ECOBUZZ 2019-20

Edition-6

ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF

Department of Economics
Gargi College

From the Principal's Desk

I am delighted to know about the release of 'Ecobuzz', the annual magazine of the Department of Economics. The student fraternity deserves salutation because despite so many technical glitches they are making best use of their time and talent.

Presently the whole world is dealing with pandemic CORONA which has entirely changed social behaviour of people across the world. Everyone is bound to maintain social distancing; hence the tradition of greeting each other has been confined to majorly "Namaste" in place of hugging and shaking hands. Majority of population is locked down in their houses and the professional activities are also executed through on-line modes. To cope up with this unprecedented situation people of all generations are learning and using technology enthusiastically.

At one hand it's a challenging situation to handle but on the other hand it's helping the whole universe in a big way: Air quality has improved drastically; rivers are cleaner beyond imagination; birds are happier and are visibly more in number; dolphins are seen in the sea near Mumbai. Apart from this a change in human behaviour has also been observed. Initially there was a panic but gradually people have started certain good practices like Healthy lifestyle, Yoga, meditation which made them calm and composed. The journey within oneself has started. I am sure that very soon we will win over this pandemic and bounce back with a greater force.

I appreciate the entire Editorial Team & contributors for this effort of releasing the 6th issue of 'Ecobuzz' through e-resources in this lock-down period. I look forward enthusiastically to read our students' perspective on various issues undertaken.

Dr. Promila Kumar
Principal (Offg.)

Message from the Teacher-in-Charge

A glance at the new edition of 'Ecobuzz' invokes a feeling of pure joy, as I find its pages brimming with enthusiasm and creativity of Editorial Team and all the students of the Department of Economics of Gargi College. It evinces that the students of present batches are richly endowed with enormous capacity to pursue new ideas and carry forward the tradition of offering fresh perspectives and exploring new vistas in their areas of interest.

The reports about various seminars, competitions, inter-collegiate events and other programs held under the auspices of the department during the previous year fills my heart with a sense of pride.

This issue is also special because it is the first 'online only' issue produced by students working from their homes during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

I congratulate the Editorial Team and contributors for coming up with a content-rich and aptly designed issue, and take the pleasure of presenting it to the readers.

I wish all the very best to my students and hope that they continue to scale new heights in their future endeavours.

Dr. Veena Sharma.

Teacher-in-Charge, Department of Economics

Message from the Editorial Team

It is with immense pleasure and enthusiasm that we present you with the 6th edition of Ecobuzz - the Annual Departmental Magazine. Through the magazine, we wish to acquaint the readers with an array of topics revolving around the subject. As real learning doesn't happen within the four walls of the classroom but involves piquing one's curiosity to the things around us and learning about it. If this magazine in some way gives you something that the classrooms couldn't, our responsibility as editors is fulfilled.

Huge thanks to everyone who contributed their creative works. Without them the magazine wouldn't have come to this fruitful completion. Just like we had a great time working on it, we hope that you experience an amazing time reading it.

We would like to thank our principal Dr. Promila Kumar and our teacher-in-charge Dr. Veena Sharma for their ceaseless guidance and support. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our teacher advisor Dr. Ganesh Manjhi for his constant cooperation and critical feedbacks time and again.

Happy Reading!

Editorial Team (L-R)- Ms. Jessica Solanki, Ms. Deeksha Gupta, Ms. Lynette Minz, Ms. Ishika Agrawal, Dr. Ganesh Manjhi (Teacher Advisor)

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Filling the Gap

"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."
-BR Ambedkar

Shikha Khatana
BA (H) Economics
3rd year

India has ranked 112th among 153 countries in the World Economic Forum's annual Global Gender Gap Index 2019-20, slipping 4 ranks from its last year's position of 108th. Top three spots are occupied by Iceland, Norway and Finland, respectively. The Index measures the extent of gender gap in four dimensions – economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

India has closed two-third of its overall gender gap with a score of 66.8% but its performance is even poorer than its neighbors -- Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. India performs badly in 3 out of the 4 indicators. It slipped to 150th place on health and survival, to 149th rank on economic participation and opportunity and to 112th place on education attainment. Among 153 countries, India is the only country where the economic gender gap (0.354) is larger than the political gender gap (0.411). The labor force participation of women is among the lowest in the world and female estimated earned income is only one-fifth of male income. Skewed sex ratio at birth, violence, force marriage and discrimination in access to health are the main reasons behind the miserable performance in health and survival sub index. The only good news comes from an improvement in its rank to 18th in political empowerment.

Government initiatives like *'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana'* and *'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana'* are significant steps in the right direction but aren't sufficient. It has to drastically scale up the efforts in bridging the gap. Changing the mindset of the society is of paramount importance. The myths and misconceptions around son preference, the patriarchy controls and the roles and responsibilities of women in society need to be removed in order to move towards a more gender neutral country. Educating women can play a crucial role in improving their condition. There is a need to remove wage disparities, provide conducive and safe environment at work and maternity benefits to increase labor force participation of women. In the political sphere, women should be provided more political representation and introducing reservation for women in parliament can be a significant step in this direction. There is a long road that needs to be travelled to bridge the gender gap and provide the equal status to half of the population.

Sugar Industry Reforms

"You can't solve a problem on the same level that it was created. You have to rise above it to the next level." *-Albert Einstein*

Isha Yadav
BA (H) Economics
3rd year

Sugar forms an integral part of everyone's life. The production of sugar is a very lengthy and time consuming process, starting from harvesting of sugarcane to crystallising it and converting it into a consumable product. India has recently become the largest producer of sugar producing 33 million tonnes in 2018-2019 (*Source*- ISMA – Indian Sugar Mills Association). It has overtaken Brazil as the biggest producer and India's production of sugar is leagues ahead of its domestic consumption.

Sadly, the production of sugar in India is not that profitable; the yield per hectare of sugarcane in India is considerably less than countries like Hawaii and Java. In India sugarcane is mostly produced in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the quality of sugarcane varies from state to state.

The average price paid to sugarcane farmers in India was $42.30 per tonne in 2017-2018, whereas other major sugarcane producing countries like Australia which paid $24.06 per tonne, Brazil paid $25.11 per tonne, and Thailand paid $27.45 per tonne (*Source*- ISMA). India also provides export subsidies to its sugarcane farmers which make Indian exports cheaper than other countries, but that comes with a cost. The government provides the farmers with subsidies in sugarcane production as they form an integral vote bank. Also, a lot of farmers produce sugarcane as it is considered a safe crop and assured return from sugarcane is much higher as compared to any other crops.

Unfortunately, this was an unsuccessful plan as 'cane arrears' touched rupees 30,000 crores in March 2019 (*Source*- ISMA) because the government fixed remunerative prices of sugarcane which were higher than the sale price of sugarcane. The government should stop financing cane prices and allow the country to move towards revenue sharing between the mills, farmers and other entities. To tackle this issue, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has suggested dual pricing of sugar for commercial and domestic users. Under this provision different prices of sugar will be notified for different purposes. Rangarajan committee was also set up in 2012 to give recommendations like removing quantitative controls on sugar and replacing it by appropriate tariffs.

There is a much needed investment in the technological up-gradation of mills in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Mills should be allowed to produce more alcohol as to curb the excess sugar production. The Indian government should also focus more on ethanol production so that India's oil exports can be curbed and we can use ethanol as a fuel in India. In order to tackle the growing menace of the sugar sector, sugar should be exported in more valuable forms such as milk caramel, Rock candy, caster sugar. The time has come for India to usher in the brown revolution so that the quality of soil and organic farming can be done on a large scale and both sugar industry and other industries are benefited.

Withdrawal of India from Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

"The problem that we have is not globalization. The problem is a lack of global governance."
- Klaus Schwab

Apoorvi Bhatia
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3rd year

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is a proposed free trade agreement between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their five FTA partners (Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea). After negotiating for about seven years, India (ASEAN's sixth FTA partner) opted to walk out of the agreement on 4th November 2019, owing to the unresolved issues between India and other partner countries India runs a large trade deficit of $105 billion with RCEP countries, of which China alone accounts for $54 billion (*Source*- Ministry of Commerce and Industry- India). It was feared that the removal of trade barriers under the agreement will lead to much larger imports and further worsening of the trade deficit. The Indian markets will be flooded with cheap manufactured goods from China, thus wiping out Indian manufacturers. Other industries that could be hurt due to RCEP include dairy products from New Zealand, textile, Pharmaceutical, marine, chemical, iron, steel, and nonferrous metals. The agreement failed to address India's outstanding issues and concerns and was also seen as detrimental to the government's *Make in India* initiative.

The real issue is the incompetence of Indian industries and mere protectionist policies will not boost *Make in India*. It is imperative to introduce strong structural reforms such as easy land acquisition, flexible labour laws, up-gradation of infrastructure, simplified procedures for approval and less corruption in red-tapism to boost domestic production, or else our position will remain defensive in all trade agreements - always at a disadvantage. India's current stance as a bargaining ploy offers room for further negotiations on the Indian side to win some of its demands such as the exclusion of sensitive sectors like dairy, greater access to the Chinese market in sectors like IT and pharmaceuticals and gradual liberalization of imports. The agreement will enable multinationals in India, tariff-free access to the RCEP market and free movement of inputs across the borders of member countries. However, if India fails to negotiate a better deal with RCEP countries and permanently pulls out of the world's biggest free-trade pact, it will eventually impose a deep economic and geopolitical cost and cripple down its ability to achieve a $5 trillion economy by 2025.

Further, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to result in one of the biggest economic crises faced by India since Independence with the fears of recession much deeper than the 2008-09 global financial crises. This will make the government's goal of $5 trillion economy by 2025 nearly impossible to achieve. In addition to withdrawal from RCEP, the government in wake of coronavirus pandemic adopted a more protectionist approach by amending its FDI policy for curbing 'opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic'. Under the new amendment, FDI in certain cases (i.e. by any entity of a country which shares a land border with India or where the beneficial owner of investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country) would require approval from the Government of India. The amendment seeks to protect Indian companies from takeovers by Chinese entities owing to the pandemic.

When the Poles don't Attract: Economic Diversions between North and South Korea

"The finest example of a craftsman's spectacular work is defined by the success of South Korea."

-Poornima Kaul

Poornima Kaul
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Being two of Asia's most debated countries, North and South Korea have certain differences that define the uniqueness of these countries. Korea was captured by Japanese empire in 1910. After Japan lost The World War 2 (WW-II), America and Russia started filling the power vacuum in the Korean Peninsula dividing it into two separate countries- North and South Korea. North Korea was backed by the USSR while America assisted South Korea.

INDEX	SOUTH KOREA	NORTH KOREA
Nominal GDP	$1.619 trillion	$32.1 billion
GDP per Capita	$31,345	$1,300
Literacy Rate	99%	97.9%
Life Expectancy	82 years	70 years
Poverty Rate	2%	40%
HDI Index	0.903	0.733
Average Internet Speed	28.6 MBPS	2 MBPS
Ease of Doing Business	World Rank- 4	-
Corruption	52nd Rank	12th Rank

Source- CIA World Factbook, World Bank, UNDP, Akamai

After the formation of two separate nations due to influential countries, Kim II-sung (Grandfather of the current president Kim Jong-un) was elected the president of North Korea forming a communist government. While in South Korea, Syngman Rhee formed a democratic capitalized economy. This was the starting point of the differences between the two nations. The first is the choice of government and policies. North Korea has never encouraged private investment and every company and department is controlled by the government. The world famous companies like Samsung, LG, Hyundai, etc. have been able to flourish in South Korea due to their minimalistic role of the government.

A numeric comparison of nominal GDP and their GDP per capita clearly shows the disparity. The human development indicators in these nations in terms of literacy rate and life expectancy, we see South Korea performing way better than North Korea (faces massive poverty). The technological advancement, internet speed and ease of doing business South Korea is one of the world's leading nations. The consequences of government policies and investment in education and practical knowledge make these differences more prominent.

Desire for Autonomy by Catalonia: A Case Study

"There is no alternative to Catalan Independence."
-Carles Puigdemont

Mihika Bhowmik
BA (H) Economics
3rd year

Catalonia is a semi-autonomous community in one of the areas of Spain, having a population of around 7.5 million, out of which 16% of the population are from Spain (*Source*- Statistical Institute of Catalonia and National Statistics institute- Spain). Its capital is Barcelona and the languages spoken over there are Catalan, Occitan and Spanish. The affluent region has their own parliament, flag, anthem, currency, language and culture. It accounts for 25% of the total exports of Spain (*Source*- Spanish Ministry for the Economy and Competitiveness- MINECO). It is a developed region (be it in terms of trade, health care facilities or education), having a lower rate of unemployment and higher amount of foreign investment, compared to Spain. It has also proved to be efficient in terms of industry, innovation and tourism (accounting for 21% and 12% of the Catalan GDP, respectively- [*Source*- www.catalonia.com]).

The phase that Catalonia is going through is as explained:-

Catalan nationalists protested that a major portion of their GDP was contributed to Spain. Moreover, they had to pay lion's share of tax to the people of Spain as taxes were under the control of Madrid. Besides this, they had objections when some changes were done in 2010 which compromised Catalan identity. On June 28, 2010, Spanish court struck down 14 articles and limited 27 articles from 223 articles of Catalan Constitution. Being a wealthy region, it wanted to be an independent and autonomous region but was always rejected.

Considering all these points, a referendum was held on 1st October, 2017. This act highly disappointed Spain and was declared illegal. 90 % of the Catalan voters backed freedom but only 43% of the population turned out (*Source*- Catalan Government figures. The Spanish government tried to control the situation wherein, the Spanish national police tried to prevent people from voting by all means. Moreover, 108 flights were cancelled. All football matches were suspended. Meanwhile, an article in Spain enables the government to ask the Senate if "the necessary means" can be brought into action. This is to ensure that any of the 17 regions of Spain (autonomous) can comply with national law; one of the examples can be Catalonia. In the month of October, when independence was declared in the Catalan parliament, a direct rule was imposed by Madrid featuring article 155 of the constitution. Many political leaders were arrested after referendum. Even former Catalan president fled from the country. The fact that this article has never been imposed could also signify that the Catalan government and the parliament can be shut down. Is the voting system paving a way for war between the two? Should the Catalan government choose to follow that and declare independence according to the vote based on what Mr. Puigdemont said that, he would organize a meeting with the Spanish government and "call for dialogue with the Spanish state

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and the European Union". European Union has declared the crisis as an internal matter of Spain.

Economic impacts on trade and other factors after the segregation of Catalonia from Spain can be as follows:

Though the long run impacts cannot really be predicted, in case of short run, its independence can negatively affect both the parties. Alain Cuenca, an economics professor told, "The establishment of border would result in loss of jobs, income and wealth for everybody, whether they live in Catalonia or in the rest of Spain". This can also lead to certain currency fluctuations and a disturbance in the worldwide trade. These can prove to be hindrances to the trade. Moreover, in the initial stage, Catalonia will require huge amount of capital to invest in multiple firms. In other words, it will have to start from scratch if it gains autonomy in terms of International identity as a sovereign state. There are possibilities that nations/states that are in support of Spain will not at all recognize Catalonia as an independent state and the other possibility can be, Europe can be divided into two parts on this issue. Certain trade policies, restrictions and reforms might be formed which may prove to be a barrier in the field of trade. Also, the development of Catalonia depends on their supposition of a percentage of the Spanish debt and if they would be supposed to clear their own debt. And as mentioned, European Union had no such issues. If Catalonia would continue to be its member, there would be no effect on trade. Since Catalonia would remain trading with its other partners, it will never stop making the use of euro.

On the other hand, Catalonia has no direct access to its membership in the European Union. To do so, it has to be approved by other members of EU which includes Spain, which definitely won't agree for its entry. If Catalonia faces such issues (difficulty in joining EU or if its entry is restricted), then it will have to face a large transaction cost. Moreover, it can also be boycotted from trading with Spain. It can also face other economic problems. As in, it won't be able to have a European single currency and hence, it would be difficult to trade.

All in all, the plausible solutions to these problems could be found through dialogues and cooperation between the two. The concerns of Catalans should be considered. Also, some relaxation in terms of taxes should be provided to them. Efforts have to be made either ways. Probably, the politics involved in both the regions are making the circumstances worse.

One Country, Two Systems

"The government solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem."

-Milton Friedman

Lynette Minz
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1st year

Before becoming part of mainland China, Hong Kong was a British colony. Upon freedom in 1997 "One country, two systems" constitutional principle was imposed on Hong Kong. According to this, Hong Kong can exist as an independent country with its own monetary and financial policies, education system, culture, sports, social welfare, official language, international trade relations, economic and administrative systems. Only diplomatic relations and military defence come under the control of China. It was promised upon unification that Hong Kong citizens were allowed to elect their local government. However, this principle is valid only for 50 years after freedom and would expire in 2047.

Recently, Hong Kong has been witnessing a lot of public unrest and protests. This is due to the extradition bill passed by the chief executive Leader Carrie Lam appointed by the pro-Beijing committee. The bill allowed extradition to mainland China and risks exposing Hongkongers to unfair trials and violent treatment. Adding to this, the Hongkongers are allowed to vote for candidates chosen only by the communist party. So the protests focus on attaining universal suffrage and reducing the influence of China as it was slowly chipping away at the autonomy and eroding the social liberties that the Hongkongers enjoyed such as freedom of speech and unrestricted use of the internet, all those things that the Chinese citizens were devoid of.

Anthony Kwan/Getty images

Initially, there were peaceful marches but later on it took a violent turn. This has made the streets very unsafe. Hong Kong has been one of the top destinations for traveling by tourists. These riots have had a great impact on the hospitality sector and the tourist. A significant drop is seen in the number of flight and hotel bookings and a double-digit decline in the number of visitors that used to visit the country annually. Hong Kong's most popular attraction-Disneyland is also facing a downfall. The tourism industry contributes about 5% to the GDP. The situation is so bad that the working staffs in these sectors are given unpaid leave. In the global market also the sales have reduced by a large margin. Around 8,000 shops which are members of the Hong Kong Retail Market Association (HKRMA) have experienced a sharp decline in revenue. Few activists were seen spreading pro-democracy messages to the tourists by handing out leaflets.

The US has warned its citizens to practice increased caution while traveling. Countries like Singapore, Japan, UK, and Ireland have also issued heightened travel advisories. This not only puts the lives of the tourists at stake but of the general public as well. The government needs to resolve this issue as quickly as possible and prevent the economy and the people's lives from sliding into a downhill.

Can Imported Goods be Cheaper than Domestic Goods?

"Antidumping law, as practiced today, is a witches' brew of the worst of policy making: power politics, bad economics, and a shameful public administration."
- J. Michael Finger

Akshita Gupta
BA (H) Economics
3rd year

Yes, *'dumping' makes it possible.* Dumping is when a country which export products, sells the product at a lower price in the foreign market and at a higher price in the domestic market to monopolise the foreign market and gain higher market share in that industry. Often, prices are set below the cost and then the prices are increased once the competition is destroyed. Dumping is also a form of price discrimination, which is done to gain a competitive advantage in the importing country. Dumping is legal under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules until and unless the foreign country can prove that the exporter country has inflicted any harm to their domestic businesses.

Dumping temporarily benefits the consumers of the importing country; they pay a lower price for the commodity if the subsidy continues. The exporter nation might face a problem with dumping as it may be expensive to maintain and it may lead to sovereign debt. It could also lead to trade war and in such a scenario international trade organizations have to intervene.

Dumping can be avoided by a trade agreement between the countries. But, if a country is out of the trade agreement then dumping is difficult to contain and in such a situation, nations impose anti-dumping duties or tariffs to strip the exporter nation of its main motive of dumping. If a nation is a part of WTO or European Union (EU) then it has to prove that dumping is being practiced before imposing any form of duties. This is because trade organizations want to ensure that the countries do not use anti-dumping tariff to practice "trade protectionism". Members of WTO adhere to the negotiations laid under General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which states that no country can impose anti-dumping duty without consulting the member nations.

The Indian government can impose anti-dumping duty on the exporter nation if it poses any kind of threat to the domestic industry. The Customs Tariff Act, 1975, which was amended in 1995, lays down provisions for identification, assessment and collection of anti-dumping duty from the importer. Anti-dumping law in India was primarily enacted to protect its steel and iron industry. However, dumping incidents due to increased imports from China, UAE, Malaysia, and USA has gravely injured many of India's domestic industry. "As on 28th January 2019, anti-dumping duty is in force on 99 products imported from China," Minister of State for Commerce and Industry said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. He said that the duties were imposed on products such as petrochemicals and chemicals, rubber and steel items, fibre and yarn, machinery items. The minister further added that the government has been making sincere efforts to bridge trade deficit by lowering trade barriers for Indian exports to China.

"The authority hereby initiates an investigation into the alleged dumping, and consequent injury to the domestic industry to determine the existence degree and effect of alleged

dumping and to recommend the amount of anti-dumping duty, which if levied, would be adequate to remove the injury to the domestic industry," the Directorate General of Trade Remedies, has said in a notification. The commerce ministry's investigation of Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has found sufficient evidence of the dumping of the products from China to start the probe. The bilateral trade between the countries dipped to $ 87 billion in 2018-19 from $ 89.7 billion in 2017-18 (*Source*- Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics [DGCIS]).
Anti-dumping duty is applicable only for a period of 5 years and its applicability ceases if the duty is not reviewed and renewed.

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and its Relationship with the European Union (EU)

"If only we knew a little more about what's going on in the world, we'd think a little less about what isn't."
-Aenna Ahmed

Aenna Ahmed
BA (H) Economics
3rd year

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is a free trade area and trade organisation formed in the year 1960 which consists of 4 European states namely: Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein. While EFTA is not a customs union, i.e., there is no common external tariff, and member states have full rights to enter into bilateral third country trade agreements, the EFTA does have a coordinated trade policy due to which its members have concluded free trade agreements (FTAs) with the European Union (EU) and some countries. The objective of the formation of the EFTA was to act as an alternate trade body for those European states that were not able to or willing to join the EU [earlier known as the European Economic Community (EEC)]. These include seven countries namely: Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Portugal, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (UK). However, since the year 1995, only Norway and Switzerland remain in the EFTA while the other founding members subsequently joined the EU. The EFTA is governed by EFTA council which makes decisions regarding development of EFTA with third countries, manages FTA and negotiates and decides policy issues, usually through consensus.

Relationship with the European Union with Respect to Trade and Freedom of Movement

In 1992, the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement was signed by the EFTA and the EU in Oporto, Portugal. Along with the 3 member states of the EFTA (Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein), the EEA comprises 28 member states of the European Union (which may later come down to 27 after the United Kingdom's confirmed departure from the EU popularly known as 'Brexit'). The European Economic Area (EEA), established in 1992 under the EEA agreement, links the EU member states and the three EFTA states into an internal market (so that these three states can participate in the EU's single market) while Switzerland has its own set of bilateral agreements including a free trade agreement with the EU. The EFTA-EEA states follow almost all EU legislation related to the single market except for laws on fisheries and agriculture.

They also contribute to the formation of new EEA policies and programmes as well as to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the EEA through the EFTA grants. Currently, the beneficiary states include The Czech Republic, Estonia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, and Portugal amongst a few others. The EFTA member states' nationals enjoy the freedom of movement in each other's territories as well as in the European Union. This means that both the EFTA nationals and the EU citizens are legally allowed to enter and reside in each other's countries. In other words, a citizen of an EFTA country can live and work in other EFTA countries and the EU countries and a citizen of an EU country can live and work in the EFTA countries. This legal entitlement is governed under the Citizens' Rights Directive, also known as the Free Movement Directive, which defines the right of free movement for citizens of the EEA. Since Switzerland is not a member of the EEA, it is not bound by this directive but has a separate bilateral agreement on free movement with the EU.

Free Trade and Pandemic

"We will continue to thrive in unity, and unity speaks for all individuals, countries and governments."

-Ishika Agrawal

Ishika Agrawal
BA (H) Economics
2nd Year

As the pandemic is hitting the world hard with death toll rising day and night, every walk of life is affected and finding itself in greater and greater whirlpools. When world is looking towards World Health Organization (WHO) for next possible shots, this article peeks in the strategy of World Trade Organization (WTO) for post-pandemic actions.

COVID-19 has directly shot in the heart of the already sick Adam Smith's "laissez faire" applied to international trade. In order to prevent and contain the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus, the whole World, except a handful of countries, turned inward. They have provoked the export bans on some critical drugs, imposed restrictions on essential commodities like food, groceries and on international travel. The global village is now seems to be unsettled and started segregation of one country from other.

Though, WTO, an alley of free trade restricts these protectionist policies and framework, it does allow measures necessary to safeguard human life and health. Along with that, The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) permits a compulsory licensing in case of a crisis, a process in which a government allows the production of a patented product without the permission of the patent holder.

These exceptions do certainly provide governments with some reliefs in combat against pandemics like COVID-19, but on the other hand the united response of the world is much necessary and essential. The most free trade favouring organizations like European Union has also provoked export bans accompanied with travel restrictions against various countries when Italy turned an epicentre of outbreak after China. Though, later on EU provided Italy with essential commodities and masks more than the China exported responding to Italian government's demand, this clearly reflects the gruesome danger surrounding 'liberalization and globalization'.

In its 8th April, 2020 report, WTO has mentioned "World Trade is expected to fall by between 13% to 32% in 2020 as COVID-19 pandemic disrupts the normal economic activity" The 13% decline in trade is in alignment to the trade slump existed at the times of 'Global Financial Crisis', but 32% decline dates back to the era of 'Great Depression'.

The only road to recovery from this economic crisis doubled with social and humanitarian loss can only be created through a combined, unbiased and ethical international approach. Remaining isolated and segregated in future doesn't guarantee absence of pandemic, but being together like an economy, a global village, and an undivided world will surely be the only way to battle against any pan-crisis.

Impact of COVID-19 on Global Economy

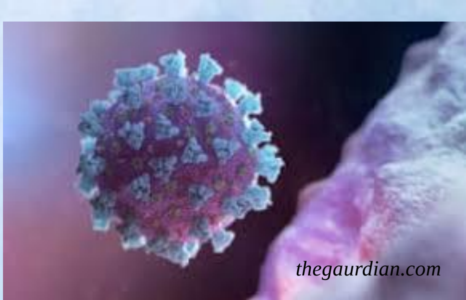
"It is 'Physical Distancing' that should be followed not 'Social Distancing'."

-Ishika Bhola

Ishika Bhola
BA (H) Economics
1st year

As per the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - "Global economy is on the track to shrink by 3% in 2020" (*Source*- World Economic Outlook). The World is likely to lose $9 trillion in output which is greater than the combined GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of Japan and Germany. If the pandemic extends further through the third quarter, then it can cause a further 3% contraction in 2020 and slow recovery in 2021 due to bankruptcy and prolonged unemployment. Predictably, the global economy will face its worst recession since the Great Depression. In January, before the outbreak, US-China trade tensions were easing and therefore the IMF forecasted that the global economy would grow 3.3% in 2020. Hard-hit Italy would see GDP fall of 9.1%, Spain 8%, Germany 7% and France 7.2%. China, where the COVID-19 outbreak peaked in the first quarter is resuming its business activities with the help of large fiscal and monetary stimulus and will maintain a positive growth of 1.2% in 2020 and India's 2020 fiscal year growth is expected to stay in positive.

IMF Managing Director said that some $8 trillion were poured in fiscal stimulus by the government for the pandemic which was not likely to be enough. Countries are taking a massive amount of debt to fund health care and making efforts to rescue the economy, but these debts will begin to stabilise only next year. The stock markets saw falls since the outbreak. These big shifts can affect the Individual Saving Funds (ISAs) and, the value of pensions. The investors also fear that this pandemic will destroy economic growth and that even government actions may not be enough to stop it. The central bank's interest rates have slashed which makes borrowing cheaper and encourage people to spend and boost the economy. Earlier due to price war, oil prices were already declining and now due to the coronavirus outbreak which has kept people inside, the demand for oil has all dried up. Its price has dipped below $20, which is the lowest price level seen in the last 18 years. US oil prices turned negative for the first time. Although OPEC and other countries have now agreed to cut production, the world still has more crude oil than it can use at the moment.



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If we talk about technology, Zoom, Netflix and Amazon have soared as people are staying at home. The only good this lockdown has done so far is for the environment. The air pollution has dropped to unpredictable levels across the world due to lockdown. As we humans are staying home, animals are roaming the streets and some typically smog-filled skies are clear now. People in Punjab can now see the snow peaks of the Himalayas, a view that for decades has been blocked due to pollution. New Delhi has recorded a 60% decline in the same. Despite the rare glimpse of this natural beauty and clearer sky, scientists warn against celebrating since levels will rebound once the global restrictions lift.

A Hope

Bill Gates has announced that his foundation is paying for the construction of facilities that will manufacture seven promising coronavirus vaccines and the best two vaccines would be picked up for final trials.

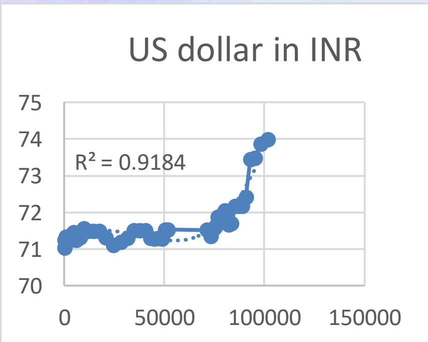
COVID-19 and Investment: Regression Analysis

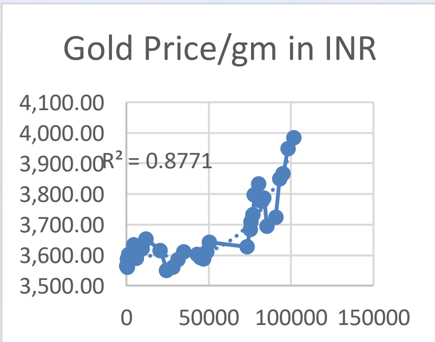
"Prudence is the virtue by which we discern what is proper to do under various circumstances in time and place." -John Milton

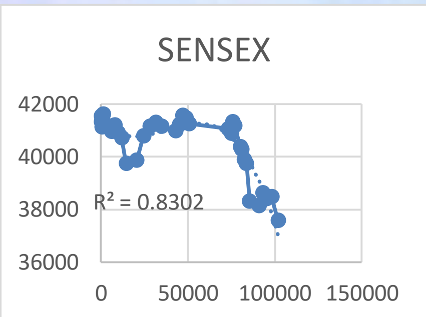
Kanishka Singhal and Aditi
BA (H) Economics
2nd year

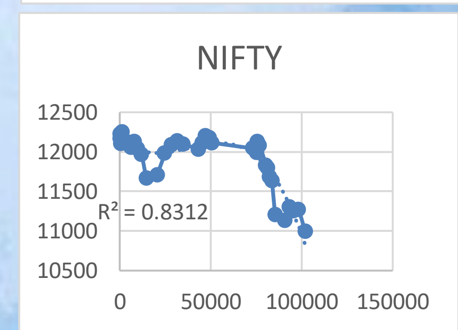
Investment is an integral part of an economy. Sustainable economic growth needs a healthy investment pattern. Low investment may ensure high levels of consumption but only at the cost of consumption of future generations. Financial investment is an asset in which you put money with the hopes that it will generate a larger sum of money. Behavioural finance highlights the importance of investor confidence in financial investment across the country and perhaps the global economy itself.

An epidemic is the rapid spread of diseases to a large number of people in a given population within a short period of time. While the long-term effects of epidemics lie in the demography, the economic effects both in the short and the long term cannot be neglected. This article ascertains how the change in investor confidence due to the spread of COVID-19 changes the investment pattern in the economy. A regression analysis was conducted between daily reported COVID-19 total cases and Gold, US dollar in INR prices, and the two major indices of India- Sensex, Nifty. The results obtained were following-









Notice from the graphs above, a negative relationship between Number of COVID-19 cases and prices of SENSEX and NIFTY. On the other hand, the positive relation between Number of COVID-19 cases and gold prices and foreign exchange rate between U.S. Dollar and Indian Rupee, is also visible. However, the fitted regression line cannot be used to predict the stock market movements as the number of affected people increases, since extrapolation beyond the values of independent variable, that were used to estimate the regression line, is misleading. While regression normally does not indicate causation, in this case, we can intuitively define that the spread of COVID-19 is causing the turbulence in the investment market.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution: A Paradigm Shift in the Economy

"On the societal front, a paradigm shift is underway in how we work and communicate, as well as how we express, inform and entertain ourselves."

-Klaus Schwab

Vaibhavi Rajput
BA (H) Economics
2nd year

Have you ever imagined the backstory of the evolution of technology which brings the world in front of you just by a touch of your finger? How does it feel to you hear about a person getting a new life through man-made organs? What comes to your mind observing an upsurge in the economy? Is it something which seems unimaginable? Well, the answer is simple – All thanks to the Fourth Industrial Revolution!

As described by the founder and executive chairman of the WEF, Klaus Schwab, "The Fourth Industrial Revolution is a technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work and relate to one another". In other words the fourth industrial revolution is the current and developing environment in which disruptive technologies and trends such as the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) are changing the way we live and work. Well, that was the cliché definition let's get more deep into it by getting further towards more insights.

Getting back to history

The term Industrial Revolution was first popularized by the English economic historian Arnold Toynbee to describe Britain's economic development from 1760 to 1840. The first Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the last quarter of the 18th century with the mechanization of the textile industry, the harnessing of steam power, and the birth of the modern factory. The second one was followed by developments in electricity, transportation, chemicals, steel, and mass production and consumption. Industrialization spread even further – to Japan after the Meiji Restoration and deep into Russia, which was booming at the outset of World War I. The third industrial revolution, beginning in 1970, was digital with the tinge of applied electronics and information technology to the processes of production. Some yet to be imagined and interesting concepts like mass customization, additive manufacturing, and 3D printing were introduced. Furthermore, the on-going technological age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution describes the huge changes brought about by smart technologies. From Artificial Intelligence, Block Chain and Drones to Big Data and the Internet of Things are all the wonders of this unimaginable era.

Digging into the impact factor

The technologies that underpin the Fourth Industrial Revolution will have a major impact on businesses and growing economies. On the supply side, many industries are seeing the introduction of new technologies that create entirely new ways of serving existing needs and significantly disrupt existing industry value chains. It will improve the quality, speed, or price at which value is delivered. It will also lead to major shifts in the demand side as growing transparency, consumer engagement, and new patterns of consumer behaviour (increasingly built upon access to mobile networks and data) force companies to adapt the way they design, market, and deliver products and services. This will, in fact, strengthen the world economies.

Industry 4.0 is influencing the Indian Economy to a great extent. Most significantly it will help India in alleviating poverty. It will enhance farmer's income by providing them with the latest technologies, improvement in crop yield through real-time advisory, advanced detection of pest attacks, and prediction of crop prices to inform sowing practices given everything goes hand in hand with state and central governments. Human Capital can be enriched by better and low-cost health care which can be achieved through the implementation of AI-driven diagnostics, personalized treatment, early identification of potential pandemics, and imaging diagnostics, among others. Furthermore, artificial intelligence can be used to empower and enable specially-abled people. These will enhance the human resource thus strengthening the economy.

Way Forward

In the most optimistic way, the Fourth Industrial Revolution has the potential to complement the best parts of human nature; creativity, empathy, stewardship which will further contribute to nation-building by strengthening the economy.

Tech Monopoly

"Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master."

-Christian Lous Lange

Deeksha Gupta
BA (H) Economics
1st year

In the past decade, with immense empowerment in the world of the Internet, we saw our daily lives are highly dependent on mobile applications. Today, everything from buying groceries to taking a ride is app-based. The development of technology surely has made lives easier; however, from a different perspective this has also given enormous power to the leaders of digital platforms such as Facebook, Google and Amazon which can be termed as "Tech Monopoly".

Four out of the five most-used apps worldwide, which are Facebook App, Facebook Messenger, Instagram, WhatsApp and Snapchat, belong to Facebook. Snapchat is the only app that is not owned by Facebook, although, it tried to purchase it by putting a large bid but couldn't manage to acquire it. It is clear that Facebook has outpaced others and the influence its apps have on our lives gives it the power to monopolize the digital industry. Other apps in the list of most popular are Skype, Twitter, YouTube, Tik-Tok and UC Browser. The last two of them headquartered in China indicates a significant share of Chinese dominance in the digital market.

In the recent past, Facebook has received criticism for overlooking user's privacy, spreading misinformation and misleading news and regarding the Cambridge Analytica data scandal. Despite all these accusations and being banned in one of the most populous countries - China, the popularity of Facebook and its apps is overwhelming. Nonetheless, Facebook's rigor dominance over the digital platform may not be persistent since it has been challenged with legal lawsuits in Europe regarding strict protection of user's data and privacy and over antitrust issues in the US.

This type of monopoly over the digital platform is a matter of concern for the government. Although a monopoly is not illegal in most countries but often these big brands with their remarkable control do not let small new emerging companies and start-ups keep a foot in the business. This has resulted in reduced business investments and fewer start-ups. In their defense, they state that the rival companies threaten their market dominance. Monopoly gives them the power of concentrated employment and innovation. Many countries have taken actions against it by making stricter laws, fining and even breaking the firms.

Quantum Internet

"If quantum mechanics hasn't profoundly shocked you, you haven't understood it yet."

-Niels Bohr

Jessica Solanki
BA (H) Economics
3rd year

What is quantum internet?

Simply put, quantum internet will use entangled quantum particles to exchange information unlike the internet we know today which uses radio waves. Entangled particles exist in a state such that-- given a pair of particles, an action done in one is instantly reflected in another. Quantum networks will use qubits (unit of information for quantum computer) which can take up infinite values thus increasing its bandwidth and allowing it to connect and perform functions with super-powerful quantum computers. Fibre optic cables enable photon (acts as qubits) transmission and thereby make it one of the primary physical elements of quantum network. As for long distance communication, repeaters (the kind we use for Wi-Fi networks) compatible with quantum networks will be used.

Why do we need it?

Quantum internet will be a complement to our present internet. While it may not be used for updating our feeds it will secure the information we exchange and prevent it from hackers and cybercriminals thereby preserving our privacy. For instance- in our current network a message from A to B can be decoded midway by hackers since the signals tend to degrade in the process. Quantum internet prevents this from happening since it uses photons to exchange messages making them resilient to cyber-attacks. The breakthrough will also refine GPS navigations and provide more detailed mapping of gravitational waves. Along with this, quantum networks will also be helpful in the fields of computing, cryptography and artificial intelligence.

India's status

Budget 2020-21 announced Rs. 8000 crore package towards achieving quantum supremacy. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is working to make a 50 qubits quantum computer which will also enable quantum communication, encryption and storage. This technology will not only help us become better in strategic planning but will also enable us to excel in areas like agriculture, aerospace engineering and medicine.

The current and a major challenge for India is to overcome the problem of insufficient infrastructure. Even if the studies are done theoretically, only with a strong foundation we will be able to test the practicality of the research.

Experientialism in the Modern Economy

"The customer experience is the next competitive battleground."

-Jerry Gregoire

Shivangi Dewani
BA Programme
3rd year

From Spotify making customized playlists to grocery shopping being more personalized, the economy has taken a wild twist from basic and similar things for all, to having a much customized set of things for its customers. The new economy demands a more personalized setup in which understanding the behavior of its customers is the most crucial aspect. In an economy like ours, where many products and services have become a commodity, creating experiences act as a valuable competitive advantage.

A McKinsey study found that consumer spending has shifted rapidly in recent years, where today's shoppers devote, on an average, 4 times more money on experiences over goods. The millennial generation today do not mind paying extra bucks for a better experience over a product at a discounted rate which does not offer any experience.

"Experience economy", a concept quoted in Pine II and Gilmore (1998) article, talk about the experience economy being the next economic revolution, following the agrarian economy, the industrial economy, and the service economy. Businesses need to orchestrate memorable events for their customers, which further becomes the product with a competitive advantage.

Primarily there are two aspects within the experience economy: customer participation and customer connection. Customer participation refers to directly involving and engaging the customers for a better experience. Many companies are walking on these lines and use active and passive customer participation to create the same. In case of active participation, a consumer plays a key role in creating the event or interaction that generates the experience.

Have you ever gone to a coffee tasting workshop in a cafe? You were an actively participating consumer in that space. Some consumers prefer to participate passively just by showing up. The physical and mental connectivity also determines the experience levels.

The three most important things for a better customer experience include: (i) A personalized solution, (ii) Customized to exactly what your client needs, (iii) Wants at exactly the right time.

Thus, many companies in India have now shifted to create experiences for the customers rather than just selling products to them. This is done by conducting workshops, social media interactions, post-purchase feedbacks and services for its customers**.** The companies need to connect experience into every part of their company, and trust in personalisation which further makes the customer feel more valued. This new wave of experientialism is already having large effects on the global economy and traditional business models. It requires a fundamental shift in how we look at everything, from revenue growth to personal happiness. The shift to an experience economy has the power not only to change how we spend our time and money but also to promote happy experiences.

Since the shift towards digitisation and experiential economy coming together, it is important for the brand to understand the customer through a holistic perspective—their lives, attitudes, options, and values. It's no more about putting together all the data about their customers in the database, but understanding their behaviour, what and who influences their buying decisions, the correct environmental setup which would create a better shopping experience.

Economic Effects of Online Payment Failures

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes existing model obsolete."

-Buckminster Fuller

Aditi Chawla
BA (H) Economics
2nd Year

What if there is any 'Latent Economy' operating at the name of transaction failure? If there exists such an Economy, in order to capture the profit of commercial banks in the process, the following model is proposed-

Let '*A*' ($A > 0$) be the amount of that gets stuck with the commercial banks for *'t'* days, and let π (*A, t)* be the profit that bank is able to generate using the stuck money. Now the objective function of bank is-

$$\max_{A,t} \quad \pi(A, t)$$

Such that π (*A*, *t*) = *R*(*A*, *t*) – *C*(*t*)...(i)

Where R(A, t) is the total revenue generated by the commercials banks and *C(t)* is the cost imposed on account of regulations imposed by RBI such that-

R(A, t) = $L(A, t, \bar{k})$+ $M(A, t, \bar{p})$...(ii)

C(t) = $\begin{cases} 100(t-1) & , for\ t \geq 1 \\ 0, & . \end{cases}$ ....(iii)

Here, $L(A, t, \alpha, \bar{k})$ denotes the revenue that Bank X generates by loaning out α proportion of the stuck amount for *'t'* number of days at an interest rate k = $\bar{k}$ = 0.08/365 = 0.0002191780822, where $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$. Whereas, $M(A, t, \bar{p})$ denotes the revenue that bank is able to generate by not paying the interest income to the beneficiary for 't' days at the interest

rate p = $\bar{p}$ = 0.04/365 = 0.0001095890411. Now, $L(A, t, \alpha, k)$ and $M(A, t, p)$ can be defined as:

$L(A, t, \alpha, k)$ = $\alpha A(1 + k)^t - \alpha A$ ....(iv)

$M(A, t, p)$ = $A(1 + p)^t - A$ ....(v)

Combining equation (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) together, we get-

$\pi(A, t) = [\alpha A(1 + k)^t - \alpha A] + [A(1 + p)^t - A] - 100(t - 1)$...............(vi)

Eq. (vi) depicts the profit function, where cost function is the one as stated by RBI guidelines. An alternate cost with stricter penalties has been proposed that should be imposed by RBI where instead of taking cost as a function of 't' only, it is a function of the stuck amount 'A'. It follows -

$\pi(A, t) = [\alpha A(1 + k)^t - \alpha A] + [A(1 + p)^t - A] - C(A, t)$ ……..……..(vii)

As per RBI regulations for Real Time gross Settlement (RTGS) operations, where it is mentioned that, bank has to pay compensation at current repo rate plus 2% to the beneficiary customer per day in case his amount gets stuck. So, the cost function reformulated as -

C(A, t) = (5.15% + 2%) * *A* * *t* = 7.15% * *A* * *t* ……………………….. (viii)[1]

Thus, with stricter penalties-

$\pi(A, t) = [\alpha A(1 + k)^t - \alpha A] + [A(1 + p)^t - A] - 7.15\% * A * t$..........(ix)

When we play with the parameters of equation (viii) and (ix), the results are-

- Commercial banks earn large profits at the existing cost of regulation by using the amount stuck. While if the alternate cost of regulation is imposed banks run into losses.
- Higher the fraction of the money used by the commercial banks at the existing cost of regulation, higher the profits the banks are able to generate. While the fraction of money used plays negligible role when the alternate cost of regulation is imposed as the losses remain the same.

[1] Current Repo Rate = 5.15%

Ecomantra: Annual Activities Report 2019-20

Economics Association, Gargi College, University of Delhi

About Ecomantra

Ecomantra, the Economics Association of Gargi College, University of Delhi is the student body/union of the Department of Economics of the college and it conducts events such as debates, quizzes, annual economics festivals, seminars, career counselling sessions and more for the students of the Department.

Ecomantra has also proudly initiated its own newsletter in 2019, an annual treat for its students called 'The Short Run'. This is in addition to the yearly department magazine – 'Ecobuzz' that has received high praise over the years.

Activities Report

In the academic year 2019-20, the members of the Association have hosted multiple activities. The following are **brief descriptions of the events conducted**:

1. **Orientation and Welcome session**

20th July 2019: Ecomantra hosted an informative and interactive orientation for the incoming students of the Batch of 2022. This session marked the first meeting between the professors and older students of the department with the freshers.

2. **Teachers Day Celebration**

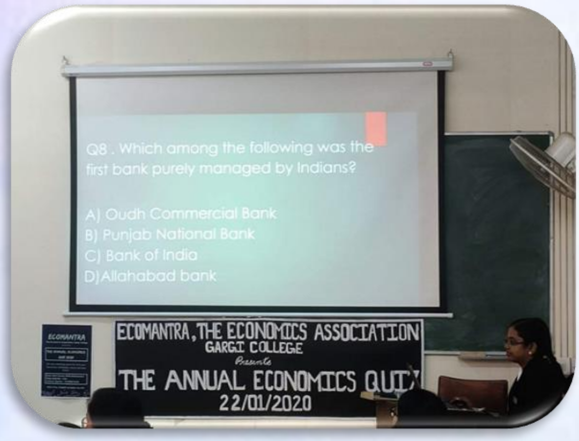
5th September 2019: On the occasion of Teachers' Day, members of Ecomantra hosted the Professors of the Department for a small celebration within the college. The students showered love and praise on their teachers with cards, cake, snacks and tokens of appreciation and gratitude.

3. **<u>Ice-Breaking Session for Intra-Department Interaction</u>**

25th September 2019: The Association held a fun and interactive Ice-breaking session with students from the first year and the members of the association. Fun, frolic, dance, snacks, games and lots of chatter were involved. The first years became more comfortable speaking up and communicating with the Union of the Department, which was the entire purpose of the event.

4. **<u>Annual Economics Quiz</u>**

22nd January 2020: On 22nd January, Ecomantra organized its Annual Economics Quiz 2020. The first round of the Quiz was centred on economics. The second round was about current affairs. The last round was a rapid fire round wherein the students were supposed to answer the maximum possible General Knowledge questions in a minute. The teams who were accorded first three positions were rewarded with cash prizes.



5. **<u>Inquizitive – Online Quiz [GK+ Economics]</u>**

26th April 2020: Ecomantra held Inquizitive, an inter-collegiate interactive quiz on General Knowledge and Basic Economics, on the virtual platform, in the hope of taking students' minds off the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. 50 questions were asked over a maximum time limit of 25 minutes. This made the quiz fast-paced and exhilarating. With an overwhelming number of 120 participants from across the University of Delhi, the Quiz was a massive success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.

President's message

'Ecomantra' has truly been one of the most wonderful parts of my collegiate career here at Gargi. I have seen a steep curve of growth and learning in not only myself but also my peers and juniors in the Department. I hope you all take this as a lesson from a senior and become a part of 'Ecomantra' or 'Ecobuzz' in the coming years and put your own spin to this beautiful journey.

As a former secretary, a former vice-president, and the current president, I have seen the Department go from strength to strength; harbouring brilliant minds, with the zeal to go the extra mile to make the Association what it is today. Team Ecomantra has always strived to make students of the department engage in fulfilling discussions and deliberations with real-world consequences.

'Ecobuzz', the annual department magazine in your hands right now is the fruit of labour of a stellar Editorial Team. I'd like to congratulate the team for their relentless work on this immensely gripping and well-written edition of 'Ecobuzz'. It is my absolute honour to be associated with this magazine. I really hope you all give it a thorough read, for I can promise – it will be worth it.

My parting message to this batch of policy makers and glass ceiling-breakers –

I wish nothing but the best for each and every one of you, and I hope that you all lead the department towards a golden phase of exponential growth, with a curve that never flattens (sorry for the lame puns :/). In the end, your college journey is what you make it. So work hard, play hard and make the most of it! And always remember, your seniors, myself included, are only a phone call away and are here to help you out.

With lots of love and admiration

(One last time)

Yours sincerely

Saloni Singh
President
Department of Economics (2019-20)
Gargi College

Achievements

Academic Achievements

Rank	1st year (2018-19)	CGPA	2nd year (2018-19)	CGPA
1st	Aditi and Ananya Pratihari	9.05	Meenal Chhabra	8.43
2nd	Tarang Gupta and Muskaan Sharma	8.73	Shikha Khatana	8.39
3rd	Madhushree Sarkar	8.5	Tanisha Saraswat	7.82

Non-Academic Achievements

1st Year

1. Anshika Taneja-
    - Member, Nazaakat – The Indian Dance Society
    - 1st position at Mood Indigo (IIT Bombay), DTU, Dyal Singh Evening College, PGDAV College, Motilal Nehru College, Sri Venkateswara College, SGGSCC, SGTB Khalsa College, Dyal Singh Moning College.
    - 2nd position at Hansraj College, Daulat Ram College, Jesus and Mary College, Maharaja Agrasen college
    - Consolation prize at Mata Sundri College College for Women
2. Sakshi Yadav-
    - Member, Kshitij - The Street Play Society
    - 1st position at NIFT Delhi, SGGSC, Shiv Nadar University, Manipal University Jaipur
    - 2nd position at Zakir Husain Delhi college, Delhi college awards ceremony by The Education Tree
    - Special mention at National School of Drama, IMT Ghaziabad and Lady Irwin College

2nd Year

1. Aakriti Gupta- 1st position in Shotput (arts stream) at Gargi Olympiad
2. Aditi-
    - Was awarded the 'Best Paper' title in Digital Economics at NYEC 2020 held in Shaheed Bhagat Singh college
    - President, Enactus Gargi College
    - Presented Enactus Gargi at Nationals held at IIT Delhi, 2019
3. Aditi and Kanishka- secured 1st rank in Case Study competition- Go to market strategy for Sirona Menstrual cups

4. Asmi Khandelwal and Ananya Pratihari- secured 1st position in Annual Economics Quiz 2020 organised by Ecomantra

5. Gayatri Singh- 2nd position in 'DATA ANALYTICS' course held in Shaheed Sukhdev College of Commerce

6. Himanika Agarwal-
    - Member, Glasseye – The Film Making Society
    - 1st position in 70 hours film making competition
    - Participated in 50 hours film making competition by "Indian Film Project"
    - Organised an event called "Prism" on Zistatva

7. Kakuli Jain-
    - Member, Euphony - Western Music Society
    - 1st position at JMC, Dyal Singh evening college, Hansraj college, DCAC, SSCBS, Swami Shraddhanand college
    - 2nd Position in IIT Delhi, Motilal Nehru College, Zakir Hussain Delhi College, Dyal Singh Morning College

8. Muskaan Sharma-
    - Cleared Actuarial science paper CS-1 from Institute and Faculty Actuaries, UK
    - Participated in Fashion Walk at Reverie

9. Pallavi Yadav- Won 'Best Player of Arts' trophy in inter-stream games competition

10. Shruti Upadhaya-
    - Vice-Captain, Chess team
    - 1st position in chess tournament at LSR sports meet
    - 3rd position in Inter DU Chess Tournament

11. Vaibhavi Rajput-
    - Member, QED- The English Debating Society
    - Broke as an Adjudicator at NLIU Delhi Parliamentary Debate 2020

3rd Year

1. Akshita Gupta-
    - Senior Member of North East Society Gargi College
    - Participated in-
        - Hansraj College North East Fest Dance Competition
        - Maharaj Agrasen College Dance Competition

2. Mihika Bhowmik-

    - Delegate, Content writer, India- Spain Youth Forum, Global Youth
    - Senior Member, Nazakat- The Indian Dance Society, Gargi College
    - 3rd position in the 'Caption It' Competition organized by India-Spain Youth Forum on the 'International Day of Girl Child'
    - Her article on "*Bhaaratiyon ka rashtravaad aur Chinese apps"* got published in the magazine of Hindi Debating Society- Sameeksha
    - Participated in:
        - Mock G-20 Summit held at India International Centre, Delhi
        - Mock Diplomacy Session on SDG 8 held by ISYF in collaboration with Delhi Technological University
    - Discussion held by India-Spain Youth Forum on Catalonia Crisis

3. Pushpa Saroj- Got selected for Tribal Youth Exchange Program by NSS and Represented Delhi in Guwahati, Assam

4. Sakshi Veerangana- secured 1st place in Intercollege Cricket tournament

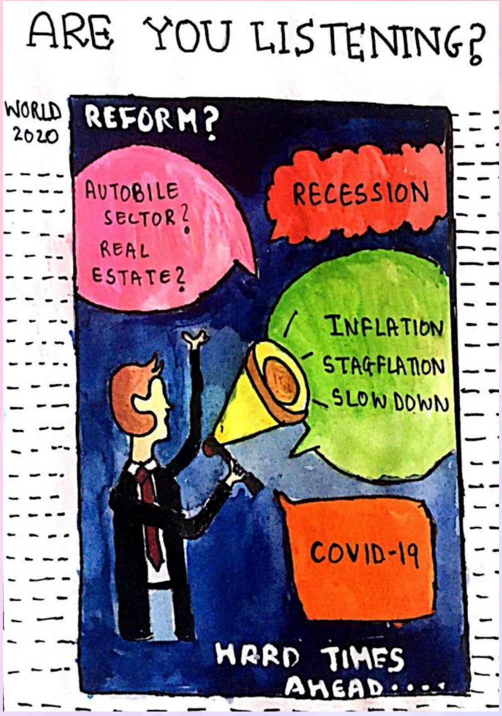
5. Saloni Singh-

    - Chairperson, India-Australia Youth Forum, Global Youth
    - Best Adjudicator at LNMIIT Asian Parliamentary Debate Tournament 2020, Jaipur
    - Second Best Adjudicator at Hansraj British Parliamentary Debate 2020\
    - Invited Judge in Vasant Valley School Debate, Dhruv Rajgarhia Memorial Debate- Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram and Sumegha Gulati Memorial Debate 2020- Delhi College for Arts and Commerce
    - Senior Member, QED- English Debating Society, Gargi College

6. Vartika Gaur-

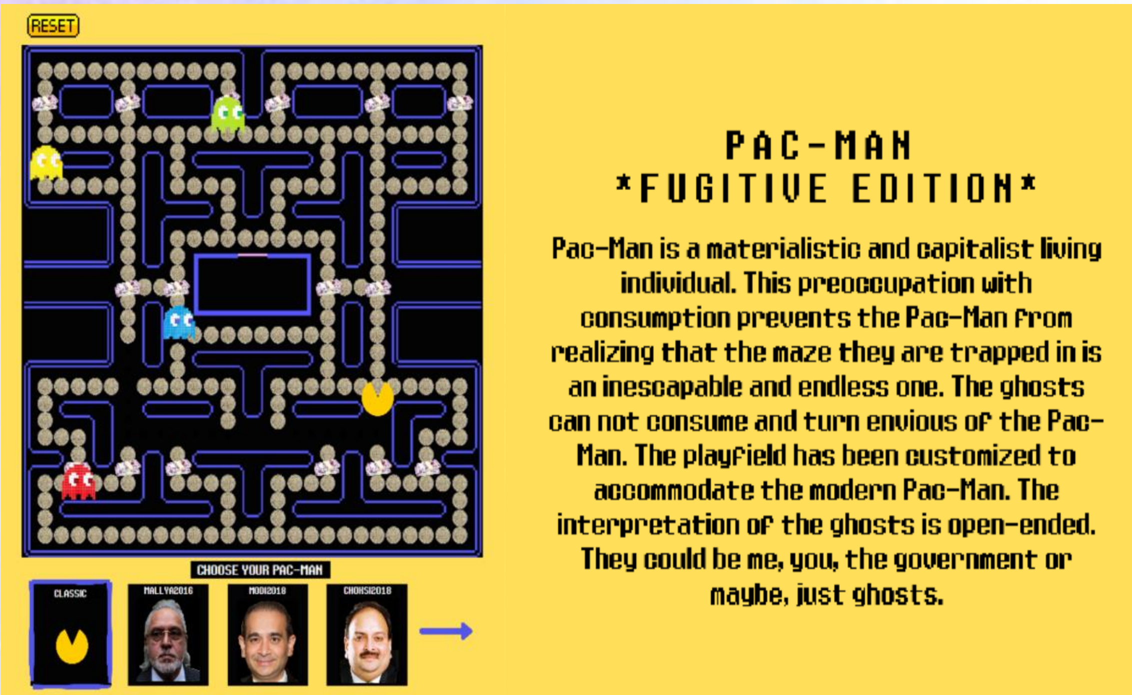
    - Secured 2nd place in Volleyball at Shaheed Rajguru Sports Meet
    - Secured 3rd place Inter-collegiate volleyball tournament

Artworks



Swasti Mishra
BA(H) Economics
1st year

Tanya Chauhan
BA(H) Economics
1st year



Rishika Goyal
BA (H) Economics
3rd year

Poets' Corner…

INEQUALITIES

When the rich get richer

And the poor get poor

This drives the gap

Leads to an economic trap

Into the vicious cycle of inequality

Be it a vendor or a wanderer

The progression of tax

Turns the tables around

Promoting the widened gap

Tax is a funnel of revenue

But the funnel has its flaws

Now the question is

To be equal or unequal

The survival of the fittest would count.

THE PRICE CHANGE

When the price rise

It's not mere supply or demand

But a quantity differentiation

Though we study the theories

But they are based on assumptions

Or maybe instances of price ceil or price floor

While it may be a spiral trap of price

Even if the government interferes

It can or can't be rectified

With the policy implications

Neither can we win nor do we lose

While it can be a macro thing

Where we deal with inflation

Taxes can be the main obstacle

With all this intertwined

Ultimately the economy stabilizes

With the act of the invisible hand

It's the economy of the economist

which the economist doesn't understand.

Poornima Kaul
BA (H) Economics
3rd Year

WORLD OF NUMBERS

Soaring GDP recorded this year

No one to applaud, none to cheer.

Urbanization, growth is on its way

But look up to the sky- its grey

Inflation, Recession and the blame

Pain of poor still the same.

Globalized world with increased choices

Hunger, poverty and unheard voices

Income increment the only solution

But no one cares about its distribution

Increase in wages a special mention

While increase in wage gap screams attention

Ironic it is that developed states,

Have the highest pandemic rates.

'Well-being' they thought income ensures

But not everything money cures.

The world of facts, a hostile place

Utility in utils, oppressor- no face.

Economics, study of human behavior

Brutal politics, with no savior.

Swasti Mishra
BA (H) Economics
1st year

BUZZ-QUIZ

1) The first Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded when and to whom?
a) 1969, Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen
b) 1970, Paul Samuelson
c) 1971, Simon Kuznets
d) 1972, John Hicks and Kenneth Arrow

2) The first work of Adam Smith is?
a) The Wealth of Nations
b) The Theory of Moral Sentiments
c) Essays on Philosophical Subjects
d) Lectures on Justice, Police, Revenue, and Arms

3) Reserve Bank of India was nationalised in the year?
a) 1934
b) 1935
c) 1947
d) 1949

4) Which of the following country is the permanent guest invitee of G-20?
a) Spain
b) France
c) Netherlands
d) Italy

5) When and where, Asia's first Export Processing Zone was established?
a) 1965, Kandla, India
b) 1962, Guangzhou, China
c) 1964, Osaka, Japan
d) 1966, Beijing, China.

6) Who created India's first budget in 1860?
a) Thomas Attwood
b) Walter Bagehot
c) Scotsman James Wilson
d) William Blake

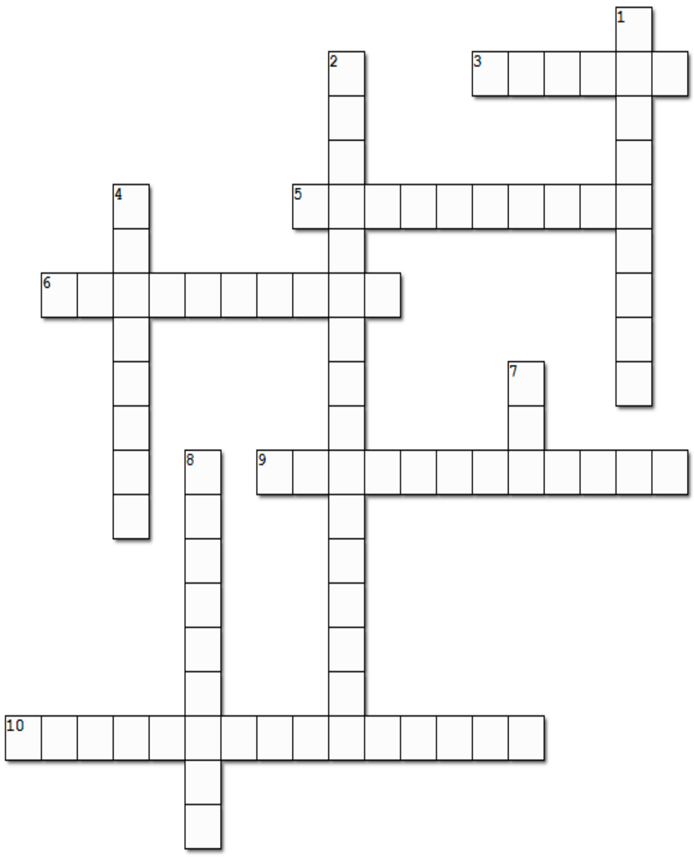
7) In which country, the philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) originated?
a) Malaysia
b) Bhutan
c) Philippines
d) Japan

8) Which 5 year plan aimed to correct disequilibrium in the Indian economy?
a) Second five year plan
b) Eighth five year plan
c) First five year plan
d) Fourth five year plan

9) The difference between Gross Domestic product and Net Domestic product gives
a) Depreciation cost
b) Net indirect tax
c) Subsidies
d) Factor Payment

10) What are the two components of Legal Reserve Ratio?
a) Cash Ratio and current Ratio
b) Cash reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio
c) Current Ratio and Cash reserve Ratio
d) Quick Ratio and working capital

CROSSWORD



Across

3. Monopoly is when there is a single ______
5. Developed IS-LM model
6. The father of modern economics
9. A person who starts a business to produce a new product in the market
10. Current RBI governor

Down

1. When the economic activity in an economy is on the decline
2. The cost of giving up an alternative
4. Shortage of a product
7. If nominal GDP is equal to the real GDP, the GDP deflator equals to
8. Increase in the consumer price index (CPI) over an year

Submitted by- Muskaan Sharma
BA (H) Economics
2nd year

Answer Key for Buzz-Quiz- 1) a., 2) b., 3) d., 4) a., 5) a., 6) c., 7) b., 8) c., 9) a., 10) b.

Answer key for Crossword Puzzle

Down 1) Recession 2) Opportunity Cost 4) Scarcity 7) One 8) Inflation

Across 3) Seller 5) John Hicks 6) Adam Smith 9) Entrepreneur 10) Shaktikanta Das

Photo Gallery

Teachers' Day Celebration

Annual Economics Quiz 2020

Ice-breaking Session

Faculty - Economics Department

Top Row(L-R) – Dr. Veena Sharma**,** Dr. Ganesh Manjhi, Dr. Tanjot Singh Chowdhary, Dr. Jyoti Mavi, Mr. Siddharth Rathore
Bottom Row(L-R) – Dr. Nidhi Tewathia, Mr. Gaurav Bhattacharya, Ms. Gunjan Fialok, Ms Garima Goel, Ms. Sheebani Goswami

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Class photographs

B.A. (H) Economics 1st year (Batch of 2022)

B.A. (H) Economics 2nd year (Batch of 2021)

B.A. (H) Economics 3rd year (Batch of 2020)

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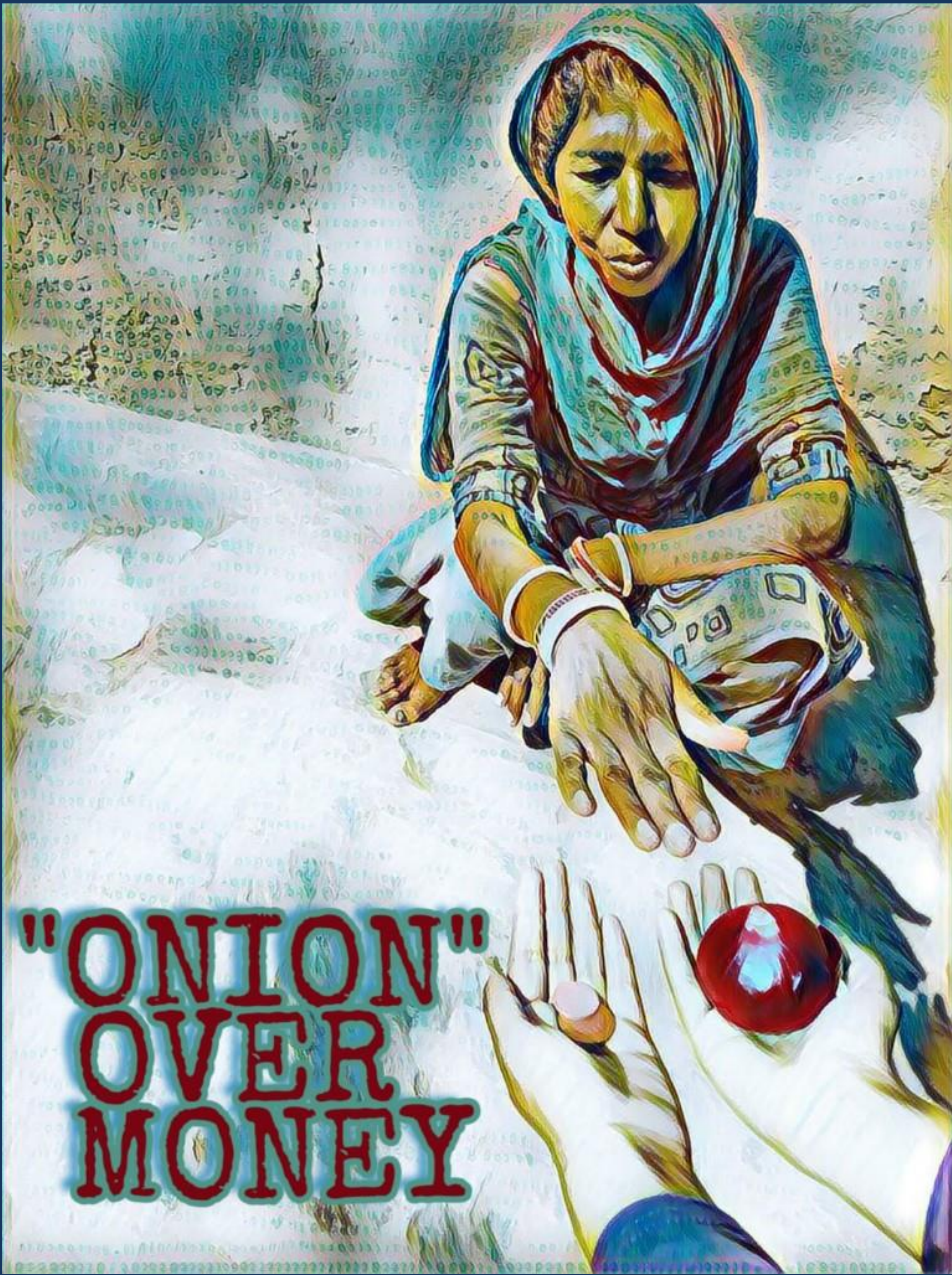
"ONION"
OVER
MONEY