

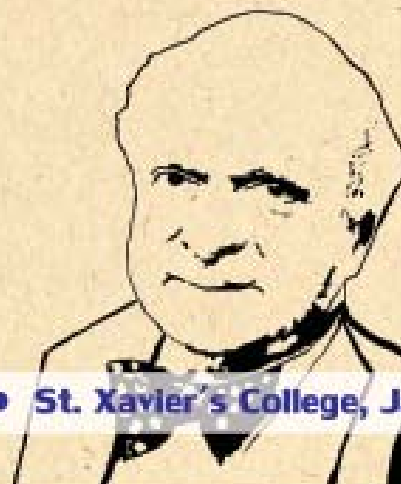


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The Economics of Development

Volume 2

March, 2014



Department of Economics • St. Xavier's College, Jaipur

Editorial Team

2013-14



Left to Right : Akul Vashistha, Aayushi Bengani, Apeksha Pareek, Sherry Sahni,
Ruchira Boss, Deeksha Agarwal, Nehal Gautam



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The Economics of Development
Economics Magazine
(2013-2014)

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St. Xavier's College
Hathroi Fort Road, Jaipur
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- + Mr. Yashwardhan Singh
- + Ms. Miku Dave

Special Thanks

- + Fr. Augustine Perumalil, S.J.
- + Rishab Lodha
- + Naman Narain

arthika

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St. Xavier's College, Jaipur, Rajasthan**

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Message

I have great pleasure in conveying my best wishes to the Department of Economics on the release of their second issue of *ARTHIKA*. It is a great achievement as it provides a forum to students to express their ideas, and to familiarize themselves with the research in various aspects of economic growth. Education is not an act of acquiring knowledge but learning a skill to lead life and forming one's personality. This is an ennobling process of growth. If our country has to progress it needs intelligent minds to carve out the pathway for a better future.

I wish the editorial team all the best for their pioneering endeavor.

Fr. Glenn Menezes, S.J.
Rector



Message

It gives me an immense pleasure to note that the response to this issue of Economics magazine *ARTHIKA* has been overwhelming. The wide spectrum of articles in different sections gives us a sense of pride that our students and teachers possess creative potential and original thinking in ample measures. Each article is entertaining, interesting and absorbing. I applaud the contributors for their stimulated thoughts and varied hues in articles contributed by them.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all concerned, particularly the Head, Ms. Sapna Newar, for all the innovative activities. A commendable job has also been done by the editorial board in planning for and producing the magazine. I extend my congratulations to the team which took the responsibility for the arduous task most effectively.

On this occasion, I seize the opportunity to bid a warm adieu to the outgoing batches of students on the successful completion of their course of study. I am confident that our students where ever they will be placed shall work with passion, perfection and dedication. I wish you all the best in your ventures, efforts and careers.

Fr. Sebastian Anand, S.J.
Principal



Message

It is a matter of great pride and happiness to know that the Department of Economics has come up with its second edition of annual economics magazine *ARTHIKA*. It successfully provides its students with a scholarly platform to present their ideas, thoughts and knowledge on different issues and also for honoring students who have achieved distinction in academics, sports and other co-curricular activities.

The Economics Department has been one of the most active bodies in the college with well spread out activities and competitions. The department successfully organized the second economics fest "Synergy", taking it to national platform.

I take this moment to congratulate all the faculty and the students on their fruitful efforts and wish them the best for future endeavors.

Fr. Joshy Kuruvilla, S.J.
Vice-Principal



Message

It gives me immense pleasure to pen a few words as prologue to our in-house magazine **ARTHIKA**, exclusively meant to promote discussion on current, relevant issues, stimulate thinking and contribute to the growth of knowledge and help the students to achieve a career of their dreams and succeed globally. Also, churning out the latent writing talent which bears immense potentiality of sharpening student's overall personality development.

Empowerment of students for their allround development through education is our cherished motto. It is aptly said that "A leader is born with the birth of every child", the only need is to provide a compatible environment, careful nurturing, and a springboard for meaningful blossoming, honing and effective use of unbound talents

It is a matter of pride for every educational institution to publish many such journals. I congratulate all the contributors, the editorial board and staff members for bringing out such a beautiful magazine.

Fr. Augustine Perumalil, S.J.

Dean

Message



It is a matter of great privilege and immense pleasure for Department of Economics to release *ARTHIKA*, the annual student magazine. The progress of an Institute depends mainly on the performance of the students in academics, sports and cultural activities along with maintaining high values and ethics. I am proud to say that our students are doing excellent in academics, sports and cultural activities with high values and ethics. It gives me a great sense of pride to say that

the department has made consistent progress, year on year, in academic as well as in co-curricular activities. Keeping in mind the main goal of education – overall development of the student – we have tried to leave no stone unturned to equip our students to face the challenges of life.

The department magazine is yet another initiative to provide students a proper platform to showcase their creative talents in print. This particular edition contains various write-ups such as articles, memoirs, stories, poems, anecdotes and other spontaneous reflection supplemented by a galaxy of colorful photographs. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the management for their perennial inspiration and encouragement to promote extracurricular activities along with the academics. I will also like to congratulate the editorial team which had really worked hard for the timely production of this edition.

I wish the students all the best for achieving greater success and scaling newer heights in their education and career ahead. I convey my good wishes to all the readers and wish them a happy and enjoyable reading.

Sapna Newar
Assistant Professor
Head of the Department
Department of Economics

Message



I am glad that the Department of Economics is coming up with its second volume of department magazine - *ARTHIKA*. This is a platform for our students to showcase their skills and to express their thoughts. It also highlights the achievements of department for the session 2013-14. This is entirely a students' effort and hence, I believe

that this will be a learning experience for them.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the outgoing batch of the department good luck in their future endeavors. I hope that they will establish themselves as proud citizens of this country in the field they wish to pursue.

In the end, I would like to congratulate the editorial team for their painstaking effort.

Yashwardhan Singh
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics



Message



I feel immense pleasure in congratulating all the students of the Economics Department and especially our editorial team, who have worked hard to materialize this issue. Our students always strive for the best, attending to the smallest details and going the extra mile. The overall learning experience is enhanced by year-round extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. We seek to promote the all-round development of the personality of the students. The department magazine is another step in this direction. It acts as a platform which brings out the creativity of the students and also serves as a medium to provide information about the various activities of the department. I hereby convey my best wishes to the students for achieving greater success.

Ms. Mikku Dave
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics

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The Editorial

The aim of this year's annual magazine *ARTHIKA* has not changed much since the last year, but has become more refined with the broadened fusion of divergent ideas and expressions. Due to curiosity to make a change, that of the conventional perception of economics, the students have made a successful attempt to imagine the world differently through the prism of economics, human development, science, polity and much more. This power of imagination, quest for knowledge and the ability to bring about a change in the present dynamics is commendable, which I am sure would leave an impact on the consciousness of the readers.

The effort that has gone into compiling the magazine reaffirms the sole purpose of the Department of Economics that is to give a global glimpse to the students as well as the readers beyond the realms of prescribed syllabus. *ARTHIKA* has been possible with great efforts that have gone into it by the editorial team (especially to convene a meeting). Sherry's innovative picture art especially on the cover page makes a successful attempt, tempting the readers to look into the magazine. Aayushi's trendy teachers' friendly section is memorable. Deeksha's constant information gathering work was of immense significance to bestow weight to the magazine. Nehal's collection of interesting facts is something to look for. Apeksha's critical observations have filled in the gaps through the pages. Akul's valuable news writing made the work easier. Here, I would also like to mention the assistance of Naman Narain, in helping with the editing of the magazine and Shreyas Singh for investing his time for the timely completion of the magazine. I would also like to thank Megha Bhutra for the pictures, Rishabh for designing the cover page.

I thank all the writers for their sincerity, efforts and interest.

Heartfelt and gratifying thanks to our mentors, Assistant Professor Sapna Newar, Yashwardhan Singh and Mikku Dave for their faith and unwavering support to our team. They have always been a source of motivation. A special thanks to Fr. Glenn Menezes, Fr. Sebastian Anand, Fr. Augustine Perumalil and Fr. Joshy Kuruvilla for their moral support.

Along with my fellow editors, I proudly present to you the second edition of *ARTHIKA*.

Jai Hind

Ruchira Boss
Editor-in-chief

The Journey

As we turned to the last chapter of college, bidding farewell to the inimitable first batch of the Economics Department, we took an oath to carry forward the work and responsibilities that were bequeathed to us by our seniors. The benchmarks set were high but we took on the challenge with enormous passion and diligence. Though, the path wasn't very smooth but with the active participation of enthusiastic and collaborative juniors we managed to take the department to its zenith.

Continuing what we started last year, this year too we organized SYNERGY, taking a leap forward by introducing it to a national platform. It proved to be an intellectual *mela*, where students from different parts of the country presented their skills, knowledge and creativity. The Department of Economics also hosted the 34th Annual Conference of Rajasthan Economics Association successfully. Besides these two mega events, we also organized inter department quiz, group discussions and participated in Malhaar, Econundrum, Econvista, and Blisspoint.

Last year through *ECONOPSIS* we got a platform to articulate our thoughts; and similarly, this year too with *ARTHIKA* we are here bringing innovative ideas, thoughts, issues and covering activities and achievements of the department. Cheers to our editorial team as all this would not have been possible without their hard work and dedication.

With great admiration and respect, I express my heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Glenn Menezes, Fr. Sebastian Anand, Fr. Joshy Kuruvilla and Fr. Augustine Perumalil for their constant support and encouragement. My sincere thanks our teachers, Sapna Ma'am, Yashwardhan Sir and Mikku Ma'am. They have always been a source of guidance and inspiration. Thank you for building us up. And now my special thanks to my fellow students and affable juniors for their contribution, active participation and ever-ready attitude.

Hope our proficient juniors will glorify the name of the department adding many more achievements to it.

Anshul Bhatt

President

Economic Council



The Interview

Dr. (Mrs.) Kanta Ahuja, having a brilliant academic career (studied at Delhi, Agra and Michigan Universities), is an eminent educationalist and economist. She taught international and development economics at Master's and Research level for almost 30 years. Dr. Kanta Ahuja has been the Vice Chancellor of University of Rajasthan, Jaipur and MDS University, Ajmer.

Dr. Ahuja's knowledge and contributions have been widely recognized. Govt. of India nominated her as Director of various public sector banks and Member of a number of committees/councils such as University Grants Commission's Pay Review Committee, the Governing Council for Universities and Colleges in India, Working Group of the National Sample Survey, High Powered Committee on Fertilizer Prices, Expert Group for review of the structure and programs of the National Institute of Rural Development and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council for Universities and Colleges in India. She has been President of Indian Economic Association and Member of the Governing Council of Tata Institute of Social Science Research. SEBI has recently nominated her as public representative on the Board of Jaipur Stock Exchange.

Here in conversation she talks about various economic constraints that India is facing and solutions to tackle the same.

Ma'am, as we know, the Indian education system faces constraints at all levels. There are various systemic flaws that do not let demand for good education convert into a system that delivers excellent educational services, both at school and university levels. According to you, what are the most intrinsic problems and what kind of changes India needs in its education system to make it globally competitive?

As the world is getting globally competitive, especially with the rapid technological advancement, our education system needs to revive by being more flexible in introducing new topics, new courses and new subjects. Only then we'll be able to compete with the advancing world, especially America and China. Here, the political system is just a part of it; we need to pay attention to the management system. At present, our educational



institutions are obsolete in the sense that, they are too rigid and too slow to change, with almost no scope for experimentation. While there is a vast educator shortages, the current educators lack in training and the pedagogy used is archaic. It is critical that the educators get the motivation to learn and improve in the academic profession. There should be intensive training and abroad visits for them, so that they return with new ideas and new methodology that meet the

global demand. For this there should be study leaves for them. Moreover, the students are also not prepared to receive what the teachers have to teach. They just want to pass their examination. There is a vast difference in skills and knowledge of Hindi medium students and English medium students which becomes an issue at the time of job seeking.

How do you see the current examination pattern at school and university level?

The examination system is becoming more objective, continuous evaluation is quite a farce. Reading new books and articles on the internet, newspapers, etc. should be encouraged. The text books need to be revived. For example, the Soviet Union had collapsed in 1992, but it still remains in our syllabus. In theory, autonomous colleges are a solution but if the faculty is weak, it's not worth it. The system needs to change at many points in order to ensure innovation and motivation in learning both by teachers as well as students.

Is India's current predicament a making of its own doing or are we also victim of world economic turmoil like the other countries?

The answer is both. First, let me elaborate on how have been affected by the global economic turmoil. There have been constant changes in the economic world which has certainly impacting our export sector and prices of imports but that also depends upon our exchange rate which depends upon our own inflation rate and so on. So the foreign sector does get affected because the global economy is far more integrated than what it was a few years ago. We are linked through the global system, through the demand factors and the supply factors and also because in the investment area growth is determined mainly by investment in development and investments are determined by expectations, perceptions and the global system. Now coming to internal economic situation of the country, there certainly has been a downfall of the economic apparatus. Some real factors that are responsible are low harvest which has shot up the prices of various food commodities and also the perceptions have been altered and a pessimistic psychology has been created that things are worsening. In a global system that the whole world has opted for the freedom to manipulate prices and decisions are far more limited. Earlier, in a controlled economy any decisions could

be taken. Now this can't be done because other countries will retaliate immediately and also countries are bound by WTO rules. Through our exports-imports we are impacted and the expectations worldwide have become negative like the Euro crisis and financial crisis, Greek crisis, sub-prime crisis affect but because our trade constitutes relatively a small part of our GDP we should not be impacted as much as small exporting countries like Japan or Taiwan.

Is the idea of inclusive growth a political gimmick or an achievable goal?

Inclusive growth can be achieved but it depends upon the intentions of the political class in power. For example, during the reign of Indira Gandhi *Garibi Hatao andolan* was introduced. There was a clear agenda and good intentions but it was a political slogan for vote bank, which has still being used even after two decades implying that policies are nothing but political gimmick. Though, various policies for inclusive growth have been introduced for spreading the benefits but still these benefits have not reached to the roots and there are deep pockets of poverty suffering from economy paralysis like inflation, unemployment, debt increase and more. Therefore, it is not a political gimmick but poverty is being used since decades as vote bank but it has always been a sincere effort and part of our plans to remove poverty. It is a very achievable goal.

Can Narendra Modi as Prime Minister prove to be the answer to our economic problems?

Economic problems cannot be solved by an individual. They can be solved through intensive policy making. Therefore, names are irrelevant. It's the way policies are framed and implemented that matters. There were many well-meaning political leaders such as Jawahar Lal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and others. They all delivered great speeches, but it was the policies which they implemented that brought a change.



Is Reservation Justified in Higher Education?

Sapna Newar*

"A society where the portals of merit are restricted to a privileged minority, especially when the privilege is determined at birth, is a regressive society" -Amrith Lal, The Times of India; 24th April, 2006.

Reservation in higher education is a topic of debate since long time and there has always been a lot of animosity between legislative and judicial wings of the government over this issue. On the one hand, the Supreme Court of India had given a clear verdict against reservation of seats in the unaided private and minority higher educational institutions (in Inamdar vs state of Maharashtra on August 12, 2005) and on the other hand the UPA government reserved 49.5% of seats in higher education. The main cynosure for introducing reservation in India was to promote the welfare of those who were historically depressed, thereby forming an egalitarian economy.

Mandal Commission which was established by Morarji Desai in 1989 recommended 27% reservation for the OBCs. When this was combined with the earlier 22.5% reservation for the SC/STs, the percentage of general seats in any medical, engineering or other institute falling under the state government was reduced to 51%. This led to widespread protests from the students

belonging to the unreserved category and different walks of life claiming that they were being discriminated against. In the wake of the protest, about 150 students attempted self-immolation while actively protesting against the implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.

Reservation policy was considered as a corrective measure for the historic prejudices against certain groups on the basis of race, caste, ethnicity, gender or region. In certain cases, constituted provisions have been legitimized in the lieu of ensuring equity. The inception of the reservation system was started initially for a decade with a purpose to uplift the reserved category to a status at par with the upper castes. However, it has continued to this day. The question here is how long we will have to continue with this reservation policy to ensure that the historically depressed class catches up with the upper class. In this context, a few points need to be noted. First, if reservation is important for the welfare of the historically depressed classes then women perhaps deserve reservation the most. But the very same government evokes a cold response when women ask for 33% of the seats to be reserved in the Parliament. Secondly, reservation does not always ensure equity, as many empirical evidences have shown that many

*Asst. Professor, HOD, Dept. of Economics.

well-off groups from the depressed classes get the benefits of reservation while the poorer groups from the general caste remain deprived of these benefits. As a remedy, reservation on the basis of income and wealth rather than on the basis of caste, creed or tribe can be suggested. For example, an empirical analysis of the National Sample Survey Organization's (NSSO) 61st round data on India suggests that if we utilize more appropriate measures, the results would reveal that the deficits were insignificant enough to argue in favour of reservation for some of the groups presently enjoying the benefits of reservation. It is also argued that despite reservations for the SCs and STs in the electoral constituencies and gram-panchayats, power has not shifted from the upper castes and affluent sections of society to the lower castes or lower strata in India. Reservation should be in the public interest for the overall benefit and gains to all concerned, the argument goes, and this is why reservation in higher education should be on the basis of income and wealth rather than on the basis of caste, tribe or creed.

Another argument against the present system is that the SC/STs do not utilize their quota, allowing the unfilled seats go down the drain. *The Hindustan Times* statistics show that only 16 per cent of the places in higher education are occupied by SCs and STs against 22.5 per cent quota which means that only two-thirds of the quota is occupied and one third is going down the drain. On the contrary, many aspirants from the general class are deprived of an opportunity due to heavy reservations in favour of the SCs, STs and OBCs by the public higher educational institutions.

Similarly, *The Times of India* in an article "Quota Is No Solution," has raised the question: If middle-class parents are forced to send their wards to foreign universities charging exorbitant fees, won't it deprive the really meritorious and talented from jobs and access to quality education? (24 April 2006: 1).

Most reservation policies originate from an earnest desire for justice—those discriminated against in the past should be compensated. But is this reservation policy really helping us in meeting this ultimate goal? Most of these students of unreserved class leave the country in quest of higher education, the net effect being that they end up paying exorbitant fees which results in huge losses in monetary terms and brain drain for the country. But this is not the only loss which a country bears, since some students who do not get admission in India due to heavy reservation cannot go aboard because of heavy expenses. Their talents are wasted.

Reservation policy needs to be race-exclusive and gender-neutral and if reservation is to be continued it should be on the basis of income rather than on the basis of caste and creed. As anyone who cannot afford to bear the expenses of education needs reservation. Moreover, the creamy layer concept implemented to the OBCs class needs to be implemented for SCs and STs class as well. As once they have reaped the benefits of reservation they should not be further benefited by this policy. The government needs to address another important question: how long should we carry on this reservation policy to ensure that the deprived class catches up with the upper class?



Will Aam Aadmi Party Bring Real Change in the Country ?

Yashwardhan Singh*

From a civil servant to an activist and then to a politician, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal has gone through various transitions in his life. Since, he has witnessed how the present political system works from inside as well as from outside, he knew very well that he can bring a change in the country. When 'Team Anna' or the NGO-India Against Corruption wasn't able to get Janlokalpal Bill cleared by the Parliament, Arvind Kejriwal and his associates realized that any change in the system has to be by the people through the democratic political system. He was determined that one can't bring the change or solve the basic problems of common people from outside. This drove him to form a political party with an ideology focusing on 'Aam Aadmi'. The main goal of the party was to stand against corruption which was the biggest problem for a common man and our country. This anti-corruption stand and an intense drive to bring the change in our system, supported by media, which is the fourth pillar of our democracy, made this party popular among the masses, especially amongst the youth of our nation. They also receive support from the poor sections of society, as they thought that somebody is actually thinking about their issues and will try to resolve them. This became evident with AAP getting an unprecedented support from all quarters of society by winning 28 seats in Delhi assembly elections held in December 2013. This reflects that the people are tired of the

existing political class and they want a real change in our country.

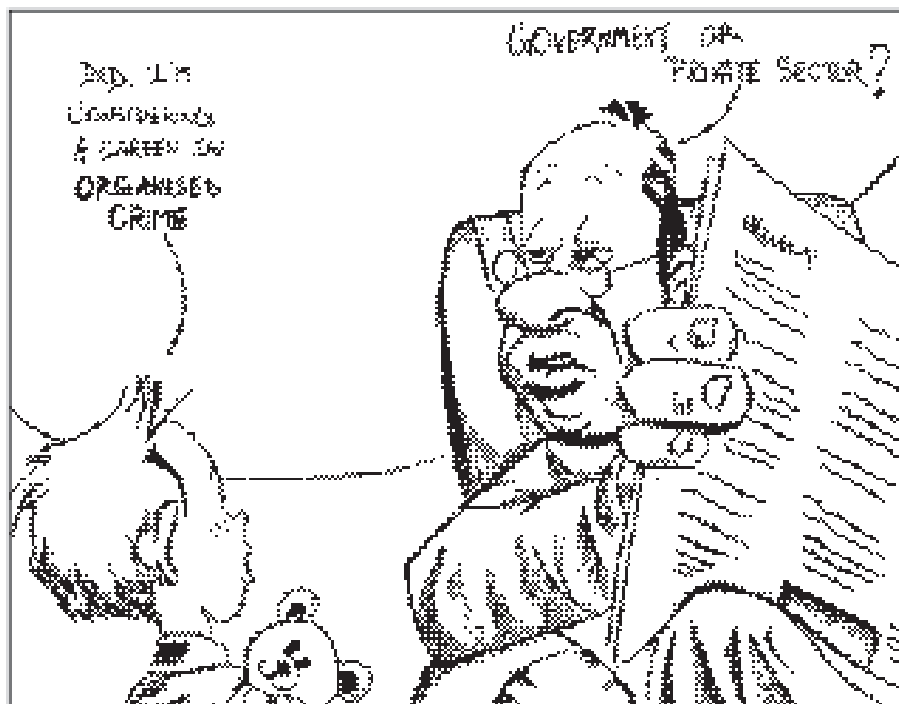
Now, the question arises whether they will be able to live up to this hope of the nation to bring a real change or they will also turn out to be like any other political party? After the recent turmoil in the media related to AAP and its convener Mr. Arvind Kejriwal and clashes among the party cadre, there is a re-think in the minds of the citizens. Thanks to media again which is now criticizing AAP and its leaders for their actions. The basic problem with us Indians, is that we don't take much time in making someone our hero, who can do wonders, and in another split second we can reduce him/her to zero. Another question related to the existence of this party is whether in our participative democracy we can't change the system from outside? Can't we make it more accountable without being a part of it? An NGO Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) can be a partial answer to that question. With a basic demand of few local people in Rajsamand district of Rajasthan, to show them the official documents related to the work done by the hired labor, in order to remove the inconsistency and delivery of wages for the work done by them, a movement started taking shape to bring an unexpected change in the system. From early 1990s this NGO spearheaded the movement, led by Ms. Aruna Roy, Mr. Shankar Singh and Mr. Nikhil Dey against

*Asst. Professor, Dept. of Economics.

government officials to show the documents, since information related to them is a basic right of the citizens. This movement became an all-India campaign for the Right to Information, which was finally passed by the parliament and came into existence from 2005 onwards. This brought an unprecedented change in the accountability of the government towards its citizens, which also helped in unearthing the biggest scams like Commonwealth, Spectrum, Coal-gate, and so on. This became a tool in the hands of citizens to bring a change in the governance and to make government more accountable towards them.

But, is it sufficient to solve all our problems? The acts like these can improve the situation of the vulnerable in our society? The movements represent the pressure of civil society on the government to listen to their demands. This is a change brought out from outside the system, which is required but was not sufficient,

considering the structure of our society. This campaign too took almost 10 years in getting RTI act for the citizens for our country. Hence, it's preferred to work from inside the system, if you can, in order to bring the change for the country within a short span of time. The external pressure of civil society is equally important but this lacks the guarantee of change in a short span of time with larger impact. It's in this scenario that AAP can become a tool for the real change, considering the existing setup of political parties. The cloud of skepticism is hovering over the existence of AAP, but it's not good to become extra judgmental without giving them a proper chance to serve society. Still, there is a question mark over their ability to govern the bureaucracy. Nevertheless, we have tested all the parties; now why not give them a chance and support them before criticizing them. They have given us hope and lets be optimistic about it.





Interdisciplinary Approach in Education – Corridor to a Progressive Future

Mikku Dave*

Look at a child's face when he sees something new. The expression is full of interest and not of boredom. He wishes to explore the new thing, the new world presented to him. It is this characteristic that makes him learn new things in life and consequently one sees a faster and progressive growth. For learning new things, a child undergoes lots of physical activities which strengthen him physically, whereas the mental exercises enrich his psychological growth.

The scenario changes when we grow up; we stop thinking like a child and reserve ourselves to our cocoon, which often limits our thoughts and in turn hampers our overall growth. We love and like to think and live in our own shells. We become doctors, lawyers, academicians, engineers, accountants, managers, etc. But no more an educated human being, who is not willing to have his brain chained with boundaries. It takes great effort to break this shell if a person continues to live within certain peripheries for a very long time.

The *raison d'être* of education in life is to attain a state of perfection which makes a human brain as flexible as rubber, and as receptive as a sponge. It is only then that the brain starts thinking, analyzing and making decisions with a multidimensional perspective. Human being, the most beautiful creation of nature, needs to exert his intelligence for his own development. One way to achieve this

is to apply interdisciplinary approach in education. When we look at an object's 2D image, we perceive something about it. When we convert the same image into a 3D model, the scenario transforms magnificently.

With the growing technology, we have modernized our ways and tools of teaching. Segregated subject matter approach should be shunned and interdisciplinary vision and methodologies should be adopted.

Interdisciplinary techniques, when employed, not only improve the learning habits, but also enhance one's creativity, communication skills, academic skills, critical thinking and analytical abilities. An inter-disciplinary approach paves the way for an innovative approach in thinking, as well as opens the eye to have a fresh perspective towards one's own discipline too. This enhances the thought process – and we move from knowledge to wisdom.

A seed cannot bloom if it stays in its shell. The environment is there for its help, but the force to grow, the yearning to break the crust, the desire to transform into a bud, from a bud to a plant, and from a plant to a beautiful sturdy tree should come from inside. It is only then that the tree can fight adverse winds, rain, snow and heat, and also bloom in spring.

*Asst. Professor, Dept. of Economics.

Absconding Indians in INDIA

Nishant Singh*

I wonder,
 How many INDIANS live in INDIA?
 So I conducted a contemplative survey through the prism of my brain.
 I met Hindus-Muslims-Sikhs-Christians-Parsis,
 I met North Indians-South Indians-North East Indians,
 I met Marathis-Rajasthanis-Kashmiris-Tamils-Kannadigas,
 I met different Varnas, High Caste-Low Caste,
 I met self-proclaimed activists and intellectuals
 I met internationalists and global visionaries talking about *planet citizenship*,
 I met selfish - pernicious - willfully ignorant - politically ravaged so-called 'Youth',
 I met malevolent politicians in a mad rush for power,
 I met sectarian identity slaves,
 I met liberal individualists,
 I met foreign land admirers,
 I met dysfunctional byproducts of the charter of citizenship,
 I met war and jingoist critics,
 I met peace lovers,
 I met artists,
 I met purposive nationalists on a cricket match or on abusing Pakistan,
 I met a lot of hypocrites, talking about India but then... just talking.
 Hereby, I confess, I failed.
 I could not find INDIANS in spirit to relate to the land of HIND
 Then a spirit came to rescue my quest and said,
"Indians died on the day of freedom, now they are all inherited Residents"

*Guest faculty, St. Xavier's College, Jaipur



Eradication Measures Of Poverty In India

Arpit Dugar*

Despite india being one of the tenth fastest growing economies of the world, it is home to over a third of the worlds poor people. Poor people tend to have low levels of education and health, they are more likely to have limited access to basic services like sanitation, water etc. They suffer the most from hunger and food insecurity. India remains predominantly a rural nation, with 70% of its people living in rural areas and the incidence of poverty is much higher in these areas affecting the rural economy as well as the overall economy of the nation. The rate of decline of poverty has not accelerated along with the growth of GDP even till date when India entered the term of the 13th Five Year Plan. Of its nearly 1.2 billion inhabitants, an estimated 256 million are below the poverty line, of which 75% are in rural areas 25% are in urban setting.

The causes of poverty are manifold including inadequate and ineffective implementation of anti poverty programmes. Over dependence on monsoon and unavailability of irrigation often result in crop failure and low agricultural productivity forcing farmers into debt traps. Accelerating agriculture development with emphasis on watershed development in dry land areas and special focus on small farmers will

increase employment and help reduce poverty. PNGSY, SSA, RGCSM, etc are flagship schemes being implemented for the very purpose.

But greater efforts are needed to build the capacity of administration and improve governance at the district level at first and then at the block and village level. The success of poverty-targeted schemes in India is dependent upon proper identification of the beneficiaries, transparency, supervision over executives, field staff and social mobilization. Also special and aggressive attention must be paid to ;

- Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieving universal primary and secondary education
- Promoting gender equality and women empowerment
- Reducing infant mortality and child mortality
- Improvement in maternal health
- Combating deadly/fatel diseases
- Ensuring environmental stability
- Developing global partners for development

*Writer and Academician

Rural crediting to farmers is also an important measure so that they can sustain in the competition markets and thus help in achieving basic goals. Infact the immediate measure to reduce poverty is the implementation of a fool proof rural credit system. It assumes importance because most indian families (particularly rural) have inadequate savings to finance farming and other economic activities. Thus availability of timely credit at affordable rates of interest are a pre-requisite for improving livelihood and accelerating development.

The non-availability of credit and banking facilities to the poor and under-privileged segments of the society have always been a major concern in India, But broadly there are several

factors responsible on account of which there is increasing debt on agriculturists. It is their social status which compels them to borrow more and more to spend on non-productive purposes, say for marriage, celebrations and other social obligations.

To solve the problem of debt, schemes like Kisan Credit Scheme, agriculture debt waiver, debt relief scheme, etc. have been implemented. Poverty in india should be taken as a challenge to work more systematically rather a mere problem. Also as said by the founder of Grammeen Bank in Bangladesh, Professor Yunus, "if we come up with a system which allows everybody's access to credit while ensuring excellent repayment, I can give you guarentee that POVERTY will not last long".





The Illusion of Reality

Akul Vashishtha*

Quantum Physics tells us that reality is far beyond human perception and intuition. In other words, our rational mind and common sense are just not capable of understanding the true nature of reality.

In 1954, a young Princeton University doctoral scholar Hugh Everett proposed a radical idea. He proposed that there exist parallel universes exactly like our universe. A parallel universe, according to the definition given by Quantum Mechanics, is "universes that are separated from each other by a single quantum event".

According to Everett, these universes are very deeply interrelated and interlinked. Infinite universes or multiverse theory dictates that universes are a long infinite string of branches.

This is how it works, we all perceive our life to be a linear progression but it is not. It splits into different dimensions as our life progresses. For example, if you face a choice to go or not to go to a particular place. You choose to go but at the last moment something comes up and you fail to reach the place. But the next time you are at that very place, you will experience a feeling of Déjà vu. In your subtle consciousness you feel as you have already visited it before. The reason is that you

have actually visited the place is an alternate reality. That parallel dimension in which you were able to reach the place before, there existed a road not taken.

These differences between the interval of time are given by the Euclidean Space-Time continuum model:

$$\Delta S^2 = \Delta r^2 - c^2 \Delta t^2$$

Where S^2 is the interval, c is the speed of light. Δr and Δt denote the space and time coordinates respectively.

Due to this difference that exists between the Space and Time intervals or coordinates, parallel dimensions move behind or ahead of the space-time continuum that we perceive. In other words, our past and future events are taking place in these dimensions as we speak. Therefore, quite literally, we cannot assume time to be linear. It does not have a beginning and it does not have an end.

We can jump this space-time continuum and travel through these parallel dimensions by a paranormal concept known as Astral Projection or in the words of a laymen 'Spirit Walk'.

Astral Projection assumes that an astral body exists separate from our physical body. During a

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deep state of relaxation or meditation, when our conscious and subconscious mind meet at a common border, our astral body is capable of projecting itself out of our physical body enabling a heightened state of Extra Sensory Perception. The astral body can travel through the astral plane into the dimensions.

There are cases in which due to sudden unforeseen death, the astral body of a person gets trapped in a time warp. In other words, it can move neither forwards nor backwards in time. This phenomenon is referred to by some naïve people as a "haunting".

During astral travel we can witness our past and future events happening before us. We can only witness them, we cannot change them. Maybe that works for the greater good. Certain things are

beyond our control, they are better left to God. Only that divine mechanism can best control it. Sometimes even science has to rely on faith. Science should always maintain that distinction between God's domain and our own. If we try to alter the grand design, there will be consequences. We might tear apart the very fabric of nature.

This might seem a lot to process at once, but it is only when we open our mind to the impossible will we ever find the truth.

"Now I shall explain that which is to be known, realizing which the nectar of immortality is attained, that reality is eternal having Me as the Supreme, beyond cause, beyond effect and designated as the Ultimate Truth."

Lord Krishna (The Bhagawada Gita)





Incredible India!

Smriti Khemka, Anshul Bhatt*

"Midnight marked new beginnings. The Father considered: His non-violence gave birth to a nation, but had violently ripped his children apart." 15th August 1947, a new chapter began in the history of one of the largest democracies of the world, India. Independence came to us at a huge cost. Thousands of lives were lost and millions displaced. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, our first prime minister with his supportive cabinet did all he could to control the communal tension between the Hindus and the Muslims. The whole world was watching as to how this newborn country deals with such a huge diversified population. We stumbled, we stuttered and we took steps cautiously; every decision was questioned, criticized. To get a majority vote on any issue was not a cakewalk. We took bad decisions once or twice; still we moved forward learning from our mistakes.

With an experience of a mere 66 years of independence, there is no strata of life where we

haven't made our presence felt. *"Incredible India!"* I say for being the largest democracy of the world; *"Incredible India!"* I say for its diversified population, from Jammu and Kashmir to Kanyakumari from Gujarat to Assam. *"Incredible India!"* I say for Taj Mahal, for being recognized as one of the 7 Wonders of the World; *"Incredible India!"* I say for having personalities like Chanakya, Rabindranath Tagore or for having nationalist leaders like Bhagat Singh and Subhash Chandra Bose; *"Incredible India!"* I say for eradicating polio from the country; *"Incredible India!"* I say for the origin of the study of calculus, trigonometry and algebra; *"Incredible India!"* I say for being the most preferred nation for IT services; *"Incredible India!"* I say for being the largest producer of milk, jute and pulses; *"Incredible India!"* I say for its family values; *"Incredible India!"* I say for its Mars mission; *"Incredible India!"* I say for its uniqueness and for the hunger to be more.

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FOOD SECURITY A Case Study

Daksh Bhagat*

The National Food Security Bill follows from the National Food Security Ordinance, 2013 that was promulgated by the government on July 5. The Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Parliament) on 26th August passed the ambitious National Food Security Bill, 2013 that seeks to provide highly subsidized food grains to nearly 67% of the population. The bill seeks to make the right to food and nutritional security a legal right by providing specific entitlements to certain groups. Some key provisions of the bill are summarized below:

Salient features

- 75% of rural and 50% of the urban population are entitled for three years from enactment to five kg food grains per month at 3 (4.8€ US), 2 (3.2€ US), 1 (1.6€ US) per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains (millet), respectively
- The states are responsible for determining eligibility;
- Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to a nutritious "take home ration" of 600 Calories and a maternity benefit of at least Rs 6,000 for six months;
- Children 6 months to 14 years of age are to receive free hot meals or "take home rations";
- The central government will provide funds to states in case of short supplies of food grains;

- The current food grain allocation of the states will be protected by the central government for at least six months;
- The state government will provide a food security allowance to the beneficiaries in case of non-supply of food grains;
- The Public Distribution System is to be reformed;
- The eldest woman in the household, 18 years or above, is the head of the household for the issuance of the ration card;
- There will be state- and district-level redress mechanisms; and
- State Food Commissions will be formed for implementation and monitoring of the provisions of the Act.
- The cost of the implementation is estimated to be \$22 billion (1.25 lakh crore), approximately 1.5 % of GDP.
- The poorest that are covered under the Antodaya Anna Yojna will remain entitled to the 35 kg of grains allotted to them under the mentioned scheme.

Intent

The intent of the National Food Security Bill is spelled out in the Lok Sabha committee report, The National Food Security Bill, 2011, Twenty

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Seventh Report, which states, "Food security means availability of sufficient food grains to meet the domestic demand as well as access, at the individual level, to adequate quantities of food at affordable prices." The report adds, "The proposed legislation marks a paradigm shift in addressing the problem of food security – from the current welfare approach to a right based approach. About two thirds (approx 67%) of the population will be entitled to receive subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System. In a country where almost 40% of children are undernourished the importance of the scheme increases significantly" (Source : Wikipedia).

Expenditure

67% population means around 85 crore individuals (Assuming our population as 130 crores).

The selling price of any average quality Rice is around Rs. 20 per kg. So, if the Government is planning on selling it at Rs. 3 per kg, then the difference Rs. 17/- will be the subsidy the government is offering. So, for 5 kgs the subsidy is Rs. 85/- per person. For 85 crore people imagine how much subsidy the government has to give. You can take the average selling price of all these items that come under this bill, subtract the selling price from market price and voila, you will end up with the total subsidy per person.

The highlight is, this is on a monthly basis which means, the government will incur this subsidy bill every month and forever?

An estimate by the Government suggests that the overall impact this Food Security Bill will have on its tax payers will be around 1.2 lakh crores. Economists and industry experts feel that this estimate is highly optimistic and may go up to 2.4 lakh crores. Moreover, this estimate is just for the

subsidy the government will be offering. The additional expenditure that is required to set up a system through which this scheme will be brought to the common man, setting up operations, movement of the food grains, storage of the grains and so on is not part of this estimate.

Another important point to remember here is that the food security scheme is an **open-ended scheme**. This means that, there is no end date or expiry date for this scheme. It will be a never-ending phenomenon that covers 67% of our population irrespective of whether they need that subsidy or not. This means, as our population goes up, the expenditure too would keep going up.

- **What is our country's total income?**

The projected Income for our country in the financial year 2013-2014 is around 11.2 lakh crores. This is the difference between our total revenue/earnings and the loan interest & repayments we do from the various entities we have borrowed money from. So, 1.2 lakh crores as a % of 11.2 lakh crores works out to 10.7% and if we take the higher limit estimate of 2.4 lakh crores the % soars to 21.4%.

The government is proposing to spend between 10-20% of its gross income to meet the cash needs of this Food Security Bill. This scheme will put immense pressure on the nation's fiscal deficit.

Fiscal deficit is defined as the difference between what a government earns and what it spends.

- **How will this extra expenditure be financed?**

If the government has to spend 10-20% of its income on this scheme, it means that the

corresponding amount has to be reduced from other schemes like Infrastructure projects or educational projects and so on. The nation's income is not going to go up by 20% to meet this additional cash requirement overnight. So, the finance ministry will have to either borrow to meet this additional cash demand or cut expenses on other projects to accommodate this.

Given that our economy is in a bad place right now, hiking taxes is not a good option. Add in the fact that we have elections this year; the option of hiking taxes is ruled out. Budgets for most projects for the next few years are also allocated and earmarked from our revenue and hence cutting expenditure too is ruled out. So, the only option available for the government is to "**Borrow**"

Schemes like National Savings Certificate (NSC) or Infrastructure Bonds, etc. are classic examples of government borrowings.

Other Provisions

- **PDS Reforms**

In Chapter V, the Bill states that central and state governments "shall endeavour to progressively undertake" various PDS reforms, including: doorstep delivery of foodgrains; end-to-end computerisation; leveraging "aadhaar" (UID) for unique identification of entitled beneficiaries; full transparency of records; preference to public institutions or bodies in licensing of fair price shops; management of fair price shops by women or their collectives; diversification of commodities distributed under the PDS; full

transparency of records; and "introducing schemes such as cash transfer, food coupons or other schemes to the targeted beneficiaries in order to ensure their foodgrain entitlements" as prescribed by the central government.

- **Obligations of Government and Local Authorities**

The main obligation of the Central Government is to provide foodgrains (or, failing that, funds) to state governments, at prices specified in Schedule 1, to implement the main entitlements. The Central Government has wide-ranging powers to make Rules "in consultation with the state government". The main obligation of state governments is to implement the relevant schemes, in accordance with the Central Government guidelines. State governments also have wide-ranging powers to make rules. They are free to extend benefits and entitlements beyond what is prescribed in the Bill, from their own resources. Local Authorities and Panchayati Raj Institutions are responsible for the proper implementation of the Bill in their respective areas, and may be given additional responsibilities by notification.

The impact of the Food Security Bill on the Indian Economy

- **Impact on Economic Growth**

The government would resort to borrowing to fund the Food Security Bill. When the government enters the borrowing market, in order to entice investors, it would have to offer good interest rates. The private sector too would have to hike their interest rates in order



to stay competitive. This means, the interest rates will continue to remain high. High interest rates is never good for economic growth.

- **Impact on Food Inflation**

Minimum Support Price or MSP is something the government sets/ declares every year as the price at which it buys grains from farmers. This grain is then used by the government for all its various schemes. The grains to be distributed under this Food Security Program too will be procured like this.

Minimum guaranteed prices means, farmers will have more incentive to grow rice/wheat and other grains covered under this scheme. This might result in **vegetable** production getting affected which will further affect the nation's food inflation.

In the last 5 years, food inflation contributes to over 41% of our overall inflation. So, by subsidizing the price of rice, wheat and a few cereals, it might result in an unintended consequence of other items becoming costlier which will result in overall higher food inflation.

- **Impact on Overall Inflation**

An alternate to funding this scheme is for the government is to print money. World history is full of classic examples where governments resorted to printing more currency to fund its cash requirements. This is never a good idea and will result in the country's overall inflation going higher.

- **Impact on the Current Account Deficit**

We all know that importing of gold and petroleum products is the biggest contributing factor to our nation's Current Account Deficit.

The Food Security Bill guarantees food for the people covered under the scheme. So, if in a particular year, the in-country production of either rice or wheat is not sufficient, we would be forced to import it. So, if we start importing rice, wheat or any other food grains, it will further widen the Current Account Deficit.

- **Impact on Fertilizer and Power Subsidy**

In order to grow food grains, farmers use fertilizers and electricity. Both of these items are already heavily subsidized for farmers. The procurement needs of the Food Security Bill will result in intensive cultivation using more fertilizer and power, which will push up central subsidies on fertilizer and state subsidies on power. So, in order to procure enough food grains, the government will be forced to shell out more subsidies for both fertilizers and power which again will leave a big dent in the nation's budget.

Food Security Bill is a boon, because it guarantees food, which is a basic need. But the PDS system must be strengthened to avoid corruption and leakages. And procurement price must be increased. Farmers must be protected. If this bill is implemented effectively, it will definitely help to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

The Melting Third Pole and Its Impact on India

Ruchira Boss*

Located at an altitude of 4,000 to 6,000 metres, the Himalayan glaciers are one of the most distinctive and important land features on planet earth. For many eons these glaciers have met with the basic necessities of the human civilizations and have sustained life beyond its vast border. The Himalayan region is the most economically underdeveloped and most densely populated mountain ecosystems on earth. Known as the "THIRD POLE", it is home to the largest concentration of glaciers (around 46,000 glaciers), and stores more freshwater than any other region except the North and South Pole.

The seasonal melt of these largest glaciers releases water into tributaries of the Ganges, the Indus, the Brahmaputra, the Yangtze, the Mekong and the Yellow. And therefore these rivers are a major source of freshwater for people in nations including India, China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The glacial melt contributes up to 45 percent in the major river flow in the Indian subcontinent, that is, the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. Approximately 500 million people depend upon water from these three river systems to support varied activities like agriculture, hydropower, fisheries and other economic activities. In short, the melt water from 12,000 km cube of glaciers of the third pole guarantees permanent flow of Asia's major river system.

Impact of widespread deglaciation on the Indian subcontinent

The June-September monsoon is critical for India as the two-thirds of Indians depend on agriculture. The entire nation eagerly awaits and follows the progress of the

south-west monsoon as more than 70 percent of India's annual rainfall is from this monsoon and supports nearly 75 percent of the kharif crops harvested in the country. Since the 1970s, due to the alarming increase in global warming, the glaciers in the Indo-Gangetic plain have been melting at a staggering rate; about 80 percent of the western Tibetan glaciers are retreating. This includes a 21 percent decrease in the area of 466 glaciers that were studied in the Indian region of the Himalaya. The 15 meter per year melting rate of these glaciers is the highest in the world! In conjunction, there has been a substantial decrease in the summer monsoon rainfall in the Indo-Gangetic plain, threatening both water and flood security. Moreover, the resulted change in the entire Indian monsoon pattern has led to large rainfall variability at some places with severe drought in the areas of Himalayan region and the fertile regions. Consequently, this has an adverse effect on the water regime both in water-fed and rain-fed areas, changing them rapidly.

On regular intervals, it has been pointed out that if the glaciers continue to recede at the present rate, there is a very high risk of their disappearance by the year 2050, perhaps sooner, if the earth keeps warming at the present rate. The risk increases as these glaciers are not only affected by long-lived greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide but also by short-lived pollutants like black carbon, methane and atmospheric ozone.

Moreover, adding to the woes, when these large glaciers are wasted; they form moraine- dammed glacial lakes. These growing lakes invariably burst out,

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releasing huge amounts of water and debris. This phenomenon is widely known as glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). A number of GLOFs have been reported in the Indo-Gangetic region in the last few decades, particularly from the eastern sector of the region. The lakes have already been formed in Sikkim and other states in the north east. GLOFs have resulted in many deaths for downstream populations as well as destruction of property and infrastructure. Glacier melting and GLOFs exacerbate variations in the hydrological regime, degrade biodiversity, land degradation, and trigger many socioeconomic externalities. Rapid climate change is intensifying these impacts. This will eventually harm the ecosystem and human habitat far beyond the mountains.

Impact on the Major Indian Rivers

The Indus and the Ganges currently have little outflow to the sea during the dry season and are in danger of becoming seasonal rivers due to climate change and rapidly increasing water demand. Taking the case of river Ganges, with the ever-increasing population especially near the basin areas, the shortage of water is getting noticeably worse. According to some reports, certain sections of the rivers are completely dry. In Varanasi and its nearby areas, where once there was an average depth of 60 meters (200 ft), now the depth is reduced to only 10 meters in some places. In and around the Ganges and the Indus, around 170 million people will lose several of their local springs and streams, essential for livestock grazing and other sources of earning. On 17- August 2010, Global Warming Benefits to Tibet: Chinese official issued a strong warning:

Temperatures are rising four times faster than elsewhere in China, and the Tibetan glaciers are retreating at a higher speed than in any other part of the world... In the short term, this will cause lakes to

expand and bring floods and mudflows... In the long run, the glaciers are vital lifelines for Asian rivers, including the Indus and the Ganges. Once they vanish, water supplies in those regions will be in peril.

CONCLUSION

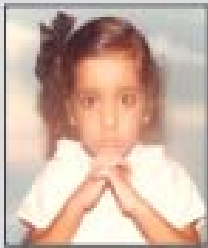
The results have been worsening by the facts that around 94 percent of the energy demand are till now met by traditional ways such as biomass, animal dung and fuel wood. India, an energy-constrained economy, the anticipation of depleting glaciers and consequently diminishing river flows in the near future and the possibility of not achieving the required energy potential from hydropower will have grave and deep-seated impact on the economy as a whole. Can we comply with these acute problems?

In the recent decades there has been excessive human intervention in the Tibetan belt, like the building of hydroelectric power generation systems, excessive mining, and dumping of chemicals and other non-biodegradable waste in the sensitive regions. Governments need to prioritize environmental issues and should not ignore the environmental concerns voiced by various international organizations, NGOs, scientists and environmental activists. As an immediate action, there should be reduction in carbon emission in and around the Himalayan region. The bilateral talks between India and China should focus on how the two nations can preserve the Third Pole by fixing responsibilities and banning excessive human intervention on both sides. Lastly, as we individuals are also to be blamed for the raise in global warming, being sensitive towards environmental problems, we should make efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. "Human destiny is bound to remain a gamble, because at some unpredictable time and in some unforeseeable manner nature will strike back." – Rene Dubos, 1959.

Guess Who?

Aayushi Bengani*

Chubby cheeks, dimple chin, rosy lips, teeth within, curly hair, very fair, eyes are blue, lovely too
Students' mentor, is that you?



1. A trained Kathak danseuse and a word weaver, she writes poetry in her leisure time and is a great orator as her pals say.



2. A lil' coy and reticent, he loves to play basketball, travel places and reading magazines for current affairs. He is as sincere and diligent as he looks in the picture. An ace amidst all the queens, he is equally loved by his colleagues as by all his students.

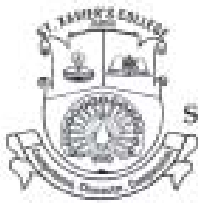


3. Cooking and drawing are the activities she gives her heart into. She is ready to explain you the theory even when you approach her the 20th time. Must say, her level of patience is truly international!

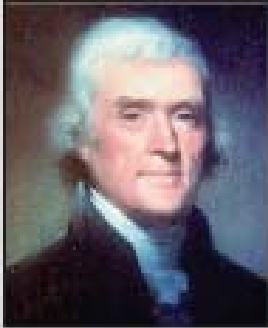


4. She loves to do gardening in her spare time. Besides an initiative to make the environment green, she believes it has a soothing effect on both the mind and the body. Always up for help, she is more sweet than strict.

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Bet you didn't know that...

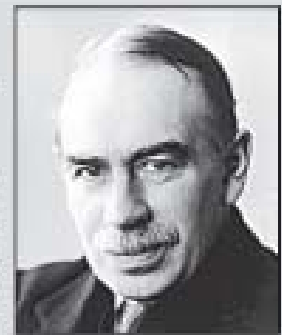


ADAM SMITH

- He was kidnapped when he was four years old; then abandoned. He was sleepwalking for 15 miles before he was woken up by the sound of bells.
- He always looked distracted while he walked and once fell into a pit while walking.

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES

- Skandar Keynes, the actor who plays the role of Edmund Pevensie in 'The Chronicles of Narnia' film series, is a descendent of Keynes.
- Throughout his life Keynes worked energetically for the benefit both of the public and his friends—even when his health was poor he laboured to sort out the finances of his old college. A member of a very long-lived family (his parents, two grandparents and his brother all lived into their nineties), he died surprisingly young, apparently the result of overwork and childhood illness.



KARL MARX

- As he was dying, his housekeeper asked him to make a statement for posterity. Angrily, he threw a slipper at her and shouted, "Go on, get out! Last words are for fools who haven't said enough!" They were to be his last words.

ARTHUR CECIL PIGOU

- Pigou had strong principles and these gave him some problems in World War I. He was a conscientious objector to military service when it required an obligation to destroy human life.
- He loved mountains and climbing, and introduced climbing to many friends, such as Wilfrid Noyce and others, who became far greater climbers.



The English Never Left

Naman Narain*

How to impress an average Indian? If one is white skinned (foreigner), then talk in Hindi and if one is brown skinned (Indian), then talk in English. An innocuous joke on the internet is, unfortunately, the reality of our nation. Fair complexion with fluency in English is an extremely advantageous combination. It is a ticket to courteous treatment at the hands of officials, and the populace in general; it makes the individual a recipient of awe and envy of the masses, et al. The desire to be treated in a similar fashion defines the aspirations of the middle class.

The Indian middle class aspires to be fluent in English. The strength of character takes a backseat if a man knows decent grammar here. Take restaurants for instance. A caustic comment made by an angry customer in English is met with much more sincerity vis-à-vis the same comment in Hindi. And the same reverential treatment was, also, conferred to the British in India when it was colonized. But, unfortunately, our desires are not limited to being well-versed in English; it extends to all things English.

The well-heeled in India are known to prefer foreign brands over the indigenously named goods. The middle class, in its haste to emulate the rich, buys brands with foreign names. Lacking the nuanced knowledge and the purchasing power, they are often (willingly?) victimized by false marketing. Indian brands packaged and sold with foreign names like Allen Solly, Park Avenue, Peter England, sell exceedingly well in our country as

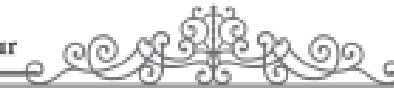
compared to the brands with Indian names like Vimal. The disparity and bias is indisputable.

The extent to which we still are influenced by the British is disconcerting. Indians' preference for fair skin is a by-product of the British Raj. In a country with more than 90% of the population unqualified to be called fair-skinned, the yearning to belong to this category is fascinating. The multitude of fairness creams sold in the Indian market is a testament to this obsession. The reason is not purely cultural but has its roots in economics. The moneyed-class was majorly fair-skinned during the British Raj. Since being wealthy is an aspiration of most, being associated (however that maybe) with the rich has always been a badge of honour. And what better a way than to be fair skinned!

Airports and railway stations offer a great study on the subject. Average skin tone at airports is fairer than that at railway stations, indicating the correlation between money and skin tone. Ironically, the fair-skinned English-speaking Indian population and the British under the Raj, both, were in minority.

With such stark similarities between the societal ethos of the 21st century India and the colonized India, it seems as if the English never left. The language, the mannerisms, and the associated haughtiness are as pervasive as they were in the times gone-by. All that has changed is that the English now hold Indian passports.

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Youth in Politics

Vaibhav Nain*

In this modern era of collapsed Indian political system, our country needs a change and that is the entry of "YOUTH IN POLITICS". If we look through the Indian history, we'll find young men like Bhagat Singh, Henry Vivian Derozio, Chandra Shekhar Azad and other such great souls, who had a passion to serve their nation with the intense patriotism that ran deep in their veins. Equipped with unwavering love for their motherland, they fought the nefarious British Raj and contributed to the freedom struggle. But majority of our generation has no sense of patriotism or even love for the motherland. We have put our work and our selfish pursuits before India.

In India every third person is a youth who has lost himself in the virtual world of luxury which includes night clubs, drugs and liquor. This culture, which they believe to be a status symbol and something which would make them look cool and happening, is one which they have adopted from the western countries. But where our youth has successfully adopted the party culture, they have failed to absorb the thoughts, and the innate sense of patriotism which western countries also offer. The present condition of the youth in India is an indicator that India has become a dumping ground for obsolete and denigrating ideals from the western countries.

The western world and our neighboring countries are making use of every opportunity they get to create an illusion for the already lost Indian youth. They call this illusion a brand and a status symbol which is up for sale. And they make profit from the Indian market while the country suffers. The ironical part is that this addictive need for

climbing the social ladder is something which our youth is extremely proud of and welcomes this foreign culture with open arms, thereby neglecting their own heritage.

In 2004 only 6% of the total youth of the country was in Parliament. Why is it so? Maybe, because the large part of the educated youth believes politics to be demeaning in nature. They literally phrase it as 'getting into politics is getting your hands dirty in filth'.

Excuse me! This so-called filth is flooding our country so it is our moral duty to purify our country from these impurities such as corruption. Another group of hypocrites amongst our youth who have entered the arena of politics is there for selfish gains and is nothing more than vestigial organs waiting to be surgically removed. They work under the banner of "NATIONAL INTEREST" but majority of these individuals have their eyes set on power, prestige and money. Students contesting the elections in universities and colleges are winning on the basis of their financial status, while the candidates who are really interested to the work for the students' welfare are nowhere in the competition.

It's time for the youth to be the frontrunners in this country's politics. India can be a superpower, leading the world, but only with a youth-oriented political system. This possibility can become a reality only when the youth of our country would forgo the utterly useless and endless hunt for personal gains and learn to respect the decades of struggle which our ancestors put in our motherland we call India.

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The Big, Fat Indian Mess

Aayushi Bengani*

We are a nation that takes immense pride in its rich heritage, diversity, traditions, values and morals; a nation whose people love to celebrate their customs and rituals with a lot of zeal and extravagance.

“The big fat Indian wedding” is no exception to this flamboyance. In fact, Indian weddings are the unfailing platforms that showcase our obsession with fanfare, where our love for grandiosity gets a tad too overwhelming. This larger-than-life wedding bug has spared no one. Be it the elite, the middle or the lower strata of the society, all of them, albeit in their respective might, indulge in superfluous expenditure on the week-long festivities that make up a typical wedding affair.

The numbers mount much higher if you happen to be on the bride’s side. Everything else takes a back seat then – caste, means of earning livelihood, education et al. The grooms have always been bought for a dear price. But in the present times the price tag has gotten bigger, bolder and gaudier.

A wedding worth Rs. 10-15 lakhs was considered big a decade ago. Now the starting point of negotiations for grooms from affluent families start at Rs. 30 lakhs. From huge amounts of cash to jewelry, luxury cars and flashy wedding bashes, the family of the groom demands it all – openly and unabashedly.

A sticky web of issues surrounds this greed which comes attached with weddings. Dowry tops this chart. It is the easiest way to satiate the compulsive glutton for luxury of our consumerist society and the noblest way of hoarding someone else’s money.

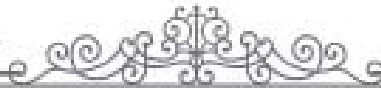
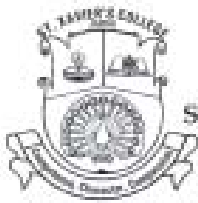
History deems dowry as an age-old custom that was originally practiced by the priestly castes. It began as a practice wherein the father of the bride voluntarily secured his daughter financially according to the resources available to him. Today, it has been reduced to a mere monetary agreement (or compulsion?) between the families of the bride and the groom.

The situation is worse among the poorer sections of society. The peasant father spends over and above his capacity for the big day of his daughter only to find himself indebted for life.

Dowry is undoubtedly the pivotal reason for families in India resorting to sex selection, consequently, fueling female feticide. Official statistics show a steady rise in dowry crimes. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh record the maximum number of such cases.

Bangalore, India’s IT hub also shows an alarming rise – four women die every day of dowry harassment and domestic violence in the

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cosmopolitan city; more than 9500 women are killed every year due to dowry related crimes.

What is astounding is that despite the government laws, multiple special police cells for women, thousands of social organizations and serious activism against dowry, the practice remains firmly stuck. And more so in cities, which supposedly house the torchbearers of a gamut of social changes that define contemporary India.

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has proved itself as one of the many toothless tigers that live only within the pages of the constitution.

Laws may help take temporary punitive action, but women require real social, financial, moral and ideological support at grassroots level to be able to say no to dowries. What is needed is a rational shift

in the mindsets and attitudes of people. Effective resistance will have to come from the girls and their parents.

The new generation must be given an environment that is conducive to their physical, mental, and social growth; mindsets need to change. Parents need to realize that they can truly secure the future of their children by educating them. No other way can last longer.

Parents will have to educate their daughters to be self-reliant and transform them into durable assets. They will have to raise their daughters as strong-willed, and uncompromising individuals. Only then can we hope to make this draconian practice a thing of the past.



Women and Education

Nehal Gautam*

“Educate a boy, and you educate an individual. Educate a girl, and you educate a community.”

Adelaide Hoodless’ quote offers a guiding light to India’s predicament, where official records put female literacy at a mere 50.8% as against a 75.2% for males. Knowledge is power; education to women is best form of empowerment.

Crimes against women are being reported at an unprecedented scale, it would be fictional to dream that the tides could ever be reversed given the fact that our society has historically denied women education. For a woman to be able to stand for her rights, it is important that she is aware of them. And it is education that paves the way for awareness. It cannot be overemphasised how important it is to educate the country’s children as it would be these hands that would shape the future. For the future to be shaped as desired, it is important to invest in quality public education schemes that make education accessible to all.

It is well established that in a country divided by the fault lines of unequal distribution of income and resources, the onus of providing quality education falls on the governing circles. But the state of already-established education centres is pathetic; they are unable to dispense quality education. Our newspapers report cases of harassment of girl students by the male teachers and students. This worsens the situation where guardians in a bid to protect their daughters refrain from sending them to schools.

Administrative problems aside, our education system whose pattern is heavily skewed towards rote learning and bookish knowledge fails to provide employability. So when we have women who can read and write but are unable to hold a job, it’s utopian to imagine financial independence for them. It’s common knowledge that a financially secure individual is less likely to bear injustice and harassment; same remains true for women.

Education is a fundamental right of every woman but quotas for women are not an answer to India’s woes. Where will a girl go to study, if the country lacks a sufficient number of higher educational institutes that dispense quality education. Ill-equipped graduates only exacerbate our nation’s problems. Vocational training is the need of the hour as it enhances employability of women who have had access to only primary education or less. Developing such centres may not drastically reduce a woman’s dependence on her male kins, but it’s a good place to start.

Uplift is an organic process. Its seeds lie not only in an educated female population but also in a society where men accept the other half of the population as their equal. Our society has a patriarchal mindset; the plight of females is probably our worst-kept secret. We cannot possibly expect the world to treat us as a potential superpower when half of the nation’s population is treated as inferior.

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Capital Punishment

Deeksha Agarwal*

Capital punishment is the execution of a person by the State for a crime. The word "capital" comes from the Latin word "capitalis", which means "regarding the head". At one point of time capital crimes were punished by severing the head. Crimes that can result in the death penalty are known as capital crimes or capital offenses. Capital punishment has been used in societies throughout history as a way to punish crime and suppress political dissent. In most places, that practice capital punishment today, death penalty is reserved as punishment for premeditated murder, espionage, treason, or as part of military justice. In some countries sexual crimes, such as rape, adultery and sodomy, carry the death penalty, as do religious crimes such as apostasy (the formal renunciation of the State religion). In many retentionist countries, drug trafficking is also a capital offense.

In the past, capital punishment had been practiced in almost every society. Currently, only 58 nations practice it, with 95 countries abolishing it. Many countries have abandoned capital punishment, including most of the European and the Pacific Area States. In Latin America, most States have completely abolished the use of capital punishment, while some countries such as Brazil allow for capital punishment only in exceptional situations, such as treason committed during wartime. The United States (the federal government and 36 of its states), Guatemala, most of the Caribbean and the majority of democracies in Asia (e.g. Japan and India) and Africa (e.g. Botswana and Zambia) retain it.

While countries around the world are going about abolishing the capital punishment for its inhumane nature, we in India, one of the more ancient civilizations, are exacerbating the cruelty by torturing death-row inmates while they are alive, to boot.

Death penalty is an old, savage-like treatment. It should not be in a man's hands to take away the life of another man, whatever evil that other man has done. Death is not a punishment. Death is the total removal of man whereas; the intention of a civil society should be to remove evil. Death penalty is flawed and it is inconsistent with modern law. Modern law intends that a person is punished for his crime. It, only, incarcerates a criminal. Why? It assumes that a criminal is capable of reformation. Jail-time is subject to the gravity of the crime. Now, when a criminal is being sentenced to death, it must be because the law is confident that the person will not change even during imprisonment for life. The job of law is not to doubt the character and psychology of a criminal, its only job is to punish a criminal and confine him. The moment it becomes criminal-centric instead of crime-centric, and law believes that the person won't change and will be as big a danger to society post-release as he is now; it doubts the will-power of the criminal. It judges the criminal, not the crime. It must not be the business of law to judge a human being. A civil society has laws to protect itself from crime, and it has prison sentence for three purposes:

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1. To confine a criminal as he is a danger to society (a law and order phenomenon)
2. To allow the criminal to introspect and realize his mistakes (a human rights phenomenon)
3. To set a precedent so that others do not do the same thing (a social character phenomenon)

One important function is to compensate the injury/harm and establish justice for the aggrieved.

A death sentence does the first and the third functions but does not allow a criminal the basic human right of realization. Even if a convict's character is considered to be irreparable and poses a supreme danger to a society, fellow human beings are nobody to judge that aspect of his character in advance. If they are so worried, sentence that person for life; a better proposition than an irrevocable death penalty.

Many studies have also shown that the death penalty is no real deterrent to crime. Deterrents are only effective when the consequences are clearly visible. For example, if a criminal is going to rob a jewelry store, he will look around to make sure there is no police standing, say, in front of the jewelry store. A group of police cars parked out in front would certainly stop the criminal from trying to rob the store at that time. The deterrent is clear and visible.

People commit crimes for two reasons: either they believe they will not be caught, or they simply don't care. The death penalty does not deter those who do not care about the consequences, since they are already detached from valuing the basic elements of human life. So it might have an effect over someone who believes they can elude capture, but it would have to be visible. Maybe, just as people put up signs that warn intruders of security systems, home and business owners should put up signs of criminals getting lethally injected reminding criminals that capital

punishment is legal in their state. This might have an effect, but would that not be awfully morbid?

There is no empirical evidence evincing the death penalty's ability to deter crime; if anything, the converse has been shown to be true. In the United States, for instance, death penalty States have far worse homicide rates than abolitionist States. So given that capital punishment does not act as a deterrent, and given that it cannot reform an offender (who will be dead), the only logical argument in its favour is on retributive grounds. As far as the expenses are concerned, should the right to life be subject to expense accounting?

Capital punishment is perfectly legal as it may be under India's laws, even if only in a prescriptive sense, runs counter to the core objectives of the criminal justice system. Equally, its application in the "rarest of rare cases"— as mandated by the Supreme Court — speaks to a larger, incoherence in India's penology. It is like war — inhuman, against the idea of a civil society but a truth of the society, probably inevitable in certain rare cases.

The purpose of the death penalty is twofold – it serves the purpose of vengeance (on the part of the state and the victims), and it serves the purpose of segregation (the prisoner who is sentenced to death will never rejoin society). Both of these are, to some extent, valid purposes for which to impose sentences for criminal activity.

If the courts still insist on sentencing the convict to death for heinous crimes, the least they could do is to ensure that the double jeopardy of State-sponsored torture, which is a direct violation of the fundamental rights, does not take place.

Lastly, death penalty is a savage-like, inhumane treatment which compromises a person's fundamental right to life and allows an administrative authority to systematically take away the life of a human being; a system more condemnable than the "rarest of the rare" crimes.



None of the Above

Radhika Malpani*

On 27 September 2013, the Supreme Court of India in its landmark verdict directed the Election Commission of India to include a new option "None of the above" in the electronic voting machines (EVMs). None of the above (NOTA), also known as "scratch" vote is now being introduced in the Indian electoral system. It is a ballot option which gives the voters the power to indicate their disapproval of all the nominated candidates. Spain, Ukraine, Colombia, France are amongst other countries which have the option of NOTA on their ballot.

NOTA is based on the important democratic principle that legitimate consent requires the ability to withhold consent. In other words, public support for political parties during election has its meaning only when it is possible for the people to show that they did not support them. It is a very decisive step taken by the Supreme Court which will contribute to the cleansing politics. Now, political parties will think twice before nominating candidates and the political leadership would formally know that the people are unhappy with the parties' choice of candidates. The logic is that it would build moral pressure on political parties and possibly bring about a rethink on their choice of candidates with criminal

records and the ones involved in corruption. According to the court, NOTA would bring about a systematic change in the whole electoral process.

Besides cleaning up politics, the option of negative vote would foster greater participation among voters, as this would draw to the polling booths those who otherwise do not vote as they are not satisfied with the candidates contesting elections. Now, they can express their disapproval by exercising the choice of rejection. This will also reduce the chances of impersonation in voting. Ultimately, the political parties have to be much more unambiguously accountable for their actions beginning from their choice of candidates contesting election to the decision they take in government.

As NOTA issues from the basic principle of democracy, which is "The right to reject," it will immensely contribute in stabilizing the current electoral system and will fulfill the objective to drive home, more forcefully the point that the leadership has to change itself and its politics to govern better. As it is rightly said, **"Democracy is all about choices and voters will be empowered by this right of negative voting."**

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The 117th Amendment

Anmol Rathore*

The Government of India recently introduced the 117th Constitution Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha. The bill upon becoming an act "amends the constitution to provide reservation to members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government of India job promotions."

Introduced in 1955, clause (4A) in Article 16, reads:

Nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any provisions for reservations in matter of promotion, with consensual seniority, to any class or classes of posts in the service under the state in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which in the opinion of state are not adequately represented in services under the state.

A judgment delivered in April 2012 by a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court, mandated three major restrictions on the selection of castes, benefiting from reservation in promotion, which said:

- The State must demonstrate backwardness.
- Inadequacy of representation.
- Maintenance of efficiency before providing reservation in promotion.

The ruling seeks to restrict the scope of the article 16(4A); it would compel the government to prove

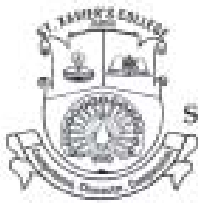
their chosen castes as backward and inadequately represented. The state has the ultimate power to infer what according to them is backwardness, inadequate representation, and maintenance of efficiency. This leads to a lot of subjectivity and provides room for corruption. In our country, vote-bank politics take precedence over moral, ethical and rational outlook towards sensitive issues like promotion. If the Loksabha ends up passing the bill, the SC can do a judicial review of it and decide whether the act contravenes the fundamentals of the constitution or not.

However restricted, reservation in promotion will adversely impact the efficiency of administration. Instead of moving forward, India is going backwards by proposing such regressive bills. Efficiency in governance is one thing which shouldn't be sacrificed. In the long run it is the country which will suffer.

The problem with such amendments is that they only objectify people and treat them as a liability rather than seek to empower them bean asset to the nation. Empowerment thus cannot be gifted. What the government is doing with the masses isn't actual empowerment but populism.

In this dark and shady scenario, there is a ray of hope. Out of the four groups - A,B,C, and D - the

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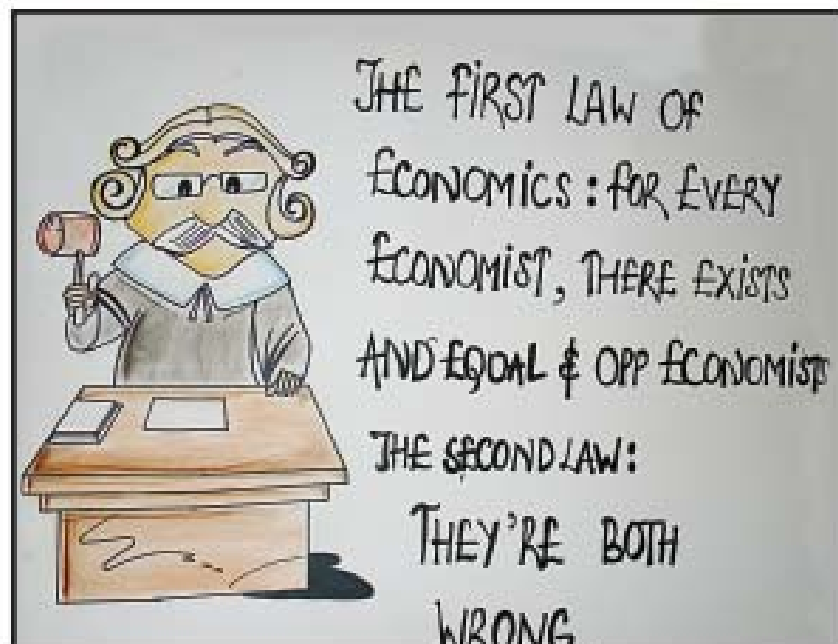
above amendment will be for 3 of them, i.e. group B, C, and D. Group A, fortunately, is endowed with a rational logarithm, whereby promotion will not be on the basis of reservation. State civil servants will now be required to clear a Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) written examination and interview to earn a promotion to the three all-India services — IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service (IFoS).

Until now, state service officers were promoted to as IAS, IPS and IFoS on the basis of their seniority and annual confidential reports (ACRs).

As per the revised scheme for induction of state civil services/non-SCS/state police services/state forest services to IAS/IPS/IFoS, UPSC will now conduct a common examination to decide on the eligible candidates. The selection will be made through a 1,000-mark, four-stage process, including a written examination and interview.

The new norms require a state civil service officer to face the written examination comprising two papers — Paper I on aptitude test and Paper II on general studies and state-specific/service-specific questions to test the knowledge and application of the officers in the critical areas of public administration and development-related issues. There will be a third written paper on essay, comprehension only for non-state civil services officers, in addition to the two papers. And, lastly, weightage of the written examination would be 30%, length of service (25%), ACR (25%) and interview (20%) as per the new norms.

Rigorous processes, like the one stated above, encourage better and more effective administrators to rise up and handle more responsibility. Thus, such procedures and steps should be applauded, appreciated, and practiced more in order to take our motherland forward.



Session 2013-14

Activities

Group Discussions

I. Abiding by its agenda of overall academic development, organized a group discussion in the month of August. It consisted of two rounds; Round 1 witnessed intense discussion on the topic "Inflation in the last 10 years". In Round 2, intellectual debate on the topic "Nationalism v/s Globalization" heated the atmosphere. Winner - Ruchira Boss (BA Hons Part III); Runner Up - Nikita Saboo (BA Hons Part III) Second Runners Up - Yasha Singh and Anmol Rathore (BA Hons Part I).



II. A GD was organized by the Economics Department on 23rd November, 2013. In it enthusiastic participants tried to figure out the prospects and challenges of MGNREGA.

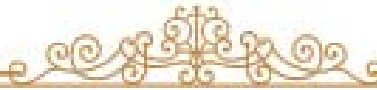
Participants discussed that the scheme was framed targeting the rural areas. By providing 200 days of guaranteed employment, the scheme aimed at reducing the income gap between the rural and urban population and simultaneously developing rural infrastructure. The scheme is immaculate but the fault lies within the implementation of the scheme. During the brainstorming session our intellectual

participants figured out corruption as the main obstacle in its success and suggested innovative ideas to the jury. A common vantage point concluded that together corruption can be curbed and together the people of India will bring the change.

Quiz

An inter-departmental quiz competition was organized on 2nd September 2013. It consisted of visual, audio and buzzer rounds. Moderated by Apeksha Pareek, topics on general awareness were put up to the contestants. Winners - Economics Honors participants : Nikhil Sharma (BA Hons Part I) and Vipul Khandelwal (BA Hons Part I) Runners up: BCA participants : Naman Gupta (BCA Part III) and Vartika (BCA Part III).





● **NDTV - Talk Show**

National news channel NDTV hosted a talk show MY VOTE ROCKS in the City Palace premise on 21st October 2013. The topic of discussion was "India and Its States". Students participated in the show with great enthusiasm, as they got an opportunity to voice their opinion on a national platform and could directly question the real authority. The chief speakers for the event were Diya Kumari, Chavvi Rajawat, and Mohan Mahrishi. The event proved to be a great learning experience for the students.

● **Economics Fest – BLISSPOINT, Venkateshwara College, New Delhi**

Our students participated in the annual economic fest BLISSPOINT organized by the Department of Economics, Shri Venkateshwar College, New Delhi on the 27th and 28th of September 2013. Students had to present intriguing and poignant presentations on Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and issues relating to the world. The two-day fest was a great learning experience through various academic and fun-centered events. The competitive spirit of participants from all over India boosted our confidence and encouraged us to face the challenges enthusiastically.

● **Econundrum - 2013**

This was the third year in a row when the students of our department represented the college at ECONUNDRUM – the national economics fest of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. A troop of around 20 students under the guidance of Prof. Yashwardhan Singh participated in the fest from 8-10th December, 2013. The young economists shouldered the tasks excellently in the varied events ranging from Reel Economics to Eco-journalism to debate to paper presentation. It was the trio of Aayushi

Bengani, Megha Butra and Devansh Sharma in the Eco- journalism event that bagged a position. The three-day fest provided the students with immense knowledge and exposure to both theoretical and hands-on learning. Competing on a national platform, with students from all across the country, in the presence of persons of international repute, was indeed a great learning experience.

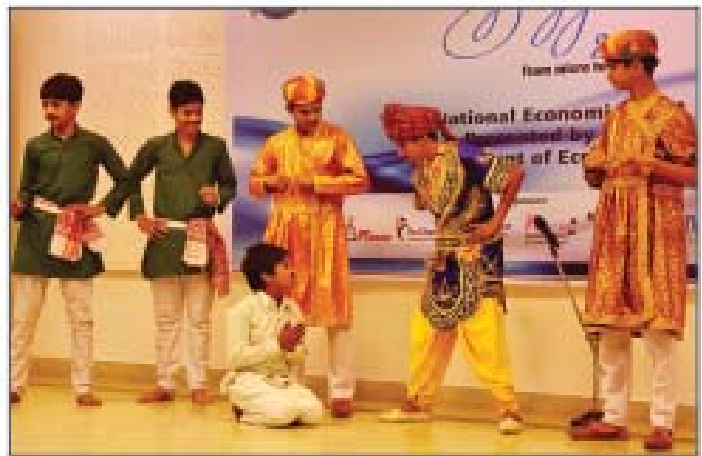
● **Rajasthan Economic Association**

The Rajasthan Economic Association in collaboration with St. Xavier's College, Jaipur organized its 34th National Seminar from 17-19 January 2014. The Chief Guests of the conference were **Prof. Kanta Ahuja** and **Dr. V. S. Vyas**. The conference covered various aspects of Economics. The conference was divided into 5 technical sessions. The 1st technical session discussed the Current Trends of the World Economy. Issues like the Great Recession and the Euro Zone Crises were elucidated in detail. The papers presented provided solutions to bring back the world from an economic backlash. The 2nd technical session brought to light the problem of high inflation along with dropping growth estimates faced by the Indian economy. The 3rd technical session focused on the various government schemes launched under the banner of GARIBI HATAO. Matters like Direct Cash Transfer, Aadhaar Card Scheme, Financial Inclusion, etc. were intensively scrutinized. The 4th technical session was focused upon economic thinkers of the past and their contributions to the subject. The papers presented during the session rummaged the thoughts of Kautilya, Mahatma Gandhi and Karl Marx. The conference ended with a memorable valedictory session during which the crux and the outcome of the conference was enunciated with a common voice.

Synergy-2013-14

A Platform for Imagination and Enthusiasm!

The economics department hosted its annual economics fest on 18 and 19 October. Held at the national level, participation came from many local colleges of RU and other cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Chandigarh. Teams competed to be crowned as the over-all champions of Economics. The fest provided a healthy and competitive platform for brainstorming, dialogue, discussion and application. Over the course of two days, the teams battled it out in a range of events, where eventually, St. Xavier's, Jaipur – the hosts, emerged as the winners.

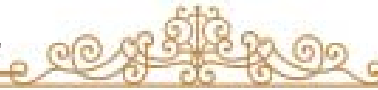


Knowing more about the events that took place during Synergy'13...

STOCK SHOCK

Stock Shock was based on stock markets. The event had 2 rounds – a written round and then a simulation of the pre-electronic days of the stock market. The former was an examination style MCQ-round with 20 questions. The latter, however, was a fun filled, 1-hour roller coaster ride where the participants traded within themselves to maximize their earnings. Students of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai bagged the first as well as the second position. Thus, bringing the tumultuous stock market ride to a smooth end and making the event a resounding success.





STATE OF THE NATIONS

The mock parliament event aimed to provide a battleground to all the aspiring participants, on the topic 'Women's Reservation Bill'. Ruchira Boss waged this war of wits and viewpoints. The event witnessed heated rebuttals among the participants, exhibiting their oratory and articulatory skills. Prior to the parliamentary session the bill was drafted by the participants who

were 'For' the motion. The task was to hammer out the solution to contentious economic issues in an innovative manner while keeping intact the ideology of the party. It was the students of ICG, Jaipur who convinced the best, turning out to be the winners!



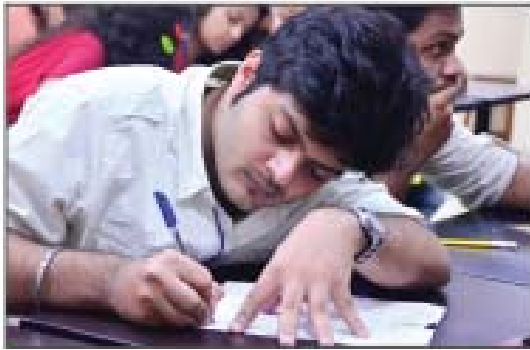
IN-QUIZ-ITIVE

This brainstorming battle was carried out by the best of our quiz-masters - Raadhika Malpaani and Aayushi Bengani. It aimed at testing the economic rationale and curiosity level of the participants, boggling them with questions from everything under and above the sky. The event had an elimination round, consisting of 30 MCQ-questions, passing only 7 teams to the final rounds. The trivia concluded with Shri Venkateshwar College, Delhi bagging the much-awaited first position.

SEAL THE DEAL

'How you sell your idea in the market' was the big deal! The field was set and resources estimated for the teams who were to devise and market their business idea. The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of students who were all geared up to be the business tycoons of tomorrow. Out of 10, 6 colleges qualified for the final round and in the end it was the students from LSR, Delhi who won the competition.





WRITING ALONE TOGETHER

This consisted in a creative writing event where the participants were made to explain their economic interpretation of the videos shown to them, using the medium of literature. Four members made a team, writing one after the other, forging stories on the video. It made each team to come out with innovative ideas and exhibit their writing skills. Everyone sincerely participated and coordinated, letting their pens run brilliantly on the pages. St. Xavier's College, Jaipur won the event, followed by Lady Shree Ram College, Delhi.

TREASURE TROVE

This fun-filled event saw the maximum participation in Synergy. It was divided into 2 rounds. The first round involved elimination of the participants and the second one compelled the rest to move around the city in search for clues. Presence of mind, wits and the ability to think out-of-the-box were the key factors in decoding the hints. The first team that reached the final spot was from Shri Venkateshwar College, New Delhi.



THE REPORTER'S DIARY

The journalism event concluded the fest, in which the participants displayed their documentaries of all the events that took place in Synergy. They had to show the crux of the fest through a documentary based on the theme "Betterment of Indian Youth in a Way to Help Our Country". Four teams made it to the final round. The first position was secured by Karan Vig, Ambika Dhokariya and Avi Jain from St. Xavier's college, Jaipur.

THE BIG AD THEORY

Creativity without strategy is art; creativity with strategy is called advertising. This was the motto of this year's ad making event "The Big Ad Theory". Participants had to clear a written round and only five teams advanced to the next round where they were given products like Khadau, Karela Chips, Gulkand, etc. and they had to create a presentation, skit and jingle to sell it to the audience. St. Xavier's College, Jaipur stood first and LSR, Delhi, took home the runner's-up trophy.



Achievements

1. **Anmol Rathore**, BA Eco Hons. (Part-I), secured 3rd position in National Debate Competition on the topic "End matters not means" held at J. K. Laxmipath University. Also, she stood 4th in the debate competition on the topic "Money and Muscle Power Rules" held at ICG. She was also the winner of the MOC competition held at St. Xavier's College.
2. **Sherry Sahni's**, BA Eco Hons. (Part-II), wolf pattern art painting was the only Indian entry selected by Brookfield Art Gallery, New York. It was selected through Instagram, with entries from all over the world.



3. **Megha Bhutra**, BA Eco Hons. (Part-II), considers becoming the youngest achiever at ICICI Prudential Life Insurance wasn't an easy task, but then, as they say, "You must dream first in order to live it!", so it was her dream to go to Germany that pushed her to be an achiever with ICICI at the age of 18! As an Insurance Advisor, she collected a premium of



Rs. 1 crore in the first six months of her joining, thus achieving a full-sponsored family trip to Germany!

This is a photo of the award received held at Berlin on June 27th, 2013!

Also, she went for OASIS-2013 (Asia's second-largest inter-college cultural fest) held at BITS Pilani, where three of her clicks were displayed in the photo-exhibition. During OASIS one of her clicks, bagged the First Position.

SPORTS

1. **Sunita Choudhary**, BA Eco Hons. (Part-III), was captain of St. Xavier's College Basketball team and Captain of Rajasthan University Team. Under her leadership Rajasthan University Team won Gold Medal in West Zone Inter-university which was held in Patan, Gujrat. Now Rajasthan University Team will go for All-India Inter-University Tournament under her leadership. She is the only girl from our college who went for Inter-University



events three times out of which two times they won Gold medal in West Zone

Tournament. She also represented Rajasthan University two times at all-India level. In the history of Rajasthan University, Women's Basketball team has qualified 3 times at all-India level from which two times she was the member of the team .

2. **Akash Bhansali**, BA Eco Hons. (Part-I), was felicitated as the best player in Inter-departmental Badminton Tournament held at St. Xavier's College, Jaipur.
2. **Niraj Chechi**, BA Eco Hons. (Part-II), along with her partner Pankaj Jain stood 2nd out of 18 teams in the "Shuttle-Battle", the badminton competition organized on the sports day at St. Xavier's College, Jaipur.
3. **Neeraj Singh, Yashwardhan Singh and Sarthak Mishra**, represented the Economics Department in the Inter-departmental Football Competition, and cleared the semi-finals against BBA with 9-1 but couldn't defeat B.Com in the finals thus securing 2nd position.

ACADEMIC TOPPERS (2012-13)



First Year
NIHARIKA LAHOTY



Second Year
AYUSHI FATEHPURIA



Third Year
SIDDHARTH UPRETI

Lights, Camera, Action !

Sherry Sahni*



An evening that begins with an Amitabh Bachchan dialogue has to be a super-hit. From *Ab tera kya hoga kaila* to *Why so serious?*; Amir Khan's *Goatee* to David Beckham's *Mohawk*; Govinda's energetic *Thumka's* to MJ's *moonwalk*, the party had it all. College farewells – like films and stars – are an important part of our lives. Hence by combining these two important parts of our lives we created an experience for a lifetime!

"Hollywood Bollywood" was the party's theme. True to its theme, this party had drama, emotions, comedy, dance, romance, lights, camera, and action. The entire year we do our seniors' bidding but as with all the good things (bad for us?), it came to an end. February 21, 2014 was payback time—filmy style. The seniors had to mimic, sing, dance, or say a famous dialogue before they entered the lounge; we spared no one. We were

*Student, BA Economics (Hons) Part-II.

pleasantly surprised to see Father Joshy and our teachers being such a sport. They delivered dialogues from *Sholay* and sang old Bollywood melodies but then we always knew that they had a hidden filmy side.

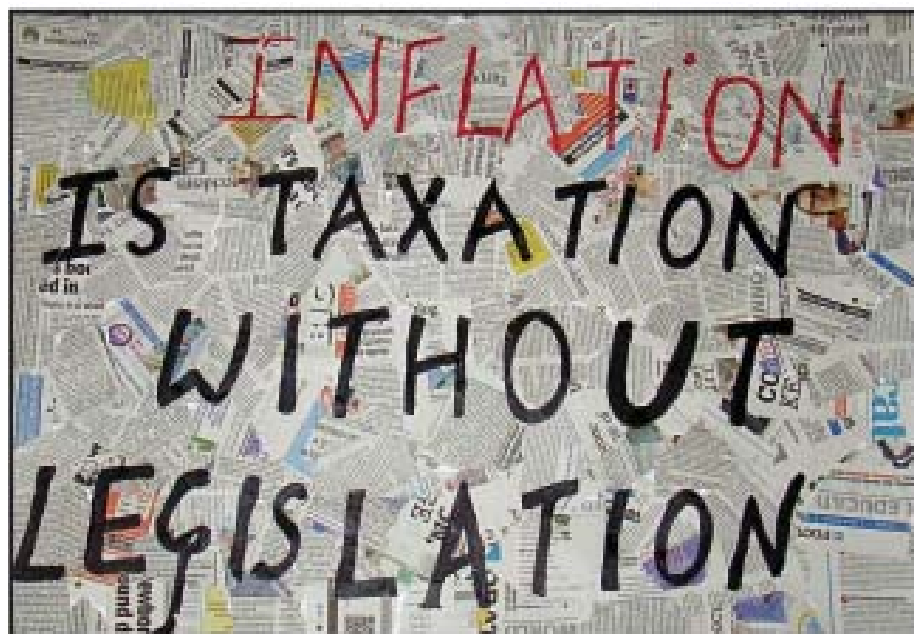
We prepared a movie quiz for our film-illiterate seniors; they had to guess the movie from its dialogue. While they were awarded a chocolate for every correct answer, they had to dance to a cheesy-tune (in other words, dance to our tune, yay!) for every wrong answer or if caught prompting. Even though they clearly lacked the filmy quotient, they were great in prompting and accepting their punishment. We will never forget the way they danced – even though we want to.

No farewell is ever complete without tags, so how could we not pay our homage to this time-honoured tradition of making our seniors squirm with anticipation and hopefully embarrass a few in the process. One in a Minion, Wolf of Xavier's Street, High Geek, Hulk, *Sarpanch*, etc. were some that stood out and made for a laugh riot. Well, not so much for the recipients of the tags.

The party ended with farewell speeches from our lovely seniors and Yashwardhan Sir's Kejriwal style speech (yes, we did not allow him to sit on a dharna). But the highlight of these speeches was when Father Joshy declared that Economics Department is his favourite department!

Sayonara, adieu, au revoir, et al translates to one word that we don't want to say – 'goodbye'. Being true to our filmy roots, we believe in "*kabhi alvida naa kehna*". Our seniors have not only been our mentors but dance partners, friends, and partners in crimes. They have taught us how to dance through our problems, how to bunk exams because internals are not important, and how to live through each moment in our lives. More than anything, we will miss our seniors for their craziness. It will be extremely tough to step into their shoes and reach the benchmarks that they have set with their hard work and dedication.

We wish you all the very best for your future and your life. We hope to see you soon in newspapers, magazines or television – hopefully for the right reasons





Facts

Four of the richest countries in the world with some of the highest personal incomes – Baharain, Brunei, Kuwait, and Qatar – have no tax at all.”

- Equatorial Guinea has the fastest-growing economy, growing by 66.2 per cent of GDP a year. Zimbabwe comes last again, with its economy shrinking by 3.9 per cent of GDP.
- India has the world’s third largest road network. In terms of the quantitative density of the road network in India, it is similar to the United States and more than that of China.
 1. The 2022 Football World Cup is scheduled to be held in Lusail, Qatar, a city that doesn't even exist yet. The project would approximately cost 45 billion dollars.
 2. There are 11 people alive right now who were born in the 1800s.
 3. Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names.
 4. Bruce Lee was so fast they had to slow the film down so you could see his moves.

Wish

Underneath the moon-lit sky,
Lying awake in the middle of the night,
I thought I had it all,
Everything I needed, everything I want,
But happiness is not what I feel,
A missing piece is what I need.
Every day I have been looking around,
Here and there, but nothing found.
The solution to my problem is still out there
With some luck and work I hope I get there,
I believe I will when the time is right,
My demons will go away and finally I'll sleep at night.

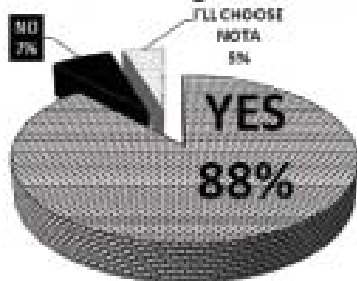
- Smriti Khemka
BA Eco Part-III

Polls

Will you vote in 2014 general elections?

- YES - 88.10%
- No - 7.14 %
- I'll choose NOTA - 4.76%

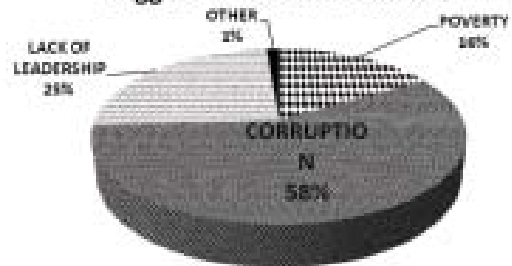
Will you vote in 2014 general elections?



Biggest constraint of India

- Poverty - 16%
- Corruption - 56%
- Lack of leadership - 24%
- Other - 4%

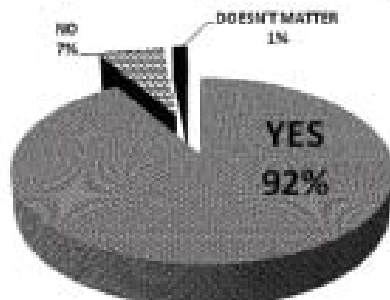
Biggest constraint of India ?



Should education system be revamped?

- Yes - 81.81%
- No - 6.07%
- Doesn't Matter - 12.12%

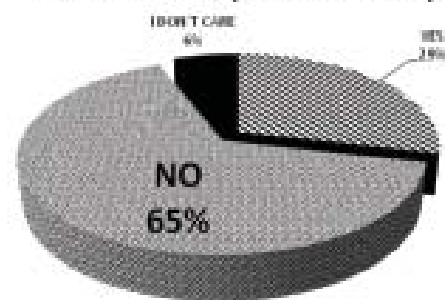
Should education system be revamped?



Politics in its complete form is dirty?

- Yes - 28.57%
- No - 65.3%
- I don't care - 6.13%

Politics in its complete form is dirty?





Class Photograph



◀ 1st Year



2nd Year ▶



◀ 3rd Year



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Indian College for Girls



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APU (Ajim Premji University, Bangalore)
Kamika Katarwa
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Selected in
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Snehi Khemka, St. Xavier's



Selected in
APU (Ajim Premji University, Bangalore)
Barchira Bose
St. Xavier's



Selected in
APU (Ajim Premji University, Bangalore)
Nikita Sahoo
St. Xavier's



Selected in
Combined Defence Services (CDS)
Aarnob Pursek
St. Xavier's



Selected in
APU (Ajim Premji University, Bangalore)
Rashika Malpani
St. Xavier's

Many more results still awaited... We will mark wonders by June end.

New Batch to start from 1st June 2014 (Sunday)

Exams To Be Targeted:

Civil Services Examinations (IAS, IPS, IFS etc),
CDS (IMA/OTA), TISS, APU, SAU, JNU, Faculty of LAW,
ACJ, TERI, Delhi University Masters Programs, IIMC.

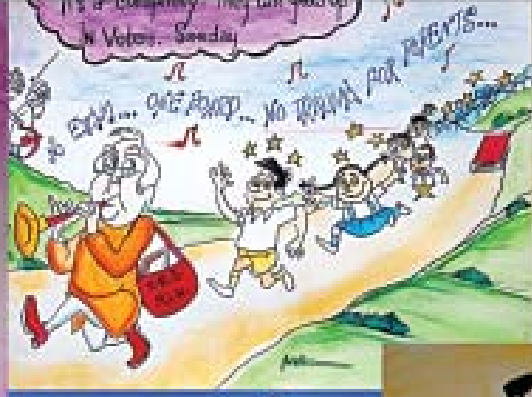
Batch Duration: June to October

There will be Two & Half hours of Class Everyday. Fees Rs.20,000.

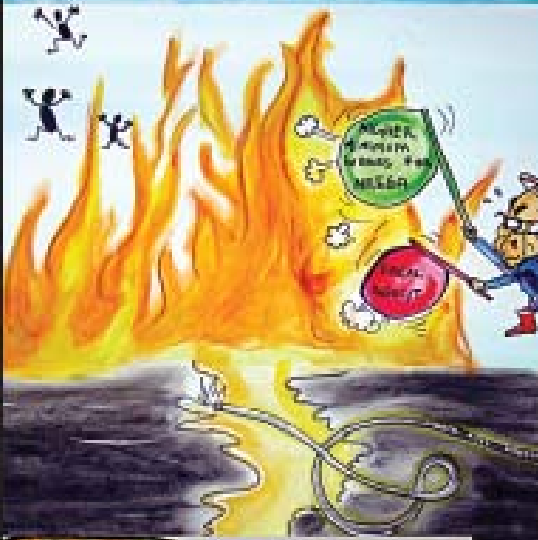
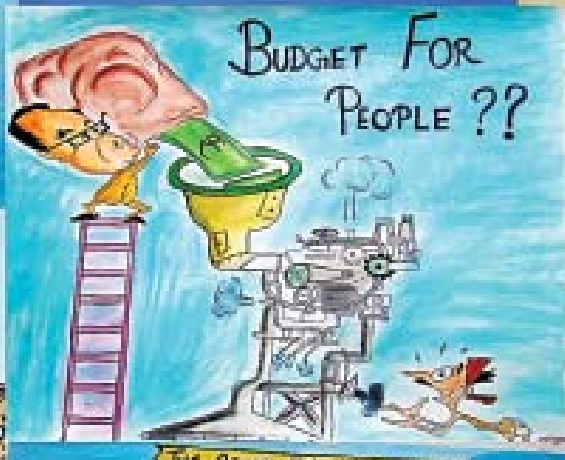
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SENSEX



I THINK, THEREFORE I AD

