapid adoption efforts by various fortune 500 companies.

An interesting fact is that the value of bitcoin was below \$1 in 2010 and India is mad on Crypto Fad post-demonetisation though not being an early adaptor of this wave. Thirteen years later, such stupendous valuation presents an opportunity for India to become a key driver in this global digital currency evolution. We should not shut our door by making it illegal, and instead of taking a backseat amidst the global revolution in digital currencies, use it as a growth driver to reinstate India's ascendance as a global power.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CRYPTO BAN:

Crypto assets markets in India, despite ban threats, witnessed sizable growth in investors of digital currencies with an increasing focus on Bitcoin as Trading Volumes in "Wazir X" (Indian Crypto Exchange and Trading Platform) suggested 1000% growth in 2020. This Mumbai based startup has achieved a trading volume of Rs.171 crore per month with over a 17.5 lakh user base. An Official Ban in the country will have serious repercussions that will not limit to the short term, but long-term unintended consequences are outside of the realm of imagination.

FOLLOWING ARE PLAUSIBLE USE CASES WHEN A CRYPTO-ASSET BAN MATERIALISES LEGALLY:

1. PANIC SELL

- Notwithstanding the market euphoria, investors are aware that the boom could lead to a trouble zone. The key issue is the mere possibility of a ban resulted in crypto investors pulling out at least Rs.1000 Crore post the announcement of the budget leading to a panic sell.
- Such panic sell will not only cause turmoil in the markets but will drive the prices downwards, as observed in April 2018, when the RBI directive was announced as investors tried tackling the liquidity issue.

2. WEALTH EROSION

- Indian Crypto market has grown since More than 10 million investors are now holding Rs.100 Billion (\$1.4 Billion), forming 10% of the world's crypto investors as per an industry estimate, and volumes were growing until February.
- An estimated wealth of Rs.10k Crore is expected to wipe out as 1 crore investors holding such digital assets will miss out on any future capital gains arising out of price appreciation.
- Additionally, a larger share of investment flow is projected to be flowing across the borders using Special Purpose Entities to hedge their bets against the ban and continue yielding profits.

3. THREAT TO EXISTENCE OF STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

- Startups based on blockchains need a cryptographic token for validating information, and a ban could also prevent



funding for companies utilising these tokens to power their processes & technologies. There are over 340 crypto startups in India now facing existential crisis and fear of jobs among employees.

- On the other side of the table, we have Venture Capital /Private Equity firms pouring millions to back billion-dollar Indian Blockchain/Crypto Unicorns, will be forced to shut down operations or move overseas to continue operations as well as investments.
- Furthermore, High Net Worth and Angel Investor would be missing out on immense potential investment avenues compared to their foreign counterparts.

4. VOLATILITY

- Often, new (alternative) asset classes and sectors are volatile, having a significant impact on investor confidence across geographies as the contagion effect prevails.
- An adverse impact on such investments can not be eliminated, as these digital currencies are primarily decentralised, and the possibility of a bubble burst prevails all the time.
- The value of these currencies can be artificially inflated since real-world events such as Tesla's acceptance for Bitcoin payments resulted in bullish sentiment in the crypto market, and a recent ban in Turkey led to a fall of \$8k in Bitcoin, accompanied by the crash of Altcoin causing bearish trend across the globe.

5. THE PROMINENCE OF THE BLACK MARKET

- The inherent essence of the internet will create implementation hurdles for the legalisation of a ban, and cash transactions on the black market will hit through the roof.
- The problem will arise when government materialises the regulation and allows investors of the aforementioned asset class a window of 6 months to liquidate their holdings, post which penalties will get imposed.
- Alternatively, people will continue to hold their investments and choose not to disclose since authorities will be unable to get hold of every holder. This event will be a classic example of the Theory of Asymmetric Information.

P E R S P E C T I V E S O L U T I O N :

- An outright ban on cryptocurrency is not the permanent solution. A limited yet effective regulation to promote transparency among holders allowing the government to design tax policy for incentivising Exchange Platforms and taxing investors can very well serve the purpose.
- Amendments to existing regulatory and compliance mechanism such as the IT Act, GST Act, Income Tax Act and Securities Contracts Act for facilitating the elimination of illegal cross-border transfer of funds by classifying them as "Foreign Assets" under FEMA is need of the hour.
- Since the government is setting up GIFT city, an offshore crypto hub as the boundary can better address the regulatory headwinds and build the required level of technical expertise on these nascent alternative assets while autonomy will be given to entrepreneurs and investors.
- Through regulatory measures, the government should focus on developing a robust risk-based framework to monitor & regulate tokens and cryptocurrencies to stop illegal

bad actors in the market.

➤ Considering the potential of these assets and businesses built around them, the government should introduce KYC norms to protect investor's interest and encourage the establishment of a central exchange body to ensure entry of legitimate players/asset classes, appropriate trading fees with authentic technology into the crypto trading space.

➤ Strategic collaboration with Crypto Exchanges to educate investors and implement regulatory measures will play a vital role to ease the ban fiasco and march towards the vision of Digital India. This step will not only boost investor confidence but legitimacy and convenience provided by platforms such as Coinbase will help in growing the niche crypto community.

➤ Finally, a concrete legal framework should address the theory of manipulation and pump & dump practices for crypto assets to prevent asset bubble as it is a revolutionary financial instrument due to its extremely appealing fundamental characteristic of decentralised anonymity.

GLOBAL FEMALE LABOUR WORKFORCE

by Ashwin Agarwal and Ishika Sardeshmukh

While the 20th century saw a radical increase in the number of women participating in labour markets across the early-industrialized countries, it also showed long-run female participation rates. Using statistics from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), including other available statistical figures for a small group of early-industrialized countries, female labour force penetration has increased dramatically in the twentieth century. Notably, growth in participation began at different points in time and proceeded at different rates. Nonetheless, significant and long-term increases in women's labour force participation in developed countries remain a striking feature of the twentieth century's economic and social growth. In many rich, developed nations such as the United States, growth in participation slowed down considerably or even stopped at the turn of the 21st century.

. The following reasons were taken into consideration for the increase or decrease in economic growth due to the female workforces-

Female participation

in labour markets, country by country: In the past few decades, women's inclusion in the labour force has risen worldwide. In most countries, across all income levels, women's participation in labour markets is today higher than it was three decades prior. By comparing the national estimates of female participation rates in 1980 with the rates of 2016, the countries have seen positive changes towards women. Although several countries saw a substantial decrease, some, such as Nicaragua, saw a five-fold increase during the same period. The international labour organization's (ILO) 'non - modelled' estimates have a higher margin of error but are available for a lengthier period.

Men tend to participate in labour markets more frequently than women: Despite recent growth in female participation rates, men still tend to participate in labour markets more frequently than women. The female-to-male ratio in labour force participation rates corresponds to estimates from the International Labour Organization (ILO). These are 'modelled estimates' such that the ILO produces them after harmonizing various data sources to improve comparability across countries. The ILO's data show that female participation tended to be lower than male participation, yet the differences were outstanding: In countries such as Syria or Algeria, the relationship is below 25%. In contrast, in Laos, Mozambique, Rwanda, Malawi, and Togo, the relation is close or even slightly above 100% (i.e., there is gender parity in labour force participation in the mentioned countries). Since men tend to participate in labour markets more frequently than women, most nations have a skewed gender distribution in the workforce.

Employment

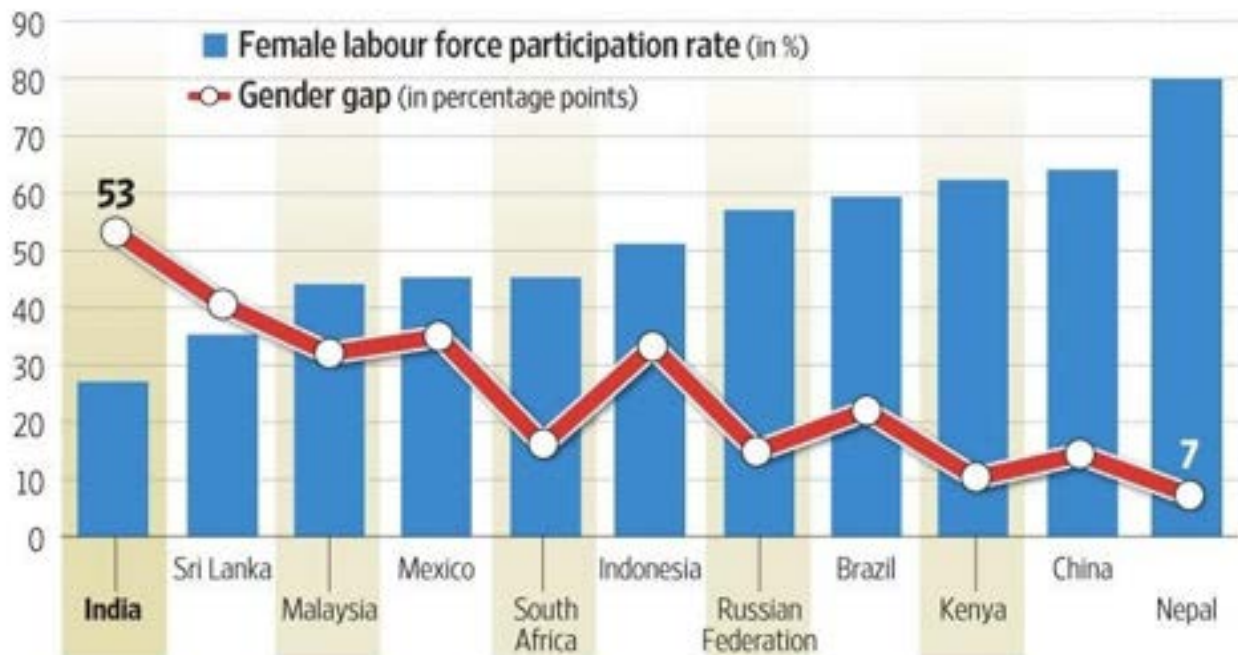
Female employment has grown together with rising female participation- Labour force participation comprises both employed and unemployed people searching for work. The trends are consistent with those for labour force participation. In the period 1980-2016, the percentage of women who work has risen in most countries. It is to be foreseen since it indicates that wages, rather than unemployment, drove women's inclusion in the labour market.

The sectoral composition of female employment: If we see the gender distribution of sectoral occupations, we can explore 'occupational segregation'. That is the sectoral composition of female hiring rather than the gender composition of sectoral employment. It is visible in the three charts, for industry, services, and agriculture. The agricultural sector of the economy has remained stable in recent years showing that women make up about 40% of the agrarian labour force in most parts of the world, while in developing economies, they make up to 67% of the farming workforce..

Specific tasks within agricultural work are also gendered. For example, for wheat production in a village in Northwest China, men perform the ploughing, the planting, and the spraying, while women perform the weeding, the fertilizing, the processing, and the storage. In terms of food production worldwide, women produce 80% of the food in Sub-Saharan Africa, 50% in Asia, 45% in the Caribbean, 25% in North Africa and the Middle East, and 25% in Latin America. A majority of the work women do on the farm is considered housework and is therefore negligible in employment statistics.

As we can see, all over the world, men are more likely to work in the industry than women, but women tend to work more often than men in services. This pattern for services is also interesting because it shows some notable regional differences: In many low-income countries where the service sector is small in relative terms, the order reverses, and men tend to work more often in services than women.

MISSING WOMEN



India is a significant case in Informal work & unpaid care work, which tells us that women usually work fewer hours in income generating jobs than men do. Often it is the housework that is unpaid. Worldwide, women and girls are responsible for a large amount of household work. Even if women and men both spend time on household work and other unpaid activities, this work is also gendered.

Women often work in the informal economy- Gender is frequently associated with casual labour because a large part of female employees globally takes place in the informal economy. In fact, in many low- and middle-income countries, a vast majority of women engaged in paid work are in the informal economy.

GENDER EQUALITY IN INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

By Atreyee Sengupta



Gender equality has made considerable advancement in the 21st century, with more women speaking up for their rights. Our communities have also started understanding the importance of women participating in economic and political decision making. With collective efforts, women today are reaching new heights in various walks of life, from scientific research and entrepreneurship to media and sports. As numerous industries are rapidly getting committed to achieving gender diversity, there remains a few where gender disparity levels remain high, the investment being one of them.

Studies conducted in 2019 revealed that investment business surrounding investment management, mutual hedge, private equity, and venture capital funds had the lowest percentage of women, a mere 4% at the top of the ladder. We find women hold only between 1% and 3.5% of assets under management, depending on their socioeconomic status. The percentage of women entering investment firms at junior levels as research analysts and associates also remained significantly low, revealed a study conducted over fifteen years.

The geneses why the female representation in the investment management sector is so low are mainly due to psychological behaviour and stere

stereotype. Many investors perceive women as poor fund managers, even though there is no empirical evidence of such a tendency. Hence, the general community of investors are biased towards male managers when it comes to funding investments. This behaviour makes investment firms founded by female entrepreneurs struggle to survive in the long run. Other investment companies lack trust in their female portfolio managers, and as a result, they end up worsening the gender divide by giving their male managers more opportunities and incentives. All these reasons massively discourage young women from entering the investment industry.

Furthermore, investment firms' systemic inflexibility in terms of working hours, job security, and job-sharing cause current working women in this field to take temporary breaks from their employment, slowing down their careers.

Women must be encouraged to join the investment industry because there is a lot of expertise and ability that could be used to grow this sector. Moreover, research conducted at the International Finance Corporation found that the private equity and venture capital funds that had gender-balanced senior investment teams generated 10% to 20% higher returns juxtapose to those funds that had a majority of only male or female leaders. Hence, for achieving the maximum level of gender diversity in the investment sector, investment firms must make sure not to support any conscious or unconscious gender discrimination when it comes to the selection and recruitment of investment managers. Eliminating the gender pay gap must be the lookout of all the firms. The industry must also strive to achieve functional and structural flexibility within the working system for encouraging young women. It would also ensure job security for the existing female employees.

When the issue of gender inequality in the investment industry is adequately tackled, it will not only help the sector achieve higher returns but will also catalyse long-term transformation by generating long-term stability and value.

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IN PRIVATE SECTOR IN HARYANA

by Archita Joshi

The Haryana State Government passed the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill on 26th February 2021. The bill allows 75% quota to local candidates applying for private-sector jobs that pays less than ₹50,000 per month in the state, coming into force from May 1 the following year.

The Haryana government has taken this huge decision considering the unemployment in the state. While this bill will ensure rise in local employment, a significant positive relationship between the employment level and economic growth can be seen. The increase in employment will also support the local economic growth along with the development in the state due to the increase in the production of the goods and services. While the unemployed become employed and the consumer spending increases, there will be a positive multiplier effect which will further improve the standard of living of local citizens.

In terms of government, the rise in employment will increase tax revenues, which can reduce the government borrowing, also reducing debt to GDP ratio.

However, from the industry's perspective, this bill can have wider implications. The industrial belt across Gurugram and Manesar is a hub for hundreds of companies across various sectors. There are backward and forward linkages all across India who rely on the free movement of labour not just for global competitiveness but also for the production process itself. This policy fails to consider the multi-layered supply chains along with the interdependence of services like manufacturing. The micro units may not face much heat as they can still engage localities, but the medium and the large-scale companies (especially the foreign direct investments) are the ones who will be affected.

Also, this bill is discouraging new investments which were to be injected into the state, especially by large scale companies which are already present and may put on hold any expansion plans they may have by opting for other destinations across the country.

Additionally, the bill is a significant reversal of the push for the 'one nation-one market' agenda that seeks to remove the inter-state trade, commerce

impediments, and leverage economies of scale to foster competitiveness before competing in the international arena. It restricts one of the most critical factor markets-the labour market. It also brings back inspector raj when the centre has been trying to reform and simplify the labour laws via labour codes. The designated officers will have the powers to validate the company's recruitment, decide on the claim of exemptions, examine quarterly compliance report, and inspect any promise on a single day's notice. This makes the contempt of the promise of the ease of doing business.

It is further pointed out that industries require skilled workforce for the production of high-quality products that can be globally competitive, with hiring done on the basis of talent and skills needed rather than on the basis of the domicile of the candidates. Getting the skilled workforce especially by large industries may prove to be difficult under the new arrangement.

To conclude, the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill 2020 brings a major change to the lab or market in Haryana. Theoretically, this bill seems like an ideal solution to the unemployment problems of the state and prospering the economy of the state but, in practicality in today's date, the state is majorly dependent on large industries coming to the state from outside and this bill acts as a barrier for the industries and opposes the objective of ease of doing the business. Hence, in this situation, there is a greater chance that this will affect the growth of the industries as well as the state negatively.



UNDERGROUND ECONOMY



The underground economy, also known as the shadow economy, the black market, or the informal economy, encompasses all the illegal activities with the legal practices for which the income received has not been reported. Hence, it includes all the economic activities that would be taxable if they were reported to the tax authorities.

The underground economy causes billions of dollars of taxes to get misplaced/vanish. The black market is distinct from the grey market, in which many commodities distributed through the channels that, while still being licit, are unsanctioned. On the other hand, there's the white market, in which trading is legal and certified. The underground economy keeps on changing and evolving as it adjusts to changes in taxes and sanctions.

Many nations have banned the sale and usage of recreational drugs since the late 19th and early 20th century, but many individuals prefer to use illegal/recreational drugs, relying on the black market to supply them.

Despite strict reinforcements, the demand is high, which helps the black market operate and earn profits. Below is the table showing some examples of goods and services traded in the underground economy.

TYPES OF UNDERGROUND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

TYPE OF ACTIVITY	MONETARY TRANSACTIONS	NONMONETARY TRANSACTIONS	
ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES	Trades in stolen goods, drug dealings, manufacturing, prostitution, gambling, smuggling, fraud, and organ trading.	Barter of drugs, stolen, or smuggled goods. Producing or growing drugs for own use or even theft.	
LEGAL ACTIVITIES			
TAX EVASION	TAX AVOIDANCE	TAX EVASION	TAX AVOIDANCE
Unreported income from self-employment. Wages, salaries, and assets from unreported work related to legal services and goods	Employee discounts, fringe benefits.	Barter of legal services and goods	All do-it-yourself work and neighbour help.

(Structure of table from Lippert and Walker, The Underground Economy: Global Evidence of its Size and Impact. Vancouver, B.C., The Frazer Institute, 1997.)

Although it is difficult to know the actual size of the underground economy, there is still a little consensus concerning the size of the economy. The government is trying its best to estimate the numbers as it is important to know the number of people currently active in this sector as it has many deleterious effects on the nation's economy. In a study done by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the years 1988-2000, it was identified that developing nations had the largest shadow economies at 35-44% of their GDPs, followed by the transition nations with around 21-30% of the GDP and the least was of OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries) countries having only 14-16% of their GDP.

The dark web, unlike the surface web which is indexed by search engines, requires a special browser called "Tor" which routes a web page request through a series of proxy servers rendering your IP address unidentifiable and untraceable. It is a breeding market for felonious trades where

cryptocurrencies are used to purchase unauthorised items and are used for illicit purposes. While numerous factors are influencing the growth of shadow economies, a few of the most significant factors which have been identified are high tax burden, excessive regulations by the government in the businesses, strict regulations in the labour markets and low minimum wages.

Consequently, and naturally, it has been observed that nations with relatively low tax rates and other government payments in conjunction with a well-developed tax administration system tend to have smaller underground economies.

As for India, it has high marginal tax rates and an unstable tax administration system accompanied by bribery and corruption. The informal sector is estimated to comprise more than half of its GDP which along with the black market is a major threat to the country's welfare as it disintegrates the tax base and nudges the state into a vicious cycle of budget deficits further increasing the tax rates along

with increasing the growth of its shadow economy.

The government and the economists are however working towards shrinking the size of the underground economy with projects like demonetization and the introduction of the GST system. The target is to shrink the shadow economy to 13.6% (or even below) of the GDP by 2025.

There are no short-term solutions. Corruption is the biggest problem when it comes to India and other developing economies as corruption in both private as well as public sectors reduces competitiveness and makes it difficult to estimate a nation's real economic position. It is argued that a 1% decrease in corruption can lead to an 8-11% fall in the underground economy. Therefore, a few methods that the government can adopt to reduce corruption and tackle the problem of the shadow economy is by making a flexible tax system and encouraging the citizens to pay their taxes. The fight to shrink the shadow economy is a collective effort and should not be considered the sole responsibility of the government.



THE SUEZ CANAL CRISIS

AN INCIDENT THAT QUESTIONED THE RESILIENCE OF THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN SYSTEM

-BY ARCHITA JOSHI

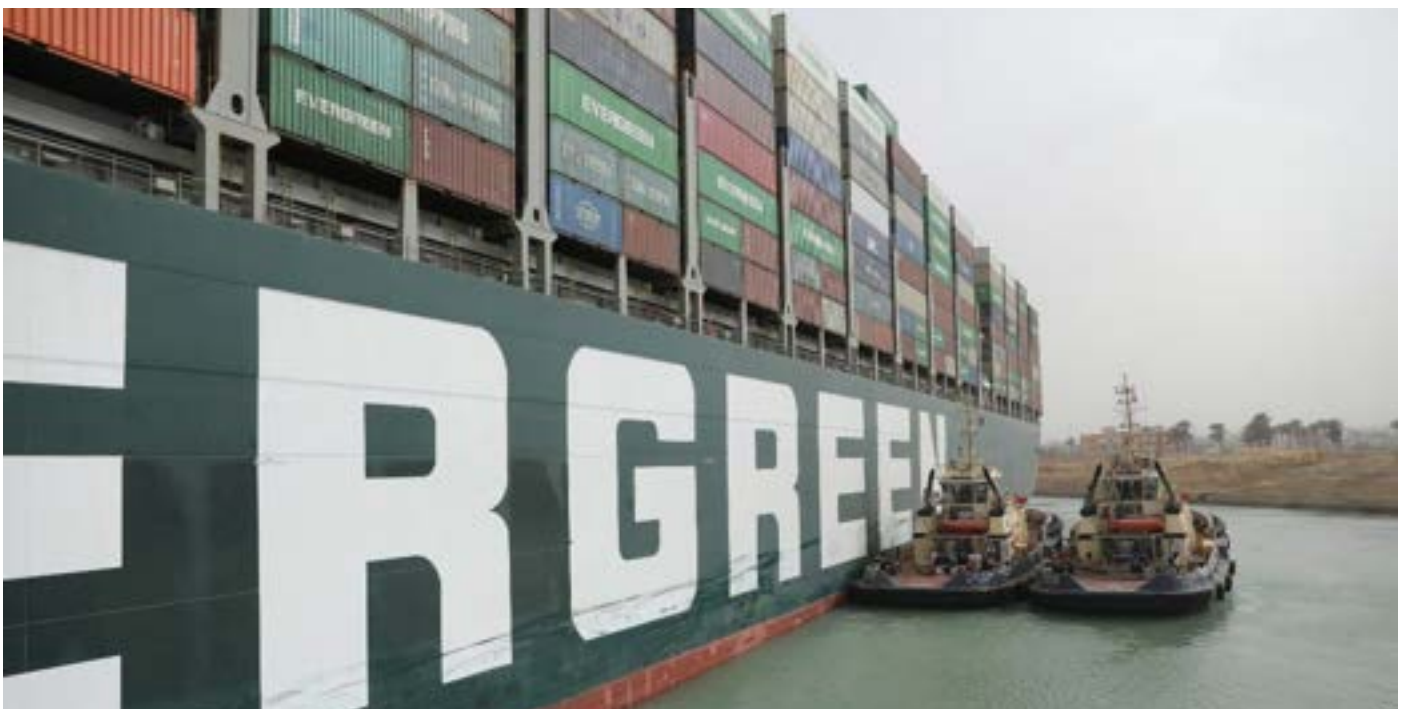
The Suez Canal was blocked for six days from the 23rd of March to the 29th when the Ever Given, 400 meters long, 20,000 TEU (20-foot equivalent) container ship was travelling through the canal when it was caught in a sandstorm with the strong winds causing the ship to deviate and turn sideways blocking the canal on both sides. Although the authorities have been investigating the cause of the incident, suspecting that the weather conditions were not the main conditions and there may have been any technical or human error. Over 300 vessels were jammed by the incident on both ends of the canal. The number of waiting increased to more than 400 by the time the canal was ready for passage after six days. This crisis questioned the importance of this one canal whose blockage affected the entire world in one way or the other and put it in jeopardy.

The Suez Canal is one of the world's most important waterbody majorly due to its location. It is a 193 km man-made waterway that connects the Mediterranean to the Red Sea and separates the African continent from Asia. It is the longest sea-level waterway in the world without locks and it provides the shortest route between Europe and the areas around the Indian and the Pacific ocean, making it a key trade route for ships making global trade between Asia, Europe, and the eastern U.S. easier, shorter, and swifter.

Simply put, Suez Canal is a portal between the East and the West that had been controlled by multiple nations who ignited wars over and in it making it a part of major wars in history and the bedrock of the global economy. The canal's strategically important position makes it one of the world's most heavily used waterways with about a tenth of the global trade passing through the canal each year. It is a key route for shipping crude oil and other hydrocarbons, among various other categories of goods from countries like Saudi Arabia to Europe and North America.

Without the Suez, shipments would have to travel the entire continent of Africa, adding heavy costs and significantly extending their journey times. Thus, the canal plays a very important part in the global supply chain which has already been disturbed by the pandemic. The global supply chains were being stretched to the limits with container shortages, making it more expensive to move goods around the world while causing shortages of goods and services at a time of unprecedented demand and the blockage deepened the issue further, by adding billions of dollars to supply chain costs. 69

Due to the blockage, suppliers had to choose to either wait for the canal to get unblocked/re-open or to reroute through South Africa's Cape of Good Hope. With the freight prices hiked, the annual global trade growth is also expected to go down this year due to the blockage and the pandemic. Thus, as the costs and the losses have increased along with the high demand and low supply factors, prices of commodities were raised especially important commodities like crude oil.



Severe port congestion due to the delayed vessel arriving late at the ports along with the vessels that are arriving for their scheduled delivery has strained the processes throughout with yard capacities exceeding accumulating cargo, increasing the risks involved such as theft at ports and freight deposits now requiring a greater focus on security. Further, the overall lack of capacity to move containers has created additional challenges.

This obstruction at the Suez Canal along with the already disturbed supply chains due to the pandemic pokes and probes the vulnerability of the global supply chains to disruptions and our reliability on supply chains, with little room for error. The supply chains have been driven towards streamlining and operational efficiencies with measures including the reduction of the number of suppliers and introducing 'just in time' principles to lessen the burden of inventory costs. The recent disruptions cross-examine this 'just in time' policy and emphasize the need for resilience in the system. It urges the stakeholders to consider putting their focus on contingencies and implement more 'just in case' measures than the 'just in time' measures.

P O L I T I C S



- INDIA-CHINA DISPUTE, A YEAR LATER
- INDIA-PAKISTAN PEACE TALKS
- THE 2021 TOOLKIT CASE
- U.S. STRIKES IN SYRIA
- 2021 MYANMAR PROTESTS



INDIA-CHINA

DISPUTE, A YEAR LATER

BY BHAVYA SINGH

The latest episode of the 'disengagement of frontline troops' between China and India proved to be an interesting twist to the never-ending dispute over the 2100 mile long, line of actual control (LAC). The last attempt to disengage the troops led to 20 Indian Soldiers being killed (casualties unspecified from China's side) when the two sides clashed using stones and rods in the Galwan valley, but the new disengagement dogmas have given us a sliver of hope, with plans focused on removing forces from Hot Springs, Gogra, Depsang and Demchok. In the first Corp Commander talk which was held in June 2020, five conflict areas were identified mutually by both nations. After the pinpointing, the Patrolling points (points marked on the LAC, which are patrolled with only a certain number of soldiers) were decided; 14 at Galwan, 15 at Gogra, and 17 at Hotsprings. After the 15th of June Galwan Valley clashes, the patrolling points were manifested and executed. On February 11, India and China publicized an agreement for disengagement on the north and south banks of the Pangong Tso lake area to conclude their future deployments in a "phased, coordinated and verified manner", which according to the Defense Minister of India, Mr. Rajnath Singh, will "substantially" restore the situation to that before the stand-off in May 2020. Following this statement, both countries have finally agreed to completely disengage their troops from the Pangong Tso area after a 16-hour talk between India and China at the 10th Corps Commander talks, on February 20th earlier this year. The highlighted points of the dialogue held and as mentioned in a joint statement on the talk held by both countries were:

- Continuation of dialogue and communication between both nations.
- Push for a mutually acceptable resolution for the issues at hand.
- To jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas.
- Stabilizing and controlling the situation on the ground.

Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane said that the ongoing disengagement progression with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) along the LAC in eastern Ladakh was a "win-win situation" for both nations, but there is "still a long way to go" before the complete de-escalation of the conflict in Ladakh. Both sides have pulled back their troops, tanks, combat vehicles and arms under the disengagement agreement in Pangong Tso. Dates are however, yet to be announced for the 11th round of military talks that are anticipated to focus on the unresolved problems with the PLA at Depsang, Hot Springs, and Gogra.



INDIA-PAKISTAN PEACE TALKS

The tension between India and Pakistan was always present, but it increased since the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked by the government of India. Previously, the two nations had an agreement to a ceasefire along the LoC and Working Boundaries, but unfortunately the agreement held for only a few years as the violations resumed in 2008. Time and again, India has tried to solve this issue, but it was not very successful.; it is sceptical now that Pakistan is initiating this move.

There are many presumed reasons for this action. Firstly, Pakistan's economy is in grave crisis, and it is in desperate need of assistance. Their GDP growth rate for the fiscal year 2019-2020 collapsed to -4%, which according to East Asia Forum, was the first time it fell negative in decades. However, the downward trend was visible in 2018 itself, and the pandemic has further contributed to its growing unemployment and poverty. Pakistan has received 22 loans from IMF since 1958, yet its economic structure remains poor. The country has prioritized spending large amounts on their military.

Secondly, Pakistan needs international aid, as it is on the grey list of FATF (Financial Action Task Force). The FATF organization is an anti-terror watchdog that also fights against money laundering. As the state is incapable of handling the terrorism financing issue, it has been recognized as a sponsor for terrorism. The Pentagon has also decided to withdraw its \$300 million aid to them. In such conditions, Pakistan needs countries to vote in its favour or else they'll lose plenty of foreign investments.

Already Germany and France are not in Pak's favour, and the U.S. is also not on good terms with them since the murder of their journalist Daniel Pearl. Pakistan could not even succeed in

maintaining its diplomatic relation with Saudi Arabia, and as a result, Saudi Arabia demanded back its \$1 billion worth of soft loans straightaway. Pakistan has somehow managed to isolate itself further and badly needs more allies.

China seems to be the only nation helping them, but it has its vested interests, and Pakistan is just getting deeper in debt with them. This fact is what is making it turn towards India. There have also been proposals of starting trade relations with India by importing cotton and sugar. Pakistan can benefit from this trade, as we supply many commodities that they desperately require at a cheaper cost.



And yet Pakistan's stand on these offers is not firm because shortly, they demanded Kashmir's status of solidarity, once again interfering in India's internal matter. Thus, the legitimacy of this motive is very questionable.

India firmly holds her stand of maintaining peace as long as the infiltrations and terrorism from Pakistan ended. The surgical strike is an example of how India will retaliate if it faces any disturbance at the border. Pakistan needs to make considerable reforms in their foreign policy and stop making decisions that are harming its economy and people.

By Kaavya Shetty

The 2021 Toolkit Case

The Indian farmers' protest of 2020-2021 is an ongoing protest that began on 9th August 2020 over the repeal of the three farm laws passed by the Indian Parliament in September 2020.

On 26th January earlier this year, tens of thousands of farmers protesting against the agricultural reforms held a demonstration with a large convoy of tractors and drove into Delhi from the Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur Borders on routes allowed by the police but were barred from entering the central part of the city where the official Republic Day parade was taking place. However, as the rally progressed, it deviated, and strayed protesters entered the Red Fort. A farmer climbed the flagpole in front of the fort to hoist a religious flag, which soon turned controversial over its authenticity. Clashes between police and farmers also resulted in damage to multiple areas along with 394 police officers and many farmers injured and 30 damaged police vehicles, which resulted in the suspension of internet services in several parts of Delhi and the NCR region.

Hundreds of criminal cases have been filed in connection with the violence, and several people have been arrested due to the usage of batons, kirpans, swords and sharp weapons during the 'peaceful protests. The violence and the hoisting of a flag in the Red Fort caused various unions to exit the farmers' protest.

On 3rd February, Greta Thunberg, a well-known Swedish activist, posted a document on Twitter that allegedly guided people about the protests and explained how to marshal others against India and target Indian interests/embassies abroad. It

contained actions taken up to 26th January 2021, future actions to undertake and hashtags that would trend, celebrities who would be sympathetic towards these protests, solidarity videos, etc. In the present case, this toolkit became an accidental disclosure on 5th February when Greta shared a document, a toolkit, inadvertently on her Twitter handle only to delete it later saying that the article was "outdated", while it'd already become an internet sensation, only to post another toolkit to support the protests, sparking a further row. The toolkit has become a handy tool while supporting any movement or campaign in times of social media influences. It is a document created as an explainer on an issue as a guide for everyone associated with the campaign or who can be roped in on it. It also lays out a strategy for moving the initiative or protests forward, outlining what needs to be done, where, and how.



Once the toolkit became public, the Delhi police asked Google and other relevant social media companies to provide information about the toolkit, and associated email IDs, URLs, and social media accounts. The involved used a WhatsApp group to discuss and prepare the draft in collaboration with the pro-Khalistan Poetic Justice Foundation (the PJF). The PJF is said to have been established in March 2020 as a pro-Khalistani non-profit association, primarily backed by Pakistan as a separatist movement to spread terrorism in Punjab in the 1980s, is little known in the public eye. There have been recent attempts by groups based in Pakistan and Canada to revitalize the protests with no practical traction in India. The PJF is currently involved in the farmers' union protests over farm laws and is trying to make it a global debate.

by Ashwin Agarwal



U.S. STRIKES

IN SYRIA

BY DEVVRAT SHARMA

On February 25, 2021, the United States Air Force bombarded facilities near the Iraqi border used by Iranian-backed militia groups. The attack was retaliation for a prior rocket attack on February 15 that killed a civilian and wounded a U.S. service member and other coalition troops. U.S. forces targeted positions of the Kataib Hezbollah (HK) parliamentary group as well as Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada along the border. The Syrian Observatory of Human Rights (SOHR) reported that three lorries carrying ammunition were destroyed, and 17 Iranian fighters stationed in the region were killed while fighting with the ISIS groups. This strike also marks the first military action under Joe Biden's administration which in its earliest weeks cleared its intent to deal with threats posed by China and the Middle East. While the Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Pentagon spokesman John Kirby called the response "proportionate military action", several democrats called out the attack for not being defensive in nature like it should be and the lack of consultation from congressmen. Bernie Sanders expressed his concerns tweeting "I am very concerned that last night's strike by the U.S. forces in Syria puts our country on the path of continuing the war forever instead of ending it."

This was the first out of three attacks that took place in the following days: one on the Balad Air Base north of Baghdad and another in Baghdad's international zone.

Kataib Hezbollah has denied any involvement in the attacks against U.S. troops. Iran is believed to be planning to avenge the U.S. for its assassination of its top general Quassem Soleimani a year ago. According to the U.S. Department of defence, Soleimani was actively developing plans to attack American diplomats in Iraq, and the strikes were to deter an "imminent" attack from taking place.

This involvement of the United States in Syria dates back to when the Syrian Civil war started in 2011. The war is between the Ba'athist Syrian Arab Republic led by the Syrian president Bashar al-Assad with the support of domestic and foreign allies and the domestic and foreign forces opposing the Syrian government and each other. The U.S. primarily targeted a rebel group named the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as well as some pro and anti-government factions and marked more than 17,000 locations for liberation. Russia began intervening in the Syrian war in September 2015, after the Syrian government requested assistance to fight rebels.

Syrian officials have condemned the strikes calling them a "cowardly act" and have urged Joe Biden not to follow "the law of the jungle". Russia, an ally of the Syrian president, also criticized the strikes and called for "unconditional respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria". The U.S. responded to this criticism from Moscow by mentioning how Russia

had been informed about the attacks a few minutes before the in order, to give Russian troops time to relocate and move weaponry.

The attack has complicated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) signed in 2015: a nuclear agreement between Iran and five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) and Germany, collectively known as P5+1. According to the deal, Iran will limit its nuclear resources substantially and agree to monitoring and verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN's watchdog. This will restrict Iran from producing any nuclear weapon for one year, which should give enough time for other nations to prepare for an attack. Trump withdrew the United States from the contract in 2018, citing inefficacy of the deal to curtail any nuclear developments in Iran as the reason. According to reports, Iran started ignoring the stipulations imposed by the deal a year after this decision was made by Trump.



2021 MYANMAR PROTESTS

BY ASHWIN AGARWAL



Myanmar, also known as Burma, is a South-East Asian country bordering India, Thailand, Bangladesh, Laos, and China. A military coup took place in Myanmar in early 2021, on the morning of February 1st, when the democratically elected members of the ruling party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), were ousted by Tatmadaw, the empowered army of Myanmar. The Tatmadaw then declared a state of emergency for the rest of the year, and the proclaimed power was transferred to Myanmar's Chief of Defense Forces, Min Aung Hlaing. The Tatmadaw's then declared the results of the 2020 general election illegal and deposed the State Counsellor of Myanmar (a position akin to a Prime Minister) Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, both were arrested and replaced by the military dictator Min Aung Hlaing and Vice President Myint Swe, respectively.

February 2nd, 2021 - health care workers and government officials (such as the Department of Agriculture and Railways) across the country, including Myanmar's national capital, Naypyidaw, formed a national rebel organization, which opposed the uprising. Soon workers from hospitals

and government institutions, teachers' unions, students from schools and colleges, union workers, copper miners, staff from the Foreign Ministry as well as the Central Bank of India joined the protests and have been staging them since with the goal of release and reinstatement of Aung San Suu Kyi, Win Myint, and other arrested officials and recognition for the results of the 2020 national elections.

February 3rd, 2021 - a local boycott campaign called the "Stop Buying Junta Business" launched a crackdown on products and services linked to the Myanmar military, followed by Kirin Company, ending its joint venture with the Myanma Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL).

February 4th, 2021 - telephone operators and Internet service providers across Myanmar were ordered to block Facebook and other social networking sites to ensure "national stability".



February 5th, 2021 - 30 Mandalay citizens were convicted under Section 47 of the Police Act for enacting cacerolazos, which involved hitting pots and pans every night as a symbolic act of expelling evil and demonstrating opposition to the coup.

February 17, 2021 - dozens of vehicles broke down on the busy streets of Yangon in a planned protest in a creative attempt to block security forces and police to pass through the traffic and preventing government employees from going to work. The movement continued till 18th February with many broken-down cars joined by some moving at laggard speed to block traffic.

Burmese resources have made some great hashtags such as #SayNototheCoup, #RespectOurVotes, #HearTheVoiceofMyanmar, #SaveMyanmar, and #CivilDisobedience. Within the day of the coup, the hashtag #SaveMyanmar was used by more than 325,000 Facebook users. Social media users also changed their photos to black to show their sadness or redness in support of the NLD, often with a picture of Suu Kyi while making fun of Min Aung Hlaing's short stature online.

At least 707 civilians, including children, have been killed by the military or police as of April 12th, 2021, and at least 3,070 people have been arrested. Three prominent NLD members also died while in police custody in March 2021.





- TOP 10 MBA SCHOOLS IN INDIA AND ABROAD
- AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. SAURABH SHAH
- INTERNSHIPS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
- Q&A WITH MR. GAURAV AMBEDKAR
- STOCK MARKET TRADING STRATEGIES
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CAREER



TOP 10

MBA SCHOOLS IN INDIA AND ABROAD

By Priyasha Gupta

One of the most common post-graduate programmes in India and abroad is the Master of Business Administration or MBA. The two-year MBA programme serves as a springboard to a slew of a career as well as business prospects. This course teaches about corporate administration and management. MBA programmes are open to students from all fields, including sciences, business, and humanities. Students should also have good listening, teamwork, problem-solving, and organisational skills, while being research-oriented, having critical thinking, eye for detail, goal-oriented & willingness to work under pressure, strong quantitative skills, and so on. The full-time MBA, which involves theoretical courses, functional assignments, and an internship, is the most common of them all. A full-time MBA is ideal for recent graduates as well as those with a few years of work experience.

TOP MBA COLLEGES IN INDIA

In India, there are around 5200 MBA colleges that deliver full-time, part-time as well as distance learning and online MBA programmes. These schools offer degree, diploma, and certificate programmes. These top 10 MBA colleges in India, according to NIRF, offer full-time MBA programmes.

IIM AHMEDABAD

Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad is a business school in the Indian state of Gujarat. It was established in 1961 with Ravi J. Matthai, Vikram Sarabhai, Kasturbhai Lalbhai and Kamla Chowdhary as some of its founding fathers. In 2017, the Ministry of Human Resources of the Government of India designated the school as an Institute of National Importance.

Tests accepted: CAT and GMAT.

Minimum CAT percentile
Cut-off: 85

Qualified students appear for WAT and PI rounds after which the results are announced for the admitted students.



IIM BANGALORE

Tests accepted: CAT and GMAT.

Minimum CAT percentile Cut-off: 75

Qualified students appear for WAT and PI rounds after which the results are announced for the admitted students.

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore or IIMB is a public business school and an Institute of National Significance. After IIM Calcutta and IIM Ahmedabad, it was the third IIM to open its doors, in 1973.

The MBA programme is available in three formats: one year full-time, two years full-time, and two years executive (weekend). Candidates enrolled via the Common Admission Test (CAT) are eligible for the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP), the conventional flagship two-year full-time residential MBA programme.



IIM KOLKATA

IIM-C stands for the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. It is a public business school in Joka, Kolkata, West Bengal, India. It was the first Indian Institute of Management to be founded, and the government of India designated it as an Institute of National Importance in 2017.

A two-year full-time MBA, a one-year MBA for experienced executives, a Doctor of Business Administration degree, and a full-time one-year programme in Healthcare Management are amongst the programmes offered by IIM Calcutta. It is one of the three business schools in India to be triple-accredited.

Tests accepted: CAT and GMAT.

Minimum CAT percentile Cut-off: 80

Qualified students appear for WAT and PI rounds after which the results are announced for the admitted students.



IIM LUCKNOW

Indian Institute of Management Lucknow abbreviated as IIM-L is a public business school in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. The Government of India founded it as the fourth Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in 1984. IIM Lucknow provides management post-graduate diplomas, fellowships, and executive programmes. India's Ministry of Human Resource Development has nicknamed it as "Institution of Excellence."

Tests accepted: CAT and GMAT.

Minimum CAT percentile Cut-off: 70

Qualified students appear for WAT and PI rounds after which the results are announced for the admitted students.



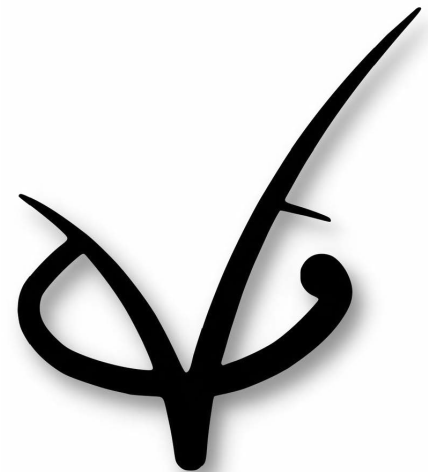
VINOD GUPTA SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, IIT, KHARAGPUR

Tests accepted: CAT and GMAT.

Minimum CAT percentile Cut-off: 90

Qualified students appear for WAT and PI rounds after which the results are announced for the admitted students.

IIT Kharagpur's Vinod Gupta School of Management is a public business school in Kharagpur, West Bengal, India. It is the first business school to be founded in an Indian Institute of Technology and is a part of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur.



S O M
IIT KHARAGPUR

IIM KOZHIKODE

Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode was established in 1996 by the Government of India in collaboration with the Kerala State Government. IIM Kozhikode is located in the Kunnammangalam district of Kerala's ancient city of Calicut, on 112-acres of soil. It is a Central Autonomous Body overseen by the Board of Governors and regulated by the IIM Act 2017.

Tests accepted: CAT and GMAT.

Minimum CAT percentile Cut-off: 85

Qualified students appear for WAT and PI rounds after which the results are announced for the admitted students.



IIM INDORE

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indore, opened in 1996, was the sixth IIM to be founded under the IIM umbrella. IIM Indore is located on a picturesque hillock and has a 193-acre campus with all the latest teaching aids, rich learning opportunities, a solid IT backbone, and state-of-the-art hostels with modern facilities. It is one of the most prestigious B-schools in the world, with autonomous status, and is ranked 7th for MBA by NIRF 2020.

Tests accepted: CAT and GMAT.

Minimum CAT percentile Cut-off: 90

Qualified students appear for WAT and PI rounds after which the results are announced for the admitted students



DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES, IIT, DELHI

Tests accepted: CAT and GMAT.

Minimum CAT percentile Cut-off: 81

Qualified students appear for WAT and PI rounds after which the results are announced for the admitted students.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi's Department of Management Studies, also known as DMS IIT Delhi, is a school of management education and research. The department was created in 1993 as a result of a change in the IIT Delhi stature.



XLRI XAVIER SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, JAMSHEDPUR

The oldest B-school in India, XLRI Xavier School of Management (XLRI-XSM), is located in Jamshedpur and was established by a few Jesuit fathers in 1949. A variety of short-term Management Development Programs (MDPs) are available at the School. After its Jamshedpur campus, XLRI opened its first branch in New Delhi-NCR shortly after.

Tests accepted: XAT and
GMAT.

Minimum XAT percentile Cut-
off: 96-98

Qualified students appear for
GD and PI rounds after which
the results are announced for
the admitted students.



MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, GURGAON

Tests accepted: CAT and
GMAT.
Minimum CAT percentile Cut-
off: 94
Qualified students appear for
WAT, GD, and PI rounds after
which the results are
announced for the admitted
students.

MDI Gurgaon is a leading private B-school that was founded in 1973. In 2006, the Association of MBAs (AMBA) London granted this school international accreditation, making it the first Indian B-school to do so. It was also approved in 2006 by the South Asian Quality Assurance Systems (SAQS). The accreditation of this institute's programmes attests to the high standard of education it provides around the world. The AICTE and NBA have both accepted and certified MDI's management programmes at the national level.



TOP MBA COLLEGES ABROAD

Although enrolling in a full-time MBA programme is a major financial commitment in this time of global turmoil, the expertise students learn and the future return on investment makes MBA as important as it has ever been. The following ranking of top global MBA colleges is based on the QS World University Rankings list, as of 2021.

STANFORD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, STANFORD, USA

Eligibility: Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree which is equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree in any field. A two-year master's degree following the three-year bachelor's degree is preferred but not obligatory.

TOEFL: 100

IELTS: 7

PTE: 68

GRE: Accepted (164, in both verbal and quant)

GMAT: Accepted (734)

Stanford University is a renowned private academic university in California that has recently surpassed its Ivy League competitors in terms of selectivity. With just a 7.1% admission rate, the Graduate School of Business (GSB), established in 1925, is the most difficult to get into in the United States. Three Nobel Laureates, two John Bates Clark Award recipients and 15 presidents of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences are among the outstanding faculty at Stanford GSB.



PENN (WHARTON), PHILADELPHIA, USA

With 863 students newly admitted, Wharton has a strong threshold and an annual admission rate of 18%. The class of 2019 has 44% female students and 33% foreign students from over 65 countries. Wharton University offers a wide variety of dual-degree programmes in addition to over 19 majors and 200 electives.

Eligibility: Applicants must have a college-level education, equivalent to a four-year American undergraduate or baccalaureate degree (university bachelor's degree). Work experience is required and students with strong managerial as well as professional potential are preferred.

TOEFL: 110

IELTS: Not Accepted

PTE: 70

GRE: Accepted (159, in both verbal and quant)

GMAT: Accepted (732)



MIT (SLOAN), CAMBRIDGE, USA

Eligibility: Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree in any field and may be required to take a course(s) in microeconomics, calculus, or financial accounting prior to starting MBA studies.

TOEFL: 90

IELTS: 7

PTE: Not Accepted

GRE: Accepted (156, in both verbal and quant)

GMAT: Accepted (716)

The emphasis at the famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is on practice and research advancement. It is a well-known leader in this area, having pioneered many of today's most influential financial and management ideas. It is dedicated to lifelong learning, as stated in its motto: "The school will never be completed in a world that moves at such a breakneck pace, little is ever completed." MIT Sloan's principles stress the transformation of theoretical research into realistic, action-based learning, despite its apparent adherence to academic rigour.



HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL, BOSTON, USA

Harvard Business School (HBS) is Harvard University's graduate business school, located in Boston, Massachusetts. HBS is housed in four buildings in Harvard University's expansive 40-acre grounds in the centre of the Boston-Cambridge district. Through engagement with a diverse society, the Harvard MBA introduces students to real-life leadership opportunities, immersing them in serious, transforming interactions that train them to be completely alert and functional anywhere they go in the outside world.

Eligibility: Applicants are required to hold a college or university degree equivalent to a four-year American baccalaureate degree. Equivalent degrees include international three-year bachelor's degree programs. The program is designed for students who have full-time work experience before matriculation.

TOEFL: 109

IELTS: 7.5

PTE: 75

GRE: Accepted (163, in both verbal and quant)

GMAT: Accepted (729)



HEC PARIS, PARIS, FRANCE

Eligibility: Applicants must have completed an undergraduate program at an accredited university and at least 2 years of work experience is required for MBA.

TOEFL: 100

IELTS: 7

PTE: 72

GRE: Accepted (65th percentile, in both verbal and quant)

GMAT: Accepted (690)

HEC Paris is part of the Paris-Saclay Innovation Cluster, which aims to bring together the best academic centres, high-tech companies, enterprises, and universities in France. HEC Paris has a long history of training the world's most influential industry leaders. Many Fortune Global 500 CEOs have graduated from the school than from any other university in Europe. Nearly 4,000 HEC graduates work as CEOs, CFOs, or are entrepreneurs.



INSEAD, PARIS, FRANCE

The accelerated 10-month MBA programme at INSEAD prepares good and insightful leaders/entrepreneurs who add value to their companies as well as communities. The 10-month MBA programme at INSEAD has proved to be a highly effective model. Students value the chance to earn their MBA in half the time, resulting in a lower average cost and less lost income. The programme is divided into five periods, each of which lasts eight weeks and ends with a test, thesis, or project.

Eligibility:
TOEFL: 105
IELTS: 7.5
PTE: 72
GRE: Accepted (163, in both verbal and quant)
GMAT: Accepted (709)



LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, LONDON, UK

The Federal University of London's London Business School is a business school and a constituent college. LBS is a post-graduate school that was established in 1964. "To have a tremendous effect on the way the world does it," the institute's motto reads. LBS is regularly ranked among the best business universities in the world.

Eligibility:
TOEFL: 100
IELTS: 7
PTE: 70

GRE: Accepted (161, in both verbal and quant)

GMAT: Accepted (690)



COLUMBIA BUSINESS SCHOOL, NEW YORK, USA

The curriculum at Columbia Business School (CBS) MBA programme prepares students to lead, build, and manage companies while instilling an awareness of the societal effects of business decisions. The full-time MBA offered at CBS is a residential programme conducted over two years. Over 200 electives are available, as well as over 4,000 graduate-level classes. The university also offers several dual-degree programmes.

Eligibility: A bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution is required for admission. International students are not required to submit a language test such as the TOEFL. A verbal score on the GRE or the GMAT is sufficient.

TOEFL: Not Mandatory

IELTS: Not Mandatory

PTE: Not Mandatory

GRE: Accepted (167, in both verbal and quant)

GMAT: Accepted (725)



IE BUSINESS SCHOOL, MADRID, SPAIN

Eligibility: Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent and at least three years of work experience.

TOEFL: 100

IELTS: 7

PTE: 73

GRE: Accepted (157, in both verbal and quant)

GMAT: Accepted (670)

The International MBA is the flagship full-time MBA programme at the Instituto de Empresa or the IE Business School in Madrid. In a full-time, one-year model, the programme takes an integrative and inventive approach to business education by blending basic business experience with flexible laboratories and an elective cycle with 10 concentration areas.



HAAS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, BERKELEY, USA

The Haas School of Business, a part of the University of California in Berkeley (UC Berkeley), is the country's second-oldest business school. The Berkeley MBA programme is built on a comprehensive general-management curriculum that equips students with a breadth and depth of theoretical along with practical knowledge to enable them to lead as any part of a company in any part of the world.

Eligibility: Graduates of recognized academic institutions outside the United States should have completed degree programs representing a minimum of 16 years of schooling with at least 12 years at the primary and secondary levels. A GPA of B (3.0) or higher is generally the standard for consideration.

TOEFL: 90

IELTS: 7

PTE: Not Accepted

GRE: Accepted (162, in both verbal and quant),

GMAT: Accepted (725)



AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. SAURABH SHAH

INTERVIEWERS: ARCHITA JOSHI AND RITHIKA SINGH



Some highlights of Saurabh Sir's academic and professional career:-

Mr. Saurabh Shah completed his Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science from Savitribai Phule Pune University with a distinction. He completed his Post Graduate Management Program in Human Resources from MIT School of Business and Masters in Personnel Management with a distinction from Pune University. He won a couple of Gold Medals for academic excellence and outstanding contribution to MIT. On the work front, he has worked as a System Administrator at Spectrum Education, as a Special case manager at EXL Service, as Human Resource Manager at Tata Technologies and he is currently the HR Head at Capita. He also has experience as a campus recruiter.

During his career, he has won various accolades such as:

- '101 Most Fabulous HR Leaders in India' by World HRD Congress
- Industry-Academia Interface Award by Amity University,
- 'Top 100 Emerging Future HR Leaders' by People Matters in association with DDI, consecutively in 2012 and 2013
- 'Employee of the Year' award at Foton Motors.

Interviewer: What made you choose a career path in Human Resource Management?

Mr. Saurabh Shah: What drew me into this field was a subject during engineering on management. During my journey in engineering, I found that as an individual, I am best suited to Human Resources. I knew I could help people to carve out the best in them and I've always been interested in people management and the human side of things. It's, fundamentally, who I am as a person, and I knew I could do so much more through Human Resource Management. Even though I had a placement offer from a technology giant in the country, I chose to pick up MIT as my next destination to complete my master's in Human Resources.

Interviewer: What skills and knowledge are most critical in the field of Human Resource Management?

Mr. Saurabh Shah: In any field, there are a few crucial elements for excelling. The first one is Empathy; you should be able to put yourself in the other person's position or place. The second one would be Attitude; you need to have a very positive attitude towards any situation, any individual, any outcome which you are trying to drive. If you have a positive outlook, every situation will look like an opportunity. Success has a 4D mantra, You need to have a 'Desire' to succeed, be 'Determined' to take a step in that direction in a 'Disciplined' manner and be completely 'Dedicated'. I think these four Ds are extremely essential for an overall growth perspective. I think another important element is your communication skills. It is extremely important to communicate well and be a good listener to be able to understand and interpret things. Another key aspect is Solid conceptual knowledge of any subject with excellent hold on the fundamentals. This will build a solid foundation through the journey and help apply them in a practical manner. Expertise comes with experience, and that's how you move up the ladder. These factors, in my opinion, are the absolute necessities in every sector.

Interviewer: What are those certain factors that are especially essential for you to tackle your day-to-day job?

Mr. Saurabh Shah: According to me, being calm is very essential in the current scenario. Secondly, it's important to be laser-focused and dedicated to tackling internal and external distractions. You will be surrounded by pull or push factors, it is essential to have a fine balance. The third bit is how you conduct yourself in your profession and your environment. The fourth one is related to the third part, which is delivering what your role demands. I think clarity and focus must be there for you to be able to keep moving ahead. Lastly, you must be self-motivated. There are several theories on motivation, but I strongly believe that determination has to come from inside. You need to have fire in your belly that will push you to go beyond your limits. The external motivational factors will help you to propel further, but only self-motivation will propel the move rapidly. "If you are self-motivated, you will love what you do; if you love what you do, you will be passionate about what you do; if you are passionate, you will be committed; if you are committed, you will do what is right and will excel in your field."

Interviewer: Could you give us some tips for cracking an interview? Also, how can a candidate create that first best impression at an interview?

Mr. Saurabh Shah: The first thing you notice in someone is how presentable they appear. Your professional appearance plays a crucial role in building a good impression. It includes being well-groomed and appropriately dressed. Taking care of oneself and putting in an effort is a part of being disciplined. These are the essential etiquettes you should practise and incorporate into your routine.

You also need to be authentic because the person across the table would have seen the world for many more years than you and would in most cases know if you are being honest. It's important to follow basic etiquettes like asking before entering the room, sitting on the chair, folder placement, exchanging pleasantries, chair position while leaving etc. All of this plays a critical role in creating the first impression.

The second part is your preparedness for the interview. How well-prepared you are and how much you know and remember in terms of your academics and projects is important. How well versed are you with your basic concepts is crucial too. For instance, when I take interviews with MBA students and ask them what their subjects were in the last years of their Engineering course, the typical answer that I get is that "Sir, I don't recall as it was three years ago." This may not give the best impression, as even though the interviewer may not expect the candidate to remember or know everything, they would at least need to be aware of the subjects and the basic principles that they learnt, which will be useful on the job. You should also know about your areas of expertise.

You should be aware of the organisation, role you have applied for. You need to spend time researching the organisation and the role. Being ready with short information about the organisation will help you set a foot ahead of the rest. Your preparedness should reflect crisp answers.

You should be ready to participate in the overall discussion. In your head, you should have a mental flow. You might have to digress because the interviewer will not exactly ask those questions you have prepared for, but if you have the flow and the notes, you will know what points you have to cover. Much of the way, you'll get a chance to say something at the close of the interview. Here you can cover the key highlights of your professional journey that you may have missed during the discussion. You should prepare with insightful questions that demonstrate your knowledge of the organisation, the position, and the goals you want to accomplish. Here, you can inquire about the learning avenues, career growth opportunities along the growth trajectory of the organisation. Do ask doubts if any in an assertive manner. discussion, if you had some doubts, you could ask them.

To conclude, the tips to crack interviews would be to be presentable, prepared and inquisitive. If you have these aspects in the right place, you're pretty much ready to bank on the knowledge bank to seal the deal. Whatever you have learnt and studied, you should be able to communicate. Be pragmatic and do not indulge in a heroic act.

Interviewer: What type of professional development do you think is essential and helpful for you in your current role as an HR Head?

Mr. Saurabh Shah: I think Change Management is one of the most crucial aspects for me. The change which all of us are experiencing now, nobody would have ever thought of it. The only way to deal is to adapt, explore and evolve, The second one is Strategic Outlook, it's how to envision and evolve as a thought leader. This leads to inculcating and nurturing ideas in the budding minds and create supportive paths to grow. The third and most crucial one is Keeping yourself updated with what's happening in the surrounding. It's necessary to think ahead of time to steer my organisation way ahead of my competitors.

Interviewer: We are observing rapid changes in the business environment with every passing day. So, are the hiring preferences of companies belonging to various industries also changing?

Mr. Saurabh Shah: Yes, the preferences are changing, and the outlook is also changing but the basics will never change. For example, there is a lot of information and data available, and we don't need somebody who will only look at the data. We need somebody who will look at the data, process the data and draw analysis. I would say that the expectations are rising and time is of the value creators. Several students graduate at the same time, there needs to be a USP that will help you stand out. Introspect to find the unique one in you and let it pave the way ahead.

Interviewer: What qualities must one develop for increasing their employability levels in the growing industries?

Mr. Saurabh Shah: The most important one is concept clarity. It will not only help you crack an interview but also assist in practical implementation. Secondly, how aware are you of the surrounding macro and micro talent landscape. Being economy students it's all the more essential to be aware of what's happening in the industry, what is happening from an economy and business standpoint. This attribute will help you stand out. Thirdly, as a part of your student journey, take different avenues for learning more than what is being taught in your regular curriculum. It could be attending seminars or workshops, undertaking live projects or acquiring more skills. All of this will add to your uniqueness. Fourth is the various projects you work on, how have you been able to relate academics with practical implementation. All of this will help you demonstrate unique skills and drive more meaningful conversations. They will add to your skills and your ability to speak about what you have done. Lastly, your learning attitude – your desire to learn and grow will add to your uniqueness as a candidate.

Interviewer: In your experience, what qualities make a good leader and what is the key to developing a good team?

Mr. Saurabh Shah: For developing a team, the principal factor is trust. The role of a good leader would be to instil faith among its team members. Secondly, how collaborative the team is and how willingly they support each other for its betterment. That is where the role of a leader comes into play, to enable a collaborative working environment. The third bit is how positive and self-motivated the team is. Such a team will go beyond their boundaries and scope of work to excel. Here comes the role of a leader to make the team members feel driven to a common goal. The fourth element is the four Ds, and how well the leader can implement them with the team. The most important aspect of being a leader is that you have to make yourself a part of the team. When you roll up your sleeves and work for your team, that's when your team will work for you. If the team members observe that the leader is involved as intensely as they are, they will achieve something for themselves and the organisation. Lastly, how well are you connected with your team? Are you accessible to the rearmost person within your team? Do they find it comfortable to reach out and speak to you? That comes with a listening attitude. You need to be a thought leader and have that connection with the team. If anything good or bad happens with my team members, I make it a point to reach out to my team members over the phone, especially in the situation we're in today. That is how I believe I have been able to connect with my team and that is why they have always stood by me.

Interviewer: To what extent should our CVs be diverse?

Mr. Saurabh Shah: Some critical components in every CV would differ depending on your professional knowledge and skill set. Your CV should contain relevant information. What you include in your CV should be closely related to what job you are applying for. Elaborately mention the related projects and other projects can be mentioned in brief. Remember, you don't have to showcase everything in your CV but, you also need to have something beyond your CV to speak about during the interview. Don't make it a 4- 5 page CV, as it has to be very crisp. A page or two would suffice.

Interviewer: During the pandemic, we have seen a lot of reverse migration. In this scenario, if we go for foreign education, will it hold any value in our career? Will we find equal opportunities in both the domestic as well as international markets post-pandemic?

Mr. Saurabh Shah: Yes, in fact, the pandemic has transformed the way we work and do things and allowed us to be more global. For instance, we as an organisation have people from more than 25 states and union territories. So, that has allowed us to attract various talents and maintain them by enabling them to work from different areas. It has allowed us to be global citizen. Sitting at home, with the help of technology, we could comfortably pursue a degree at a foreign university. The pandemic has brought about a change that allows you to pursue a course or work for a company remotely. I would say that the days to come will provide domestic as well as international opportunities. I think that the Indian market base is growing. If you read various articles and research material, you will realise that digitalisation is making a big boom in our country. Many organisations are hiring in different areas. So, I would say that many opportunities will get created. The pandemic is going to present us with a very different outlook and perspective. It would also give us lots of chance to grow and excel.

"Many a time, students go with the '3 idiots' model for their interview, but that doesn't happen in reality. So let's be practical. I think you got to be prepared and have the right attitude, and only then can you crack the interview."

"If you are self-motivated, you love what you do; if you love what you do, you will be passionate about what you do; if you are passionate, you will be committed; if you are committed, you will do what is right and will excel in your field."

INTERNSHIPS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

--SHERIL ANNA THOMAS



As university students, we all are very eager for each step forward. We are finally in the process of building a career that we please. One major step that we all know for an attractive CV and future job opportunities is interning.

Interning in various companies and various job positions helps us build soft skills and other corporate skills that will be of extreme benefit when we graduate and become a fresher in the corporate world.



Here are a few points that you can keep in mind to gather such internships:

- Start your internship journey from the first year of college. It is not a compulsion, but the more internship experience you have, the better it is. But today, due to the pandemic situation, work from home internships are what's preferred, and there are part-time internships that enable you to manage an internship even while studying for your course.
 - There is, of course, an additional value for internships that you do in the companies. It can only begin when the situation slowly starts to normalize. Internships can be completed over the summer break and are available over various periods, ranging from a week to a month and beyond.
- The bulk of internships include stipends and incentives, a letter of recommendation, and a certificate for your work. The letter of recommendation and the certificate you receive adds good value to your resume.
 - It is also not necessary to apply for corporate internships at all times. Interning NGOs and other non - profit organizations as well. For undergraduate students, such internships will benefit the most for those students who plan to go abroad and pursue their post-graduation degree.
- Here are a few websites that you can visit for applying for internships. Intern Shala is a great website that offers a variety of internship opportunities based on your interests. There is an inbuilt resume that you can fill which, is later sent to the employer. Each internship application has two standard questions: 'Why you want to be hired?' and 'Are you available for the stated time?'. There will be some applications that will contain questions other than these standard ones. Letsintern, Awgin, GlassDoor are other applications that you can try out to apply for internships.
 - LinkedIn is also a great platform to meet employers and search for internships. With LinkedIn making connections with employers is an important step.

Q&A WITH Mr. GAURAV AMBEDKAR

INTERVIEWERS: RITHIKA SINGH & ARCHITA JOSHI

"Remind yourselves, students, that you get paid in two ways, one with the coin of money and one with the coin of experience. In the early part of your life, the experience is absolutely important."

Mr Gaurav Ambedkar is an accomplished professional with over 20 years of corporate experience across Human Capital Strategy, Training and Development, Corporate HR, and Career Development Programs in the Education Industry. Mr Ambedkar has an education qualification in management studies and is an expert in conducting team building activities and Organisation development programs. His specialities include General Management, HR Management, Organisational Development,



Corporate Social Responsibility, Employee Counselling, learning and development and Talent Management. He also teaches the subject of HRM and Organization Development to the second year BSc students at MIT WPU School of Economics.

Here is an exclusive interview with Mr Gaurav Ambedkar with the Editorial Board, where he guides us through the field of management and answers some salient questions posed by MBA aspirants.

Interviewer: Sir, what motivated you to pursue an MBA degree in Human Resource?

Mr. Gaurav Ambedkar: People are more important to me, and I have always been in touch with them. In my opinion, when we talk about something like science and knowledge, the method that we apply in a laboratory experiment can be applied practically to the general masses. However, human behaviour is highly unpredictable. Whatever is decided or happens in a conference room may not be entirely followed outside that room. People may commit to something but may operate in a completely different way. So, this unpredictability of the events inspired me to pursue an MBA in Human Resource.

Interviewer: Did any of your career goals change while or after pursuing your MBA degree?

Mr. Gaurav Ambedkar: I was working while pursuing my post-graduation. I did not follow the traditional way of completing academics first and then joining the industry. I joined the industry first and then pursued my post-graduation in human resource. So my career goals and career track kept changing a lot. Initially, I was very fortunate to work with the Indian army, not as a government employee, but for participating in a defence project. The project was for manufacturing some equipment not being made by the Armed forces then. So, it had more of an engineering approach. Not being an engineer and working with an engineers' community was a great experience. Later, I got into the human resource, recruitments, employee training etc., then HR internally also kept on changing through employee retention, team building activities. Being a consultant, I perform many tasks at major companies. What matters over here is you don't know what's there around the corner. So, it's necessary to upgrade and take up new things. You may be aspiring to be a part of a company, and if another opportunity comes in, you would be unable to say no.

Frequently, you are running behind a brand, but the best learning for you guys is at a start-up company, where you will be learning things and upgrading yourself. Things aren't set in the stone in a start-up business. You can see everything as per a systemic schedule, so you get a tiny portion to work on compared to a giant learning process. People in western countries are crazy to work in start-ups on the initial day of their career because of the volume of learning opportunities. You have your entire life to make changes and to grow. So, remind yourselves, students, that you get paid in two ways, one with the coin of money and one with the token of experience. In the early part of your life, this experience is vital.

Interviewer: What were the most important lessons that you learnt while pursuing your degree? How are they helping you in your current role?

Mr. Gaurav Ambedkar: Coming from a work background and then pursuing my MBA degree, it was slightly easier to understand the concepts. It is because I had experienced those concepts and logics practically before, and then I subsequently perceived them from a theoretical angle. But what it gave me is the importance of understanding people, being much more patient. Emotions are important. Frequently, we respect an individual but fail to esteem their centres of influence. For instance, if I give respect only to you but not to your parents, it will not make any sense. So, the centres of your influence are crucial. You may admire a sports or film celebrity, but if I criticise that person, I differ from you. So, these emotions, these practicalities in the routine are necessary. Managers need to learn these, and the academic courses and post-graduation will help you understand the vital aspects of emotions that you need to garden at your daily work in the office.

Interviewer: There are several national-level MBA entrance exams like CAT, XAT, IIFT, etc., available to MBA aspirants. So, which entrance exam would be the best to attempt?

Mr. Gaurav Ambedkar: In my opinion, you cannot categorise these exams. All exams are important and have their respective criteria. So, you shouldn't be eliminating any of them. My friendly opinion to you is to make sure you go with all of them. Aim at the sky, (then) you will reach the treetop; that is my message.

Interviewer: What are the benefits of pursuing a foreign MBA degree through GMAT and SAT?

Mr. Gaurav Ambedkar: A foreign MBA degree will give you a global perspective. Today, companies have an international presence with different cultures and different value systems to consider in their process, and a lot of American concepts are involved in these processes.

But it is tough to apply these concepts to countries like India because India is a discrete country.

So, the way Indians respond to these ideas would differ from the theory since it was researched by an American scholar on American citizens in America, perhaps during the Second World War or the Industrial Revolution. Today the dynamics have changed, and to know the changing dynamics, the pulse of every country, every continent is crucial. Things keep changing. If you observe, in India, the language or the accent changes every 30 km. So, you need to develop a global perspective. And when you are looking from a worldwide perspective, the international MBAs will bring in multiple inputs. Not only a western angle to look at the situation but an entirely different perspective, and then you will be trying to understand how things work in various countries. Today Indian entrepreneurs are going worldwide. We have so many great stalwarts from Infosys to Mittal who have been acquiring companies worldwide. Tatas have acquired companies worldwide. They will be hiring people not only from India but worldwide. So, it's necessary to understand their expectations and align your company strategies accordingly because you all will be working tomorrow in these MNCs. Maybe tomorrow your companies are going to work worldwide. So that global perspective is very crucial, and you can gain it from an international MBA.

Interviewer: What steps can one take to improve their CVs and increase their chances of landing a managerial position?

Mr. Gaurav Ambedkar: You all are freshers, and freshers need to understand that only the projects in your curriculum will help you get a job. As a fresher, what is it you have to prove when you get into the industry? Nothing at all because you are a fresher but, the projects you work on are the entry to a job. You could have worked on a project for three or six months in a company here's when you come close to working in the industry. So if you select your projects and work on them with honesty, the companies will welcome you. But if it's a copy-paste approach, you are left blank. When you go in for an interview, and the interviewer asks you to tell them about your project, you are looking left and right because you don't know anything. You have not done your project in the true spirit of what it had been designed. So, the project that you are working on is very significant. It is the gateway to your job. Until your entry into the job market, everything in academics has been theoretical. The project is the practical work that you are doing. So, the practicalities of business, practicalities of your work at college are crucial.

Interviewer: We hear lots of advice about post-graduation or MBA in particular. Some say we should directly pursue an MBA degree after our under-graduation, and others say we should have some work experience before pursuing a degree. So, according to you, what should be the right time to pursue an MBA? Should it be after graduation or after getting some work experience?

Mr. Gaurav Ambedkar: When the MBA course first began in western companies, it was formulated for working professionals for understanding the management side of the organisation. Nowadays, what happens is you don't get a chance to work and then come back to academics. But what matters here is, even if you are directly going from academics to a post-graduation MBA, you should parallelly, in between your vacations and in free time, do some internships or small jobs, where money is not the criteria and learning is more important.

Secondly, cross-platform projects are significant. It means that somebody working in maybe a marketing role and also doing something in finance, somebody in HR need not always do a project in HR, he can do a project in marketing because it's all about learning aspects of business and that's where you are cementing yourself to be a professional down the line in your career.

Interviewer: Should working professionals go for a part-time MBA or an executive MBA?

Mr. Gaurav Ambedkar: Working professionals, if they have the leverage and benefit to take a break and come back again, and if they have money, and they don't have to be worried about their daily finances, then there is no problem. They can entirely focus on their MBA education. But if they have to take care of the finances and they are not in a position to leave their job, it's not going to happen. They will continue their jobs and do a part-time or a postal correspondence MBA or a digital course. What matters over here is, you are doing an MBA to get a better job, right? And you are leaving your current job to do an MBA, risking a chance that you will not get a chance to go back to MBA. But right now, in the pandemic, when many people have lost jobs, the best thing is to come back to academics and upgrade yourself for two years. If there are no jobs available, and then come back strongly to the industry when the economy revives after the corona pandemic is over. But it's a very individual decision.

Interviewer: Today, in many MBA courses, we get an option to select electives. So, what should one keep in mind while selecting their electives? Which electives would be the most significant for an Economics graduate?

Mr. Gaurav Ambedkar: When you are studying economics, you are already close to finance, are already near to one segment of MBA. So, MBA finance is automatically your first option. But trust me, students, a dual specialisation is always going to help you in your career. For example, when you look at MBA as a two-year course, how many of you will think of doing a dual MBA, which means following the completion of two years, one more year into one more specialisation. Put your profile on the Naukri portal or any job portal and check how many of you have a dual-degree? This experience and qualification will be priceless. You know the companies will choose you because there could be somebody with only HR specialisation, only finance specialisation. A dual specialisation MBA now is going to extend your career. I know it's going to hit you financially so, the last training you do after your two years can be done where attendance is not a challenge, or you can do it through postal correspondence but what will happen is it will add to your forte. You will have a good and well-built profile. So, finance, trust me, goes with all accounts, whether you are doing HR or not, finance comes in, whether you are doing marketing, finance comes in, whether you are into production finance comes in, finance is a common thread for all departments so, keeping finance, you can select some other specialisation that is close to your heart.

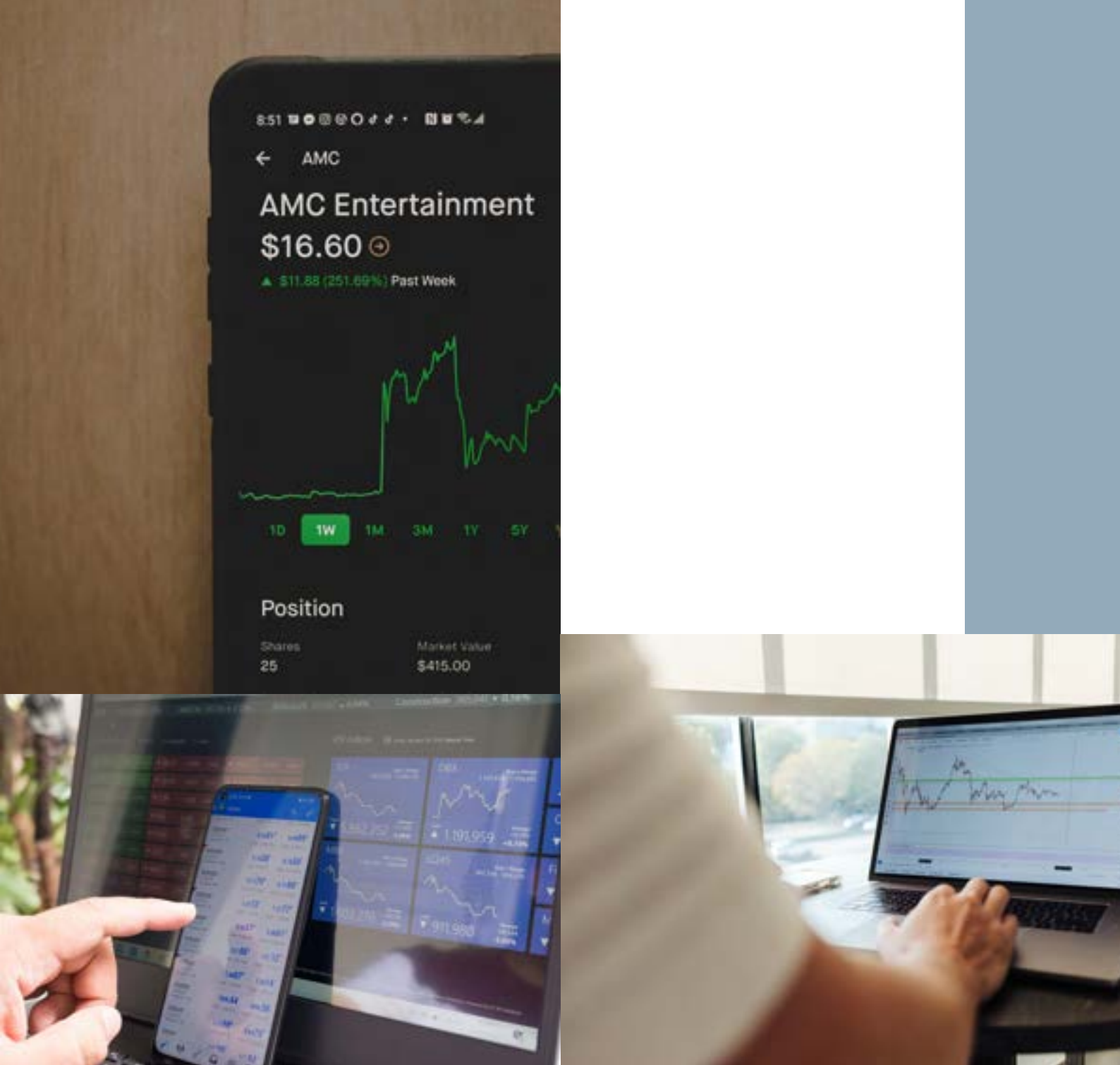
Interviewer: Sir, when we talk about an MBA degree, we say we are investing in terms of fees, our time or our energy. So, what are the returns on investment after pursuing an MBA?

Mr. Gaurav Ambedkar: I think that learning is a sizeable return to your investment. The MBA degree will equip you with a broad understanding of management, including theoretical and realistic knowledge of the profession, managerial principles, human factors, and communication, among other things. As a whole, you should master these crucial things because you never know when anything could come in handy.

Later on, when you start working, when you have greater responsibilities in your life, maybe coming back to academics will be a real challenge, especially in Indian society.

So, it's always better to cement your academics right now. This knowledge also increases your credibility in the industry. Some companies, for example, will give you one more point extra, or they add one year to your total years of experience if you have a post-graduation and MBA means six years of experience. However, if somebody has completed their post-graduation with higher marks, they will consider you not with six years but seven years of experience, adding one more year to your career as their internal structure and accordingly, your payment structure will also get aligned. It varies from company to company; good companies will value education like the B. Tech and MTech. An MTech will be esteemed in a technical company for he spent one more year and you get an additional point for his appraisal, or you know whatever the internal ratings are going to be because he entered the industry late so his years of experience is late but, that was counterbalanced, given his years of education.

Thus, a post-graduation or an MBA degree will increase your credibility in the industry.



STOCK MARKET TRADING STRATEGIES

When we first read the above title and think, 'What is Trading?', one may tell that it is an act of buying and selling goods and services, but here we are talking about trading strategies in the stock market. Therefore, we see there are mainly four strategies of trading in a stock market.

1. Scalp Trading
2. Day Trading
3. Swing Trading
4. Position Trading

- **Day Trading:** It usually refers to the practice of purchasing and selling security within a single trading day. While it can occur in any marketplace, it is most common in the foreign exchange (forex) and stock markets. Day traders are typically well-educated and well-funded, so they use high amounts of leverage and short-term trading strategies to capitalize on small price movements, which happen in highly liquid stocks or currencies. Day trading is only limited to a single trading session or a day. Day traders are usually known for making the market move in a single trading day, and hence the day traders are mostly attuned to events that cause short-term market moves. Trading based on the news is a common technique, and scheduled announcements such as economic statistics, corporate earnings, or interest rates are subject to market expectations, as well as market psychology.
- **Scalp Trading:** Scalping is a trading strategy specializing in profiting from small price changes and making a fast profit from reselling. In day trading, the scalping strategy prioritizes making high volumes off small gains. This strategy, used mainly for very short-term trading; for instance, many investors usually hold trades for seconds to minutes and square off their positions. Scalping requires a trader to have a strict exit strategy because one huge loss could eliminate the many small gains the trader worked to obtain. Thus, having the right tools such as a live feed, a direct-access broker, and the stamina to place many trades is required for this strategy to be successful. Also, Scalping assumes that most stocks will complete the first stage of a movement, but what's uncertain is that where it goes from there. After that initial stage, some stocks cease to advance while others continue moving forward. Hence, this strategy is for playing stocks; for example, it is easy to move stock 0.1% instead of the whole 1%.
- **Position Trading:** A position trader buys an investment for the long-term, expecting that its value will appreciate, and this type of trading makes the investor hold onto the stock for weeks, months, or even years till the company comes to its peak. This type of trader is less concerned with short-term fluctuations in price and the news of the day unless they alter the trader's long-term view of the position. These position traders can be seen as the opposite of day traders as they do not trade actively, with most of them placing fewer than ten trades in a year. Position traders are, by definition, trend followers, and their core belief extends to the theory that once a trend starts, it is likely to continue for quite some time.
- **Swing Trading:** Swing trading is a strategy that attempts to capture short- to medium-term gains in a stock (or any financial instrument) over a few days to several weeks. Swing traders primarily use technical analysis to look for trading opportunities and utilize fundamental analysis in addition to analyzing price trends and patterns. The technical analysis uses many types of trend lines, graphs, channels that help traders to book profit. Swing trading exposes a trader to overnight and weekend risk, where the price could gap and open up the following session at a substantially different price.

Therefore, all these four types of trading strategies are great, but in the end, it relies on the investor and how a person can make money by following these particular strategies. Many investors perform day trading and simultaneously and indifferently invest their money in ways of position trading also. Investors generally use penny stocks to invest in day trading or short-term trading using blue-chip companies like Infosys and Reliance, who are the market themselves. Therefore, all these strategies require technical skills as well to use and look upon the company.

TRADING IN THE DERIVATIVES MARKET

BY BHAVYANSH SONKHIYA & ASHWIN AGARWAL



MYTHS AND REALITIES RELATED TO DERIVATIVES IN TRADING:

First of all, it's important to understand what is derivative in a financial market. A Derivative is a value which is derived from some underlying asset that can be stocks, bonds, commodities, currency etc. As we go through the myths related to derivatives, the most basic myth about derivatives in India is the investors thinking that derivatives are very risky and highly leveraged instruments. So, the investors in India think of them as very risky not only because of the trend of trading in future markets and the only option being the hike but also the derivative trading needing high knowledge of technology which is not quite popular in India in the trading market.

There are not only one but many myths about the derivatives trading such as:

1. Derivatives Are Purely Speculative & Highly Leveraged Instruments- Investors get apart from derivatives because of this speculative objective. The people who get to know about it very briefly make high profits very wisely.

2. The Enormous Size of the Financial Derivatives Market Dwarfs Bank Capital making derivatives trading an unsafe and unsound banking practice. The total valuation of derivatives till date is approximately \$20 trillion as the viability of financial derivatives rests on the principle of comparative advantage that is, the relative cost of holding specific risks. Whenever comparative advantages exist, trade can benefit all parties involved till the financial derivatives allow for the free trading of individual risk components.

3. Financial Derivatives Are Simply the Latest Risk-Management Fad. Financial derivatives are important tools that can help organizations to meet their specific risk-management objectives. As it is in the case with all tools, it is important that the user understands the tool's intended function and that the necessary safety precautions be taken before the tool is put to use. Clearly, derivatives are here to stay and we are well on our way to true global financial markets that will continue to develop new financial innovations to improve risk-management practices. Financial derivatives are not the latest risk-management fad but are important tools for helping organizations to better manage their risk exposures.

4. Only Large Multinational Corporations and Large Banks Have a Purpose for Using Derivatives because of the derivatives trading requiring high money power and also it is not easy for every company or a corporation to do a derivative trading. This is beneficial for small companies but need a great knowledge and experience of business.

5. Only Risk-Seeking Organizations Should Use Derivatives. Financial derivatives can be used in two ways: to hedge against unwanted risks or to speculate by taking a position in anticipation of a market movement. The olive-press owners, by locking in a guaranteed return no matter how good or bad the harvest, hedged against the risk that the next season's olive harvest might not be plentiful. Thales speculated that the next season's olive harvest would be exceptionally good and therefore paid an up-front premium in anticipation of that event. When using financial derivatives, however, organizations should be careful to use only those instruments that they understand and that fit best with their corporate risk-management philosophy.

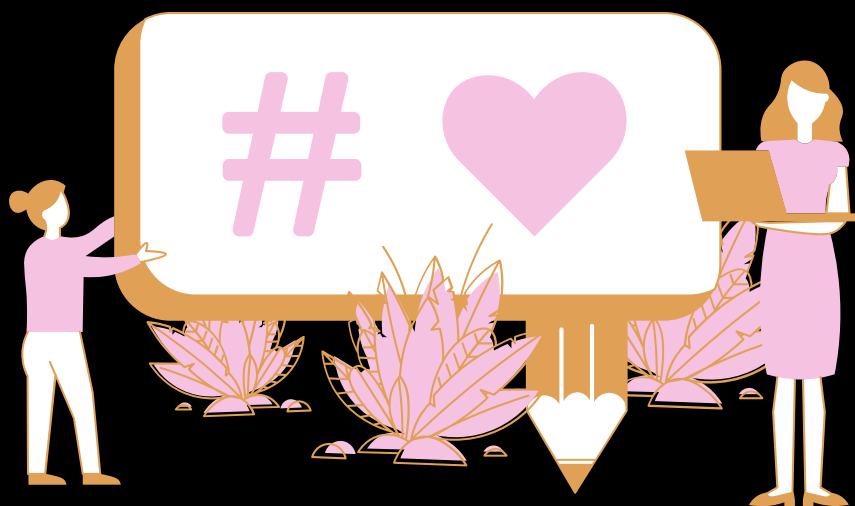
Therefore, by further analysis, the Indian market is not yet ready for the derivatives market as investors here see a new trend of dematerialization as of now and it is difficult for Indian investors to do derivative trading but not impossible as they are the biggest in such businesses. Derivatives increase speculation and do not serve any economic purpose as it's trading is both ways, a percent of an investor's trade in derivatives and makes good money but some domestic investors feel that it's very risky and speculative so they avoid trading in derivatives. Hence, it's quite difficult to say if it's right or not to trade in the derivatives market.



S O C I A L



- WOMEN IN CHARGE
- TOKYO OLYMPICS 2021
- RICHEST YOUNG SELF-MADE INDIAN ENTREPRENEURS
- ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS IN INDIA SINCE THE PANDEMIC
- SWACHH BHARAT
- FUKUSHIMA: 10 YEARS LATER



WOMEN IN CHARGE

8 Successful Indian Women from Various Sectors

BY KSHITIJA KUSRAY



Women have always led the way with their immense power and empowerment. From Savitri Bai Phule to Kalpana Chawla and Dutee Chand, incredible women have come up from every field and made history, making our society even better to live in. Here are some of the Indian women who paced their way to success in recent times:



1. NGANGOM BALA DEVI



Being an incredible Indian footballer, Devi had started playing it in her childhood in Manipur. She's the first Indian footballer, as well as Asia's only player who has represented FC Rangers, a top club in the Scottish League. She strongly believes that along with passion, there also comes dedication in the process of achieving one's dreams. She expressed her views to bring international teachings to India by studying them herself and playing for as long as she can.

2. LT. GENERAL MADHURI KANITKAR



Lt. Kanitkar recently made history by gaining the title of the first woman paediatrician to earn the second-highest post in the Indian Army. She strongly fought against female stereotypes and worked hard for 37 years in a male-dominated field. All her dedication and hard work became worth it when she became India's third woman to hold a 3-star rank.

3. SEEMA KUSHWAHA



After many tiresome years, everyone including her family had started to lose hope to give justice to Nirbhaya. No one can forget the night of the gruesome and excruciating incident that shook the entire nation. One such person was Seema, a young to-be-lawyer who got influenced by this case so much, that she worked day and night to get justice. She'd started to follow the case quite closely while learning and practising the same. Soon, she became Nirbhaya's mom's lawyer and struggled for 7 long years, fighting for justice for Nirbhaya against the execrable convicts.

It's because of her that the monsters in the Nirbhaya Case were sent to jail, finally giving peace to Nirbhaya.

4. RITU KARIDHAL

Ritu was a diligent student who was born in a middle-class family in Lucknow. She had an in-built passion for space and used to frequently stargaze since she was a kid. She was so into Mathematics that she even wrote poems on it!

She completed her studies and started publishing research papers soon afterwards at an incredibly young age. One day, she finally received a call to join ISRO in 1997!

Having been identified as "Rocket Woman" of India, Ritu was also the Deputy Operations Director in the team of Mars Orbital Mission of India also known as MOM or Mangalyaan.





5. AMEERA SHAH

Ameera had a huge hand in the evolution of the healthcare industry of India. She got inspired and involved in her dad's dream of changing the face of the healthcare system back in the 1980s. Ameera single-handedly turned her father's single diagnostic laboratory into the massive 2000 crore company known as Metropolis Healthcare. She's an incredible businesswoman who gave her everything to build her father's empire and learned many things in the process of doing so. Her constant hard work and effective dedication transformed the company into a name that everyone knows now, especially after the successful listing of the company in April 2019.

6. ROSHNI NADAR MALHOTRA



She is the country's richest woman, and the first woman to head a listed, Indian IT company as the Chairperson of HCL technologies. She completed her studies from the Northwestern University and the Kellogg School of Management, both in Illinois, U.S.A., and worked as a producer for several news channels before joining her father's multinational HCL. She has earned recognition in the fields of business and philanthropy. She is also trained in classical music.

7. FALGUNI NAYAR

After being a banker in the initial stages of life, Falguni founded a unicorn startup Nykaa, a beauty and wellness products company in 2012. She has worked tremendously and in no less than 10 years has transformed the makeup & fashion lifestyle of India.

She has completely changed the outlook of how beauty is perceived in India. From giving chances to local brands like Blue Heaven, she now deals with top-end international brands such as Charlotte Tilbury.



8. MEGHNA GULZAR



Born into the grand home of writer Gulzar, and actress Rakhee, Meghna also walked in the footsteps of her father and has now become an incredible and phenomenal writer. She has written blockbuster movies like Raazi, Talvar, Chhapaak, etc., and has certainly made her way inside people's hearts through her powerful writing and sensational movies.



Tokyo Olympics 2021

"It all begins with the lighting of the torch."

Olympics, the ultimate platform for the best athletes across the globe, had originated in Ancient Greece about 3,000 years ago. The event, initiated as a running game, has undergone many modifications and is in the present form with 35 different sports, 53 disciplines and more than 400 events. The modern Olympic games feature the Summer Olympic and the Winter Olympic recurring every two years. This game that encompasses participants from around 200 nations was all set to be held in the summer of 2020, between July and August in Tokyo. It was to be the fourth Olympic Games to be held in Japan. However, the games got adjourned for the first time because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lighting the Torch Ceremony

The worldwide lockdown could not abate the zeal and sportsman spirit of athletes across the globe. This Summer Olympics has already kickstarted on March 25, 2021, with the famous 'lighting the torch' ceremony. After the gloom of the pandemic-stricken year 2020, this ceremony marked new beginnings. The lighting of the torch depicted the ignition of hope, love and compassion. The torch was carried across some famous Japanese heritage sites, and thus advertised for Japan's tourism. Handling the crowd while battling COVID-19, Japan warmly opened its arms to welcome citizens from different corners of the world. There could not have been a better city in Japan than Fukushima to begin the 121 days journey of the torch to the Tokyo Olympic Stadium. The city has risen from its ashes after the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in the year 2011. Years later, there now stands a football stadium at the devastated place. Very similar to the current scenario where the world in doom needs to revamp.



An apparent crowd of more than 11,000 athletes and 25,000 journalists from more than 200 countries is all set to land in Japan for the event. At the same time, the number of enthusiastic fans and spectators that the game reckons is multitudinous. However, considering the current scenario and the COVID norms, the Japanese organisers have decided not to welcome foreign guests to witness the events. Nevertheless, the NBC network would be providing extensive coverage of the events. The athletes would be under the strict supervision of their organisers and would be barred from taking public transport and from visiting public places. They would be subjected to regular Corona testing as well. The expectations of an effective vaccine's arrival, and the medical communities' agreement to provide all necessary and quick aids, have served as a motivation for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to conduct the Olympics.

The Events

The Summer Olympics are intended to be inaugurated on July 23 at the Japan National Stadium. The closing ceremony is planned to be organised on August 8. There will be 339 events in 33 different sports with a total of 50 disciplines. Apart from the earlier games, five new sports- Skateboarding, Sport climbing, Karate and Baseball/Softball, will be introduced in this edition. These additions will help realise the IOC's motive to make this edition of Olympic games more youth-centric.

From India in Japan

Some star athletes like Bajrang Punia, Neeraj Chopra, MC Mary Kom, and Vinesh Phogat have sealed their places in the Tokyo 2021 Summer Olympics. More than 70 Indians had earned the quota back in 2020, and over time, as more and more national and international tournaments conclude, the list is expected to lengthen. Both the men's and the women's national Hockey teams have qualified for the event. There are a lot of youngsters and women participants.

Some Not so Important Facts

This year, Russia will not participate in the games due to a ban on its players, resulting from doping allegations. Neither the Russian flag nor the Russian anthem will appear during the games. However, Russians not implicated in Japan's state-sponsored doping norms, would be eligible to play under the flag of the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC). The expected weather conditions have also gathered attention. As per predictions, this edition of the Summer Olympics would be the hottest of all, owing to Japan's climatic conditions. This fact has also compelled athletes to go for heat training.

Miraitowa, a blue-checked creation that represents old traditions and the celebration of new ones with the ability to transform itself from the digital realm to the real world, is the official mascot of the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympic games. Thus, despite all the doom that the world faced in the previous year, the Olympics will refresh the aura. It has not only kept the hopes and sportsman spirit of the athletes alive but has also brought hope to the world emerging from its shady state.

By Rithika Singh



RICHEST YOUNG SELF-MADE INDIAN ENTREPRENEURS

BY ASHWIN AGARWAL

EVERYONE WANTS TO BE RICH. YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AMBITIOUS, AND EARNING A SEVEN-FIGURE IN ONE'S EARLY 30'S, IS A HUGE SUCCESS ITSELF. AMONG THE RAT RACE OF GOVERNMENT JOB EXAMS, ENGINEERING AS WELL AS MEDICINE, SOME GEMS MADE IT LARGE IN THE BUSINESS WORLD AT A YOUNG AGE AND ARE NOW INSPIRING OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.



1. Ritesh Agarwal, 26, Founder and CEO of OYO started his career at quite the early age of 17. The rags to riches story of this college dropout took many turns. He founded OYO Rooms when he was only 21 and raised ₹2.5crores. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on the hospitality business globally and has temporarily affected Oyo's wealth growth declining the wealth of Ritesh by 40% or ₹3,000 crores. With a current wealth of ₹4,500 crores, he is the youngest billionaire on the rich list.



2. Divyank Turakhia, 38, founded Media.net in 2010, which went on to become one of the top 5 largest online advertising businesses in the world. In 2016, he sold Media.net in an all-cash deal, the third-largest acquisition transaction in the online advertising industry across the globe. With a wealth of ₹14,000 crores, he ranks second on the list.



3. Byju Raveendran, 39, founded an educational technology and online tutoring company called Think and Learn Private Ltd more famous as 'BYJU'S – The Learning App' in 2011 in Bangalore. In 2019, it was the world's most valued EdTech company at ₹37,000 crores. With a wealth of ₹7,800 crores, Byju's ranked third in the Hurun India Unicorn Index 2020.



4. Nithin Kamath, 41 and Nikhil Kamath, 34, the only brothers on the list built Zerodha, India's largest retail stockbroker. They began their career at a very young age and started to invest and soon became sub-brokers. By the end of 2010, the young brothers founded Zerodha and currently have a net worth of ₹6,600 crores.



5. Bhavish Aggarwal is the co-founder of Ola cabs, and at the age of just 34 years, he is the third-youngest self-made Indian billionaire with a net worth of ₹3,100 crores.



6. Vijay Shekhar Sharma, 42, started One97 Communications Ltd. In the year 2000. He made his big move in the world of digital payments with the launch of the mobile wallet service Paytm in 2011. In 2018, Forbes named Vijay, then aged 39 and worth ₹12,500 crores, India's youngest billionaire. One97 now values at around ₹1.3L crores, and Paytm is a household name.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS IN INDIA SINCE THE PANDEMIC

-BY PRIYASHA GUPTA

MANY OF US CAN RECALL THE 2020 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. DESPITE THE REALITY THAT THE PANDEMIC HALTED OUR LIVES, NATURE WAS UNCONTAINABLE. IN THE WAKE OF THE PANDEMIC, INDIA HAD TO CONTEND WITH CYCLONES, RIVERS, RAINS, BIBLICAL PLAGUES, AND ECONOMIC DISASTERS.

2020

■ JANUARY

LOCUSTS: India saw one of the worst locust attacks in decades between 2019 and 2020. The first swarms were discovered in Gujarat's Banaskantha district in January 2020, which shares a border with Pakistan's desert regions. The locusts are thought to have migrated from Iran and Pakistan to India.

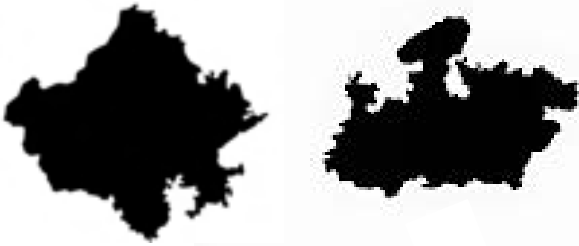


MAY



RAJASTHAN

MADHYA PRADESH



LOCUSTS: The worst locust attack in 27 years hit Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, with locust throngs measuring up to a kilometre high.



ASSAM

FLOODS: In May, heavy rains and floods of the Brahmaputra river wreaked havoc in Assam, resulting in deaths, widespread property, and agricultural damage. According to estimates, the floods in Assam affected more than 5 million people, 123 people died as a result of the flooding, while 26 died as a result of landslides.

CYCLONE: Super cyclone Amphan, which originated in the Bay of Bengal, slammed into West Bengal's coastal belt near Sagar Island at speeds of 155-165 km per hour, with gusty winds reaching 185 km per hour along with heavy rains, leaving behind a path of destruction through Kolkata on its way to Bangladesh. While, in Odisha, the cyclone weakened into a deep depression, causing downpours and strong winds.



WEST BENGAL



ODHISA

FOREST FIRE: On the 23rd of May 2020, a forest fire that began in the Pauri Garhwal district of Srinagar and affected only 5-6 hectares of forest, later spread through multiple districts of Uttarakhand, killing two people and injuring another



UTTARAKHAND



JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JUNE

EARTHQUAKE: On June 18, 2020, the Champhai district of Mizoram, was the epicentre of the first earthquake with a magnitude of 4.6. On June 21, another earthquake of magnitude 5.1 hit the neighbouring Saitual district. On June 22, Champhai was rocked again by another 5.3 magnitude quake. The Serchhip district was struck by a 3.7 magnitude earthquake on June 23.



MIZORAM



MAHARASHTRA

CYCLONE: Cyclone Nisarga made landfall in Maharashtra on India's western coast. Nisarga, which formed in the Arabian Sea, was the second cyclone to hit the Indian subcontinent in less than two weeks after Cyclone Amphan. Nisarga was the worst storm to hit the state since 1891, with winds gusting to 110 km/h.

LOCUSTS: Millions of locusts swarmed on a large scale in Gurgaon, Delhi-NCR district, in June, creating the appearance of a sandstorm. Solitary desert locusts emerged to feed on new-growth vegetation as well as lay eggs in the freshly damp soil when periods of heavy rainfall accompanied periods of relative drought, keeping them from drying out and allowing their populations to spread.



DELHI

FLOODS: During the monsoon season, Kerala received a lot of rain, which resulted in at least 22 fatalities. Kerala has been hit by flooding for the third year in a row. Wayanad, Kozhikode, and Idukki districts were raised on a red warning, while five other districts issued an orange alert.

AUGUST



KERELA

OCTOBER

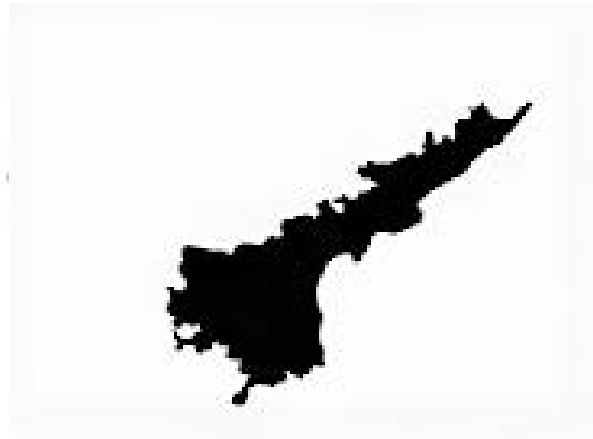
FLOODS: A deep depression in the North Indian Ocean dumped heavy rains on the Southwestern coast, impacting many states and UTs including Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. Flash floods were caused by 32 cms of record-breaking torrential downpours in Hyderabad.

NOVEMBER

CYCLONE: Cyclone Nivar hit southern India in late November, causing heavy flooding in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh, as well as rains in Sri Lanka. Nivar made landfall between Puducherry and Chennai, near Mahabalipuram, in Tamil Nadu. In Andhra Pradesh, eight people were declared dead.



TAMIL NADU



ANDHRA PRADESH

DECEMBER

WILDFIRES: The Dzūko Valley wildfires broke out on December 29, 2020, in Nagaland and Manipur lasting nearly two weeks before being put out. The wildfire wreaked havoc on the landscape in the Dzūko Valley's ecologically fragile areas, burning 200 acres of old-growth woodland. Forest fires are common in this valley, with previous incidents occurring in 2006, 2010, 2012, and 2015.

CYCLONE: The Cyclone Burevi made landfall in Sri Lanka before making landfall in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry. At least 11 died as a result of the cyclone, and five people went missing. Crop damage has also been recorded in several locations.

NAGALAND



MANIPUR

2021

FEBRUARY



UTTARAKHAND

GLACIER BREAK: After a portion of the Nanda Devi glacier broke up, disaster struck Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on February 7, 2021, in the form of an avalanche and deluge. The Dhaul Ganga, Rishi Ganga, and Alaknanda rivers, all intricately related tributaries of the Ganga flooded unexpectedly in the middle of the day, causing major chaos and widespread destruction in the high mountain regions.

MARCH

WILDFIRES: Unprecedented forest fires erupted in central and eastern Indian states, including Odisha, due to a prolonged dry spell and a sharp increase in February temperatures. Last year's dry winter was due to the lack of post-monsoon rains. The abrupt arrival of summer in March provided ideal fuel for an increase in wildfires. People lighting up the dry leaves to clear the forest bed for harvesting forest items such as Sal seeds and mahua flowers, as well as smuggling timber and poaching, are likely to be blamed for starting the fire.

HERE ARE SOME PICS OF THESE CALAMITIES:





**SWACHH BHARAT
ABHIYAAN**
EK KADAM SWACHHATA KI ORE

SWACHH BHARAT

5 CLEANEST AND 5 DIRTIEST CITIES OF INDIA

BY KSHITIJA KUSRAY

Since we know about the issue of massive population 'explosion' in India, as much as it enhances the culture, traditions, and diversity in India, it also brings forward copious issues such as pollution, sanitation, etc. For many years, our country has been facing a serious increase in issues such as that of uncleanliness, waste management, and the ensuing health issues.

People in India have been arrogant as well as ignorant towards the environment, evidently for the past few decades.

**HERE IS A LIST OF THE 5 DIRTIEST CITIES, FOLLOWED
BY THE 5 CLEANEST CITIES OF INDIA-**

DIRTIEST

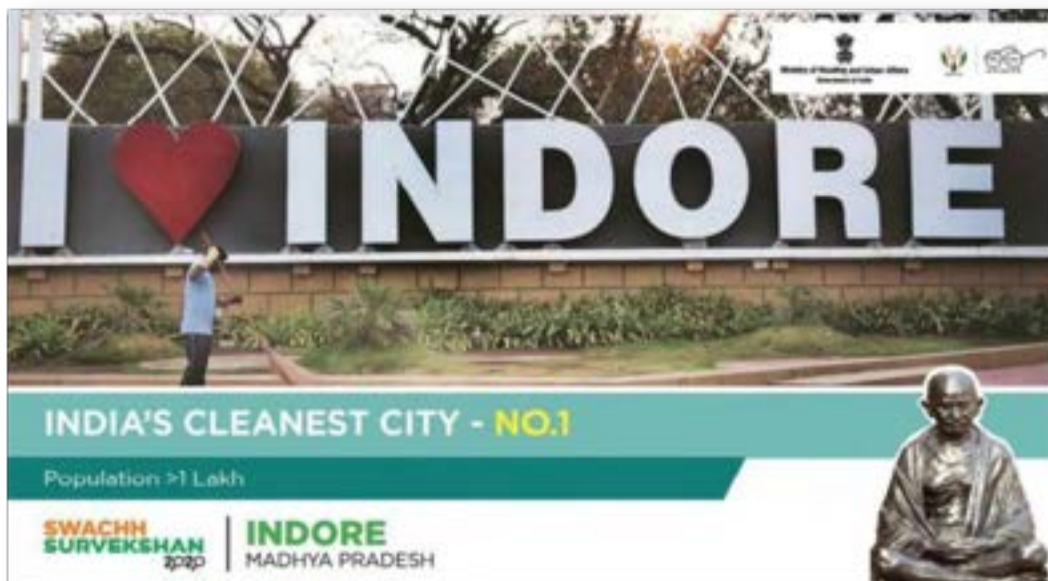
1. Gaya (Bihar)
2. Shillong (Meghalaya)
3. Patna (Bihar)
4. North & East Delhi
5. Amritsar (Punjab)

All these cities have failed to maintain their cleanliness standards and improve their condition. Even a city like Delhi, our National Capital has been facing these issues for quite some time. All of the above-mentioned cities have been compared with Indore and have been firmly requested to follow in its footsteps.

CLEANEST

1. INDORE (MP)

Indore has reached this pedestal through an intensive and appropriate garbage disposal, waste management system including thorough segregation. Moreover, the city adopted the exercise of waste conversion to obtain useful materials like fuel, compost, etc. Through its varied efforts, Indore, the largest and most populous city of Madhya Pradesh, has been the 'cleanest city of India' for 4 years consecutively.



2. SURAT (GUJARAT)

Surat in Gujarat holds the position for the cleanest city in the state and the second in India. The city has shown a massive transformation from being laden with problems after the 1994 Plague.

Through an incredible improvement in its Municipal Body and its management, the city has changed its face remarkably in less than two years.

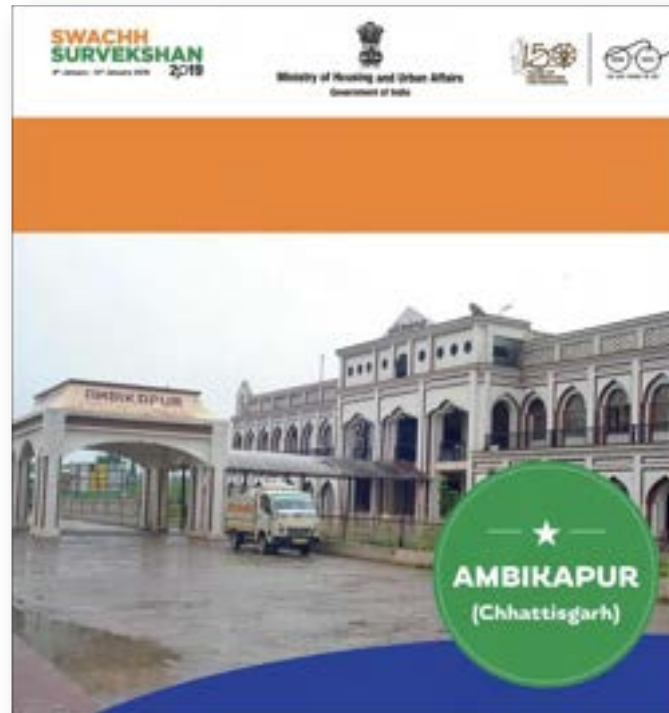
3. NAVI MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA)

Navi Mumbai has been making active efforts to improve its cleanliness rankings by implementing initiatives like internal cleanliness surveys amongst its societies, hospitals, institutes, and other public places. They've introduced monetary offers such as a lakh rupee as a prize to the cleanest housing society and more.

Navi Mumbai raised its ranks from 7th cleanest city to the 3rd in just a year.

4. AMBIKAPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

Being one of the oldest cities, Ambikapur in the state of Chhattisgarh has managed to implement new techniques to control waste management. This city does not have any dumping yards as it recycles every ounce of waste. Thorough efforts are put in to segregate the waste daily.



5. MYSORE (KARNATAKA)

The city of Mysore, situated in Karnataka has been on the top for two years consecutively. The city has kept its focus on staying clean and generating the minimum possible waste. Due to efforts such as waste segregation and efficient management, the city has maintained its reputation of being a clean one.

As far as the statement, 'Cleanliness is an act of God' goes, tidiness should be efficiently maintained to ensure a safe, clean, and healthy environment. The total waste collected is generated by us Humans and should be cleaned by us only.

One should give back to nature whenever they can to live a healthy, happy, and long life.

FUKUSHIMA: 10 YEARS LATER

The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster recently had its tenth anniversary. So, here we look into the prime reasons that caused this disaster as well as the aftermath. The Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear disaster is considered one of the worst nuclear disasters the world has ever had. It is supposedly one of the most tragic nuclear disasters, after the Chernobyl disaster of 1989.

The catastrophe was the result of a high magnitude earthquake, followed by a tsunami. Three of the main reactors of the plant got destroyed, and there were widespread fire and radiation. The main reason for the disaster was the flooding of the lower parts of reactors 1-4. The reaction given to the disaster by the Japanese government was pretty quick as the towns nearby were speedily evacuated.

Although the Fukushima disaster resulted in the immediate death of only one of the head controllers at the plant itself, the spread of radiation forced the Japanese authorities to evacuate thousands of citizens from the surrounding areas. The evacuation that took place overnight resulted in large-scale damage to property. The loss from this disaster was estimated to be approximately between \$200 billion and \$1 trillion. This event, coupled with the fact that such a nuclear disaster happened in a country like Japan, meant that the fears of nuclear energy and its uses only increased in the minds of the global public and government authorities.

In the coming years since the disaster, the use of nuclear energy saw stagnation and decline as new projects slowed down or stopped altogether. This trend was especially true in countries like Germany and Japan itself.

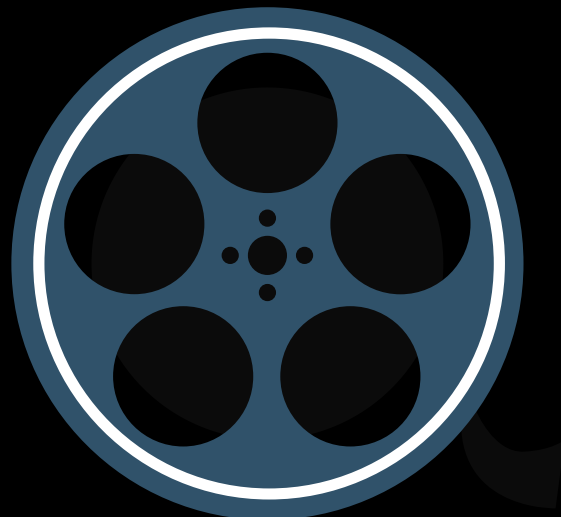
The catastrophe sparked a global debate questioning the usefulness of nuclear power. Although many agree that nuclear energy is an efficient way to provide uninterrupted, clean power, some anti-nuclear groups argue that this benefit always carries the risk of tragedies like the ones which took place in Fukushima and Chernobyl.

BY AARYAN SHRESHTHA





- BOOK REVIEWS
- ROMANTICISM: WHEN LOVE WAGED WAR ON NATIONALITY
- REASONS TO VISIT LONAVALA, MAHARASHTRA
- A MINIMALIST LIFESTYLE
- SPACE COLLECTION: WHO KNOWS WHAT ONE MIGHT FIND IN THE COSMOS
- QUICK READS
- DAFT PUNK-EPILOGUE
- CYBERPUNK 2000
- ACADEMY AWARDS NOMINATIONS 2021
- MARS 2020-21 PERSEVERANCE ROVER
- ELON MUSK: THE REAL-LIFE IRON MAN
- MOVIE REVIEWS
- MONEY DOES GROW ON TREES



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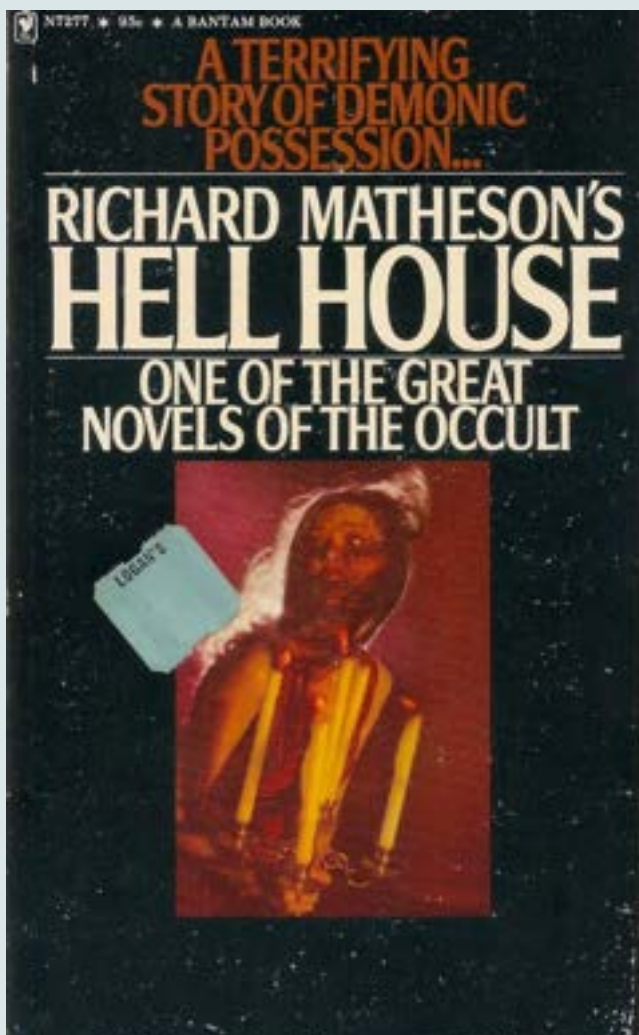
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BOOK REVIEWS

I've always loved a good horror novel especially if it has a haunted house in it, and Hell House is just that. It's one of the best I've ever read. The movie 'The Legend of Hell House' was also in fact based on this novel. The book is about 300 pages long and is divided into dates and times rather than conventional chapters, with the date serving as the equivalent of a chapter and the time serving as a kind of sub-chapter. The plot takes place in December 1970, and it starts on the eighteenth, at 3:17 p.m. However, I should also point out that the plot is not written in the first person, but in the third, and thus the perspective character shifts from time to time. The perspective character, however, is Dr Lionel Barrett, who appears at 3:17 p.m. on December 18, 1970. Barrett is a parapsychologist who has been waiting for over an hour to see a millionaire, the 87 years old, Rolph Rudolph Deutsch, who is a dying man, and the parapsychologist has never met him before, so he has no idea why the millionaire has asked to see him. However, he assumes it would be related to



By Astha Barwad



parapsychology. An evil man named Emeric Belasco founded hell house in 1919 and built his hell inside the walls of the building. There was no such thing as being too sick or depraved. People came and went, never to return home. From bricked-up bodies in the cellar to swaying chandeliers and floating dinner plates, this book has it all. Strange things are seen, heard, and felt by all of the characters, and they all have their hypothesis about what is going on, even though they must all agree that their theories just scratch the surface of a much larger puzzle. From the beginning of the novel, Matheson establishes a dark atmosphere in the house, which he retains until the end. The characters are distinct and unbelievable, and they face so many challenges that it's difficult not to feel sorry for them. As previously mentioned, Hell House is one of the best haunted house stories I've ever read; if you're a fan of such tales, this novel is highly recommended due to the many twists and turns it contains.

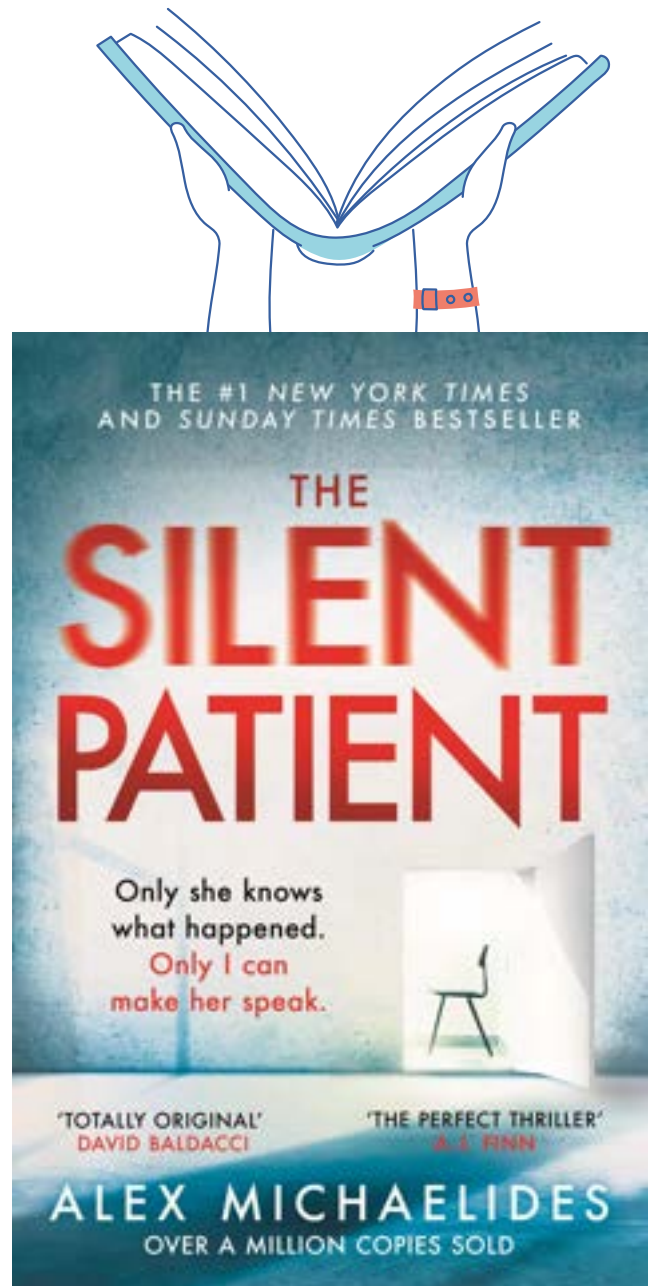
THRILLER

The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides

I wasn't sure I'd like this book at first. The Silent Patient seemed, to be another conventional psychological thriller which it was in many ways, but it stood out in others due to the outstanding characters and the complexity of the plot and themes it has. The Silent Patient questions the tragic events that left one dead and the other suffering a mute existence in a mental institution, looking past the façade of a picture-perfect married couple to see the dysfunction underneath the curtain of everyday life. The Grove, a forensic unit in North London, has admitted Alicia Berenson, a well-known painter who has also been charged with the murder of her fashion photographer husband, Gabriel, who'd arrived home late one evening only to meet his end. Alicia hasn't spoken to anyone since shooting Gabriel. Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who took a job at the Grove hoping to work with Alicia and while he's obsessed with figuring out what she's up to, he is optimistic that he can convince her to talk since others have tried too, only to fail. Alicia does not talk, but the reader gets a peek into her life through Theo's interactions with her friends and family. We get their views of her, facts they know about her, and their assumptions about her, to be more specific. Via Alicia's diary entries, the reader knows much more about her. Finally, Alicia starts using unspoken words to "speak."

Theo is a fascinating character as well. The bulk of the story is told by him. The reader often gets a peek into his life, his emotions, and his mind's inner workings. I was perplexed as to why he was so preoccupied with finding her intent. The story's complexity is added to by several secondary characters. Some appear only briefly, while others play recurring roles or remain in the background. And when they are not present, each brings something to the table. But don't get us wrong: this is the Alicia & Theo Show.

By Astha Barwad

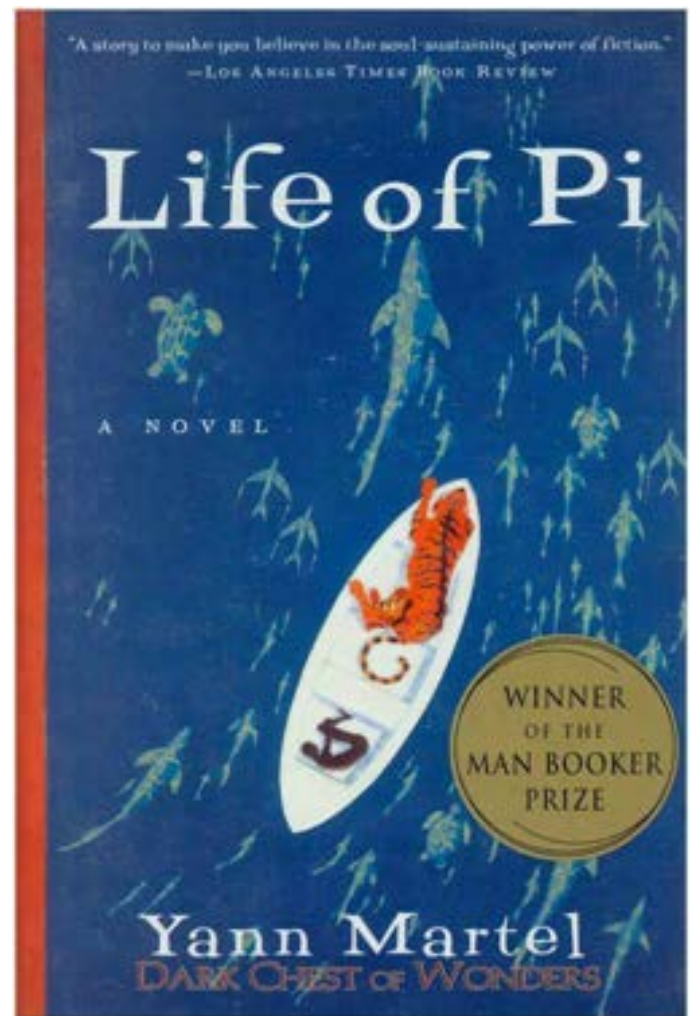




ADVENTURE

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Life of Pi by Yann Martel is a game-changing book, an amazing feat of creativity that will inspire and amaze readers in equal measure. It's a triumph of storytelling and a tale that'll make you believe in God, as one can put it. Life of Pi is a full-fledged adventure novel that takes the reader on an incredible journey – geographical, spiritual, as well as emotional. Martel wrote Life of Pi to express his thoughts on faith and inner strength. Piscine Patel, also known as Pi, is a character who demonstrates virtues such as tremendous confidence, inner strength, determination, and the will to live. These brave characteristics help him survive the 227-day journey across the Pacific Ocean on a small lifeboat. Martel begins Life of Pi with a flashback to Pi's childhood, which he uses to describe his family's condition, the reason for their move to Canada, and Pi's unique outlook on life. Pi explains his father's zoo in depth in Part One, as well as the lesson he learned from his father about animals: "any animal is dangerous if you aren't careful." Aside from the zoo, Pi explains how he came to know three different religions and how he felt about them all, as well as how his involvement in these religions affected his outlook on life. One can have thorough knowledge and comprehension of Pi by the end of Part One.



Richard Parker is introduced in Part Two; we don't know anything about him except that Pi 'has grown to fear him and yet loves him.' Richard Parker is a Bengal tiger who is stranded on the lifeboat with Pi, and he evolves as the novel progresses as a result of Pi's feelings for him.

We think we have a clearer understanding of Richard Parker by the time Part Three arrives before Martel throws out a completely new concept – what if Richard Parker is only a metaphor for Pi himself? Pi's mood is always mirrored in the tiger's, so it might be real. We can see great qualities in both of them as a result of this. Pi adapts to his new condition quickly and easily while exhibiting confidence, hope, as well as perseverance.

The film 'Life of Pi' teaches a valuable lesson: "faith in the face of adversity". One doesn't have to be religious to enjoy Yann Martel's 'Life of Pi' as he does an excellent job of bringing the theme to the reader. Pi is confronted with new problems in each chapter, but it is his approach to these challenges that is remarkable.

By Astha Barwad



The works of people such as Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Hobbes, Newton, Bacon, and Descartes helped usher in the Enlightenment era of philosophy during the 18th century. The word 'enlightenment' was coined to equate the time with the Dark Ages, which was believed to be characterised by irrationality and superstition. During the Enlightenment, significant doubts about the historical authenticity of the Bible started to emerge; when mystical teachings of divine prophecy that promised the validity of Scripture became the subject of academic discussion.



Romanticism was one of the most influential critiques of Enlightenment philosophy. Some philosophers have proposed that people encompass more than just intelligence and insights gleaned from life. They said that we humans have a broad range of irrational feelings (emotions- as referred to by the Enlightenment thinkers), intuitions, and impulses. Romantics were philosophers who emphasised the importance of these nonsensical aspects of the human experience. The romantics believe that studying the whole individual, rather than just his or her rational abilities or empirically determined theories, is the best way to learn about what humans candidly are.



"The Enlightenment devalues prejudices and customs, which owe their development to historical peculiarities rather than to the exercise of reason."

The irrational facets of human personality, such as feelings, were devalued by Enlightenment philosophers. It's no surprise that the Enlightenment is known as the 'Age of Reason'. However, romanticism claimed that empiricism had reduced people to emotionless robots and that scientific reasoning had always driven humans astray in their quest for reliable knowledge.





The Conflict of Feelings

According to Rationalists, the emotional experience was always harmful if not controlled by ideal processes. On the other hand, the Romantics wanted to lift human emotions, intuitions, and impulses from their low metaphysical status to being the principal guidelines for human behaviour. The logical, scientific, and positivistic philosophers tried but failed to construct political and moral structures based on their philosophies. They lost, according to the Romantics since, they saw humans as either a victim of reality or instruments for the manifestation of some grandiloquent logical theory.

"Man is born free, yet he is everywhere in chains."

In his book *The Social Contract*, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the founder of romanticism, points out that all governments are founded on a false premise regarding human nature—the assumption that humans ought to be ruled. Only a government that empowered humans to achieve their total capacity and freely assert their free will might be considered justifiable. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a great poet and scholar, saw humans as ripped apart by life's pressures and conflicts. He concluded that love and hatred, life and death, and good and bad were all conflicting forces of life. Rather than denying or defeating these powers, life's aim should be to accept them. One should live life with zeal and strive for personal development regularly.

"We are shaped and fashioned by what we love."

Love in Perils

The danger comes when our inquiries into places where literal, factual reality matters get deduced by Romantic sensibility. Metaphor and emotion are the foundations of the Romantic map of truth. This map isn't so much false as it is limited. We need to leave the infatuated Romantics on their hilltop and search out the nearest lab, where Enlightenment-trained empiricists are busy preparing slides for their microscopes, where mere metaphor will not suffice. Should at the least, the implications of such observational research are fascinating. Quite significantly, empirical research has allowed us to develop medicines and mitigate famine, resulting in the saving of billions of lives. The peril should not come from the Romantic viewpoint. The Romantic aversion to empiricism and other forms of systematic inquiry, on the other hand, is seriously a danger.

"It's all romanticism, nonsense, rottenness, art."

The Romantic movement had an immense influence on the world we reside in now. The effect isn't entirely positive or negative, rather this movement has provided us with both benefits and drawbacks. The Romantics are unrivalled as artistes and heart seekers. But they aren't eligible to be scientists or lawmakers. The best way to think about romanticism is as a prism that works well in specific situations.

"Romanticism was more than merely an alternative to a sterile classicism, romanticism made possible, especially in art, a great expansion of the human consciousness."



REASONS TO VISIT LONAVALA, INDIA

BY AKSHARA NAIR

Lonavala is a hill station surrounded by green valleys in western India near Mumbai. Away from the crowds of the bustling metropolis, Lonavala offers a much-needed retreat from a busy life.

The lush green Sahyadri Hills, incessant waterfalls and beautiful lakes will make you fall in love with this town. Lonavala is a lovely place for a weekend getaway trip in all seasons.

To reach Lonavala from Mumbai, you can either drive till there or even get a cab. There is/are three direct train(s) from Mumbai to Lonavala. This/These train(s) is/are 01301, 01019, 01139, etc. The minimum time taken by a train from Mumbai is 1hr 28m. The cheapest way to reach from Mumbai to Lonavala is a train to Lonavala and takes 1hr 28m.

Lonavala is famous for its scenic views, exceptional weather, dreamy waterfalls, greenery, historical monuments, ancient caves and hangout spots have always been a popular destination for weekend and second homes for busy city lives.

HERE ARE SOME REASONS TO VISIT LONAVALA:

TIGER'S POINT

Tiger's Point is a prominent vacationer attraction in Lonavala and offers scenic views of the valley. If you look closely, you can see an impact of a tiger trying to leap throughout the valley, that is why the vantage point has earned its name. The echo produced by way of rocks falling into the crevasse is some other spotlight of this spot. During monsoon, a small natural waterfall forms close to the cliff. If you're a nature lover, you are definitely in for a deal



BHAJA CAVES

Before visiting Lonavala, I was told Bhaja caves were of the great significance of the Indian culture and then it was definitely on my touring list. Bhaja Caves are a group of 22 rock-cut caves dating back to 200 BC. There are steps to reach the top, the climb, the view from the top and the caves themselves all were breathtakingly beautiful. The climb is invigorating and whips up the appetite to see the sublime caves.



KUNE WATERFALLS

The Kune Waterfalls are very remarkable and magnificent to look at. A view like this at the end of the day will refresh you. The three-tiered waterfall is the country's 14th largest. It is split into two sections with the highest spot at about 100 m. The pool formed by this waterfall is an ideal spot for swimming and bathing. Rappelling and zip lining is quite prominent too. With its lush greenery, the waterfall will be a perfect place for a picnic.



Where to stay in Lonavala: I stayed at the Leisurely Skies Apartments, which were not far away from the main market. It was a spacious two-storey apartment which gave an overview of the town and hills. There are many hotels, villas and holiday homes to choose from all located at the heart of Lonavala.

A MINIMALIST LIFESTYLE

BY ATREYEE SENGUPTA



Source: Pinterest

"Less is More", is what defines a minimalist lifestyle. That does not mean that one has to throw away all of its treasured belongings and survive on just the bare necessities of life. It is about prioritising those materials that are the most valuable and getting rid of all those extra possessions which create unnecessary clutter in one's mind and space. Contrary to modern consumerism, which is all about extravagance and stress, minimalism focuses on the simpler and more serene sides of life.

MINIMALISM

Lately, the concept of minimalism has become a vogue in many parts of the world, but its roots are buried deep in some cultures and date back to years long gone. The minimalist art movement was adopted widely post World War II for creating peace amidst the traumatic atmosphere. The Japanese and Scandinavian cultures evolved around a love for the natural world and its elements. They embraced the art of simple living, and simplicity is prominently visible in their design principles, clothing styles and cuisine.

Japanese design principles take a purely minimalist approach since ancient times and incorporate clean lines, straight forward cuts and natural materials. It inspires to create unbound spaces or voids in everything from interiors, architecture and garden landscapes to music, poetry and flower arrangement. These voids bring clarity to one's purpose and thought by persuading them to select what is truly valuable.

The Japanese minimalist living spaces are light, airy, and quiet. Hues of neutral colours like beige, ivory, black, grey and white are predominantly used for interiors to lighten the atmosphere. Wood is vastly used for flooring and furniture, as the element adds warmth to space. Also, green plants like the extraordinary bonsai are grown within the house to secure more tranquillity.

When it comes to clothing, the same minimalist design ideas apply. Synthetic materials are discouraged in favour of natural fibres such as cotton, silk, and wool. Colours from the neutral colour palette are picked, and the sketches of the designs look modest, elegant and crisp, using clean lines and simple cuts.

Miles away from Japan and Scandinavia, India's tradition speaks of the need to acquire more material possessions for adding to one's happiness and well-being. However, with cities getting busier day by day and living spaces becoming compact, young Indians today have unconsciously taken the first steps towards minimalism. These Indian minimalists have not entirely walked away from modern consumerism but have started making wise purchasing choices due to which their spaces are involuntarily getting decluttered. Traditional Indian homes characterised with heavy woodwork, bright coloured interior decors and fewer negative spaces are now getting replaced with minimalist designs.



In this fast-paced world where most of us often get caught up in assigning extra value to our material well being than to our psychological and emotional healths, developing a minimalist perspective can positively help us lead a better life.



The positive health benefits attached to a minimalist lifestyle makes this concept of living stand out from the rest. It has proved to help combat mental illnesses like anxiety and depression. Open spaces, fewer objects and organised surroundings help destimulate the brain and restore peace and clarity. Mental illnesses are often a result of overthinking caused due to distractions. Minimalism helps immensely in eliminating such distractions by inspiring one to possess less material wealth. Fewer distractions further lead to increased focus and can be utilised constructively for achieving one's life goals.



SPACE COLLECTION: WHO KNOWS WHAT ONE MIGHT FIND IN THE COSMOS

Scientists have a weird fascination with space, so it is justified when they sent things in space as part of their experiments. However, it doesn't mean that all were sane ideas. Here are some craziest things that were sent into space.

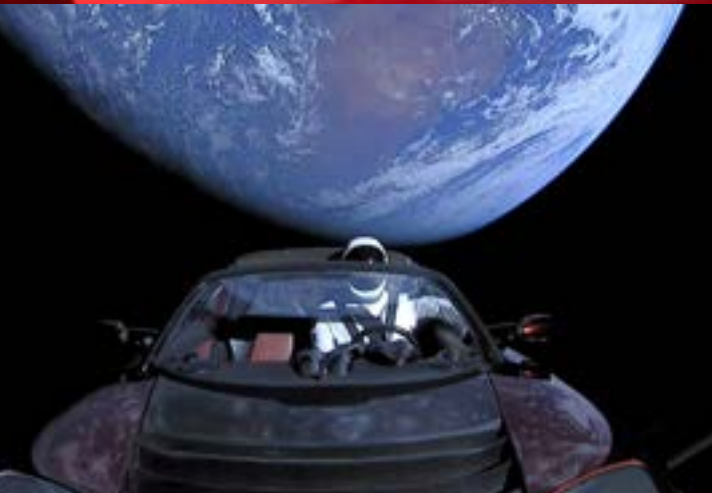
A LIGHTSABER

Some of the things sent by NASA were crazy ideas but they had some symbolic meaning. Likewise, to honour the 30th-anniversary release of Star Wars. The original prompt lightsabre used by Luke Skywalker in the 1983 film "Return of the Jedi" was sent into space in October 2007 for two weeks aboard the mission STS-120 and was returned to the Star Wars creator George Lucas' film company after the mission. Astronaut Jim Reilly said, "There's a kind of a fine line between science fiction and reality as far as what we do and it's only just time really because a lot of what we're doing right now was science fiction when I was growing up,"



SpaceX

In early 2018, SpaceX's Falcon Heavy was launched carrying an interesting load on its way to Mars. The mystery package was revealed to be Elon Musk's cherry-red Tesla Roadster with its driver, a dummy called Star man-marking the maiden flight of one of the most powerful operational rockets in the world with its 27 heavy-duty engines. For some people, the choice of the Roadster as the dummy payload was interpreted as marketing for Tesla, a pure publicity stunt, or as advertising with some meaning and future vision.



Sir Paul McCartney is the most recognizable member of the pop supergroup the Beatles. Across the Universe is an interstellar radio message (IRM) consisting of the song "Across the Universe" by the Beatles along with McCartney's voice which was used as an integral part of NASA's deep space network program where he recorded a simple message "Send my love to the aliens. All the best, Paul" that was transmitted on 4 February 2008, by NASA in the direction of the star Polaris which is approximately 431 light-years away from earth. His message of goodwill to all the aliens from outer space will likely arrive at Polaris long after who knows we even might be having space colonies and people living on other worlds and planets outside of our solar system which we can only dream of at this point. The transmission was made in an uncountable number of directions using a 70-meter dish at the speed of light 1,86,000 miles/second from the Deep Space Network's (DSN) Madrid Deep Space Communication Complex, located in Spain. This was done to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the song's recording, the 45th anniversary of the DSN, and the 50th anniversary of NASA. The idea was hatched by Beatles historian Martin Lewis, who encouraged all Beatles fans to play the track as it was beamed to the distant star. The event marked the second time a song had ever been intentionally transmitted into deep space (the first being Russia's Teenage Message in 2001).

What is the limit for a publicity stunt? Well apparently, space is the limit for Pizza Hut. In 2001, Pizza Hut become the first fast-food restaurant in history to send a delivery order into outer space. They sponsored the Russian space agency and placed their logo on the side of the unmanned proton rocket that flew to the International Space Station or the ISS. The following year, they had a six-inch salami and cheese pizza delivered to the ISS. The pizza was then microwaved by cosmonaut Yuri Usachow who after playing with the pizza in zero-gravity before consuming it gave it a thumbs up.

A couple of years later, On June 12, 2008 radars that are normally used to study Earth's upper atmosphere were redirected for six hours to send a signal into outer space. This signal was a 30-second commercial for Dorito's tortilla chips sent to a solar system in the Ursa Major constellation. The solar system contains what is believed to be a habitable zone 42 light-years away.

As for drinks, we all know Coke and Pepsi have always been Cola rivals. This rivalry eventually made its way into space with each company developing a canned product that could be used in zero-gravity. When the Challenger made its orbit in 1985, four cans of each product were sent for the crew to test while in space. The crew hated both brands.



ASHES

We all know that the Star Trek series and movies were not actually in space, but one cast member did get launched into space. James Doohan who played Scotty in the series died in the July of 2005 and his family decided that since he spent so much of his career in outer space, he wouldn't mind being there for eternity. So, they sent up his ashes on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket and they were released into space.

Similarly, Gene Roddenberry was the creative force behind the television series Star Trek and his last will dictated that a portion of his ashes be launched along with the space shuttle Columbia in 1992.

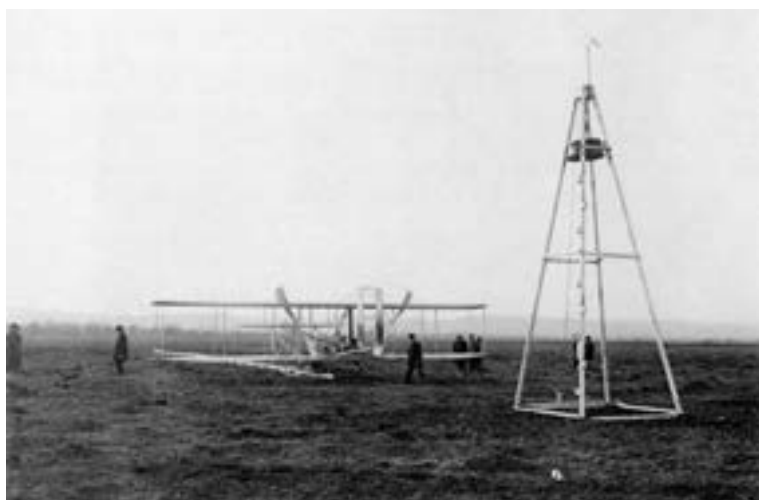


SNAPSHOT

In April 1972, the youngest person to walk on the moon, Charles Duke left a transparent foil packet with a plastic-encased photo portrait of his family on the surface of the Moon to know that he was there. Duke also took a photo of the portrait as it laid on the moon's surface to prove to those back home that he had left the photo there. He left another item on the moon which was a commemorative medal issued by the Air Force, which was celebrating its 25th anniversary in 1972.

1st AIRPLANE MATERIAL

At Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in the December of 1903, the Wright brothers made their first successful flight. This momentous occasion not only marked the beginning of air travel it also made way for space travel. Since then, A piece of wood and fabric from the original craft has been on many space flights, the first being the lunar module of the Apollo 11 in 1969.



GOLF

In 1971, the Apollo 14 mission made another amazing landing on the moon. Near the end of the walk across the moon's surface, astronaut Alan Shepard informed Mission Control that he has a golf club and a few balls with him which he fully utilized by playing a little golf on the moon surface, sending one ball soaring for miles.



TOYS

Ever imagined toys being a part of a space program? It's true, three Legos figures were specially constructed by their maker so they could fly to the planet Jupiter in NASA's Juno spacecraft under a joint educational program "Bricks in Space" by NASA and the LEGO Group to inspire kids to explore science technology, engineering, and math. The small figures represent the Roman god Jupiter, his wife Juno, and the father of science Galileo. It was launched in August 2011 and it reached Jupiter's orbit in July 2016.

In fact, Legos were not the only ones to experience space. The STS-124 discovery mission took off in 2008 with Disney's character Buzz Lightyear on board where he stayed in space for 450 days before coming back to earth with the rest of his crew as part of Disney's 'year of a million dreams'.

by Archita Joshi

63RD GRAMMY AWARDS 2021

While the pandemic may have foisted its unpleasantness on the entire world, it did not prevent one of the grandest music awards from taking place. The Grammys put on a great show at the Los Angeles Convention Centre with the Staples Centre as the backdrop. The award show was hosted by The Daily Show host Trevor Noah and included some sublime live performances. Some of the best ones included Post Malone, Megan Thee Stallion, Billie Eilish, Taylor Swift and BTS. Coming to the actual ceremony, Beyoncé was honoured for her song Black Parade which celebrated black power and resilience. She now holds the record for the greatest number of Grammys won by a female artist, a staggering 28. Other major winners included

By Devvrat Sharma



Taylor Swift – Best album of the year 'Folklore'

H.E.R – Best song of the year 'I Can't Breathe'

Megan Thee Stallion – Best New Artist

Billie Eilish – Record of the year "Everything I wanted"

In addition to all this, eight-year-old Blue Ivy, Beyoncé and Jay-Z's daughter, won her first Grammy, making her the second-youngest artist to have done so. This garnered a lot of attention online making some people deem the awards as 'corrupt' and 'biased'. Nevertheless, the Billboard Music Awards and the American Music Awards are yet to take place and will hopefully provide recognition to the deserving artists who missed out on the Grammys.



HYPERLOOP



Several private players have now come close to creating what can only be described as exciting: Hyperloop. First explained by Elon Musk in 2012 as the fifth mode of transport after automobiles, planes, trains and boat by Musk, Virgin Hyperloop has already run tests in Nevada, Las Vegas reaching speeds of more than 100 miles per hour. Interestingly enough, Tanay Manjrekar, a power electronics specialist for Virgin Hyperloop, was the first Indian to travel in 'levitating pods' in November 2020. Hailing from Pune, he is one of the many Indians working in the company along with Raja Narayanan, the newly recruited CFO of the company. Hyperloop may even commercialize its first tracks in India for the proposed Mumbai-Pune route. If this becomes a reality, the 140-kilometre distance between the cities will get covered in less than 30 minutes. The company has even announced a partnership with Bangalore International Airports (BIAL) to conduct studies testing the feasibility of Hyperloop from Bangalore Airport. The company has even signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Punjab's transport department and is looking forward to establishing numerous routes across Northern India, which are only destined to spread across the entire country soon. Estimates say that these routes may take as long as 2029 to start functioning, and Virgin Hyperloop may get an approval certificate as early as 2025.



US EQUALITY ACT



The Biden administration has been quick to assert its vision for the United States of America, striving hard even through the newly elected President's 'honeymoon' period. It has pounced upon shortcomings in the U.S. legal system and has made crucial decisions at the time of a pandemic, all before the opposition has even begun to prod the administration with diatribes. One such action involves the LGBTQ+ community of the country. On February 25, the Equality Act was passed in the House that amends the 1964 Civil Rights Act and now includes sexual orientation and gender identity in addition to race, religion, sex and national origin in its gamut of providing legal protection against discrimination on the aforementioned bases. But is it ideal? The opponents of the passed Act posit that it would virtually end measures that stand to safeguard women's rights. Empathy towards the LGBTQ+ is certainly desirable, but what would happen if people are permitted to conform to gender identities as per their whim? Public places reserved for women will be freely accessible to every person who 'identifies' as someone who could access that place. More importantly, the victims of assaults in such situations will fear opening up to the authorities because of the fear of being 'discriminative'. The Act is yet to gain approval in the U.S. Senate and needs a minimum of 60 votes to avoid a filibuster.

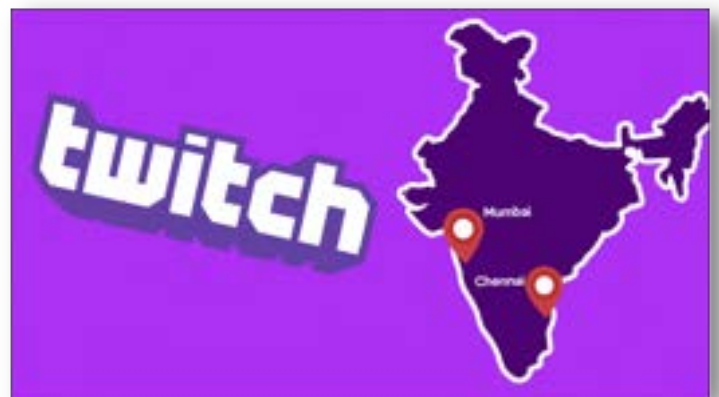
WORK FROM MOUNTAINS



The last time you took a vacation was probably to get away from your job. In a pandemic though, you take one to get away with your job. The scant contact that you are allowed to have with other people is not what you need after working from the same room every day, looking outside at the same empty street. Luckily, 'work from mountains' is the latest fad giving people and their bodies the necessary respite before they turn to percussive maintenance. Travel the Himalayas offers stays for up to a month at awe-inspiring locations like Kasol, Kulu, Manali and more. The rooms can be either shared, helping you save on the 'rent' for the place offering you a Zostel like adventure or can be bought for just a single occupant. The rooms also come with amenities like complimentary Wi-Fi, breakfast, and some even conduct winter sports like skiing.

TWITCH INDIAN SERVERS

Since Twitch officially arrived in India in 2016, its popularity amongst the Indian population has been feeble. This was partly due to the dearth of professional e-sports players in the country, but more importantly, there was an absence of the streaming service's servers in the country. This meant greater latency while streaming, causing frustration to both the creators as well as the viewers. This landscape is now set to change as in February, the Mumbai and Chennai servers were spotted on the official listings. This could become a turning point for the country's e-sports community since Twitch is primarily a live streaming platform that garners the attention of enthusiastic viewers. Compared to its archival YouTube, it offers creators more freedom and engages the audience much better. While YouTube still leads the competition with over 2 billion active users each month, Twitch is bound to gain a massive growth in subscribers once the experience feels more polished.



THE FRENCH ELECTRONIC MUSIC DUO ANNOUNCED THEIR BREAKUP IN AN 8-MINUTE VIDEO TITLED 'EPILOGUE' AFTER 28 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SUCCESS. THE YOUTUBE VIDEO DEPICTED THEIR SPLIT IN THEIR TECH-INFUSED ROBOTIC STYLE IN A DESERT, ALONG WITH ONE OF THEM EXPLODING INTO SMITHEREENS BY A SELF-DESTRUCT PACK WHICH THE OTHER ACTIVATES AND WALKS AWAY. IT WAS DULY A SCENE FROM THEIR 2006 ELECTROMA FILM WITH A TRACK FROM THEIR 2013'S ALBUM TITLED "RANDOM ACCESS MEMORIES".

DAFT PUNK - EPILOGUE

Daft Punk consisted of two French musicians, Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, who'd initially created an indie rock band named Darlin'. Later in 1993, they officially formed Daft Punk by releasing their debut album "homework" in 1997. The duo who are mute and mysterious is considered one of the most influential dance music artists because of their dynamic music with drum machines, talkbox, and synthpop or synthesizer mixed with pop. They had a persona of robots wearing a retro-futuristic costume as an instinct to keep the idea of mystery. The music they created was not only surprising but making the then-new style of music acceptable.

They believed that looking at robots is not like looking at an idol as it's not a human being but more like a mirror which sends back the energy people send to the stage bouncing back, while everybody has a good time together focusing on the music rather than them.

The six Grammy-winning band retiring is a tough one for all the 90's fans. This well-known couple had a long run of success and hits, starting with indie rock and progressing to electronic music with funk, disco, and techno. The mix was risky but was a big hit from the debut

album itself as the music was new and was never repetitive. All the singles from the debut album "homework" were big hits, the biggest of them being "Around the World" along with a tribute to "Da Funk". It was the world's biggest dance hit that year, and their distinct and catchy music helped them achieve worldwide fame!

"Discovery"

Their second album was after their experiment on synthesizers with pop. The concept for this record, according to the duo, was to reconnect with a playful, open-minded mindset associated with childhood's discovery phase. It gained a large fan base by forcing them to dress up in various outfits, ranging from Halloween masks to robotic full-body suits to stand out. Since then, they've been identified by their ornate robotic helmets and gloves, which are as distinctive as their music: infectious and unique. It became such a hit that a flatworm genus, *Baicalellia daftpunka*, was named after them in 2018 due to the creature's similarity to their helmet.



"Random Access Memories"

They'd developed a whole lot of complex and counterintuitive communication strategy as an approach that saw the duo hiding behind their alter egos as well as conquering the world of "electronic music".

Sharing a story arc that a 9-9-99 error infected the hardware, resulting in an explosion. They had minor injuries that necessitated surgery that turned them into robots.



Cyberpunk 2000

BY DEVVRAT SHARMA

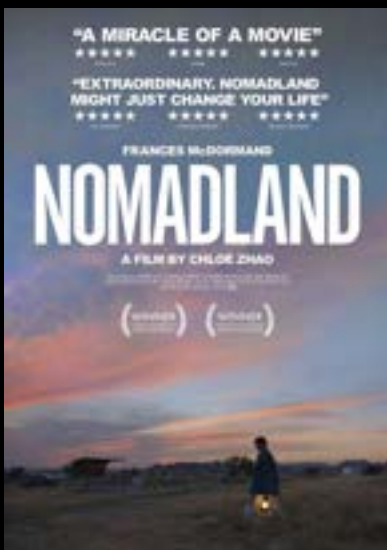


The Witcher 3. I am sure that title rings a bell. You cannot sit on a game winning over 250 Game of the Year awards and not know the developers. Cyberpunk 2077. That, too, rings a bell. Unplayable on the last generation consoles at a time when the new ones were barely a figment of imagination, abhorrent to the extent that Sony had to remove it from their

online store and provide refunds to the buyers and an epitome of how a company that was deemed to be the most altruistic corporation amongst ravenous competition like EA and Ubisoft by gaming community now had fallen prey to corporate greed.

It is only obvious for a company to expect profits from its products; more so during a time, the game is in development during a pandemic. However, there is a big difference between selling and deceiving. Showcased only on PC, and the next-generation consoles, the game was touted to be the most unique and immersive open-world game ever made. The players were never showed how the game fared on the 'last generation' consoles, and thus, it was assumed that the game was only as good as it was on the newer consoles, only cranked down a notch. And it was cranked down a notch if that means having enough bugs to make you feel like you are running it on a Nintendo 64 with frame rates almost non-existent.

And this is not a harangue for the developers. It is for what CD Project Red has become. It was not always like this. The company earned its reputation for being generous by launching games with zero microtransactions. One of its tweets read, "...honest-gaming like the Wild Hunt. We leave greed to others." In 2019 the co-founder Marcin Iwinski told a journalist how the company would address crunch hours or overtimes by the employees and work towards reducing them saying "we want to be more humane and treat people with respect", which made the company even more popular. But CDPR did not keep its promise(s). While the game was scheduled for an April 2020 launch, it was first delayed to September and then November before finally releasing in December. Since January 2020, the company made its employees work overtime and in the last couple months of release extended the working time to 6 days a week owing to the company's non-obligatory crunch policy which essentially forced the employees to work whether they liked it or not. The company was at the receiving end also for not including an epileptic seizure warning which leads to a player experiencing one during the play. The company also faces two class-action lawsuits by investors who were not impressed by a 29% drop in CDPR shares after the launch. It remains the most disastrous launch to date, and fortunately for CDPR, it will only get better from here.



ACADEMY AWARDS NOMINATIONS 2021

A red carpet walk bustling with camera shutters, some of the finest attires hand-crafted by extravagant labels, and a night that separates incredible artwork from the magnum opus, the Oscars are deemed to be the most prestigious and sought-after awards in the entertainment industry. From 'best picture' of the year to 'best actress' and from 'best original song' to 'best visual effects', the Academy Awards seek an artist worthy of admiration in every major class imaginable.

This extravaganza is only bound to multiply when an Indian film makes it to the nominations. Two of the many produced Bollywood flicks in the previous year, Soorarai Pottru and Kalira Atita, were eligible for the 'Best Picture' nomination for the 2021 Oscars. The former Tamil film is directed by Sudha Kongara and produced by Suriya and Guneet Monga. It takes the audience through the life of the founder of Air Deccan, G. R. Gopinath, who tries to make it feasible for the less privileged Indian population to fly. This is abhorred by the industry-leading insatiable clique which fears the loss of its ludicrous profits and tries everything in its capacity to cook Gopinath's goose. The other film is an Odia take on the contemporary issue of climate change and how that has caused the villages and livelihoods of the Indian eastern coastline natives to vanish. Directed by Nila Madhab Panda, this moving tale has been shot at the actual eastern coastline and without the use of artificial lights, makeup or even sets, which is quite an accomplishment in itself.





Unfortunately, neither of the films made it to the nominations as per the list announced by Priyanka and Nick Jonas on March 15. These were the only two movies out of a total of 366 movies worldwide that were under perusal. Interestingly, Priyanka Chopra Jonas starrer 'The White Tiger' has received a nod for the 'Best Adapted Screenplay' award which also stars the Indian actor Adarsh Gourav, who has been lauded tremendously for his performance in the drama. The Iranian director Ramin Bahrani captures dreams of a boy from a downtrodden family and how this very boy turns his life around because of his wit and courage. The last Indian film to have won an Oscar was 'Slumdog Millionaire', which was recognised for 'Best Original Song' and 'Best Sound Mixing' back in 2009. While this hiatus from international awe is a little

disheartening, Bollywood has made some stupendous pieces that have frequently been nominated for the Oscars. Thus, it wouldn't be unreasonable to expect an Indian film to be honoured by one in the near future. An American film 'Mank' leads this year's nominations with presence in ten categories, followed by 'Nomadland' and 'Minari' with six nominations, each.

The event, which usually takes place in February, is now supposed to happen on April 25, 2021, in Los Angeles at the Dolby Theatre. It can be seen in India on April 26, 2021, from 5:30 AM IST on the American Broadcasting Company's (ABC) website or on the Academy's digital platforms on Twitter, YouTube and Facebook.

By Devvrat Sharma

Mars 2020-21 Perseverance Rover

NASA's latest mission to Mars could hold the key to discovering life on the Red Planet. The Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover mission is a part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program, a long-term effort for robotic exploration of the Red Planet. Perseverance (nicknamed Percy) is a car-sized Mars rover that was launched on

July 30th last year at 04:30 A.M. PT (or 05:30 P.M. IST) as it was timed for a launch opportunity between July 30th and August 15th, 2020, when Earth and Mars were in good positions relative to each other for landing on Mars that is, it took less power to travel to Mars at that time, compared to other times when Earth and Mars were in different positions in their orbit. It landed in Mars' Jezero Crater on February 18th, at 12:55 P.M. PST (or 02:25 A.M. IST) intending to search for evidence of past life.

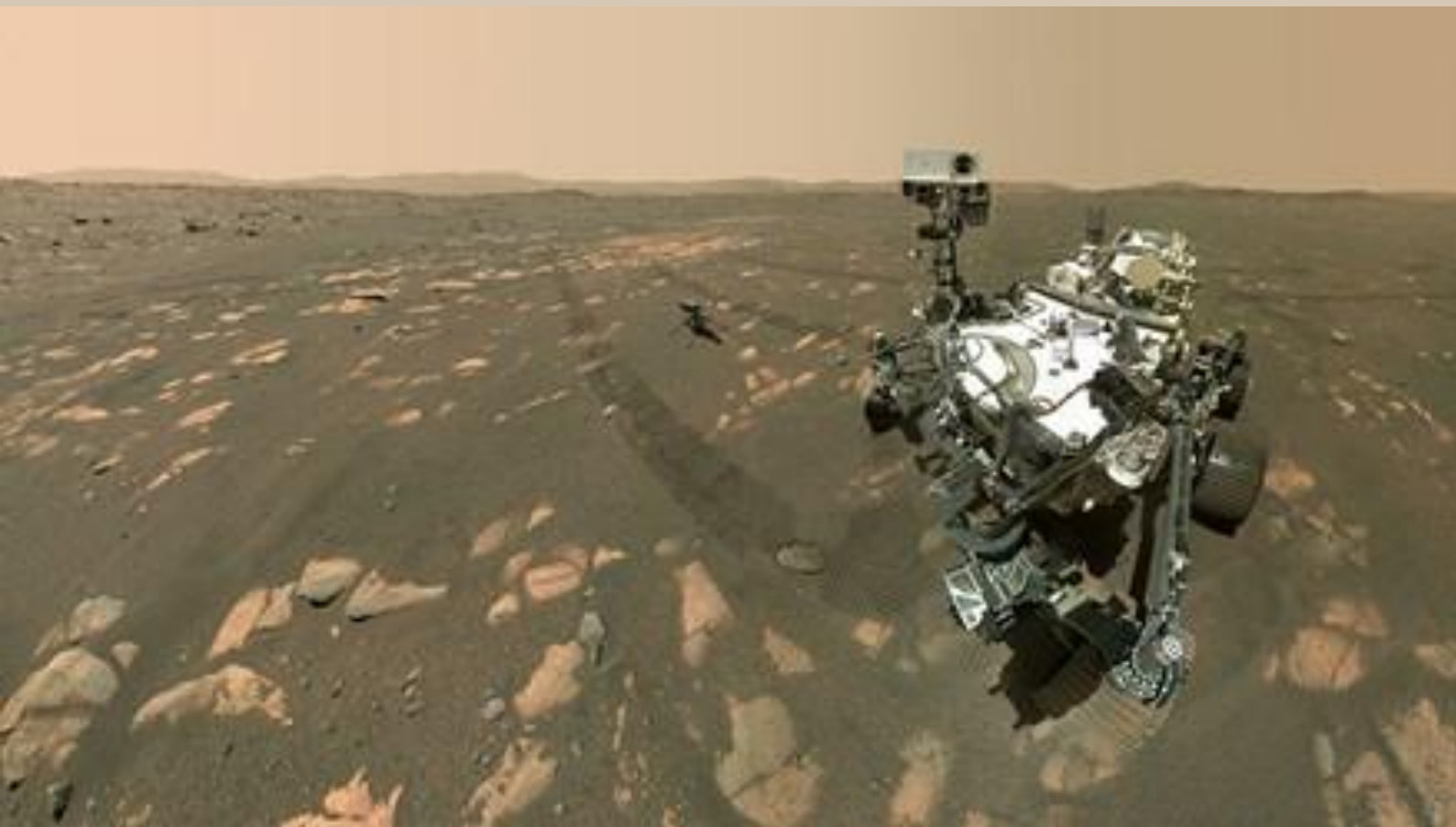
The Mars 2020 design, which is built on NASA's famous Mars Science Laboratory mission architecture, is remarkably similar to its predecessor rover, Curiosity, to keep mission costs and risks as minimal as possible. It carries seven primary payload instruments, 19 cameras, two microphones, and a mini-helicopter Ingenuity, or Ginny, an experimental aircraft and technology showcase that will attempt the first powered flight on another planet. Also, it is NASA's sixth-most expensive robotic planetary mission, though it is cheaper than its predecessor, Curiosity. Perseverance benefited from spare hardware and "build-to-print" designs from the previous missions, which helped reduce development costs and saved

"probably tens of millions if not a billion dollars", according to Mars 2020 Deputy Chief Engineer Keith Comeaux.

The name 'Perseverance' was selected following a nationwide under-18 "name the rover" contest that attracted more than 28,000 proposals. A seventh-grade student, Alexander Mather from Virginia, submitted the winning essay. In addition to the honour of naming the rover, Mather and his family were invited to NASA's Kennedy Space Center to watch the rover's July 2020 launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS) in Florida.

The rover's goals include identifying ancient Martian environments capable of supporting life. Percy goes a little further by looking for traces of previous microbial existence in those environments, as well as indicators of habitable conditions that may have existed on Mars in the past. The rover introduces a drill that can collect core samples of the most promising rocks and soils and place them aside in a 'repository/cache' on the surface of Mars. The future mission may eventually return these samples to Earth in helping scientists study the samples in laboratories with special room-sized equipment that would be too large to be taken to Mars. The mission also provides opportunities to gather information and demonstrate technologies that address the challenges of future human expeditions to Mars. These include testing a method for producing oxygen from the Martian atmosphere, identifying other resources (such as groundwater), improving landing techniques, and characterizing weather, dust, and other natural conditions that may affect future astronauts living and working on Mars.





Tribute to healthcare workers

Tribute to Healthcare Workers plate seen before being attached to the rover-

Perseverance launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected the mission planning in March 2020. To show appreciation for healthcare workers who helped during the pandemic, an 8 cm × 13 cm plate with a staff-and serpent symbol was placed on the rover wishing that future generations going to Mars would be able to appreciate healthcare workers that sacrificed so much in 2020.

Interestingly, one can track Perseverance, the Mars 2020 rover equipped with state-of-the-art instruments and revolutionary tracking technology by clicking on the link below

<https://mars.nasa.gov/maps/location/?mission=M20>

ELON MUSK: THE REAL-LIFE IRON MAN

"If we will never try, we will never know the result of it."

Ever wondered why Elon Musk is known as the Real-Life Iron Man, risk taker, innovator, and one of the most adventurous businessmen? Most of us must have considered this after he recently made a headline "Elon Musk, the richest man in the world".

An entrepreneur, business magnate, investor, engineer and inventor. Founder of some remarkable companies. Elon Musk is the second entrepreneur in Silicon Valley who created three companies with a market cap of \$1 billion or more with PayPal, Tesla and SpaceX. He is one of the few people that believe in investing in projects that hold the potential to change our world.

People might assume Elon Musk as a spoiled rich kid with lots of inherited wealth, but this assumption is far from the reality.

At school, Musk was bullied to the extent of being beaten and hospitalised; as a result, he refrained from interacting with others and spent the majority of his time reading, especially comic books. During this phase, he developed an interest in computing. He self-learned computer programming, and at the age of 12, sold the code for a video game he had created for \$500.



At 17, he moved to Canada and attended Queen's University, where to survive poverty, he worked in some low paid jobs. Then he received a scholarship from The University of Pennsylvania and moved to the United States. He is an undergrad in economics and has a second bachelor's degree in Physics from the Wharton School. Later, Elon moved to Stanford University to attain a PhD in applied physics and materials science but left the program after two days to pursue his entrepreneurial aspirations in the areas of the Internet, renewable energy and outer space.



He and his brother borrowed \$28000 from their father and launched a company called Zip2. To save rent and other expenses, he used to sleep in his company office and take showers in a nearby gym. Four years later, they sold their company to Compaq for \$307 million in cash and \$34 million in stock. Later, he started another company called X.com which merged with its competitor and turned into PayPal, where he got fired as CEO. Elon Musk got rich when he got \$165 million from the deal where eBay acquired PayPal.

There was no stopping for Musk at this point. Musk began to work on his space exploration technologies project. SpaceX was founded followed by Starlink and Tesla. Musk took an extremely risky decision with the companies. He saw many ups and downs throughout his career, to the point where Tesla was going to drown, but he kept pushing it.

Now Elon Musk is the Founder of SpaceX, The Boring Company, CEO of Tesla Motors, CEO of Neuralink, Chairman of SolarCity and Co-chairman of OpenAI. From an Immigrant to Advisor of the US President. From failure to success. Elon Musk's life has been quite an eventful one. His 'never give up attitude' and his 80–100-hour workweek brought him immeasurable success. He is a stutterer, but the crowd usually laughs and wait for him to speak. If you're successful, people will ignore your shortcomings. All of us can learn something from this 'Real-Life Iron Man'.

BY ARCHITA JOSHI

FORD V/S FERRARI (2019)

BY ASHWIN AGARWAL

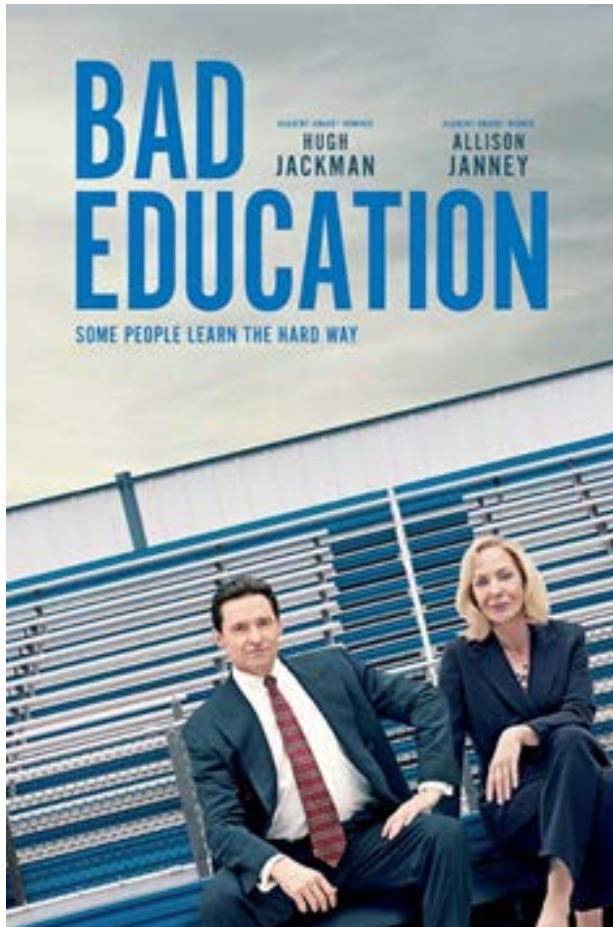
Ken Miles' story is one of the most heart-breaking in motorsport history since it is at the heart of the Ford v/s Ferrari rivalry. Portrayed by the unbelievably versatile Christian Bale, Miles is a British World War II veteran-turned-mouthy mechanic who's also an incredible racer. The movie touches upon how the rivalry between Ford and Ferrari came to be. Jon Bernthal (a.k.a. the Punisher) plays Henry Ford's vice president, pitching the possibility of buying a virtually bankrupt Ferrari. The ensuing arguments between Ford and Ferrari prompt Ford into action, and both companies get in the race to build race cars to win the '1966 24 Hours of Le Mans'. They look for a driver who knows 'the machine like the back of his hand'. Ken Miles is the man for Ford who can help them build a great race car and win with it but to get to where they want to be, Shelby and Miles must battle in which they do to prove their worth, and the rest is history. What Ford v/s Ferrari does brilliantly is put the viewer in the co-drivers seat. One can feel the rousing soundtrack in the chest when Shelby holds up the placard with '7000+ Go Like Hell!', scrawled on it, and Miles changes gear virtually makes one feel the gears shift with the way the movie presents wheel-to-wheel racing. And that's the thing about Ford v/s Ferrari you don't have to be a car nut to enjoy it.



Ford v/s Ferrari also explores the bond Shelby and Miles shared. They were not only colleagues but also buds who understood each other's strengths and weaknesses like few could. Miles' wife and son play a key role in highlighting just what race car drivers put on the line, not mentioning the risks when they go about their day job. While Ford vs Ferrari is not entirely verifiable, one can see how the director used his artistic freedom to dramatize and explore the human side of a bittersweet narrative that would otherwise be limited to what happened in Le Mans. Ford v/s Ferrari will take you up to "that point at 7,000rpm" it talks about more than one time, and for purely that reason, it is a must-watch.

BAD EDUCATION (2019)

BY ASHWIN AGARWAL



Bad Education is all about how deep corruption will seep into the structure, eroding the massive edifice's fundamental values. This film, set in 2002, is based on a well-known parable of school embezzlement, perhaps the largest in American history. Hugh Jackman's character, School Superintendent Frank Tassone, and Allison Janney's character, Assistant Superintendent Pam Gluckin, have helped propel Roslyn School District to the top. Both when it comes to the rising college admissions and the soaring property prices of the area. One day, the proposal of a Skywalk sheds light on the rot. It would be unfair to give away anything more about the film itself. As the plot starts unravelling and the tentacles of corruption, fraud, and deception get revealed, the clever, sharp, and dark telling of the narrative wins bit by bit.

One thing leads to another till the entire structure falls apart, the elaborate cover-up nonetheless. This thriller makes you feel bad for the lead, but the twists and turns keep you on the edge of your seat. Even as people do the utmost to save their skin, they inadvertently also nurture their future adversaries. None is as it seems, not only in terms of the layers of deceit within the school administration but also in context to the numerous mysteries and contradictions that underpin the intimate relationships that play out behind them. The other winner is acting. At the centre of it all is Jackman, who comes up with a superlative, layered performance with his charisma and charm that works on everyone - young and old, the rich and the ordinary. There is the magical ability to inspire students and parents alike. Janney also has a similar indefinable diabolical air about her. The third significant player is Rachel, the school reporter of the inhouse paper, The Hilltop Beacon, who starts with a usual "puff piece" on the Skywalk project but slowly begins to read much more in the expense accounts. "Any assignment can be turned into a story," Tassone tells her in their first meet-up. And she does with her deep dive into corruption in which she pulls the audience along.

LUDO (2020)

BY ASHWIN AGARWAL

Ludo is a dark Bollywood action comedy in which destiny, money, love, infidelity, a ridiculous tape, and a death-defying gangster intertwine the paths of the characters. At first, the chaos of these interconnected stories overwhelms, and it seems to be yet another rip-off of any action-comedy-noir film made since the 1990s, but it quickly takes on a life and energy of its own. It can be tough to keep all of the stories right, but once you do, the frenzy is pure entertainment in the Bollywood style that we've come to expect. It's overblown and bombastic, which isn't necessarily a negative thing in this case because the film never loses sight of the relationships between the characters. The narrative, characters, and aesthetic are all built on basic human behaviours, with the search for love serving as the basis of all thematic chaos. It isn't always efficient, but the passion keeps it going until the end. It's entertainment as a means of a temporary distraction from reality, which is needed now more than ever. It stands out from so many movies that are drab in style and paint-by-numbers in contrast. It's not for everyone, but for those willing to play along, as crazed as it's thoughtful.



Money Does Grow on Trees

They say money does not grow on trees if only they knew how to plant one.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago; the second-best time is now."

- Chinese Proverb

It takes time for things to grow, and you have to give that. One cannot sow now and expect a harvest tomorrow. Nature doesn't work that way. Time - the most powerful force of the Universe. All things exist because they are separated by time. Physics says time is an illusion, time does not exist. Never mind, in our material world, it exists. Time is money, they say. The world moves on the clock. And surprisingly, most of the time to grow money, all you have to do is sit quietly and do nothing. Yes, nothing.



Ever wondered why Time is a powerful tool in wealth creation? Because it is aided by its not so popular younger sibling – 'Compounding'.

'Compounding' - It is the eighth wonder of the world, said Einstein. It is really difficult for ordinary people to wrap their heads around it. But compounding is everywhere. You are here because you have added one year after the other to get to a particular age. This is simply put compounding. If you begin to put numbers on a piece of paper, you will realise its power. Many rich people in present times and the bygone days learnt to harness its power. The thing to do is nothing, just let compounding run wild uninterrupted. Compounding is employing time to create wealth.

For "An inch of time is an inch of gold, but you can't buy that inch of time with an inch of gold."

- Chinese Proverb

Compounding is a small snowflake rolling down the mountain slope gathering, growing with each spin to become an avalanche.



Meet another member of the Time family who Time loves, respects, and adores, but people hate her the most – Time's sister, 'Patience'. Time and Patience are the greatest warriors in wealth creation for "Money grows on the tree of Patience".

It gives sheer pleasure to watch things grow, and watching your money grow gives you a great sense of satisfaction and security. All one has to do is water regularly and protect it, not from others but mostly from yourself, your ego, your desires, your wants lest you cut it when it is still not bearing fruits.

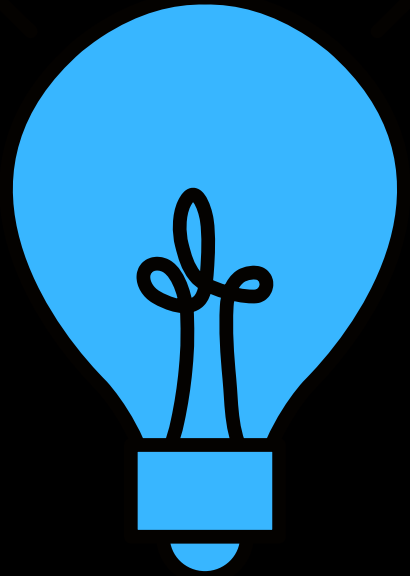
Remember, someone is sitting in the shade because that someone planted a tree a long time back.

To conclude...wait a minute, you might be wondering that this article is all about beating around the bush and nothing concrete. Ever wondered why they say money doesn't grow on trees? Because it is elusive, just like time; you have to realise it with your own study, knowledge, understanding and experience. No amount of pen, paper and words will make you see it. You have to create it and see it for yourself, and in the process, you will come to know your own self.

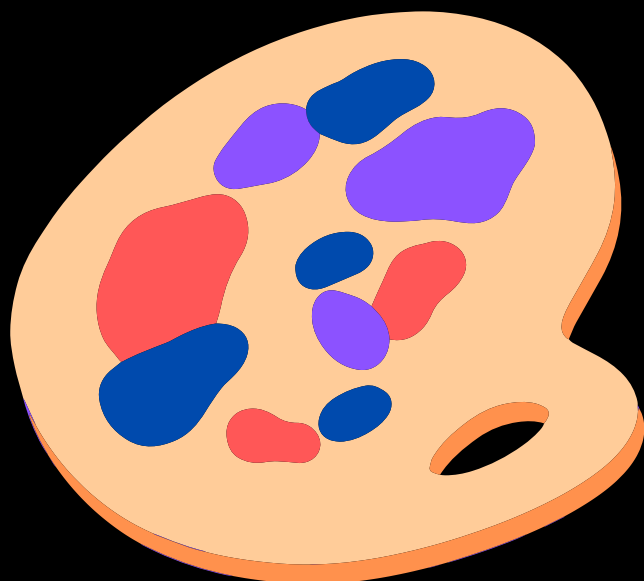
The purpose of writing this article is to whet your intellectual appetite, to reveal only a small part and to keep the rest shrouded in mystery. I sincerely hope that you engage on this long, arduous voyage of uninterrupted wealth creation because ultimately, the thing that you are rescuing is your own time from the clutches of daily drudgery.

By N.V. Vanmane-Patil

C R E A T I V E



- **POEMS**
- **CARICATURES**
- **COMIC STRIPS**
- **CROSSWORD**
- **RECIPES**



Quarantine



————— ◆ —————

In the world of fancies,
Living the wildest,
Occupies the young cubic mind,
Spilling the beans without the actual reach,
Sounds like an illusion to Greece,
Some day for sure,
Sounds like most wanted.
Wish not for beaches, but the snow!
Clinging on from the sky,
No less than tears of Joy,
Pleasures and pleasures along with the passersby,
Chilling winters are like locked legs,
But stoppage here is like loss of travellers.
Dude where are we going, a sound hits my drum,
Reality is back, a daydreamer.
The planning goes on,
The unwritten chapters and uncaptured moments
Are all engulfed in the enclosed subconscious,
Where there is no way
A passive thought with a hearts voice,
Makes my day.

-Paridhi Singhania



CARICATURE

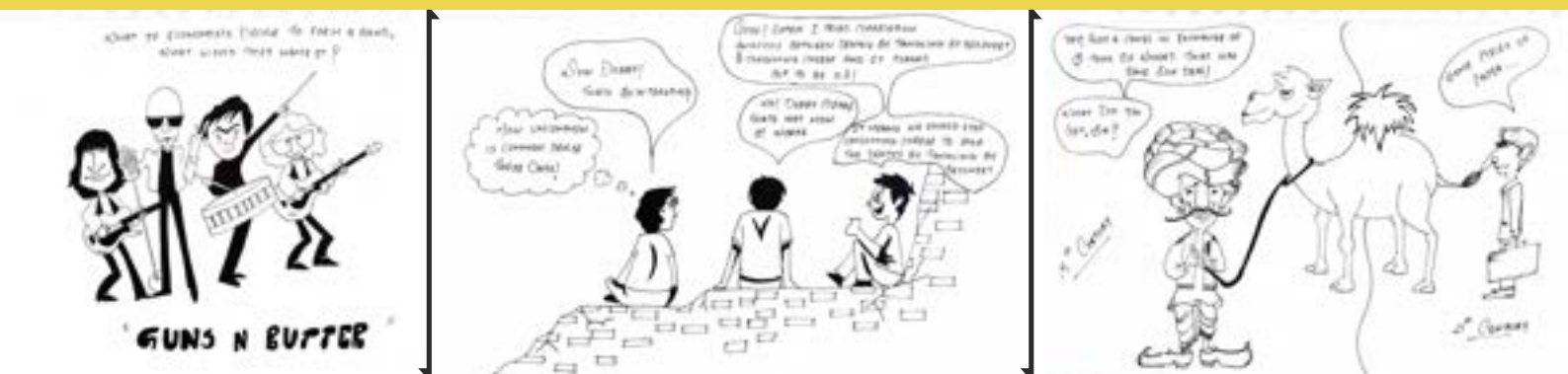


BY ANANYA SANKAR

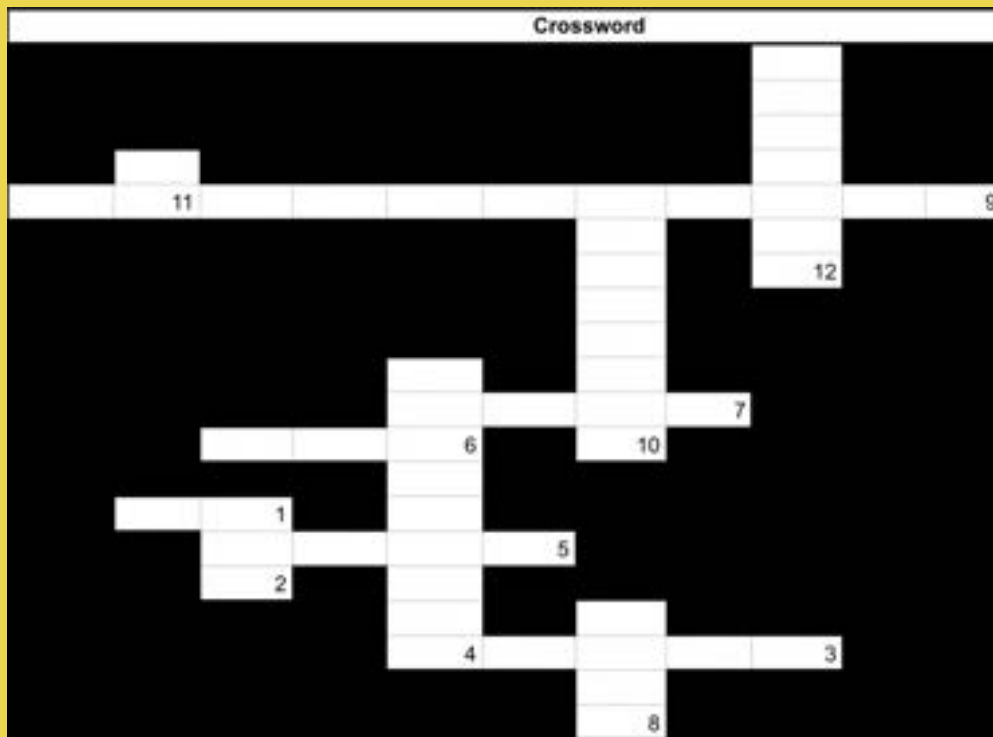


COMIC STRIP

BY ANANYA SANKAR



CROSSWORD



ACROSS -

- 1 . International organisation set up after WWII to encourage political and economic cooperation (2)
- 3 . Part ownership of a company that can be bought and sold in stock markets (5)
- 5 . Surname of the statistician whose model is used to measure economic inequality (4)
- 6 . The total worth of all the goods and services an economy produces in a year (3)
- 7 . First name of the economist who came up with the 'Invisible Hand' (4)
- 9 . When businesses try to outdo each other to get the most customers and make the most profit (11)

DOWN -

- 2 . Groups that work independently of any government and aren't interested in profits (3)
- 4 . Bhutan measures this instead of GDP (9)
- 6 . The total worth of all the goods and services an economy produces in a year (3)
- 8 . Economist who developed theory of communism (4)
- 10 . An economy where buying and selling isn't regulated by the government (8)
- 11 . 52% of Brits said this when asked via referendum if they'd like to stay in the EU (2)
- 12 . The amount of happiness or satisfaction you receive from each economic choice you make (7)

ANSWERS -

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| 1. UN | 2. NGO | 3. Share | 4. Happiness |
| 5. Gini | 6. GDP | 7. Adam | 8. Marx |
| 9. Competition | 10. Informal | | |
| 11. No | 12. Utility | | |

RECIPES

BY ASHWIN AGARWAL



REAL Mango Kulfi

Hot days call for frozen treats, and there's nothing quite like homemade kulfi, also known as the Indian version of ice cream! This delicious Mango Kulfi has the flavours of mango mixed with the traditional kulfi and might never suffice one's taste buds, especially during this warm summer after the boring pandemic.

Ingredients

- 1) One Big Ripe Mango (preferably Safeda)
- 2) 1 Litre Milk
- 3) 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 4) 2 Teaspoons Corn flour
- 5) Few drops of Vanilla or Kewra Essence

Instructions

- 1) Boil the milk and stir it.
Add sugar and a few drops of Vanilla/Kewra Essence as per choice.
Add Corn flour and stir until smooth paste forms. Cool it now.
- 2) Remove the Mango seed by making a flat cut at the bottom of the mango and try to take out all the pulp from the seed, which you can mix with the milk paste.
- 3) Pour the cold Kulfi mixture (made in 1st step) into the seedless mango.
Cover it with its cut portion and seal it with a toothpick.
Make it stand in a bowl or glass and then freeze it for at least 12 hours.
- 4) Your homemade REAL Mango Kulfi is ready to serve.
Peel the mango and then cut it into round slices.
Garnish it with small pieces of almonds, pistachios, or cherries.





RECIPES

BY ASHWIN AGARWAL

Veg & Chicken Momo Recipe

India has generously embraced many of its neighbouring countries' cuisines, whether it be in urban or rural areas. Various recipes and ways of cooking street food have been accepted, one such largely popular street food snack is momo (even known as dim sum and dumpling in some places) which can be prepared with countless stuffing and many ended up making these cute momos with any leftover dry veggies.

Preparation time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 25 minutes

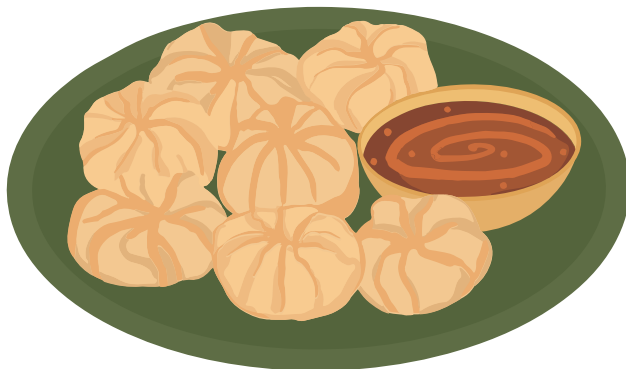
Ingredients

For the Stuffing:

- a) 4 Teaspoon oil
- b) 4 Finely chopped cloves of garlic
- c) 2 Finely chopped onion
- d) 4 cups of shredded cabbage
- e) 2 Grated carrot

For the Momos Dough:

- a) 4 cups wheat flour/atta
- b) 4 teaspoon oil
- c) Salt
- d) Water as required (to knead)
- f) 2 Tbsp vinegar
- g) 1 Tsp pepper
- h) 2 Tbsp soy sauce
- i) 2 Tbsp chilli sauce
- j) Salt to taste
- k) Minced chicken pieces (optional)



RECIPES

Instructions

- 1) Firstly, prepare the dough by mixing up the wheat flour, 4 teaspoon oil and salt (for taste).
- 2) Add in water as required (1 cup preferred) and knead (to smoothen dough). Cover with a moist cloth and let it rest for 20-30 minutes.
- 3) Now in a large wok (deep cooking pot), heat the oil and sauté in the clove cloves of garlic, cabbage, carrot and onion.
- 4) Additionally, add in 2 tablespoon vinegar, 2 tablespoon soy sauce, 2 tablespoon chilli sauce, 1 teaspoon pepper and salt to taste (you can add the minced chicken if you or the one who's going to get fed is non-vegetarian).
Mix well and the stuffing is ready.
- 5) After an hour, take the prepared momos dough and knead well again for a few minutes.
- 6) Further, convert them into small balls (like squash balls but not for that here) and flatten them up.
- 7) Now dust with some wheat flour and start to roll using a rolling pin to an almost medium thin circle, around 4-5 inch in diameter. Make sure to roll from sides and keep the centre slightly thick.
- 8) Using a small cup, cut into a circle and brush water on the sides.
- 9) Now place a heaped tablespoon of prepared stuffing in the centre.
- 10) Start pleating the edges slowly and put together the stuffing.
- 11) Press in the middle and seal the momos forming a bundle.
- 12) Heat a steamer and arrange the momos in the tray.
- 13) Furthermore, steam the momos for 10-12 minutes or till some moisture appears over them.
- 14) Finally, serve the veggie/chicken wheat/atta momos with red chilli sauce and mayonnaise. Remove the skewer from the pan and serve hot.



TEAM MEMBERS

PR TEAM



Archita Joshi Rithika Singh

EVENT COORDINATORS



Devvrat Sharma Astha Barwad

DESIGNERS



Esha Awinashe



Gehna Alimchandani



Sakshi Agarwal

PHOTOGRAPHERS



Shanya Gupta



Ananya Sarkar

COMPILEDERS



Kshitija Kusray



Kaavya Shetty

SECRETARY

Bhumika Goswami



TREASURER

Aaryan Shreshtha



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



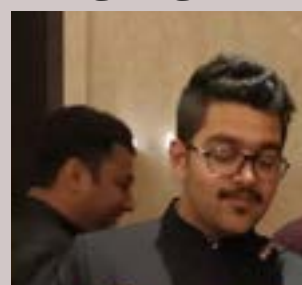
Atreyee Sengupta

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