



PROCEEDINGS
OF
ICSSR
sponsored



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

on

TRANSFORMATION OF INDIA @75

(Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav)

MARCH 03 - 04, 2023



Jointly Organised By:

Department of Economics, Commerce and Management

St. Bede's College, Shimla

(NAAC Re-Accredited A+ Grade)





Academic seminars serve as crucial forums for promoting intellectual exchange, enabling the dissemination of new ideas, and advancing research in various disciplines. The seminars also provide an opportunity for scholars to learn from each other's experiences and to explore new avenues of research.

The transformation of India @ 75 is a momentous occasion that provides an opportunity for experts from various fields to come together and share their insights and ideas on how India can continue to progress. I am confident that the discussions and debates that took place during this seminar will lead to a greater understanding of the challenges that India faces and to the development of new and innovative solutions.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to ICSSR for their invaluable financial support that enabled us to successfully organize the seminar. Without their assistance, the undertaking of such an event would have been a daunting task, if not an impossible one. ICSSR's unwavering commitment to promoting academic excellence through their support of academic seminars is highly commendable.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the convener and members of the faculty of Economics, Commerce and Management for their hard work and dedication in organizing the seminar. Their unwavering commitment to academic excellence and passion for sharing knowledge have undoubtedly contributed to the success of the event.

It is commendable to see the efforts put in by the faculty in bringing together scholars and researchers from different fields to discuss and deliberate on important topics. The Proceedings of the Seminar will serve as a valuable resource for scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners who seek to engage in the ongoing discourse on the topic.

I am confident that the Proceedings of the Seminar will reflect the high quality of discussions and debates that took place during the event. It will provide a comprehensive overview of the seminar, including its proceedings and the valuable insights gained from the participants.

Prof. Sr. Molly Abraham
Principal
St. Bede's College, Shimla

EDITORIAL



St. Bede's College is a historical and educational landmark of Northern India which aims, primarily, at higher education and training of young women. It was established in 1904 with the motto 'Non-Nobis Solum' meaning 'Not for ourselves alone'. Being a premier educational institution, it was re-accredited 'A +' by National Assessment Accreditation Council [NAAC] and awarded 'College with Potential for Excellence' by UGC and Star College Status in Life Sciences.

The college has consistently provided a platform for academicians, researchers, and students from diverse fields to interact and disseminate their knowledge in the larger interest of society. In this regard, the Department of Economics, Commerce, and Management at St. Bede's College, Shimla, organised an International Seminar on "Transformation of India @ 75," sponsored by ICSSR under Azadi Ka Mahotsav, on 3rd and 4th March 2023.

The primary objective of the seminar was to bring together scholars, researchers, and experts from various fields to discuss and deliberate on critical issues related to India's transformation as it approached its 75th year of independence. The seminar aimed to generate new ideas, insights, and perspectives that could inform policies and initiatives aimed at transforming India into a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable society.

Through academic discourse on topics such as economic growth, social development, political transformation, technological advancements, and environmental sustainability, the seminar sought to promote interdisciplinary research and collaboration among participants and contribute to the national discourse on India's future.

The seminar was a resounding success, with participants from different parts of the world sharing their research findings, ideas, and perspectives. The plenary sessions and technical sessions were well attended, and the discussions were lively and thought-provoking. The keynote speakers delivered insightful talks that set the tone for the seminar and provided a framework for further discussions.

Overall, the seminar provided a valuable platform for researchers, scholars, and experts to engage in meaningful academic discourse on critical issues related to India's transformation. The papers presented at the seminar were of high quality and covered a broad range of topics related to

India's development. The seminar has made a significant contribution to the ongoing discourse on India's future, and we are grateful to ICSSR for their support in making this event possible.

ICSSR's unwavering commitment to supporting academic seminars is truly commendable. By providing financial support to researchers and scholars, they are helping to advance the field of knowledge and foster a community of learning. Academic seminars are crucial for promoting intellectual discourse, exchanging ideas, and advancing research in various disciplines. ICSSR's financial support plays a vital role in facilitating the organization of academic seminars. It enables scholars and researchers to gather and share their knowledge, learn from each other's experiences, and explore new avenues of research. This kind of collaboration and exchange of ideas can lead to ground-breaking discoveries and innovations that have the potential to transform our society and improve our lives. These initiatives not only facilitate the dissemination of knowledge but also help to cultivate a culture of research and learning.

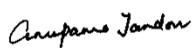
ICSSR's support for academic seminars is a testament to their commitment to promoting academic excellence and advancing the frontiers of knowledge. Their contribution to the academic community is invaluable, and we are grateful for their support.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Principal Sr. Molly Abraham for her unwavering encouragement and support throughout the organization of this seminar. Her guidance and leadership have been instrumental in ensuring the success of this event. I express my heartfelt appreciation to the faculty of Economics, Commerce, and Management for their unwavering support and unwavering cooperation in making this seminar a resounding success. Without their tireless efforts, dedication, and guidance, this event would not have been possible.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to the keynote speakers, resource persons, panelists, and delegates who took the time and effort to travel from distant parts of the world to share their valuable insights and perspectives on critical issues related to India's transformation. Their contributions were instrumental in shaping the discussions and enriching the seminar's academic discourse.

The panel discussions and technical sessions were enriched by the presence of eminent resource persons who provided valuable inputs and perspectives on various topics related to India's transformation. The participation of delegates from different parts of the world added diversity and richness to the seminar's academic discourse.

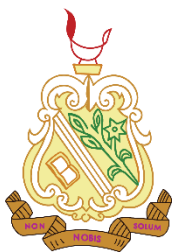
Finally, I acknowledged the tireless efforts of the students of the Economics, Commerce, and Management Department, for whom the seminar was a learning experience that undoubtedly prepared them for their future endeavours.



Dr Anupama Tandon Tomar
Convener

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PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

International Seminar on Transformation of India @ 75

March 03 – 04, 2023

Sponsored by ICSSR

“Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”

Jointly organised by:

Department of Economics, Commerce and Management

Day and Date	Time (IST)	Programme
Day 1 Friday March 03, 2023	09:00 am – 09:30 am	Registration
	INAUGURAL PROGRAMME	
	09:30 am – 10:00 am	Arrival of the Guests
	10:00 am – 10:10 am	Arrival of the Chief Guest
	10:10 am – 10:15 am	Welcome Address
	10:15 am – 10:20 am	Lighting of Lamp
	10:20 am – 10:25 am	College Anthem
	10:25 am – 10:30 am	Felicitation of the Guests on Dias
	10:30 am – 10:35 am	Welcome Address – Sr. Reena Kurien, Manager, St. Bede's College
	10:35 am – 10:45 am	Seminar Concepts – The Introduction Dr. Anupama Tandon, Convener
	10:45 am – 10:50 am	Releasing the Souvenir & Felicitation of the Panelists & Resource persons
	10:50 am – 11:10 am	Inaugural Address – By the Chief Guest
	11:10 am – 11:20 am	Welcome Song/Dance
	11:20 am – 12:20 pm	Keynote Address – Dr. Aoulad Hosen
	12.20 Noon – 12:30 pm	Tea Break
	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Panel Discussion & Interactive Session – Auditorium
	02:00 pm – 02:30 pm	Lunch
	2:30 pm -3:30 pm	Keynote Address – Professor Anoop Saxena
03:30 pm – 05:30 pm	Technical Parallel Sessions Venue 1: Auditorium Venue 2: Seminar Room Venue 3: Room No. A1 Venue 4: Room No. A2	

Day and Date	Time (IST)	Programme
<p style="text-align: center;">Day 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday</p> <p>March 04, 2023</p>	10:00 am – 10:10 am	Arrival of Guests
	10:10 am – 10:15 am	Lighting of Lamp
	10:15 am – 10:25 am	Welcome Address & Felicitation of the Guests
	10:25 am – 11:30 am	Keynote Address – Dr. Yash Chawla – <i>Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Poland</i>
	11:30 am – 01:00 pm	Technical Parallel Sessions Venue 1: A1 Venue 2: Seminar Room Venue 3: Auditorium Venue 4: A 2 Venue 5: Computer Laboratory
	01:00 pm – 02:00 pm	Lunch
	Valedictory	
	02:00 pm – 02:30 pm	Arrival of the Guests
	02:30 pm – 02:40 pm	Arrival of the Chief Guest
	02:40 pm – 02:45 pm	Lighting of Lamp
	02:45 pm – 02:55 pm	Welcome Dance
	02:55 pm – 03:00 pm	Welcome Address
	03:00 pm – 03:05 pm	Report on the Seminar - Organisers
	03:05 pm – 03:15 pm	Felicitations
	03:35 pm – 03:55 pm	Valedictory Address – By the Chief Guest
	03:55 pm – 04:00 pm	Presentation of Momentos to the Guest
04:00 pm – 05:00 pm	Vote of Thanks & National Anthem	

PANEL DISCUSSION

MARCH 3, 2023

Venue: AUDITORIUM

Chairperson: Prof. N.S. Bist (*Former Director, Population Research Centre*)

Co-Chairperson-Mr. Mohit Kumar

Rapporteur: Ms. Shree

TOPIC- "VISION FOR NEW INDIA @ 75."

PANELISTS
Prof. Ashok Aima
Prof. Meekakshi F. Paul
Prof. Aparna Negi
Prof. Kate Nickelchok
Dr. Aoulad Hosen

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS – 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

TECHNICAL SESSION – I

MARCH 3, 2023

Venue: Room No. A 1

Chairperson: Dr. Deepali Dhau
Co-Chairperson: Ms. Raman Bassi

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamanna

Sr. No.	SPEAKER	TITLE OF THE PAPER
1	Dr. Seetha R.	Women Empowerment and Inclusive Growth
2	Ms. Shviti Sood Mr. Piyush Aggarwal Dr. Anviti Gupta	Role of Resilience, Spirituality and Mindfulness in Empowering Women
3	Ms. Twinkle Vaid Ms. Bhavna Devi	Self-Help Group: Key to Self-reliance for Women
4	Kumari Shipu	Role of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Towards the Equality of Indian Women
5	Mr. Hamsringdi Maibangsa Dr Jyoti Jayal	Understanding the Significance of ‘Culture’ in Hijra Community Through a Reading of Select Transgender Autobiographies
6	Dr. P. S. Kutwal	Gender Disparity in Social Development of Indian Himalayan Region
7	Ms. Popy Devi Nath Mrs. Suneetha Esampalli	Representation of Women in Movies
8	Mrs Sangeeta Bali Sharma	Post-Independence Evolution of Hindustani Classical Music in Duet (Vocal And Instrumental)

TECHNICAL SESSION – II**MARCH 3, 2023****Venue: Seminar Room****Chairperson: Prof. Manoj Sharma****Rapporteur: Ms. Kartika Sam Lobo****Co-Chairperson: Ms. Swati Kapil**

Sr. No.	SPEAKER	TITLE OF THE PAPER
1	Mr. Atma Ram Prof. A K Tiwari	Regional Disparities in Economic Infrastructure Development: A Comparative Study of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
2	Mr. Modish Kumar Dr. Santosh Kumari	Problems Causing Delays in National Highway Projects in Himachal Pradesh.
3	Dr. Swati Jain Ms. Aishwarya Dubey	Infrastructure Gaps and Balanced Regional Development in South Asia
4	Ms. Rekha Devi	Analysing the Inter-District Disparities in the Infrastructure Development in Himachal Pradesh
5	Mr. Vipul Singh Prof. Sanju Karol	Export Instability, Investment, Export Growth and Economic Growth in India
6	Mr. Deep Singh	Impact of MGNREGS on Income Inequalities in Himachal Pradesh
7	Dr. T.D. Verma	Role of Indo-ASEAN Trade in the Transformation of Economy
8	Ms. Raman Matharu	Non-performing Assets and Profitability of H.P. State Co-operative Bank Ltd.: An Empirical Analysis
9	Ashish Kumar	Emerging Dynamics of Environment Social Governance (ESG) Funds in India
10	Dr. Vishal Chauhan	Input-Output Efficiency of Pears and Apricot Production in Himachal Pradesh - A Study of Different Farm Size
11	Mrs. Suneetha Esampalli Lt. Lydia Marina	Impact of Technology on Agriculture
12	Mr. Manish Kumar	A Critical Analysis of Legalization of Minimum Support Price and Agrarian Issues in India.

TECHNICAL SESSION – III**MARCH 3, 2023****Venue: Auditorium****Chairperson: Dr. Rajesh Dhorta****Rapporteur: Ms. Shree****Co-Chairperson: Ms. Priyanka Mehta**

Sr. No.	SPEAKER	TITLE OF THE PAPER
1	Mr. Saket Bihari	Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education: Challenges & Prospects
2	Mr. Piyush Aggarwal Ms. Shviti Sood Dr. Anviti Gupta	Digitalisation of Education and Increased Internet Addiction
3	Dr. Shameer. T. N	An Analytical Study of Curriculum Transformation and Revamp School Curriculum of Kerala
4	Ms. Rama Goyal	An Emprical Study of the PM-Poshan Scheme in Hisar, Haryana
5	Dr. Manjinder Kaur	Poverty Alleviation Through Dairy Farming: A Case Study of Nahan Block District Sirmour, HP
6	Mr. Bhed Ram	Reasons for Not Seeking Medical Advice and Consultation Behaviour During Illness in India: Analysing Gender Differentials
7	Ms. Jyoti Thakur Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Mahajan	Health Services in India with Special Focus on Ayushman Bharat
8	Ms. Jagriti Ms. Gayatri Raina	Spiritual Intelligence as a Correlate of Mental Health of University Students
9	Mr. Shivendra Sangar	Health Status of Elderly in India
10	Ms. Aamna Tyagi Mr. Mohit Kumar	A Comparative Study of Self-Consciousness Among Male and Female Adolescents
11	Ms. Priyanka Mehta	Flexible Work Arrangements: Work-Flexibility and Work-Related Well-Being
12	Ms. Akshita Dhiman Dr. Akanksha Sud	“Kathak”, A Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) to Strengthen the Mental Health of the High School Students
13	Dr. Kavita Kumra	National Education Policy, 2020 and Higher Education

TECHNICAL SESSION – IV
MARCH 3, 2023
Venue: Room No. A2

Chairperson: Ram Lal Sharma

Rapporteur: Ms. Shefali Rapta

Co-Chairperson: Dr. Vishal Chauhan

Sr. No.	SPEAKER	TITLE OF THE PAPER
1	Mr. Yash Chauhan Dr. Pramod Sharma	A Systematic Literature Review of Digital Payments
2	Ms. Neha Kanwar Dr. Vinod Negi	The Perspective of Employees Towards the Work-from-Home with Special Reference to Zasya Solution (IT Company) Shimla
3	Ms. Neha Choudhary	Impact of Covid-19 on E-Commerce: Special Reference to Rural Areas
4	Dr. Amar Rao Dr. Prachi Kapil	Geo-Political Uncertainty and Its Impact on Traditional and Green Bonds: A Study of Time and Frequency Domain Connectedness
5	Dr. Purnima Thapar	Digital Divide: A Study of Himachal Pradesh
6	Mr. Dharuv Pal Singh Ms. Ruchi Ramesh	Central Bank Digital Currency: An Agenda for Research in Future
7	Mr. Manu Mahajan	A Study on Growth and Prospect of Digital India Campaign
8	Ms. Anu Chirotra	Information and Communication Technology Usage Among Students
9	Ms. Shivani Sharma Dr. Asha Singla	E-commerce Mechanics: A Process Revolution for the Retail Industry

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS – 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

TECHNICAL SESSION – I

MARCH 4, 2023

Venue: Seminar Room

Chairperson: Prof. Gaikar Vilas B.

Rapporteur: Ms. Muskan Sood

Co-Chairperson: Mr. Ashish Kumar

Sr. No.	SPEAKER	TITLE OF THE PAPER
1	Dr. Ritika Sharma Ms. Mehak Jaswal	Impact of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan on Indian Economy During Covid-19
2	Mr. Sahil Sharma Dr. Dinesh Kumar Sharma	ESG as An Investment Style in the Indian Stock Market
3	Ms. Deepali Kanwar Prof. Kavita Indapurkar	Decoding India's Trade Deficit with ASEAN
4	Dr. Rashmi	Demographic Dividend: Issues and Challenges for a Transforming India
5	Mr. Kshemendra Mishra Prof. Dr. J.S. Parmar	"Understanding the Nuances of De-Centralization", A Study of Crypto Currency Evolution in India
6	Ms. Shweta Rana Ms. Deeksha Rana Ms. Sindhuja Sharma Dr. Seema Choudhary	Impact of Covid-19 on the Trends and Spatial Pattern of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh
7	Dr. Rahul Sangaonkar	Facets of Indian National Security in the Era of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat: An Analytical Study
8	Dr. Nitesh Goyal Dr. Simmi Ms. Geetanjali Thakur	Understanding the Consumer Behavior Towards Counterfeit Products: A Literature Review
9	Mr. Anupam Verma	Impact of Rural Development Schemes on Balanced Regional Growth: A Case Study of Shimla District
10	Ms. Swati Kapil	Indian Economy Since Independence: A Journey of Major Breakthroughs in 75 Years
11	Mr. Imran Meman Dr. K. L. Tandekar	Study of the Contribution of Chief Minister Unorganized Workers Sewing Machine Help Scheme in the Economic Development of Unorganized Women Workers
12	Ms. Unnatti Chauhan Dr. Rakesh Singh	The Transformation of Indo-China Trade Relations After India's 1991 Economic Reforms

TECHNICAL SESSION – II**MARCH 4, 2023****Venue: Auditorium****Chairperson: Prof. Devinder Sharma****Rapporteur: Ms. Diksha Uniyal****Co-Chairperson: Ms. Priyanka Mehta**

Sr. No.	SPEAKER	TITLE OF THE PAPER
1	Mohd Suhail	Citizenship in Contemporary India: Critically Examine the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 from the Vantage of Muslim Citizens
2	Ms. Namita C. Khagta	Rural Power Structures and Political Transformation
3	Mr. Shreyanshu Purohit	The Social and Cultural Pattern in the Folk Mahabharata of Garhwal.
4	Mr. Arif Sheikh Dr. Jyoti Jayal	A Sociocultural Study of Manipuri Royal Household in the Novel ‘The Princess and the Political Agent’
5	Mr. Mayank Singh	Unprecedented Changes in Riverbed Depth of Ganga River Due to Very Fine Sand Grain Size in Central Ganga Plains Leading to Increase in the Drowning Deaths in Ganga River
6	Mr. Santosh Kumar Dr. Jai Singh Parmar	Exploring Rural Art and Crafts through Rural Tourism: Government Initiatives and Present Status of Rural Artisans in Himachal Pradesh
7	Ms. Ayushee Gautam Prof. H R Sharma	Assessment of Bare Necessities and its Determinants in Urban Slums of India
8	Dr. Surinder Singh	Nature, Extent and Pattern of Migration in Himachal Pradesh
9	Mr. Jitender Kumar Mr. Brij Mohan	Citizen- Centric Administration: A Way toward Good Governance
10	Ms. Naina Sambher Prof. D.D. Sharma	Spatial Distribution of Basic Amenities and Smart Facilities: A Case of Smart City Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
11	Dr. Pankaj Aashish Ms. Reenu Devi	Demography of Ageing in North-West India: A Geographical Analysis
12	Kumari Sapna Prof. D.D. Sharma	Social Development in Shillai Block of Sirmaur District, Himachal Pradesh: A Village Level Analysis

TECHNICAL SESSION – III

MARCH 4, 2023

Venue: Computer Laboratory

Chairperson: Dr. Rajiv Nayan

Rapporteur: Ms. Srishti Gupta

Co-Chairperson: Mr. Ashish Kumar

Sr. No.	SPEAKER	TITLE OF THE PAPER
1	Mr. Dharmender Mehta	Principal Component Analysis of Community Perceptions about Corporate Sustainability Performance
2	Ms. Purandhi Gupta	Augmentation Strategies for Sustainability Tourism During the Festive Season
3	Ms. Tanvee	Green Banking as an Initiative Towards Sustainable Development
4	Ms. Raghawi	Merging Good Governance with Sustainable Development Goals
5	Mr. Shubham Sharma Ms. Neha Kanwar Dr. Vinod Negi	Sustainable Development Index: Comparing the Performance of Himachal Pradesh with other Hilly States of India.
6	Mr. Prashant Thakur	Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development
7	Dr. Savita Rana	Women's Involvement in Fostering the Sustainability of Small and Medium Enterprises in India
8	Ms. Pritty Hazarika Dhritabrata Jyoti Bharadwaz	Impact of Working Capital Management on Firm's Performance and Sustainable Growth
9	Ms. Vishakha Gupta Dr. Santosh Kumari	The Impact of Green and Sustainable Practices on Environmental Awareness and Green Behavior
10	Ms. Neha Devi	Achieving Quality Inclusive Education Under SDG 4: Issues and Concerns

TECHNICAL SESSION – IV
MARCH 4, 2023
Venue: Room No. A1

Chairperson: Dr. Vinod Kumar

Rapporteur: Ms. Divya Uniyal

Co-Chairperson: Mr. Manu Mahajan

Sr.No.	SPEAKER	TITLE OF THE PAPER
1	Ms. Varsha Gangta Dr. Saurabh Kulshrestha	Heavy Metal-Resistant Bacteria Isolated from Industrial Effluent and Used as a Tool for Bioremediation of Heavy Metal from the Environment.
2	Mr. Vishal Rangta	Cultural Practices in the Folklore of Shimla: A Case Study of Selected Proverbs
3	Dr. Seetha R.	Culture Language and Literature
4	डॉ. जितेश गड़पायले	संस्कृति और भाषा में भविष्य का अतीत (प्रदर्शनकारी कला के संदर्भ में)
5	Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Dr. Seema Choudhary	Influences of Slope Elevation on Landslide Occurrences: A Case Study of Bharmaur Tehsil of Chamba District In Himachal Pradesh
6	Ms. Kirti Bhatia	Relevancy of Atmanirbhar Bharat on Tribes of Himachal Pradesh
7	Dr. Ashwani Kumar	Public Health and Itamars Challenges for the Future
8	Ms. Sheetu Meenia	Role of NCTE in Teacher Education of Jammu and Kashmir: Now and Then
9	Mr. Anoop Kumar Dilta	Periglacial Landforms of Trans-Himalayas: Ladakh

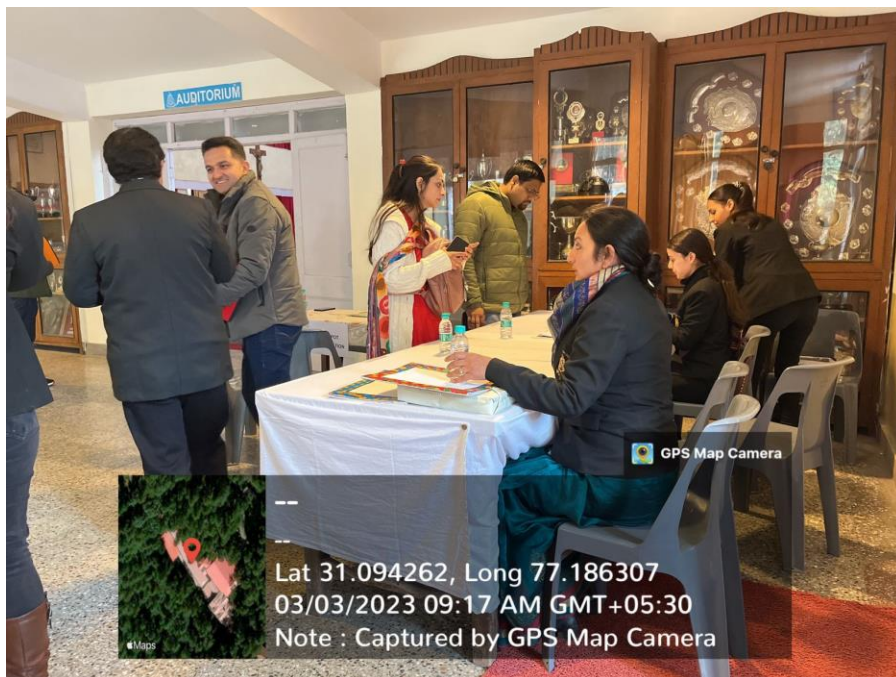
TECHNICAL SESSION – V
MARCH 4, 2023
Venue: Computer Lab

Chairperson: Surinder Singh Rapporteur: Ms. Diksha
Co-Chairperson: Mr. Mohit Kumar

Sr. No.	SPEAKER	TITLE OF THE PAPER
1	Poojil Sharma & Dr. Gitanjali	Envision 2030: Sustainable Development Goals for Building a Better Tomorrow
3	Shantanu Sood	Predicting Stock Price of Infosys Limited using LSTM RNN
4	Ankush	Food Security System in India: An Overview
10	Aditi Kothari & Dr. Nutan Kumar	Economic Empowerment of Women in India Myth or Reality
11	Dr. Esha	Modeling the Impact of Stressors on Women Academicians Work Life Balance
12	Mr. Prakhar Wadhwa & Dr. Kamaljeet Singh	A Conceptual Study on the Democratization of E-Commerce

Day 1- 3rd March 2023

Registration



Arrival of Keynote Speakers, Panelists, Dignitaries, Delegates and Research Scholars



Arrival of the Chief Guest: Education Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Sh. Rohit Thakur



Inaugural Ceremony

The seminar began with an opening ceremony, which set the tone for the event. The chief guest lit the lamp, symbolizing the start of a new journey towards knowledge and enlightenment.



The college anthem followed, inspiring a sense of pride and belonging among the audience. The students joined in singing, with their voices filling the room with a powerful and unified sound.





The welcome dance performance by the college students was the perfect start to the seminar. Their graceful movements, vibrant costumes, and perfect synchronization left the audience mesmerized. The seminar had begun on a high note, with an opening ceremony that was both grand and inspiring.

Inaugural Ceremony

The day started with an inaugural session, where the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Education Minister Sh. Rohit Thakur, graced the occasion and praised the college for hosting the seminar for deliberations and discussions and exhorted the participants to actively engage in thought-provoking conversations and constructive exchanges of ideas. He acknowledged that St. Bede's College is the most prestigious college in northern India, with many laurels to its credit. The seminar on Transformation of India is a testimony to the fact that the country has come a long way. Sh. Thakur also highlighted that there was a time when India had a literacy rate of only 5 per cent, but now it has reached around 88 per cent in the state of Himachal Pradesh alone, with more than 150 colleges in the state. The entire state is proud of St. Bede's College, and it has given eminent alumni who have made the country proud.

Sh. Rohit Thakur also congratulated the college for its NAAC A+ gradation and standardization. The key focus of the Himachal Pradesh Government is on qualitative and job-based education, and the progress of India has been apparent in the global arena. India is the fastest growing economy, and it has been the Vishwa guru of the world. Sh. Thakur reiterated that the government intends to keep its collaboration and cooperation with St. Bede's College strong since the college has shown immense dedication in imparting education through centuries.



As a symbol of appreciation and support for the seminar, the Education Minister then proceeded to release a souvenir containing abstracts of papers presented at the seminar.



The convener, Dr. Anupama Tandon extended her vote of thanks to the education minister for gracing the event.



Keynote Speech

The keynote speaker, Professor Aoulad Hosen, Chair of the Academic Committee, Social Science, National University, Bangladesh discussed poverty alleviation, human development, and sustainable development in the South Asian region His address began by highlighting that poverty is a result of political and social choices. The three types of measuring tools of poverty are income-based measurement, consumption-based measurement, and multidimensional-based measurement. The National MPI for India is a tool for measuring poverty that aims to leverage the monitoring mechanism and methodology of the globally recognized MPI. The text discusses the problems of estimation and the benefits of poverty estimation.

Discussing the relationship between poverty alleviation and human development he emphasised that poverty alleviation transforms labour markets and human development transforms the poor who were earlier a liability to assets of the country. The challenges to poverty alleviation and human development are limited resources, political institutions, and cultural barriers. Poverty alleviation and SDGs are interrelated concepts that aim to improve the quality of life without compromising future needs.

He explained how poverty has impeding consequences on sustainable development, such as deforestation, overfishing, low nutrition, gender gap, and lack of educational and health facilities.

The conclusion and solutions proposed were that poverty alleviation, human development, and sustainable development should be addressed equally. The government should mobilize public expenditure measures based on equity and equality with a focus on progressive taxation. The government must work to reduce inequalities and create an environment conducive to economic growth. The private sector can help to overcome the challenges of human development and poverty by creating jobs and investing in new research and development.



Tea Break

After a productive first session, the attendees of the seminar were given a well-deserved break for refreshments. The break provided a welcome change of pace, allowing the attendees to relax and recharge before continuing with the seminar. As they enjoyed their tea and snacks, they were able to connect with each other and build new relationships with fellow professionals in their field.



Panel Discussion

After the tea break, the attendees returned to the seminar hall for the panel discussion on "Vision for New India @ 75". They were energized and excited to continue the discussions and learn from the speakers, armed with new ideas and insights from their conversations during the break.

The panellists at the event were Prof. Ashok Aima, Former Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu and Distinguished Chair Professor of School of Management (MIET), Jammu, Dr. Aparna Negi, Professor, Department of Economics and Director of the Centre for Women Studies and Development, HPU, and Prof. Meenakshi F. Paul, Principal, Department of Evening Studies, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla and the session was chaired by Prof. N.S. Bist, Former director Population Research Studies Himachal Pradesh University Shimla.



Professor Ashok Aima emphasized the need for dynamism in the educational system and pedagogical methodologies to adapt to changing economic agendas and empower people with critical thinking to transform youth energy into job creators and accelerators of the economy. Creating linkages between schools, colleges, and universities and focusing on homegrown capabilities are important. Relevant practices and projects that provide practical knowledge to students and can be applied in the real-time world should be encouraged.

Dr. Kate Nickelchok emphasized the need to focus on globalizing education to transform students' potential in a sustainable way that far outweighs the harms of economic constraints. Social entrepreneurship and innovation should be harnessed to break water-tight complexities. A change

in paternalistic thinking is required, and empowering women and making equality the core of the economic system is essential.



Professor Meenakshi.F. Paul highlighted the urgent need to bridge the gender parity gap and improve gender development indices for women and the LGBTQ community to achieve the slated economic goals at a faster rate. She emphasized the importance of oral traditions, Indian knowledge, and Grandma's recipes that should be brought to the classrooms without neglect. Prevention should be a significant aspect of healthcare through clean water, sanitation, and genetically modified food, and science, common sense, and practice should be implemented together.



Professor Aparna Negi laid importance on the value of tolerance to accept another way of doing things for growth and stability in the economy. Creating spaces and real estates for the ever-

growing population and revenue generation from the recreational economy are essential. The behavioral aspect of economics should be emphasized for positive usage of education, information, and technology, and non-economic factors should augment the efforts to lead society in a particular direction for achieving economic goals.

Professor Bisht concluded by emphasising on the need for qualitative structural changes that target social variables to enhance the standard of living of the people. He also highlighted the importance of a strong and secure middle class in India's upward trajectory, which is growing at a rate of 7-8 per cent annually and constitutes the majority of the workforce. The focus should be on green economy, usage of renewable sources of energy, and inclusive growth and development.



Lunch Break

As the morning session of the seminar drew to a close, the attendees' stomachs rumbled with hunger. The attendees eagerly made their way to the dining area and enjoyed their meals, sharing their thoughts and ideas with each other. The lunch break provided a valuable opportunity for networking, with participants making new connections and strengthening existing ones.



Keynote Speech

The keynote speaker in the post lunch session was Dr. Anoop Saxena, educator and researcher University of Fraser Valley Canada who gave insights on key aspects of discussion such as education, healthcare, women empowerment, and India's future in 2047. He highlighted that the

education policies in India often favour the privileged over the underprivileged, leading to a system that is unequal and perpetuates disparities in access to education. Private schools are more focused on, as it is challenging to change the system from within. Dr. Anoop emphasized the importance of including diversity in the curriculum to make education more inclusive and culturally relevant.

Furthermore, rural areas have less access to education than urban areas, creating a significant disparity in opportunities for education. Addressing this issue requires targeted efforts to improve access to education in rural areas.

Regarding healthcare, while India has seen a decrease in infant mortality and an increase in life expectancy, healthcare expenditure remains low. The government hospitals have not shown significant improvement, and there is a negative disparity between rural and urban healthcare systems. The out-of-pocket medical expenses system and the lack of a health care system also make healthcare unaffordable for many people.



The speaker also highlighted the issue of women's empowerment in India. India has a high gender pay gap, and violence against women is one of the highest. Women's safety is a significant concern, as it is not safe for women to be out at night, and it is easier for people to harass them. India also has the highest suicide rate for women, which further emphasizes the importance of women's empowerment in the country.

In conclusion, the speaker noted that India has made significant progress in the 75 years since gaining independence. However, the benefits have not been evenly distributed, with cities and the well-off class reaping the most significant rewards. To create a better India in 2047, it is crucial to make efforts to permeate economic growth and development to rural areas. The government needs to address current issues and bring about a systematic change for long-term growth and

development to achieve a more inclusive and equitable society. The speaker emphasized the importance of focusing on education, healthcare, and women's empowerment as critical areas that require attention to achieve this goal. Ultimately, the future of India depends on the collective thoughts and values of its people, and by working together, they can create a better, more prosperous, and more equitable future for all.

TECHNICAL SESSION – I

MARCH 3, 2023

Venue: Room No. A 1

Chairperson: Dr. Deepali Dhau

Co-Chairperson: Ms. Raman Bassi

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamanna

Dr. Seetha R. discussed the status of women's empowerment in the modern era and determined whether women were being included and given equal rights as men. Despite progress in women's empowerment, there are still significant gaps in terms of gender equality. Women continue to face discrimination, harassment, and violence in many areas of their lives, including the workplace, the home, and public spaces. In addition, women often have limited access to education, healthcare, and financial resources, which can impede their ability to achieve their goals and fulfil their potential. While there have been positive developments in recent years, much work remains to be done to ensure that women are truly empowered and able to live their lives to the fullest.

Ms. Shviti Sood, Mr. Piyush Aggarwal, and Dr. Anviti Gupta discussed the role of resilience, spirituality, and mindfulness in empowering women. They emphasized the need for equal opportunities and the right to make decisions in families and society. They also discussed how spirituality and mindfulness can help women become more self-aware and self-confident.

Twinkle Vaid and Bhavna Devi studied Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as a key to self-reliance for women. They defined SHGs as a gathering of more than two people to address a common worry or issue. They found that the government provided assistance and training to rural and urban women as part of the National Livelihood Mission to encourage them to collaborate and utilize their skills to support themselves. Women who participated in these activities experienced increased self-confidence and independence. Inhabitants in the hilly region relied on traditional resources for their means of subsistence. Additionally, SHGs provided a platform for women to monetize their expertise. In their study, they interviewed 35 women from the Mashobra block in the Shimla district and found that after joining SHGs, the women had a greater role in household decision-making, more courage to voice their opinions, and a greater awareness of the value of education.

Kumari Shipu explored the role of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar towards the equality of Indian women. Dr. Ambedkar was a person with vast knowledge, wisdom, courage, and vision. He was a freedom fighter and scholar who showed the way to a society based on liberty, equality, and fraternity. He put in a lot of effort to remove the barriers hindering the progress of women in India and always tried to provide them with equal rights and status as men in society. According to Dr. Ambedkar,

everyone should be treated equally regardless of caste, colour, creed, gender, and religion. That is why he started working towards the liberation of women and their rights.

Hamsringdi Maibangsa and Dr. Jyoti Jayal discussed the culture of Hijra communities in India and how it is portrayed in autobiographies written by transgender individuals. The objective was to gain insight into the functioning of Hijra communities and the significance of their culture. Qualitative research methodology was used for textual analysis of autobiographies, which helped to understand the cultural domain of the community and its impact on the behaviour and presence of Hijra individuals in public space. The study aimed to promote a better understanding of Hijra culture and behaviour in Indian society.

Dr. P. S. Kutwal conducted a study in 2011 on gender disparity in the social development of the Indian Himalayan Region. The study assessed the social development disparity between males and females through literacy rates. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) was used to analyze the gender inequality among the states and districts of the Himalayan region. His research showed that gender inequality was more prevalent in the western Himalayan states compared to the northeast Himalayan states of India. Mizoram recorded the highest GPI, while Jammu & Kashmir recorded the lowest. The top ten districts with the highest GPI belonged to the northeast Himalayan states of India, indicating lower gender inequality in this part of the region. On the other hand, the lowest GPI districts were predominantly in Jammu & Kashmir, reflecting a more pronounced gender disparity in the Muslim-majority state. Dr. Kutwal recommended objective-specific, space-specific, and target group-oriented policy interventions to address the issue of gender inequality.

Popy Devi Nath, and Suneetha Esampalli discussed the representation of women in movies. They pointed out that while women have made significant contributions to the economic, political, social, and financial growth and development of the country, they are still portrayed as inferior to men in the film industry. Nath and Esampalli argued that women are usually given roles in movies only for their glamour, sexual appeal, or physical appearance, and not for their abilities and talents. They also noted that only a small percentage of movies are women-centric, which portray the life of a woman, her challenges, obstacles, dreams, aspirations, emotions, weaknesses, strengths, and her story.

Sangeeta Bali Sharma discussed the post-independence evolution of Hindustani Classical Music in duet (vocal and instrumental). Sharma pointed out that music is considered a figurative symbol of man's cultural tradition, and Hindustani Classical Music has held an important place in Indian culture since ancient times. After India's independence, Hindustani Classical Music underwent tremendous changes and earned a respectable position among folk music. Sharma highlighted the contributions of classical music artists, such as Ustad Allaudin Khan, Pandit Ravishankar, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Pandit Jasraj, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, and Ustad Zakir Hussain. She also noted the role of education in evolving new aspects of classical music in India and how research in this field has made classical music much easier to understand. Sharma discussed the new aspects of Hindustani classical music, such as musical congruency experiments in duet vocal and instrumental and national and international performances. She highlighted the role of orchestras in giving new shape to duet music, and since then, there has been no looking back for Hindustani Classical Music.



TECHNICAL SESSION – II

MARCH 3, 2023

Venue: Seminar Room

Chairperson: Prof. Manoj Sharma Co-Chairperson: Ms. Swati Kapil

Rapporteur: Ms. Kartika Sam Lobo

Atma Ram and A.K. Tiwari conducted a comparative study of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to analyse regional disparities in economic infrastructure development at the district level. They found that all twelve districts of Himachal Pradesh and thirteen districts of Uttarakhand were classified into developed and developing categories based on the composite indices in decreasing hierarchy. Hamirpur was found to rank first and Lahaul & Spiti was last, while in Uttarakhand, Dehradun was found to rank first and Chamoli was last in the level of economic infrastructure development. Wide disparities were found in the level of economic infrastructure development in Uttarakhand, while it was less to some extent in Himachal Pradesh. The study revealed that for bringing about uniform regional development, the developing or less developed districts require special treatment in comprehensive regional planning at the micro level.

Modish Kumar and Dr. Santosh Kumari conducted a primary research study on the critical issues contributing to construction delays in a National Highway construction project in Himachal Pradesh, a hilly state in Northern India. The study found that contractor and owner-related issues were some of the most dominant factors causing delays. Issues such as land encroachment and acquisition, obtaining approvals from authorities, hindrances at the project site, poor planning and scheduling, technical challenges in construction, extreme weather conditions, and difficulty in construction in hilly areas were listed. The findings can be helpful for project professionals to mitigate construction delays in National Highway projects in Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Swati Jain and Aishwarya Dubey, in their paper, investigated the impact of four categories of infrastructure availability on GDP and per capita income growth in eight South Asian countries. The researchers argued that infrastructure determines the state of regional development and results in higher living standards and lower economic inequalities. The study found that South Asia will have an infrastructure investment gap of 4-5 trillion dollars by 2040. This is going to affect the pace of economic development as well as the distributional impact of development as the availability of all types of infrastructure (physical, social, financial, and digital) in per capita terms is persistently low. The researchers argued that public investment has not only a larger role to play but is also the most feasible option for infrastructure provision in South Asian countries.

Rekha Devi conducted a study analysing the inter-district disparities in the infrastructure development in Himachal Pradesh. The study found that the economy of Himachal Pradesh is greatly impacted by its rugged topography, which has a profound effect on its inhabitants. Infrastructure plays a crucial role in the economic development of the state.

Deep Singh conducted a study to assess the impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on income inequalities among sample households in Himachal Pradesh. and stressed the importance of inclusive development. His statistics provided a clear insight into how the MGNREGA Income has added to the development of the state.

Dr T D Verma, spoke on the role of Indo-ASEAN trade relations in the transformation of the Indian economy towards becoming Atamanirbhar Bharat in the backdrop of global economic uncertainties and the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The paper highlighted the historical and

cultural ties between India and ASEAN and the potential for mutually beneficial cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, connectivity, energy security, and cultural cooperation.

Raman Matharu conducted an empirical analysis of the relationship between non-performing assets (NPAs) and profitability of the H.P. State Co-operative Bank Ltd. from 2012 to 2021. The study found that ineffective handling of NPAs could lead to a financial and economic catastrophe and an unattractive investment climate. To reduce NPAs and increase profitability, the study recommended the development of a thorough structure for NPA management, policy measures, and key performance indicators under the scope of the regulatory process and management of non-performing assets of the Reserve Bank of India.

Ashish Kumar discussed the emerging dynamics of Environment Social Governance (ESG) funds in India. Kumar analyzed the concept of sustainable funds in India based on literature and a detailed assessment of ESG funds available in the Indian capital market. He concluded that India is in its preliminary stage of sustainable development, and the low demand for sustainable funds may be due to insufficient knowledge of sustainable funds among retail investors. Kumar also noted that the effectiveness of ESG funds in the short period as a socially responsible investment approach for investors cannot be explicitly drawn due to different investment time horizons, investor preferences, and the prevailing market atmosphere.

Dr. Vishal Chauhan discussed a recent study conducted in Jubbal and Kotkhai blocks of Shimla district in India. The study explored the input-output status of different farm holdings for Pear and Apricot crop production. The study found that small farms were able to produce more output with a given amount of labour compared to larger farms. However, marginal, and medium farms were able to produce more output per unit of land compared to small or large farms. The study also found that the labour man-days per hectare were a concern for marginal farms, which had the highest levels compared to small, medium, and large farms. The study highlighted the importance of understanding the input-output status of different farm holdings in order to achieve sustainable and efficient farm operations.

Suneetha Esampalli and Lt. Lydia Marina discussed the impact of technology on agriculture in India. They highlight the need for modern technology to make farming more efficient and profitable, especially in the face of climate change and global warming. Their paper analyzed the benefits and consequences of technological advancements in agriculture for farmers.

Manish Kumar discussed the farmer's movement in India and their demand for the legalization of the Minimum Support Price. His paper analyzed the different views on the minimum support price, including the government's concern for financial risk and trade-related problems, the farmers' belief in its crucial role in their livelihoods, and the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana's attempt to balance the free market and compulsory purchase.

TECHNICAL SESSION – III

MARCH 3, 2023

Venue: Auditorium

Chairperson: Dr. Rajesh Dhorta

Co-Chairperson: Ms. Priyanka Mehta

Rapporteur: Ms. Shree

Saket Bihari spoke on Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education and suggested that the government should take initiatives such as greater use of technology, increasing student numbers, online education, and opening new colleges and universities to increase GER. The goal is to achieve a 50 per cent GER in higher education in the next 15 years.

Piyush Aggarwal, Shviti Sood and Dr. Anviti Gupta spoke on the impact of digitalisation of education and increased internet addiction among adolescents. Their study was conducted on 100 respondents using a self-administered questionnaire. The results indicate that students have increased internet addiction along with the digitalisation of education, leading to dependence on technology. They suggested that increased internet addiction is a side effect of the digital transformation in education and should be monitored.

Dr. Shameer T. N spoke on the curriculum transformation in education, particularly in Kerala. The study suggested the need for alteration and modification in the education system of Kerala, leading to the development of a new curriculum framework. The curriculum framework focuses on 26 important areas, providing the society with a clear picture of the upcoming curriculum work. The Department of General Education in Kerala has taken steps towards comprehensive curriculum reform, considering the growth and development in the knowledge sector.

Rama Goyal discussed the PM-Poshan Scheme in Hisar, Haryana, and its impact on the malnutrition of children. The study suggested that the scheme has helped in reducing malnutrition among children in the area. Such schemes should be implemented in other parts of India to reduce malnutrition and promote a healthier society.

Dr. Manjinder Kaur presented her paper on the topic poverty alleviating through dairy farming in Nahan block district Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh'. Her research focused on the milk production, marketable surplus, gross returns and the problems faced by the dairy farmers. She also emphasized on the need to educate famers about the technological advancements in the field of milk production for better outputs. The results showed that the dairy farmers faced difficulties due to a lack of knowledge about modern dairy practices, and therefore, there was a need to educate them about new technologies and methods for increasing milk production and to reduce their drudgery.

Bhed Ram analyzed the gender differences in the reasons for not seeking medical advice and the consultation behaviour among various socio-economic and demographic groups in India. The study was based on cross-sectional data from the National Sample Survey (NSS) 75th Round (2017-18) on key indicators of social consumption in India: Health. The study revealed that people in India avoided medical treatment due to a lack of awareness about health consequences, inadequate medical facilities, long waiting times, high costs, and a lack of health insurance.

Jyoti Thakur and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Mahajan conducted a study to gain a clear understanding of the working of the Ayushman Bharat scheme in two major hospitals in Shimla, namely Ripon and IGMC. Their study aimed to elaborate on the healthcare system in India, increase access to health services and facilities for people below the poverty line, determine the cost of various health packages included in the scheme, and evaluate the ease of accessing services under the Ayushman Bharat state-funded scheme HIMCARE. The study showed that the scheme was positively received, and 98 percent of the people surveyed agreed that it alleviates the financial burden and creates awareness towards healthcare. The study suggested that improving effective health infrastructure, safeguarding patients' medical history, and maintaining confidentiality through the Ayushman Bharat digital mission could be considered to further improve the scheme.

Jagruti and Dr. Gayatri Raina conducted a study to examine the impact of spiritual intelligence on mental health among female university students in India. The study used the Spiritual Intelligence Scale and the Mental Health Inventory to determine the effect of the four dimensions of spiritual intelligence on the six components of mental health. The study found that spiritual intelligence education programs should be included in the curriculum to improve individuals' mental well-being.

Shivendra Sangar conducted a study on the health status of the elderly population in India. The study analyzed four indicators: incidence of illnesses, preference for healthcare facilities, economic burden, and coping strategies. The study found that cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of illness among the elderly in India, and most elderly people prefer private healthcare facilities and have to bear the cost in the form of out-of-pocket expenses. To improve the health status of the elderly population in India, the study recommended increasing public

spending on geriatric care, expanding access to health insurance, and revitalizing public healthcare facilities.

Aamna Tyagi and Mohit Kumar conducted a study to compare and assess the levels of self-consciousness among male and female adolescents in India. The study used the Self-Consciousness Scale–Revised to measure the construct of self-consciousness. The study found that there was a significant difference between male and female adolescents in the levels of private self-consciousness and public self-consciousness, with higher levels for female adolescents. The conclusions drawn from this study can be used to effectively address adolescent mental health (especially for females) in various educational settings and deal with the stresses and changes that come with this phase of life.

Priyanka Mehta discussed the current state of knowledge on flexible work arrangements. She discussed how technology and innovation have prompted organizations to adopt flexible working hours to benefit both the business and its employees and highlighted the role of flexible work arrangements in balancing factors such as psychological well-being, social relationships, and physical health.

Akshita Dhiman and Dr. Akanksha Sud conducted research on using Kathak dance as a form of Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) to strengthen the mental health of high school students. They highlighted how classical dance, particularly Kathak, can be used as a therapeutic tool to help individuals express their emotions and feelings. The study aimed to determine the effectiveness of Kathak DMT for underachieving high school students suffering from test anxiety.

Kavita Kumra analyzed the challenges in implementing the National Education Policy, 2020 in higher educational institutions in India. She highlighted the policy's focus on improving quality, equity, access, and excellence in education in an inclusive manner, and the reforms aimed at establishing multidisciplinary colleges and universities and the National Research Foundation (NRF) to support outstanding research in colleges and universities.



TECHNICAL SESSION – IV

MARCH 3, 2023

Venue: Room No. A2

Chairperson: Ram Lal Sharma

Co-Chairperson: Dr. Vishal Chauhan

Rapporteur: Ms. Shefali Rapta

Yash Chauhan and Dr. Parmod Sharma did a systematic literature review of digital payments from 2017 to 2022, focusing on the top contributing countries, trends of citation, prominent authors' citations, and research methodologies. They found that India had the most empirical research followed by China, and they discussed future directions and thrust areas in the field of digital payments.

Neha Kanwar presented on the topic “The perspective of employees towards work from home with special reference to Zaccia Solutions Shimla”. In her report, she discussed the employee’s perspective towards work from home, especially with reference to the employees from Zaccia Solutions, which is an IT company in Shimla. She explained how most of the employees liked the concept of work from home as it improved their work-life balance, saved their time and travel expenses, and provided a stress-free environment. On the other hand, some employees didn’t like the concept and agreed to the problems like bad mental health, distractions at home, a sense of loneliness, lack of resources, and fewer opportunities for promotion.

Ms. Neha Chaudhary spoke on “Impact of COVID – 19 on e-commerce”. She presented a study based on primary data on rural areas in Nagrota block of Kangra district Himachal Pradesh. The study found out that due to corona virus, people started using smartphones for education purposes initially, but the need for purchasing online increased as the people were restricted to move out so the rural population started using smartphones for online shopping. She explained that over 78 per cent of consumers prefer to shop online resulting in an increase in the e-commerce business from rural as well as urban areas.

Dr. Amar Rao and Dr. Prachi Kapil examined the connectedness in the time and frequency domains and evaluated the spill-over and impulse response functions of geopolitical uncertainty on daily returns of traditional and green bonds. The study found that the impacts of geopolitical risks on traditional bonds are more widespread in comparison to green bonds, and in the medium term, geopolitical uncertainty does not affect the returns of either traditional or green bonds.

Dr. Purnima Thaper conducted a study on the digital divide in Himachal Pradesh and its impact on e-Governance services. She highlighted that lack of internet access and awareness among people were significant barriers to e-Governance development. Dr. Thaper recommended that the state government take actions to narrow this divide to effectively implement e-Governance projects.

Dharuv Pal Singh and Ruchi Ramesh presented on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in India, emphasizing the need for further research on its impact on monetary policy transmission, financial stability, price stability, inflation, unconventional monetary instruments, and the role of the RBI as the lender of last resort. They reviewed recent research, RBI experiments, and ongoing discussions among stakeholders to examine key considerations for public use of CBDCs.

Manu Mahajan conducted a study on the growth and prospects of the Digital India campaign. Mahajan assessed the impact and challenges of Digital India on all aspects of governance and the quality of life of citizens. His research methodology was both descriptive and analytical, and the data for this study was collected from secondary sources such as websites, research journals, newspapers, and magazines. Mahajan presented an optimistic outlook on the potential for creating more employment opportunities for youth, which would boost the nation's economy if implemented.

Anu Chirotra discussed the importance of information and communication technology (ICT) in education. She emphasized that integrating new technologies in teaching and learning can improve students' skills and participation in a digital world. Her research, which involved administering a questionnaire to 150 students from 30 government higher secondary schools, showed that most students have positive perceptions of ICT and want to learn through ICT tools. However, inadequate technological and pedagogical knowledge prevents them from maximizing the benefits of ICT.

Shivani Sharma and Dr. Asha Singla discussed the process revolution brought about by e-commerce in the retail industry. They explained that e-commerce allows for the exchange of products and services over the internet, creating electronic infrastructure for future obstacles to overcome. They noted that India is growing quickly in terms of e-commerce, and the business community is becoming increasingly aware of its possibilities. The purpose of their paper was to explore the place of e-commerce in modern business.





DAY 2 -4th March 2023

The convener and organizing committee extended a warm welcome to the distinguished chief guest Prof. Yash Chawla



Day 2 of the seminar began with Dr. Chawla, the keynote speaker, Assistant Professor of Innovation and Marketing and ETBI Series General Chair Department of Operations Research and Business Intelligence Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Poland lighting the lamp to signify the start of the day's events. The participants, eager to continue their learning from the previous day's sessions, were seated in anticipation of the day's activities.



The lighting of the lamp by the chief guest was followed by the rendition of the college anthem.



Keynote Speech

The keynote speech on innovation and research in real life was delivered by Dr. Yash Chawla. The speech covered various topics, including the importance of research that can be applied in real life, the utilization of new DNA of innovation, funding for research, growth from paper to mobiles to A.I., crisis and opportunity, Deloitte's 3 stage model, SDG launched in 2015, digitalization, the five Cs of innovation, deep tech talents, and examples of AI-based companies.

Importance of Research: According to Dr. Chawla, research that can be applied in real life is crucial for the growth and development of society. He emphasized that research should be focused on finding practical solutions to existing problems. This can lead to the development of new technologies, products, and services that can improve people's lives. He also noted that research can help find solutions to global challenges, such as climate change, poverty, and inequality.

Utilization of New DNA of Innovation: Dr. Chawla stressed the importance of utilizing new DNA of innovation in research. He noted that innovation is no longer limited to traditional methods, but it involves a combination of various factors, including technology, culture, and creativity. He suggested that researchers should think outside the box and embrace new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to drive innovation.

Funding for Research: Dr. Chawla acknowledged that funding is not the problem in research, but identifying the right problems to solve. He suggested that researchers should focus on finding practical solutions to existing problems rather than creating new problems to solve. He also noted that big companies invest in small start-ups in the research and development field to show an asset in their balance sheet, which increases their share value.

Digitalization: Dr. Chawla discussed the impact of digitalization on innovation and research. He noted that the use of technology has transformed the way people interact with each other and has created new opportunities for innovation. He highlighted the importance of data in digitalization and suggested that companies should depend extensively on data to drive innovation.

The Five Cs of Innovation: Dr. Chawla discussed the five Cs of innovation, which are celerity, complexity, concentration, cost, and consumer. He noted that innovation involves the speed of technology adoption, the rise of deep tech science-based innovations, market scope, cost towards a paradigm of zero marginal costs in digital age, and hyper-personalization, respectively.

Deep Tech Talents: Dr. Chawla discussed the importance of deep tech talents in innovation and research. He noted that companies such as Pfizer and Moderna have utilized AI to create vaccines. He suggested that companies should acknowledge technology and go beyond their areas of expertise to drive innovation.

Examples of AI-Based Companies: Dr. Chawla presented various examples of AI-based companies, such as Sports Computing Company, Bid Bond, Eye Square, and Smart Urban Wear. He noted that these companies have used AI to develop products and services that improve people's lives.

Conclusion: In conclusion, Dr. Yash Chawla's keynote speech on innovation and research in real life emphasized the importance of finding practical solutions to existing problems. He highlighted

the significance of utilizing new DNA of innovation, funding for research, digitalization, the five Cs of innovation, deep tech talents, and examples of AI-based companies to drive innovation.





Tea Break



TECHNICAL SESSION – I

MARCH 4, 2023

Venue: Seminar Room

Chairperson: Prof. Gaikar Vilas B. Rapporteur: Ms. Muskan Sood

Co-Chairperson: Mr. Ashish Kumar

Venue: Auditorium

Dr. Ritika Sharma and Ms. Mehak Jaswal presented a research paper on the impact of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan on the Indian economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. They used a theoretical approach and secondary sources to study the benefits provided by the initiative and the reforms made under it. They found that the reforms and relaxations announced for various sectors have benefited both the industrial and agricultural sectors by strengthening local manufacturers, improving the supply chain, and bringing innovation to services. They also noted that Indian startups and innovators will play a vital role in the success of the mission.

Sahil Sharma and Dr. Dinesh Kumar Sharma presented a study on ESG as an investment style in the Indian stock market. They explained that ESG investing is a prominent approach to sustainable investing that considers environmental, social, and governance scores as non-financial factors to measure an investment's sustainability. They noted that ESG investing has recently been considered an investment style by finance professionals, who use ESG scores to create socially responsible portfolios and generate good returns for their investors. They aimed to track the growth of the ESG investment style in the Indian stock market and the rest of the world and to assess the risk-adjusted performance of Indian ESG products available for investment and compare them with their global counterparts.

Deepali Kanwar and Kavita Indapurkar presented a research paper on decoding India's trade deficit with ASEAN. They analyzed the trade basket of India vis-à-vis ASEAN since the implementation of the FTA and how the tariff liberalization affected the trade basket. They also analyzed the interplay between MFN and FTA tariffs through case studies of palm oil, pepper, aluminium, and copper. They found that despite 90-93 per cent of the trade being covered under the FTA, around 20 per cent of this could possibly be traded at MFN rather than under the FTA framework due to tariff preferences in favour of MFN applied. They called for a more detailed and product-level analysis to understand the trade dynamics between India and the ASEAN countries, which would be further strengthened as and when preferential trade data is available.

Kshemendra Mishra and Dr. J.S Parmar conducted a descriptive study on the evolution of crypto currencies in India, highlighting the impact of decentralized finance and blockchain technology on the global economic equilibrium. They investigated multiple secondary data sources to chronologically identify the evolution of crypto currencies in India.

Shweta Rana, Deeksha Rana, Sindhuja Sharma, and Dr. Seema Choudhary conducted a study on the impact of Covid-19 on tourism in Himachal Pradesh, a mountainous state with limited sustainable prospects for development due to its rugged topography and fragile ecosystem. They used the location quotient method and collected data on tourists' arrival from the official site of tourism in Himachal Pradesh from 2008 to 2021 to understand the impact of Covid-19 on tourism

in Himachal Pradesh. They found that Covid-19 severely impacted the tourism industry in 2020, but it has started recovering. They suggested that the shift towards more sustainable forms of tourism would help strengthen the tourism industry in Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Rahul Sangaonkar conducted an analytical study on the facets of Indian national security in the era of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, proposing ways in which India's security concerns can be addressed by becoming self-reliant in the defense sector. He highlighted the importance of agency cooperation in achieving self-reliance and suggested that self-reliance would ensure the creation of technology indigenously, reducing dependence on foreign sources.

Dr. Nitesh Goyal, Dr. Simmi and Geetanjali Thakur conducted a literature review on consumer behaviour towards counterfeit products in India. They found that counterfeit products were popular in certain states, with price being the main motivator for purchase. Additionally, individuals with high integrity were less likely to purchase these products, but others saw it as a way to boost their self-esteem and status symbol. The study suggests that stricter laws and awareness campaigns are necessary to curb the demand for counterfeit products.

Anupam Verma analyzed the impact of rural development schemes on balanced regional growth in Shimla district. The study was based on primary and secondary data collected from two villages. While acknowledging the challenges faced by these schemes, such as corruption and inadequate funding, the study recommends continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach their intended beneficiaries.

Swati Kapil discussed the progress made by the Indian economy since independence in 1947. She highlighted the growth rates across all sectors, as well as the implementation of various reforms and programs, such as the green revolution in agriculture and the New Economic Reforms of 1991. The study also recognized the establishment of the Finance Commission in 1951 to address fiscal imbalances. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of development programs and policies, along with the vaccination drive, have been positive for the country.

Imran Meman and Dr. K.L. Tandekar conducted a research study examining the economic development of unorganized women workers through the Chief Minister Unorganized Workers Sewing Machine Help Scheme in Chhattisgarh. They assessed the eligibility criteria and benefits of the scheme and examined the number of women workers who have benefited from it in recent years.

Unnatti Chauhan and Dr. Rakesh Singh, conducted research on the transformation of Indo-China trade relations after India's economic reforms in 1991. They examined the bilateral trade relationship between the two nations, focusing on the major trends and changes in India's balance of trade with China, and identified the contributing factors and challenges faced by the two countries in the realm of trade.



TECHNICAL SESSION – II

MARCH 4, 2023

Venue: Seminar Room

Chairperson: Prof. Devinder Sharma

Rapporteur: Ms. Diksha Uniyal

Co-Chairperson: Ms. Priyanka Mehta

Mohd Suhail critically examined the impact of the Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019 on Muslim citizens in India. Using a critical theory approach, he argued that the CAA and National Register of Citizens should be viewed in the context of the majoritarian Hindutva discourse that portrays Muslims as outsiders or "suspected disloyal citizens of India." His study relied on secondary sources and contended that the changes in the Indian citizenship model violated constitutional values and created a "doubtful regime" of citizenship, especially for Muslim citizens.

Namita C Khagta examined the trajectory of change in rural power structures in India, specifically the impact of the 73rd constitutional Amendment Act, which created a legitimate political space for marginalized groups to assume representation and voice in local bodies. Her paper was an attempt to track and reflect on the future line of action for further deepening grassroots democracy to bring about socio-economic transformation in rural India. Her study was descriptive in nature and based on secondary sources.

Shreyanshu Purohit explored the social and cultural patterns in the folk Mahabharata of Garhwal, Uttarakhand. He examined the narrative structures and the age-old oral tradition of Pandwani singing of Garhwal, which included both the Pandwani singing of drummers and the upper-class Brahmin or Kshatriya. His paper explored the linguistic, cultural, and social patterns in the narrative singing of Pandwani Mahabharata in Garhwal. He analyzed the use of terminology and phrases to describe characters and incidents, as well as social patterns imprinted on the language of the local Mahabharata narrative. The cultural patterns were also present in the use of local phrases, and the Pandwani was sung in a fixed order that started with a formal salutation to important deities and characters, taking up to 90 days.

Arif Sheikh and Dr. Jyoti Jayal presented a paper on the Manipuri royal household in the novel "The Princess and the Political Agent." They explored the customs and traditions of Manipur, such as polygamy, the Kwaak Tanba festival, the Bor festival, and traditional games like Yubi Lakpi and Kang Sanaba. Their paper aimed to rediscover endangered Manipuri traditions through the analysis of the novel.

Mayank Singh presented a study on the changes in the depth of the Ganga River in Central Ganga Plains caused by fine sand grain size, which has led to an increase in drowning deaths along the river. His study was qualitative research that compiled information from several sources to draw new inferences. It aimed to understand the reasons behind drowning deaths and support the formulation of policies to mitigate such risks.

Santosh Kumar and Dr. Jai Singh Parmar presented a paper on exploring rural art and crafts through rural tourism in Himachal Pradesh. They highlighted the varied arts and crafts forms of

the state, government initiatives for promoting the handicraft industry, and the present status of rural artisans. Their study aimed to provide insights into rural tourism and the rural art and craft of Himachal Pradesh.

Ayushee Gautam and H R Sharma presented a study on the assessment of bare necessities and its determinants in urban slums of India. They used unit level data from two recent nationally representative surveys to examine changes in access to bare necessities and its determinants among urban slum households. The study found that access to bare necessities improved from 55 per cent to 60 per cent among slum households from 2012 to 2018. The Bare Necessities Index (BNI) was used to assess access to various dimensions such as water, sanitation, housing, micro-environment, and basic facilities. The results showed that illiteracy, casual labour employment, lack of slum dwelling notification, encroached tenure status, and the absence of identification documents have a negative significant impact on the accessibility scores of bare necessities dimensions.

Brij Mohan and Jitender Kumar discussed citizen-centric administration as a way toward good governance. They highlighted the New Public Management (NPM) approach to public administration, which advocates for a transparent government focused on its citizens and characterized by commitment, accountability, responsiveness, and efficiency. The paper discussed various government initiatives for a transparent and accountable government in India and evaluated the effectiveness and ease of access of citizen-centric services that reduce citizens' grievances. Secondary data was used for the present study.

Naina Sambher and Prof. D.D. Sharma presented a study on the spatial distribution of basic amenities and smart facilities in Smart City Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. The study analysed the spatial distribution of basic amenities such as schools, health centres, and police stations in the Shimla Municipal Corporation, and evaluated the smarter facilities being provided after its designation as a Smart City. A location quotient was calculated, and a GPS survey was conducted to show the spatial distribution of facilities provided under the Smart City project. The study concluded that many projects are being lined up for implementation at the ground level, following a citizen-centric approach, to make the city "smarter".

Dr. Pankaj Aashish and Reenu Devi conducted a study to analyze the demography of aging in the north-western states of India. Their study aimed to compare the different states in India at different stages of the demographic transition and their experiences with aging at different levels. They found that population aging is a significant result of the demographic transition process, characterized by an increase in the number and proportion of elderly individuals in the total population over a long period of time.

Kumari Sapna and Prof. D.D. Sharma conducted a study on the social development in the Shillai block of Sirmaur district, Himachal Pradesh. Their research focused on investigating the spatial variation in social development using secondary data sources collected from various government agencies. They used a simple percentage method to evaluate the level of development within the villages, focusing on various social development indicators such as educational facilities, health facilities, power supply, drinking water facilities, literacy rate (both male and female), and the disparity in male-female literacy. Their study revealed positive changes in social development

indicators over the 10-year period, such as a reduction in the disparity in literacy and the increase in the number of hospitals within 5 kilometers of the village.



TECHNICAL SESSION – III
MARCH 4, 2023
Venue: Computer Laboratory

Chairperson: Dr. Rajiv Nayan
Co-Chairperson: Mr. Ashish Kumar
Rapporteur: Ms. Srishti Gupta

Dharmender Mehta conducted a study to measure the corporate sustainability performance of hydroelectric projects and the cement industry in Himachal Pradesh. The study used both primary and secondary data for impact assessment and aimed to compare the claims made by the companies in their annual reports with statistically verified results. The study found that most of the expenditure incurred was in the vicinity of the project area, and the community residing in the surrounding area was selected as the respondents to study the impact of the CSR-sustainability initiatives.

Purandhi Gupta conducted research on the impact of sustainability tourism during the festive season in Hill, India. The study analyzed the current challenges and opportunities of sustainability tourism in hills and investigated the potential benefits of adopting a more sustainable approach to tourism during the festive season. Through surveys and interviews with stakeholders, the paper evaluated the current state of sustainable tourism in the hills of India and assessed the potential for further growth and development. The paper concluded with a series of strategies that can be used to maximize the benefits of sustainable tourism.

Tanvee conducted a study on green banking as an initiative towards sustainable development. The study used a combination of both primary and secondary data sources to investigate the concept of green banking practices. The results of the study highlighted the crucial need for a better understanding of green banking practices and the importance of creating awareness about them within society. The adoption of green banking practices is seen as a step towards a sustainable future and can help in reducing the negative impact of human activities on the environment.

Raghawi presented on merging good governance with sustainable development goals. The study highlighted the shared participation role of the state, non-state actors, civil society, and private sector in the economy and public governance. The paper aimed to provide an overview of the challenges faced by countries when it comes to sustainable development, such as high unemployment rates, widespread poverty, and inequality, and suggested integrating good governance and SDGs as a helpful tool for nations to achieve their goals. The methodology used in this paper was a literature review and policy analysis of good governance and sustainable development goals.

Shubham Sharma, Neha Kanwar, and Dr. Vinod Negi conducted a study to compare the sustainable development performance of Himachal Pradesh with other hilly states in India, with a focus on Goals 8 and 9. They based their study on a descriptive analysis of the SDG Index, which was released by NITI Aayog in 2018.

Prashant Thakur discussed the importance of sustainable development and how economic growth has come at the cost of environmental quality. India has abundant natural resources, but developmental activities have put pressure on these finite resources and had a negative impact on

human health and well-being. To combat this, sustainable development is needed, which aims to provide secure livelihoods while minimizing resource depletion and environmental degradation.

Dr. Savita Rana emphasized the importance of women's involvement in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for sustainable development. Women have increasingly become a part of the employment sector and have taken the initiative to establish their own businesses. However, they still face numerous challenges, including limited access to finance, lack of mentorship and networks, and cultural biases. Governments and organizations can provide support to women entrepreneurs through financial assistance, training programs, and mentorship opportunities to create an environment that is conducive to women-owned businesses and encourages their growth.

Vishakha Gupta and Dr. Santosh Kumari conducted a study to assess the level of awareness of green HRM practices among employees in selected hydropower projects. Their study utilized a questionnaire to gather data, and descriptive data analysis was used to analyze the awareness levels and to identify significant factors that contribute to employees' heightened awareness of green behavior. The results of their study will contribute to a better understanding of the subject and its potential positive outcomes, especially in a non-western context such as India.

Neha Devi, focused on achieving quality inclusive education under SDG 4. She emphasized that quality basic education is a fundamental human right for all children, and achieving equity and inclusion requires eliminating inequality. Inclusive education, which is gaining momentum, welcomes all students, regardless of any disabilities, and places them in age-appropriate classes in their neighborhood schools, where they receive quality instruction and support to succeed. Her paper explored the current practices of inclusive education in Jammu and Kashmir, including the issues and challenges in access and implementation.





TECHNICAL SESSION – IV
MARCH 4, 2023
Venue: Room No. A1
Chairperson: Dr. Vinod Kumar
Co-Chairperson: Mr. Manu Mahajan
Rapporteur: Ms. Divya Uniyal

Varsha Gangta and Dr. Saurabh Kulshrestha discussed the isolation and screening of heavy metal-resistant bacteria from industrial effluent in Himachal Pradesh, India, with the aim of using these bacteria for bioremediation of heavy metals in contaminated effluent. The study found that some bacterial isolates showed high resistance to various heavy metals, making them efficient candidates for bioremediation.

Vishal Rangta spoke on the cultural practices of the people of Shimla, a district in Himachal Pradesh, as expressed through verbal folkloric forms, specifically proverbs. The study highlighted the importance of oral traditions in preserving cultural identity, passing on knowledge, and mapping cultural and geographic landscapes.

Dr. Seetha R. discussed the role of culture, language, and literature in defining a person and a community. The author emphasized the importance of recognizing that these elements are constantly changing and evolving, and that cultural exchange can lead to growth and advancement. The article also touched on concerns about the potential loss of language, culture, and literature during cultural exchange.

Kirti Bhatia explored the positive and negative impacts of infrastructure development programs on the Gaddi tribe of Himachal Pradesh. Her paper aimed to investigate the connection between the vision of Atmanirbharat and the self-sufficiency of the Gaddi tribe. The research was based on secondary sources and an analytical approach.

Dr. Ashwani Kumar in his presentation, he emphasized the growing relevance of public health, especially in light of the increasing burden of non-communicable chronic diseases and emerging infections. He discussed the need for a comprehensive approach to health, which includes socio-economic factors that play a critical role in effective health care delivery. He highlighted the importance of primary health care in promoting better public health.

Sheetu Meenia focused on the role of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in the development of teacher education in Jammu and Kashmir. She aimed to determine the contribution of NCTE to the professional qualities of teachers and how it made teacher education more relevant to the needs of society. She collected data through books, magazines, journals, government reports, and newspaper articles.

Anoop Kumar Dilta in his presentation, he discussed periglacial landforms found in the Trans-Himalayan region of Ladakh. He explained the distinct features of periglacial regions, such as permafrost and the active layer, and their corresponding climates. He mentioned various periglacial landforms found in Ladakh, such as hummocks, Plasa, Pingo, Thermokarst, Patterned Ground, Stone Glaciers/Streams, Altiplanation Terraces, Nivation Hollows, and Periglacial Valleys.





TECHNICAL SESSION – V

MARCH 4, 2023

Venue: Computer Lab

Chairperson: Surinder Singh

Co-Chairperson: Mr. Mohit Kumar

Rapporteur: Ms. Diksha

Poojil Sharma & Dr. Gitanjali Thappar presented a descriptive paper on the 17 SDGs and how they are interrelated, affected by climatic changes, Covid-19, and the Ukraine-Russia war. Their paper concluded by emphasising the importance of increasing awareness among people in their surroundings.

Mr. Shantanu Sood presented his research paper on predicting stock prices using LSTM, RNN models. His paper included many statistical and mathematical analyses, and he won the best speaker award. During the session, he asked intriguing questions with utmost enthusiasm.

Ms. Ankush's paper provided an overview of the food security system in India. Her objective was to study the current food security system in India, its effectiveness, and to provide suggestions for improvement.

Dr. Isha Sharma & Deepika Gautam presented their research paper on work-life balance and stress among women. They collected primary data based on questionnaires filled by teachers working in the private educational sector in Himachal Pradesh. They used economic indicators like regression analysis to draw conclusions and emphasised the importance of family and employer support.

Aditi Kothari & Dr. Nutan Kanwar presented their paper on the economic empowerment of women, highlighting their contribution to the economy's development. They included deeply rooted analyses with profoundly explained feminism and emphasised the importance of gender equality.

Prakhar Wadhwa & Dr. Kamaljeet Singh presented their paper on the democratisation of e-commerce, exploring the concept of allowing more people to participate in online commerce.



Valedictory

The Valedictory Ceremony of the International Seminar on Transformation of India began at 2.30 p.m. at the College Auditorium. The chief guest for the ceremony was Dr. Aulad Hosen, Chair of the Academic Committee, Social Science, National University, Bangladesh. The ceremony began with the rendition of the college anthem by the college choir, which was followed by a beautiful dance performance on Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, marking the celebration of India's 75th year of independence. The audience was enthralled by the performance, and it set the tone for the ceremony.





The convener of the seminar then read out the report of the three-day-long seminar, which covered a wide range of topics related to the transformation of India. The report highlighted the key takeaways from the seminar and emphasized the importance of such events in bringing together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from across the world to exchange ideas and insights.

The best paper awards were then announced, and the winners were felicitated.



The resource persons and keynote speakers who had contributed to the success of the seminar were also felicitated and presented with mementos as a token of appreciation.



Dr. Hosen in his valedictory speech emphasized the need for sustained efforts to bring about transformation in India, particularly in areas such as education, health, and infrastructure. He commended the organizers of the seminar for their efforts in bringing together a diverse group of experts to discuss these critical issues and hoped that their ideas and insights would lead to meaningful change in India.



The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by the organizing committee, who expressed their gratitude to the chief guest, ICRRR, resource persons, keynote speakers, and participants for their valuable contributions to the seminar.

The ceremony ended with the singing of the national anthem, and the participants left with a sense of satisfaction that they had been part of an event that had the potential to transform India for the better.



The entire organizing committee of St. Bede's college extends heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for generously providing us with the grant to organize this seminar. Without their support, this event would not have been possible. ICSSR's commitment to promoting social science research and fostering intellectual discourse is truly commendable, and we are honoured to have been selected as one of the beneficiaries of their grant program. We are confident that this seminar will provide a platform for scholars, researchers, and practitioners to exchange ideas and insights, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in our field. Once again, our sincere thanks to ICSSR for their invaluable support.



Outcome of the Seminar

The seminar on "transformation of India @ 75" aimed to provide a platform for experts and practitioners to exchange ideas, knowledge, and best practices on India's progress and future vision. The event brought together participants from diverse backgrounds, including academia, industry, and government. The seminar's objective was to foster collaborations and partnerships to address the challenges and opportunities facing India.

The seminar generated valuable insights and discussions on various issues related to India's transformation. The speakers shared their views on sustainable development, inclusive growth, digitalization, and governance. They emphasized the need to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability, address income inequality and poverty to achieve inclusive growth, leverage digital technologies to transform various sectors, and improve governance to ensure better service delivery to citizens.

The seminar helped to foster collaborations and partnerships between academia, industry, and government to address the challenges and opportunities facing India. It provided a platform for experts and practitioners to exchange ideas, knowledge, and best practices. The seminar contributed to a deeper understanding of India's transformational journey and a commitment to work towards a better and brighter future for the country.

Overall, the outcome of the seminar was a deeper understanding of India's transformational journey, and a commitment to work towards a better and brighter future for the country. The seminar provided a valuable platform for experts and practitioners to exchange ideas and knowledge, which can help inform policies and programs to address India's development challenges. The seminar's recommendations and insights can help inform future research and policy initiatives to support India's transformational journey.

SELECTED KEYNOTE ADDRESSES AND PLENARY LECTURES



Dr. Aoulad Hosen

*Chairman, Academic Committee, Social Sciences
& Associate Professor in Economics
National University, Bangladesh*

POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND ITS SUSTAINABILITY: A TRANSFORMATION OF HUMAN CAPITAL

ABSTRACT

A systematic road to poverty alleviation can ensure the ultimate goals of a nation and tailor an individual's desire. Poverty alleviation policies and activities must be developed under a particular human development plan. Alleviating poverty means transforming an individual from social liabilities to prospective resources. Although the transformation process of human capital and the success of alleviating poverty in South Asia has been doing well in the last five decades, we still have a few challenges to do so. In practice, it requires dealing with these resources needs to be sustainable in the long run; that is, poverty alleviation finally follows the sustainable development Goals.

Keywords: Poverty Alleviation, Sustainability, and Human Capital.

1. Introduction

“Poverty is not an accident! It is an outcome of political and social choices.”

Poverty is about not having enough money to meet basic needs including food, clothing and shelter. However, poverty is more, much more than just not having enough money. Poverty may be defined as a human condition characterized by sustained or chronic deprivation of the resources, capabilities, choices, security and power necessary for the enjoyment of an adequate standard of living and other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. Shortly, poverty is said to exist when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs.

2. Measuring Tools of Poverty

Poverty is a complex issue that requires a detailed analysis of various factors. Measuring tools of poverty provide a comprehensive view of the economic and social conditions of a nation. These tools are used to assess the level of poverty and its effects on people's lives. There are several measuring tools for poverty, including income-based, consumption-based, and multidimensional poverty measures. **Income-based measures**¹ look at the amount of money a person has available to them. **Consumption-based measures**² look at the number of goods and services a person can purchase. **Multidimensional poverty measures**³ look at various factors, such as education, health, and housing. It directly measures the nature and magnitude of overlapping deprivations in health, education, and living standards at the household level. Each person is assigned a deprivation score according to their household's deprivations in each of the 10 component indicators. The Direct Caloric Intake (DCI) or Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) method⁴ instrument changes the monetary poverty rate for the whole country or region. Still, these scores are unable to capture the changes in social, political, and cultural dimensions of poverty for a specific year. This is one of the current limitations of the poverty assessment method used in Bangladesh (Chowdhury & Mukhopadhyaya, 2012).

India is home to the world's major population living in extreme poverty. The government of India has implemented several initiatives to reduce poverty, but the results have been mixed. The poverty alleviation programs vary from state to state and are tailored to the needs of the local population. Some of the most common programs, like MGNREGA⁵ and PMAY include providing access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. MGNREGA provides employment opportunities to the rural poor and the PMAY⁶ provides affordable housing to the urban poor. Additionally, the state government has implemented various schemes to provide financial assistance to the poor, such as the Rajiv Gandhi Jeevodaya Yojana and the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. Additionally, the government has implemented various schemes to provide financial assistance to the poor.

Problems of Estimation: The conventional estimates of poverty find many problems. A few problems are:

¹ The international poverty line is set at \$2.15 per person per day using 2017 prices. This means that anyone living on less than \$2.15 a day is in extreme poverty. About 648 million people globally were in this situation in 2019

² The cost of basic need (CBN) method was first used in HIES 1995-1996 and then in HIES-2000.

³ The MPI was designed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and UNDP in its Human Development Reports since 2010 (Alkire & Santos, 2010). The MPI uses 10 indicators representing three human development dimensions: two for health; two for education; and six for living standards.

⁴ For the purpose of official assessment, poverty in Bangladesh is still viewed in terms of Direct Caloric Intake (2122 calories a day) (DCI), Cost of Basic Needs (CBN), and Food Energy Intake (FEI), and this has been the case since the mid-1990s (GOB, 2010). The food energy intake (FEI) method was first used in the Poverty Monitoring Survey 1995.

⁵ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

⁶ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

- a. There is no specific relation between caloric intake and the food poverty line.
- b. Nutrition depends on the cooking system employed (the same food does not necessarily produce equal Nutrition to the human body).
- c. In different geographical areas in the country, prices and consumption patterns may vary.
- d. Local food prices are related to international food prices; the relevancy depends on the requirement of the import volume.
- e. The rising food price has been hampering the other status of life, specifically for the poor.

In developing countries, the field is still dominated by a definition of absolute poverty in terms of income. The FEI/CBN is the most restrictive method, as it only includes food items in the poverty line calculation. The MPI represents significant progress in measuring poverty in an internationally comparable way. It shifts attention from solely income factors to including other intrinsically important dimensions, Zulkarnain, et al. (2016). Besides the critics of estimating poverty, the process has been suffering from the availability of data sources. Measuring tools for poverty can be limited by the data available. Data collection can be complex, especially in developing countries, and the accuracy of the data can be questionable. In addition, measuring tools for poverty can be limited by the scope of the measures.

3. Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development

Poverty alleviation and sustainable development are two interrelated concepts that aim to improve the quality of life for people around the world. Both concepts involve the use of resources, technology, and policy to reduce poverty and promote **sustainable development**⁷. By understanding the connections between these two concepts, we can work towards more equitable and sustainable societies. Poverty is a major barrier to sustainable development, as it limits people's ability to access resources and services that are necessary for their well-being. Poverty also has a direct impact on the environment, as it leads to unsustainable practices such as deforestation, overfishing, etc. In addition, poverty can lead to poor health and nutrition, which can further impede sustainable development.

Poverty alleviation and sustainable development are two of the most important goals of South Asia. This region is home to some of the poorest countries in the world, (See Appendix I, for more). It is also home to a large population of people living in extreme poverty. Poverty alleviation and sustainable development in South Asia are hindered by a number of challenges. These challenges include the lack of access to basic necessities such as food, water, and healthcare, as well as a lack of access to education and employment opportunities. Additionally, the region is

⁷ Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. <https://www.iisd.org/mission-and-goals/sustainable-development>

prone to natural disasters, which can further exacerbate poverty levels. Despite, these remaining challenges and shortcomings of South Asian countries, they have been doing well in different aspects of SDGs and alleviating poverty. In a comprehensive study of South Asia explored by Sarker, et al. (2022), they find that poverty and lower per capita income, high corruption, and unsustainable cities are the major problem of countries except for Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. Moreover, all countries face a greater level of income inequality where Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives' problems are acute. Higher poverty has been founded in Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. More importantly, the majority of the countries spend a lower share of their GDP expenditure on education and health.

4. Conclusion

Poverty alleviation, human development, and sustainable development are three interrelated concepts that must be addressed together in order to create a more equitable and sustainable world. Several solutions must be implemented to address the articulated challenges in South Asia. These include increasing access to necessities, such as food, water, and healthcare, and providing access to education and employment opportunities. Governments must function to reduce inequality and create an environment conducive to economic growth. This can be done by investing in infrastructure and creating policies that promote economic development. South Asia needs to address fiscal policy issues, specifically mobilizing public expenditure in quantity and quality through generating revenue income. The government revenue income generation would be based on social equity and justice, and it requires a focus on direct tax other than the dependency on indirect tax (Hosen, Asad 2018). South Asian countries have enormous scope to generate revenue income, by not affecting GDP growth. The study (Hosen, 2022) of panel data analyses of fifteen countries under three groups; a negative result that allied to lower middle-income nations⁸, it reduced only 4 per cent of GDP against 100 dollars revenue income. Finally, governments must work to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared by all citizens to reduce poverty and ensure sustainable development.

⁸ Lower-middle income nations are Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Philippines



Dr. Yash Chawla



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INDIA'S TRANSFORMATION AT 75 WITH EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

After centuries of colonial rule, India gained independence and began rebuilding its economy and society in 1947. Over the past 75 years, India has emerged as one of the fastest developing nations and a global leader in several fields, undergoing significant transformation in economic, social, political, and primarily technological spheres. Heading to its 76th year of Independence, India is on a cusp of a significant transformation, with emerging technologies playing a vital role. These technologies, ranging from artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain to 5G and the internet of things (IoT), are revolutionizing every area of the economy, from agriculture and healthcare to education and manufacturing.

The "Digital India" initiative, which strives to build a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, is at the vanguard of this revolution. The project has been a smashing success, with the number of internet users in the nation predicted to reach 900 million by 2025, up from 692 million in 2020, according to the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). One of the crucial drivers for the increase in internet users is the proliferation of mobile phones, which are increasingly used to access the internet. The cost of smartphones is decreasing quickly, enabling an increasing number of people to connect to the internet, especially in rural regions, and take advantage of the opportunities it provides.

In this message, I would like to highlight emerging technologies' role in the transformations India has undergone since independence, the challenges faced, and the way forward.

Economic Transformation

The Indian economy has transformed into one of the leading world economies despite the hardships and the exploitation of its resources in the colonial era. In the early 1990s, India embarked on economic reforms that liberalized its economy, made it more accessible to global markets, and used technology to achieve new heights. India places a high value on innovation and entrepreneurship, and it has used emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) to fuel economic growth.

The promotion of digital payments and the push for a cashless economy has aided in increasing financial inclusion and decreasing corruption. Adding to that, the use of blockchain technology for safe and transparent transactions has the potential to transform the Indian financial system. Agriculture is another important field in which emerging technologies are being applied in India. Agriculture is vital to the country, and the usage of technology such as precision farming, IoT sensors, and drones is assisting in improving efficiency, lowering costs, and increasing yields. This, in turn, helps to promote the rural economy and raise farmers' living standards.

Social Transformation

Throughout the last 75 years, India has undergone significant social transformations. Many efforts to empower citizens and women, in particular, have been introduced. These include the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) campaign and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, which gives financial aid to pregnant mothers, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), Skill India, and Ayushman Bharat. These measures, along with increasing access to education and career possibilities, have considerably improved societal transformation in India.

Emerging technologies have played a critical part in the country's social development and successfully implementing change initiatives through boosting communication, increasing access to information, and empowering individuals and communities. With social media, mobile applications, and cloud computing, India has been able to transcend societal barriers and enhance the lives of its population. Individuals may now communicate with one another, share information, and raise awareness about significant social issues via social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Social media has also played an important part in the country's anti-corruption effort, encouraging individuals to report wrongdoing and hold public officials responsible.

Mobile applications allow people access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and money. Individuals may now access healthcare services, online education, and financial services from the comfort of their homes thanks to mobile applications like Practo, Byju's, and Paytm. These applications have also aided in bridging the urban-rural divide by enabling persons living in distant locations to access essential services. Cloud computing has enabled access to information and improved communication. Cloud computing has enabled individuals and organizations to store and access data from anywhere. This has helped individuals and organizations to collaborate, share information, and improve communication. Recently, I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Vinay Thakur (Managing Director, NICS I Managing Director, NICS I National Informatics Centre Services Inc (NICS I). Ministry of Electronics and IT. Govt of India), from whom I learned that over 500,000 outreach centres had been established across India to enable citizens in a remote location to access emerging Technologies.

Political Transformation

At the time of independence, India chose a democratic system of government with a federal structure. The world's biggest democracy, India, has been utilizing emerging technology to effect political change through increased transparency, efficiency, and accessibility of the political system to citizens.

E-governance has made the delivery of government services more efficient and convenient. People can access government services and initiatives online through multiple websites and mobile applications. This has resulted in less corruption and greater transparency in the political system. The website www.india.gov.in links to over 6,700 other government websites. Another significant endeavor, which has brought about a profound political change, is political parties and leaders' use of social media channels to engage with citizens. In recent years, social media has evolved as a potent instrument for political communication, playing an essential role in changing public opinion. Political leaders and parties use social media to reach the public, share information, and rally support for their campaigns. Additionally, to secure the central pillar of democracy, fair and transparent elections, various solutions using emerging technologies are being developed. In the next decade, these could further the political change to have a thriving effect on democracy.

Technological Transformation

In recent years, India has also seen a substantial technical shift, leading to high diffusion of emerging technologies in business, society, and policy. With the growth of the internet and mobile phones, India has emerged as one of the world's most significant users of digital technology. The country's IT sector is quickly expanding, with some Indian businesses gaining worldwide success. India is fast becoming a prominent player in the global technological environment. With a strong emphasis on innovation and adoption, many efforts and policies have driven this shift, transforming the country into one of the world's most dynamic and rapidly developing technology marketplaces.

India has aggressively promoted new technologies such as AI, Blockchain, Cloud Computing, the Internet of Things, and Cybersecurity to foster digital transformation across multiple industries. Many programmes such as Digital India, Startup India, and Made in India are being run to promote the use of these technologies and create a favorable environment for startups and entrepreneurs.

The Digital India initiative, established in 2015, has been giving the country's people universal digital connection and access. The initiative has aided in adopting emerging technology in various industries, including healthcare, education, and agriculture. The project has also assisted in developing the country's digital infrastructure, which has helped grow digital startups and enterprises.

Launched in 2016, the Startup India programme aims to foster the growth of startups and entrepreneurship in the country. The project offers companies a variety of incentives, including tax breaks, finance assistance, and regulatory assistance. The programme has been essential in fostering an atmosphere conducive to startup innovation and the adoption of emerging technology.

The Make in India project, announced in 2014, intends to encourage manufacturing and position India as a worldwide manufacturing powerhouse. The programme has played an essential role in attracting foreign investment in the technology sector and fostering the adoption of new technologies in the industrial sector.

Concluding remarks

To summarise, using new technologies is driving a technological transition in India, with the government playing a critical role in supporting their acceptance. The country is primed to develop as a worldwide technological hotspot in the future, thanks to a favorable climate for startups and entrepreneurs. Notwithstanding India's considerable transformation over the last 75 years, the country still confronts several difficulties that may be addressed via emerging technologies and DeepTech.

To end, I would like to add the best wishes and success to all associated with the International Seminar on Transformation of India @ 75 at St. Bede's College, Shimla.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yash Chawla', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. Yash Chawla



Prof. Ashok Aima

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INDIAN ECONOMIC TURN AROUND MIRACLE: SOME REFLECTIONS

Prologue:

India as a nation state in recent times has emerged from the morass of subjugation and wonton exploitation of alien rule after nearly 14 hundred years or so to celebrate its 75th year of independence. Surviving post-partition trauma was to reorganize 584 native states in to single democratic nation state. India served as colonial raw material appendage and in the aftermath of Independence problems were further compounded by 1947 Tribal invasion by Pakistan, 1962 Sino-India war and 1965 Pakistan invasion. Country faced acute food scarcity, abject poverty, malnutrition, poor state of healthcare, outdated educational system besides absence of basic civic amenities. Structural infirmities were so deep rooted that people were shackled in servitude, everything around was in a disarray and exploitation of the country was rampant. At the time of Independence population was 340 million with a literacy rate of just 12 per cent, with an average life expectancy of 32 years with GDP figuring around just Rs 2.7 lakh crore. India was for a long time branded a “third world country” with stagnated around Hindu growth rate of 3.5 per cent from 1950s to 1980s, while per capita income growth averaged around 1.3 per cent.

The Transition:

Notwithstanding above chronic institutional and structural infirmities a big leap forward in India was witnessed in 1990's as economic reforms swept away the oppressive licensing controls on industry and foreign trade, allowed the market to determine the exchange rate, drastically reduced protective customs tariffs, opened up to foreign investments, modernised the stock markets, freed interest rates, strengthened the banking. Liberalization, privatization, and globalization with 180-degree twist, gave robust flip to business activity, stimulated growth in the private sector, and revived international trade. GDP per capita grew at an annual rate of 6 per cent in the 1990s, driven by the service sector, which contributed 53.5 per cent of GDP by 1999. Liberalization, privatization, and globalization with 180-degree twist, gave robust flip to business activity, stimulated growth in the private sector, and revived international trade. GDP per capita grew at an annual rate of 6 per cent in the 1990s, driven by the service sector, which contributed 53.5 per cent of GDP by 1999.

Post transition Scenario:

India as of today is the fastest-growing economy in the world, having recording 5.5 per cent average gross domestic product growth over the past decade. 3 three megatrends i.e., global off shoring, digitalization and energy transition have propelled an unprecedented economic growth in the country of more than 1 billion people. Technology, local manufacturing, climate action, and social changes have become new *mantras* for national rejuvenation. National politics has become more representative of its social structures than ever before especially after 2014, rather than being hostage to broad-based interest group coalitions. Such coalitions in past were essentially prompted by the desperate urge to retain power both at Central and state levels by compromises and undue concessions resulting into massive scams and leakages.

India is on the cusp of returning to a high growth double engine trajectory from being 5th to become the world's 3rd largest economy by 2027-28 so as to become a 'potential super-power'. Some of the green and eco-friendly transformational landmark initiatives posts 2014 include: energy, connectivity, automobiles & public transport, digital infrastructure, space, defence and pharmaceuticals. Insights about the above are as following:

1. Fossil fuel substitutions initiatives by green power has resulted in achieving 166gw (41 per cent) of renewable energy capacity by October 2022. Mix of 10 per cent ethanol blending in petrol has nearly saved 50 thousand crores in foreign exchange thereby reducing dependence on import of fossil fuel. Another energy mix is solar power which accounts for 15 per cent of total installed power capacity and 37 per cent of total renewable capacity. In 2022 it reached 60 GW level of output.
2. Being 3rd largest road network in the world connectivity has increased from 2 km per day to 38.5 km against targeted of 40 km in 2022. The official target of highway construction has been kept at 12,000 km for the year 2022-23. India's electric automotive market has is expected to reach USD 160 billion in 2027, recording 305 per cent per cent growth and accounting for 73

per cent of total electric two-wheeler sales of nearly 8.5 lakhs. India has nearly 13.40 lakhs electric vehicles which is expected to reach around 40 lakhs in 2030, with a growth rate of 33.3 per cent during 2022–2030.

Indian railways plan to achieve 100 per cent electrification of broad-gauge tracks in order to reduce the nation's dependence on imported petroleum-based energy and to enhance the country's energy security, with a vision of providing an eco-friendly, faster and energy-efficient mode of transportation. Electrified network coverage of Indian railways has been extended to 83 per cent in the country.

3. India has set itself an ambitious target of doubling its economy in five years to \$5 trillion. Digital infrastructure has emerged as an equally or arguably a more significant infrastructure necessity. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only shuffled the global order, but it has also provided an impetus to the ever-expanding digital infrastructure. With the launching of 5 G and preparing for 6G, India is emerging as a leader in digitalizing entire eco-system by inclusion of digital identity (Aadhar), real-time fast payment (UPI) and a platform to safely share personal data without compromising privacy along with PAN card has brought about revolutionary transparency and accountability in governance.
4. Indian Space sector has become one of the six largest space agencies in the world having the largest fleets of communication (INSAT) and remote sensing (IRS) satellites. Indian Space Sector was valued at USD 9.6 Bn in 2020 and contributed 2 per cent-3 per cent of the global space economy. The size of the sector is expected to reach USD 13.7 Bn by 2025, and by 2030 it is expected to capture a larger share of close to 10 per cent of the global economy. From initially being a purely research organization it has now become a commercial entity by to contributing to the nation's self-reliance and economic prosperity.
5. India's defence sector has undergone major reforms to strengthen the nation's prowess by reducing dependence on imports. Buoyed by healthy order books, revenue expansions and major push for localisation, this sector has turned attractive for investors. Turnover of US\$25 Bn in aerospace and defence manufacturing by 2025, which includes US \$5 Bn exports is targeted. Till October 2022, a total of 595 Industrial Licences were issued to 366 companies to encourage ancillary support system for nurturing private entrepreneurial eco-system generating income and employment opportunities.
6. Indian pharma companies enabled by their price competitiveness and good quality, have made global mark, with 60 per cent of the world's vaccines and 20 per cent of generic medicines coming from India. Greenfield pharmaceuticals ranked third in pharmaceutical production by volume after evolving over time into a thriving industry growing at a CAGR of 9.43 per cent since the past 9 years. Domestic pharmaceutical industry includes a network of 3,000 drug companies and 10,500 manufacturing units. Presently, over 80 per cent of the antiretroviral drugs used globally to combat AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) are supplied by

Indian pharmaceutical firms. India is rightfully known as the "pharmacy of the world" due to the low cost and high quality of its medicines.

Some of the structural transformational schemes launched around 8 years ago have created a significant impact on the lives of common masses include Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana, the Jal Jeevan Yojana, PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0, Gram Ujala Scheme, to name a few have made a significant impact on the lives of both rural and urban masses for last 8 years or so. Launch of new 400 Vande Bharat Express Trains within next 3 years would result in 30 per cent electricity savings besides giving a massive thrust in speed and movement of passengers across the country as well provide quality services.

Notwithstanding the above recent achievements also include 90 thousand start-ups in 2022 (3rd in world), 108 unicorns with one billion US dollars investment, mobile manufacturing raking 2nd in the world, domestic air traffic ranking 3rd in world and renewable energy production ranking 4th in world. Now discovery of nearly 6 million tonnes of Lithium in country and 100 Bn US \$ aviation deal to augment passenger aircrafts yet again would further strengthen economic buoyancy and global dominance of India and birthing a global manufacturing base. However, while we are up-streaming aspirations, we equally need to focus on fiscal prudence, make massive investments in infrastructure, cutting subsidies and executing disinvestments besides reforming tax regime.

Vision and commitment of the present government guided by unflinching spirit of *seva bhav and sushasan for sab ka saath aur sub ka vikas* should lead *Bharat* to regain the pristine glory as *vishiv garu* not only to resolve national problems and challenges but equally become phenomenal enabler in solving global problems. As Plato wrote in the 4th century BC, "What is honored in a country will be cultivated there". Time for us to decide on what we will honour in this great country. Choice is ours!



Dr. Devinder Sharma

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THE MOVEMENT OF SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS: 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

India is celebrating 75 years of AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV as a democratic, secular, integrated and welfare state having the historical tremendous achievement of 75 years in agriculture, industry, economy, service sector, infrastructure, education, healthcare, urbanization, and scientific development as independent nation. Obviously, the growth trends make everyone proud of being such a developed and growing nation and indeed celebrating of the occasion is an honorable moment for every citizen of the Country.

People of India faced dependence, exploitation, and feudalism for centuries before getting independence in 1947. The patriots of the nation gifted us liberty and rights of thinking about ourselves and for the development of the nation. The framers of Indian Constitution and the governance can never be forgotten when in the year 1947 the nation had to set the blueprint for giving direction of development to the nation from scratches. There is a series of such patriots including Dr. Ambedkar, Jawahar Lal Nehru and thinkers from different fields. It is their contribution that people are able to talk about India as VISHWA GURU.

On the occasion of the celebration, the International Seminar being organized by St. Bede's College, Shimla on March 03-04, 2023, on the title 'TRANSFORMATION OF INDIA @ 75 is admirable and welcome step in academia and research. It is expected that the scholars would come forward with their analytical and evaluative research to scan the achievements of the Country during the past 75 years and will recommend measures to expedite the process of development and growth to be realistic AMRIT MAHORSAV OF AZADI. I wish good luck to the scholars and expect that the galaxy of academia would assemble in the International Seminar and share research with the august gathering. I congratulate the principal and the organizers of St. Bede's College for organizing the International Seminar which is a step of excellence in academia and research expected from the excellent institution of higher learning.



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE INDIAN HIMALAYAN REGION

Changing environmental conditions can undoubtedly have a variety of effects on an economy's developmental variables. In the absence of rigorous laws and technical innovation, developing countries face the prospect of sluggish growth as the cost of environmental deterioration is not addressed aggressively. These environmental concerns have lately captured the attention of scientists, social reformers, economists, and policymakers. In the midst of the global movement for inclusive development, the phrase "sustainable development" (SD) has attracted attention from all parts of the world, and it has become critical to define SD and its accountability. It includes adapting one's lifestyle in such a way that it ensures the protection of ecological resources by meeting one's requirements while also making things available and better for future generations. With the deadline for achieving sustainable development goals approaching in less than a decade, it is necessary to do a cost-benefit analysis to achieve the goals of inclusive and sustainable growth. Overuse of natural resources and growing pollution levels have unintended economic and ecological consequences. The Indian Himalayan Region is spread across 13 Indian States/Union Territories (namely Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Assam and West Bengal), stretching across 2500 km. Nearly 50 million people reside in this region, which is characterized by a diverse demographic, and versatile economic, environmental, social and political systems. People bear the cost of pollution in the form of damages such as health loss, natural resource degradation, or reduced agricultural income, and even the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is no exception. Nearly 50 million people reside in IHR, which is spread across 13 Indian states and union territories. IHR has a variety of geographical and economic advantages, but these advantages come at a cost. One of the biggest causes of environmental contamination in IHR is the expansion of human settlements and the growth in anthropogenic activity. The rise in many forms of pollution, particularly solid waste and air pollution, are key problems for sustainable development in the Himalayas' vast urban cities. Environmental problems are choking the very existence of the inhabitants of the Indian Himalayan region, yet there is a great deal of space for appropriate planning to decrease or control the mountains' human-induced pollution. Nature has its absorbing

power to repair any damage caused by humans and their activities, but there comes a point when nature is unable to revive these damages, sometimes exceeding threshold limits, especially when human-induced pollution levels remain high. As a consequence, the balance between growth and environmental indicators must be achieved, paving the way for a sustainable economy. The EKC hypothesis, which asserts that environmental deterioration would rise with increased economic activity, perfectly illustrates the relationship between economic development and environmental exploitation. Humans' constantly changing habits, their unwanted needs, and their huge dependence on natural resources cost the environment more. Damage to the environment is primarily caused by the unsustainable practices used by the industrial units in IHR. Industries do add to a country's GDP and employ a lot of people, but as they grow, their waste, which is mostly made up of toxic chemicals and gases, is becoming a major threat to the environment and thus to sustainable goals. Inclusive growth in IHR is required for overall development, whether economic, social, or physical. Humans, too, have an essential role in bringing about growth and changes in various environmental elements. As a result, there is a need to maintain a balance between economic growth and ecological sustainability.



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IMPACT OF DIGITIZATION ON INDIAN ECONOMY

Digitization in Indian economy has ushered in a futuristic and advanced era. Over the past few years, a large number of initiatives have been launched by various State Governments and the Central government to strengthen E-Governance. Sustained efforts have been made at multiple levels to improve the delivery of public services and simplify the process of accessing them. The process of digitization had started in India with the introduction of technology mission and computerization in the 1980s. It was initiated by the then Prime Minister, Sh. Rajiv Gandhi. The last decade has seen our country going through a vigorous digital transformation in all spheres of life. Today's India is very different from what it was in the 1990s. In order to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, the Government of India launched the 'Digital India Program' in the year 2015. The program has its focus on three main areas: digital infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens. Through this program, the government intends to ensure the availability of high-speed internet, provide mobile phones and bank accounts to every citizen, ensure availability of services in real-time on online and mobile platforms, make financial transactions electronic and cashless, and ensure digital literacy and availability of digital resources across the country. Today, India is one of the most digitally forward country in the world which has adopted digitization in almost every sphere like hospitality, healthcare, education, finance, tourism, and public distribution system. During this timeline, India recorded 122 billion Aadhar Card registrations online, ensured around 870 million Aadhar linked bank accounts and recorded almost 98 million e - government transaction daily. In fact, digitization of the Indian economy is the driving force behind India's lofty mission towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. India has a huge potential for digital payments. As of October 2021, the country had around 1.18 billion mobile connections, 700 million Internet users, and about 600 million smartphones. These numbers are growing rapidly each quarter. With about 25.5 billion real-time payment transactions, India ranked first in the world in terms of the number of transactions in 2020. Digitization of Indian economy has made India the second largest digital consumer base in the world. The government's

model of digitization of Indian economy has bridged the gaps between the rural, urban, and greenfield areas. It has also reduced the digital divide by bringing technology to the remotest parts of the country. Digital transformation provides better pathways to tap customer needs and helps to meet their requirements. Digital transformation contributes in increasing efficiency by making workflow easier, faster and more efficient towards achieving the growth by helping the employees through paperless work. Digital transformation helps in timely completion of projects. Digitization is proving helpful in collaborations among different departments at all levels in an organization. In conclusion, digitization has been a game-changer for the Indian economy, transforming the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The government's initiatives to bridge the digital divide and provide digital infrastructure to every citizen have been commendable. With the widespread adoption of digital payments, India is on track to become a cashless society. The impact of digitization can be seen in all sectors, from healthcare to tourism, and it has revolutionized the way we conduct business. Going forward, it is crucial to sustain this momentum and continue to invest in digital infrastructure, digital literacy, and digital empowerment of citizens to achieve the goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. The digital revolution has opened up a world of opportunities, and India must seize them to realize its full potential.



Dr. Gaikar Vilas B.

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**“GROWING TRENDS IN ADOPTION OF M-HEALTH APPS AND USERS’
PERCEPTION FOR AVAILING HEALTHCARE SERVICES: A STUDY”**

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Purpose:

The advent of smart healthcare has facilitated ease of providing convenient health services to people. mHealth apps are no such different from it. This paper aimed at understanding the growing trends among users to adopt mHealth apps for availing healthcare services. It studies the user’s preference and perception towards mHealth apps provided free of cost by government and private companies on Google play store.

Method:

In this study, free mHealth apps were selected from Google play store on the basis of their ratings and installs to study the trends in adoption. Survey based questionnaire was used to collect data from users in order to study their perception towards mHealth apps.

Results:

The study revealed that there is no association between demographic features and usage of mHealth apps among users. The study also witnessed that more awareness about mHealth apps resulted in more adoption of it with correlation of 0.688 for mHealth apps offered by government and 0.905 for mHealth apps offered by private companies.

Conclusion:

There has been a considerable increase in mHealth app users specifically during COVID-19 still the level of awareness among people is low. The adoption of healthcare apps among people is quite low especially towards apps offered by private companies. There is a need to bring awareness among people so as to penetrate mHealth apps in the market and inducing its more adoption among people.

Keywords: Smart Healthcare, e-Health and m-Health, Indian Healthcare, COVID-19

SELECTED ABSTRACTS- DELEGATES

REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH AND UTTARAKHAND

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Regional disparities in economic infrastructure development at the district level in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have been analysed using a composite index based on an optimum combination of fourteen economic infrastructure indicators. The data for the years 2000-01, 2010-11, and 2021 were used for the fourteen economic infrastructure indicators. The composite index for the level of economic infrastructure development was calculated using Principal Component Analysis. This was used to work out the weights or loadings for the indicators representing different dimensions and to construct composite indices of economic infrastructure development. The disparities in the level of economic infrastructure development were evaluated using the coefficient of variation. All twelve districts of Himachal Pradesh and thirteen districts of Uttarakhand have been classified into developed and developing categories based on the composite indices in decreasing hierarchy. Hamirpur was found to rank first and Lahaul & Spiti was last, while in Uttarakhand, Dehradun was found to rank first and Chamoli was last in the level of economic infrastructure development. Wide disparities were found in the level of economic infrastructure development in Uttarakhand, while it was less to some extent in Himachal Pradesh. However, disparities slightly increased in the developed category districts in Himachal Pradesh, while in Uttarakhand, disparities decreased. On the other hand, disparities in both states decreased in the developing category districts throughout the study period. It was found that four districts of Himachal Pradesh and nine districts of Uttarakhand were in the developing or less developed category. The study revealed that for bringing about uniform regional development, the developing or less developed districts require special treatment in comprehensive regional planning at the micro level.

Keywords: Regional Disparities, Economic Infrastructure Development, Principal Component Analysis, Composite Index

POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH DAIRY FARMING: A CASE STUDY OF NAHAN BLOCK DISTRICT SIRMOUR, H.P.

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A study was conducted in ten villages of the Nahani Development Block in District Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh to assess the role of dairy farming. The study focused on 55 dairy farmers and

aimed to determine their milk production, marketable surplus, gross returns, and the problems they faced. The results showed that 76 per cent of women were literate and actively participated in animal care and other related activities. The average milk production per farm per day was 14.52 litres, with a marketable surplus of 51.93 per cent. The per capita milk consumption was 1.26 litres. The major problem faced by the dairy farmers was a lack of knowledge about modern dairy practices and the difficulty in performing important tasks. Therefore, there is a need to educate dairy farmers about new technologies and methods for increasing milk production, and to develop technologies to reduce their drudgery.

Keywords: Dairy Farming, Milk Production, Marketable Surplus, Milk Consumption

PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS ABOUT CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES BY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS AND CEMENT INDUSTRY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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The main objective of the study was to measure the corporate sustainability performance of hydroelectric projects and the cement industry in Himachal Pradesh. To achieve this, a structured questionnaire consisting of 45 items was utilized to record the respondents' perceptions about the corporate concern for sustainability performance with reference to CSR initiatives. The study was conducted because, although companies are investing funds in CSR and sustainability initiatives as reported in their annual reports, social audits on such claims are rare. While there are a few primary studies that aim to assess the actual impact of such initiatives, these studies often lack a statistically organized and literature-based approach.

This study aimed to overcome these limitations by using both primary and secondary data for impact assessment, and to compare the claims made by the companies in their annual reports (secondary data) with statistically verified results (primary data). Most of the expenditure incurred was in the vicinity of the project area, so the community residing in the surrounding area was selected as the respondents to study the impact of the CSR-sustainability initiatives.

A total of 45 variables were identified through literature review, and a structured questionnaire was finalized. The sampling frame for the study was the community living in the close vicinity of the hydroelectric projects and cement industry. The selection of the companies was done through convenience sampling, and four companies were chosen for the study: SJVNL (Hydro), NHPC (Hydro), ACC (Cement), and Ambuja (Cement). The Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with varimax rotation was used to reduce the variables to five components.

Keywords: Community; Sustainability; CSR; Principal Component Analysis (PCA); Varimax Rotation

DIGITALISATION OF EDUCATION AND INCREASED INTERNET ADDICTION

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Introduction: We are living in a digital age and the digitalization of education has had a major impact on our lives. Many are concerned about its effects on children's development. The use of the internet has risen dramatically, leading to concerns about internet addiction, particularly among teenagers and children. Research has shown that internet addiction can cause depression, anxiety, and antisocial behaviour.

Objective: The objective of this study is to examine the significant impact of digitalization of education and increased internet addiction among adolescents. The correlation between the two variables will be evaluated.

Method: A survey of 100 respondents was conducted using a self-administered questionnaire. The responses were analysed using SPSS V26 to perform regression and correlational tests. The reliability and validity of the questionnaire were calculated using Cronbach's alpha.

Result: The results of the study indicate that students have increased internet addiction along with the digitalization of education. As exposure to the internet has increased, so has the dependence on technology.

Conclusion: Technology is becoming increasingly common in schools and is often viewed positively by teachers and administrators. However, there are growing concerns that students are becoming too reliant on technology and are becoming more distracted in the classroom as a result. It can be concluded that increased internet addiction is a side effect of the digital transformation in education and should be monitored.

Keywords: Education, Transformation, Increased, Internet, Addiction, Adolescent

RURAL POWER STRUCTURES AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION

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Acquisition maintenance and retention of power is the core of politics. Mainstreaming women through their active involvement in the formulation and implementation of policies is acknowledged as a precondition for achieving equitable development of the society. With ever growing democratization and awareness in rural India not only the significance of rural power structures has increased but a socioeconomic and political transformation has also taken place.

73rd Amendment to the constitution has created a legitimate political space where the marginalized groups are making their presence not only in the formal power structures, but a gradual upsurge and transformation is being witnessed in the rural areas. With the statutory reservation provision, many rural women have now assumed representation and voice in the local bodies. The 73rd constitutional Amendment Act, a milestone in the history of Indian Parliament has created a legitimate political space which no doubt, is a panacea for the empowerment of rural women. The experiences in the functioning of the panchayats reveal that while elections have been held regularly, barring a few states, the states have been slow in devolving power to the panchayat bodies. Almost 30 years after the passing of the said amendment local governments have still not become powerful “units of the government” due to issues in both the design and the implementation of the amendment.

The present paper is an attempt to track and reflect the trajectory of change at the grassroot level and what policy initiatives are required to make these power structure fulfil its substance and relevance. What should be the future line of action for further deepening grass roots democracy to bring about socio-economic transformation in rural India. The spheres of powers and functions are getting enlarged and the leadership has to assume new dimensions in order to fulfil the intended expectations. It is in this backdrop that the present paper will analyse the changes in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The paper will be descriptive in nature and based on the secondary sources.

Keywords: Power, Power Structure, Political Transformation, Trajectory

EXPLORING RURAL ART AND CRAFTS THROUGH RURAL TOURISM: GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND PRESENT STATUS OF RURAL ARTISANS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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Rural tourism is another form of sustainable tourism that exploits rural resources to generate and increase the livelihood of the citizens of native areas. Rural tourism could help in boosting the local performing arts and help conserve the local culture and can prevent rural migration. India is rich in natural resources, rural art, crafts, culture, and heritage. In India, the majority of the population is living in villages, and for their livelihood, they are dependent on agriculture, traditional artwork, and handicrafts. Ministry of Textile, Government of India in the year 2016 under the ‘Pahchan’ scheme defined about 72 craft categories practiced by Indian people in different areas of the country. Himachal Pradesh is well-known for its varied arts and crafts forms due to its topographical distinction from the rest of the country. The handicrafts of Himachal Pradesh reveal the immaculate craftsmanship of artists. As per the Ministry of Tourism, about 42 craft categories are practiced by the people of Himachal Pradesh in different corners of the state. Keeping in view these facts, through the present article, an attempt has been made to take an insight into rural tourism, and rural art and craft of Himachal Pradesh. Also, the study highlights

the government initiatives for the promotion of the handicraft industry. Further, the present status of rural artisans in Himachal Pradesh is also highlighted in the present study. The present study is descriptive in nature for which data and information are collected from various secondary sources. The present study would be helpful to know about rural tourism as an emerging concept of tourism, various art and crafts of Himachal Pradesh, the present status of artisans in the state, as well as the efforts that have been employed by the government for the development of the handicraft industry in the state as well as in the country.

Keywords: Rural tourism, Rural Art, Handicrafts, Rural Artisans

ESG AS AN INVESTMENT STYLE IN THE INDIAN STOCK MARKET

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Sustainable investing refers to the range of practices that an investor might follow to earn returns on their investments while also contributing towards social and environmental well-being. In this process of investing, a focus is put upon not only the financial performance of the companies under consideration but also on the social contributions made by them. The sustainable investing framework mainly consists of three primary areas namely: Environmental, Social and Governance. Hence, ESG investing is one of the prominent approaches that an investor might follow in his/her journey of sustainable investing.

ESG investing considers environmental, social and governance scores as non-financial factors that may be used to measure an investment's sustainability and to ensure that the companies being funded are responsible corporate citizens and have acknowledged their responsibility towards the environment as well as society.

Further, recently finance professionals have also started considering ESG as an investment style, whereby fund managers use ESG scores as a basis for distinguishing the stocks of socially responsible companies from that of the ones which are not, in order to create socially responsible portfolios and generate good returns for their investors.

The present study focuses on tracking the growth of the ESG investment style in the Indian Stock market and the rest of the world. Further, the authors try to assess the risk-adjusted performance of the Indian ESG products available for investment and compare them with their global counterparts. The authors then try to conclude whether these investment products have provided better returns than the market benchmark or not, while also assessing their riskiness.

Keywords: Sustainable Investing, Style Investing, ESG, Indian Stock Market.

DECODING INDIA'S TRADE DEFICIT WITH ASEAN

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The India-ASEAN FTA was implemented in 2010, and since then trade volumes between the two has increased, but the trade deficit of India vis-à-vis ASEAN has ballooned. Rising trade deficits have been argued as the result of a skewed agreement benefitting ASEAN countries more than India. However, a widening trade deficit is unable to capture 2 aspects (a) what India imports and (b) how much of India's trade is covered under the FTA. For gaining a clearer picture, this paper first analyses how the trade basket of India is structured vis-à-vis ASEAN since implementation of the FTA and has there been any changes from the pre-FTA period. We then move to a HS 6-digit analysis of the goods liberalised under the agreement, and how has the tariff liberalisation affected the trade basket. We finally through case studies of palm oil, pepper, aluminium, and copper analyse the interplay between MFN and FTA tariffs. These case-studies highlight key deficiencies created like that of an inverted duty structure in the case of aluminium and copper and an ineffective FTA tariff as MFN tariffs are far lower in the case of palm oil and pepper. Though the unavailability of preferential trade data limits the scope of our analysis, however, the data available at hand substantiates that despite 90-93 per cent of the trade is covered under the FTA, around 20 per cent of this could possibly be traded at MFN rather than under the FTA framework due to tariff preferences in favour of MFN applied. Thus, an increase in the trade deficit should not be taken as an accurate reflection of the trade dynamics between India and the ASEAN countries and calls for a more detailed and product-level analysis. This analysis would further be strengthened as and when preferential trade data is available.

Keywords: Trade, FTA, Trade Policy, Inverted Duty Structure, MFN

INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS AND BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH ASIA

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Infrastructure determines the state of regional development (Nijkamp P. 1986) and consequently results in higher living standards and lower economic inequalities. Moreover, it impacts economic growth through productivity, production, and quality of life (Aschauer D.A 1989; Fay & Yapes 2003). The extensive literature established that infrastructure (stocks as well as investment) affects growth through multiple demand and supply channels. World Economic Forum (2019) estimated

that South Asia will have an infrastructure investment gap of 4-5 trillion dollars by 2040. This is going to affect the pace of economic development as well as the distributional impact of development as the availability of all types of infrastructure (physical, social, financial, and digital) in per capita terms is persistently low. The South Asian countries excluding Maldives are ranked low not only in terms of Global Competitiveness but Sustainable Development Goals also. Furthermore, Covid-19 Pandemic led recession has resurfaced the argument of infrastructure for resilient growth. IMF (2021) estimates that for developing economies, each unit of public spending on infrastructure has a larger job multiplier effect compared to developed countries. This resonates that public investment has not only a larger role to play but is also the most feasible option for infrastructure provision. In South Asian countries, public infrastructure is less effective in crowding in private investments for infrastructure, given the former being less than the critical minimum effort.

Given the above reasoning, the paper uses a Panel Regression approach to investigate the impact of four categories of infrastructure availability on GDP and per capita income growth in eight South Asian countries. The paper distils the components of infrastructure have varied impacts on inter-country growth. The Panel Granger Causality estimations for public investment in infrastructure show a weak relationship with selected economic variables.

Keywords: Infrastructure Gaps, Panel, Regional Development, South Asia

EXPORT INSTABILITY, INVESTMENT, EXPORT GROWTH AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN INDIA

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The "Export-led Growth Hypothesis," as it is known in the literature, is still a popular issue in both theoretical and empirical research. According to the export-led growth hypothesis (ELGH), a key factor in determining growth is the expansion of exports. It asserts that growing capital and labour inputs into the economy as well as exports can contribute to a country's overall growth. In this study, a multiple linear regression analysis model is used to find out the link between economic development, export growth, export instability, and real effective exchange rate (REER) in India from 2001 to 2021. Additionally, the impacts of foreign exchange, export fluctuation on investment, and import of capital goods have also been studied. The autocorrelation is also tested using the Durbin-Watson (D-W) test. Analysis of the link between exports and economic growth in the context of India reveals that the country's exports haven't increased significantly enough to prove the theory of export-led growth. For instance, ceteris paribus, one per cent change in exports over time is expected to result in a 0.007 per cent reduction in GDP. Negative correlation between GDP and exports is caused by weaker global demand, inflation, falling exports, and rising global trade tension. However, the findings have also shown that one per cent decrease in instability

increases GDP by 5.04 per cent. Furthermore, research has indicated that export instability does contribute to import instability for capital goods and that there is a positive but statistically insignificant link between investment and export instability. The policy implication is that, to decrease the negative impacts of export fluctuations, India should concentrate on those goods in which it has a competitive edge. The primary factors of the excessive volatility and restricted growth must be fully investigated in order to mitigate instability, and inherent flaws must be addressed.

Keywords: Export Instability, Economic Growth, Multiple Regression, Autocorrelation

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATIONS AND REVAMP SCHOOL CURRICULUM OF KERALA

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Objective: Nature is always changing, and nothing remains constant. The lifestyle has changed after the pandemic, corona virus, which has affected every aspect of human life, especially the social phenomena, social needs, social demands, and aspirations of people, and the education field. A major change in education has been the shift from classroom teaching to online learning.

Methods: This study is an analytical study that follows a research methodology to find out the factors affecting curriculum transformation in general and the major changes in the school curriculum of Kerala in particular.

Area of Study: • Curriculum Improvement Approaches • General Education Kerala Curriculum Framework • Factors Influencing Curriculum Change

- Social-political factors
- Economic factors
- Knowledge explosion
- Explosion of aspirations
- Technological factors

Results: The result of the study shows the need for alteration and modification in the education system of Kerala, leading to the development of a new curriculum framework. The framework has been created through a process of popular discussions and debates and many of the suggestions in the National Education Policy have already been implemented by the state.

Conclusion: The Department of General Education in Kerala has taken steps towards comprehensive curriculum reform, considering the growth and development in the knowledge sector. The curriculum framework focuses on 26 important areas, providing the society with a clear picture of the upcoming curriculum work.

Keywords: Education, Transformation

IMPACT OF ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN ON INDIAN ECONOMY DURING COVID-19

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As the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, economies of even the leading countries were shaken, necessitating the need for strong measures to contain the spread of the virus and revive the economy. In India, effective measures such as phased lockdowns and unlocks were implemented to control the spread, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to revive the Indian economy. Developing countries like India took much longer to recover from the financial impact of the pandemic. The "Self-Reliant India Campaign" helped the country achieve just that, with its focus on the banking, MSME and manufacturing sectors. The world agrees that the pandemic has an unpredictable ending, making the campaign a crucial effort in bringing the government and industrial sector together.

Objective: This research aims to study the benefits provided by the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan during the Covid-19 pandemic and to understand the reforms under this initiative.

Methodology: This research paper adopts a theoretical approach, using secondary sources such as articles, research journals, e-journals, books, newspapers, magazines, planning commission reports, websites, and the economic survey.

Result: The reforms and relaxations announced for various sectors under this campaign have benefited both the industrial and agricultural sectors by strengthening local manufacturers, improving the supply chain, and bringing innovation to services.

Implications: Indian startups and innovators will play a vital role in the success of the mission. The Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan offers Indian startups an opportunity to take charge of innovations that we typically rely on global suppliers for.

Keywords: Covid-19, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Self-Reliance, Reforms

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON E-COMMERCE: - IN SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RURAL AREA

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India is a state where agriculture is widespread. Approximately 90 per cent of the Indian population resides in rural areas. E-commerce refers to the buying and selling of goods and services using the internet. E-commerce has become a growing business trend and has helped businesses to reach a wider market by providing customers with a more efficient and cost-effective

distribution channel for their products (Arjun Raj, 2021). The first case of COVID-19 was identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-COV-2 virus (WHO report). The pandemic has changed the way Indians shop, with over 78per cent of consumers preferring to shop online (Business Insider, 2022). Numerous studies have been conducted to assess the impact of COVID-19 on e-commerce, specifically regarding internet usage, convenience purchasing, and safety, particularly in metropolitan cities. This study will examine the impact of COVID-19 on e-commerce in rural areas. The data will be collected from primary and secondary sources and will assess the effect of COVID-19 on e-commerce. The research will provide insights into how e-commerce websites can be designed to better serve the rural population and help expand e-business in these areas.

Keywords: - E-Commerce, Covid-19, Rural Area, Internet

DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR A TRANSFORMING INDIA

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India at 75 is a nation with a significant young population. It has the potential to become a talent powerhouse and contribute to the global workforce. India's youthful demographic is a unique opportunity, as many other nations are rapidly aging, but it can only be utilized if the potential is properly tapped. This paper aims to analyse the current status, issues, and challenges of demographic dividend in India at the state level. The study takes an empirical approach to understand the nature of demographic change in India. The results show that India will enjoy the demographic dividend for more than 30 years, but some of its states will start transitioning to an aging society by the 2030s. This demographic change will have a significant impact on the nation's economic development. The study highlights that with falling fertility, rising median age, and a falling dependency ratio, India is in a unique position to develop and grow before aging sets in. The study calls for forward-looking policies that incorporate population dynamics, education and skills, healthcare, and gender sensitivity. Without proper policies, the increase in the working-age population may lead to rising unemployment and increase economic and social risks, turning the demographic dividend of India into a demographic disaster.

Keywords: India, Demographic Dividend, Ageing, Progressive Policies

ROLE OF DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR TOWARDS THE EQUALITY OF INDIAN WOMEN

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Dr. Ambedkar was a person with vast knowledge, wisdom, courage, and vision. He was a freedom fighter and scholar who showed the way to a society based on liberty, equality, and fraternity. He put in a lot of effort to remove the barriers hindering the progress of women in India and always tried to provide them with equal rights and status as men in society. According to Dr. Ambedkar, everyone should be treated equally regardless of caste, colour, creed, gender, and religion. That is why he started working towards the liberation of women and their rights. His aim was to build a society based on social justice. He recognized the gender inequality present in Indian society and spoke out in favour of including women in the modern society. Dr. Ambedkar provided equal status to women as men through several provisions in the Indian Constitution, such as Article 14, Article 15(1), Article 15(3), Article 16, Article 23, Article 39(a), Article 39(d), Article 42, Article 51(A)(e), Article 300(A), and the 73rd and 74th Amendment Act of 1992. This paper aims to highlight Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts and perceptions towards the equality of Indian women and analyse his contribution as a thinker and social reformer in the improvement of women's social status in society. Secondary data will be collected from the internet, newspapers, published papers, and books. This paper will be helpful for policy makers, educational planners, and society as a whole.

Key Words: Equality, Women, Women Education, Social Justice, Constitutional Provisions

IMPACT OF WORKING CAPITAL MANAGEMENT ON FIRM'S PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

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As a human body cannot survive without blood, a firm cannot survive without working capital. Managing working capital is crucial for the smooth functioning of an organization. Working capital management is an accounting method that enables an organization to utilize its current assets and liabilities effectively and efficiently for optimal functioning. The aim of working capital management is to increase the organization's profit by effectively utilizing current assets and liabilities. When an organization manages its cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and inventory effectively, it leads to increased profitability and helps the organization attain sustainable growth. Sustainable growth refers to a firm's ability to expand using internal sources of finance, without relying heavily on external debt. This study aims to understand the relationship

between working capital management, firm performance, and sustainable growth. The study considers a 10-year period and analyses data from firms listed in the S&P BSE 100 ESG Index using panel data regression. The findings of this study will assist top management in understanding the significance of effective working capital management in promoting sustainable growth.

Keywords: Working Capital Management, Firms Performance, Sustainable Growth

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY USAGE AMONG STUDENTS

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Technology innovation, imagination, and strong decision-making skills have become crucial in facing new challenges. Integrating new technologies in the teaching and learning process helps in developing the skills needed to fully participate in a digital world. The use of information and communication technology (ICT) can improve learning and is an essential tool in achieving education for all. The NEP 2020 focuses on the integration of technology across all levels of education and the extensive use of technology in teaching and learning, increasing access, education planning, and management, among others.

ICT has the potential to enhance students' learning and helps to improve their knowledge, skills, and encourages them to explore new knowledge instead of memorization. ICT has changed the classroom environment and creates a new learning environment where students are engaged learners and can take responsibility for their own learning and knowledge construction.

The purpose of this paper is to examine the use of ICT among students and assess their perceptions of ICT. A descriptive research method was used, and a self-prepared questionnaire was administered to collect data from 30 government higher secondary schools. Five students were selected from each school, making a total of 150 students selected through random sampling. The main findings showed that 95 per cent of the students responded that they wanted to learn through ICT tools, 85 per cent responded that ICT enhances students' interest in learning, 84 per cent responded that the content taught with ICT is well-illustrated, and 70 per cent reported using MS Word and MS PowerPoint in their studies. Additionally, 90 per cent of the students reported having an email ID and using social media like WhatsApp to communicate with friends, while 64 per cent responded that slow internet connectivity is a major obstacle to ICT usage.

The findings have implications for stakeholders such as teachers, students, educational administrators, and policy makers in the field of education. The study showed that students are using ICT and have positive perceptions, but due to their inadequate technological and pedagogical knowledge, they are not maximizing the benefits of ICT.

Keywords: - Information and Communication Technology, Students, Usage

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF LEGALIZATION OF MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE AND AGRARIAN ISSUES IN INDIA

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The farmer's movement started in 2020 with a demand for the legalization of the Minimum Support Price. This demand has been raised by farmers and farmer unions at both the national and regional level for some time. However, the demand gained momentum after the 2017 Mandsaur incident in Madhya Pradesh where 6 farmers died during a violent protest for higher minimum support price. The 2018 long march by farmers in Maharashtra also highlighted the issue of minimum support price and land ownership.

During the 2020 farmer's movement, a national debate started on the legal validity of minimum support price, which was a positive aspect. Three sides emerged regarding the legal validity of the minimum support price. The government, a supporter of neo-liberal policies, believes that legalizing the minimum support price could lead to financial risk, procurement problems, and trade-related problems in the international market. The farmers see the issue of minimum support price as crucial to their livelihood and existence. The Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana launched by the Madhya Pradesh government in 2017 attempts to strike a balance between the free market and compulsory purchase on minimum support price.

This paper aims to analyse the different views on the minimum support price by using primarily primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include talks with farmers at the Tikri border during the farmer's movement and the analysis of reports of various committees. Secondary sources have also been used in the analysis.

Keywords: Minimum Support Price, Farmer, Agriculture, Crop Diversity, Procurement

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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Objective: The objective of this paper is to examine the status of women empowerment in the modern era, and to determine whether women are being included and given equal rights as men. The aim is to assess whether inclusive growth will be sustained in the years to come.

Methodology: To gather information on this topic, the researcher plans to conduct a mini-survey and discuss the issues with experts in the field. The researcher will also focus on articles appearing in journals and newspapers to strengthen the arguments. The results will be based on the mini-survey and discussions with scholars, as well as newspaper articles.

Empowerment: Empowerment is defined as the authority given to someone to do something. The question is whether we are truly empowered to do something. In many homes, it is still believed that the head of the family is the father, and not the mother, even though she works hard every day. The role of the mother at home is often neglected, and even though women now work in great companies and travel alone at odd hours, they are still often valued as a commodity rather than as a person with emotions. Although the condition of women has improved compared to the past, and they are financially secure and can voice their opinions, there are still many areas where they are targeted. While novels and films depict women gaining power, the reality is that many of their basic needs and interests remain unfulfilled.

Inclusive growth: According to UNCTAD, inclusive growth refers to growth across four pillars, including the economy, living conditions, equality, and the environment. These pillars are crucial for women, as all four must be taken into consideration. While economic and living conditions are problematic for both men and women, the researcher would like to focus on the issue of how these conditions impact women differently.

Keywords: Empowerment, Inclusive, Equality

FACETS OF INDIAN NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE ERA OF AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT- AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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The concept of "National Security" encompasses a wide range of issues and maintaining it is a complex and critical task. Merely relying on military efforts will not ensure the security of the nation. A collaborative effort from all stakeholders, both at the strategic and diplomatic and economic level, is necessary for the effective maintenance of national security. Achieving self-reliance takes time and requires proper channelization of efforts. Although India has capable agencies and policies in place to address security concerns, their improper implementation has

often put the country's security at risk. India's geographical location in Southeast Asia contributes to its security challenges, such as terrorism, arms, and drug trafficking.

The defense sector, being directly connected to national security, requires freedom from the licensing culture. Licensing allows to produce weaponry within India, but the technology used in the production process is not owned by the licensees. Self-reliance would ensure the creation of technology indigenously. Increased self-reliance does not necessarily mean a decrease in imports, but rather the acquisition of technical expertise to operate foreign equipment, reducing dependence on foreign sources.

This research paper adopts a doctrinal research method to propose ways in which India's security concerns can be addressed by becoming self-reliant in the defense sector. The importance of agency cooperation in achieving self-reliance will also be highlighted.

Keywords- National Security, Import Erosion, Aatma Nirbhar, Licensing

STUDY OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF CHIEF MINISTER UNORGANIZED WORKERS SEWING MACHINE HELP SCHEME IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF UNORGANIZED WOMEN WORKERS

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The presented research study examines the economic development of unorganized women workers through the Chief Minister Unorganized Workers Sewing Machine Help Scheme, which is administered by the Chhattisgarh Government Labour Department. The study assesses the contribution of this scheme to the economic development of unorganized women workers, as well as their eligibility for the program and the benefits they receive. Additionally, the study examines the number of unorganized women workers in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh who have taken advantage of the Chief Minister Unorganized Workers Sewing Machine Help Scheme in recent years.

Keywords: Economic Development, Unorganized Women Workers, Sewing Machine Help Scheme

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON AGRICULTURE

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Agriculture in India is largely dependent on nature, but climate change and global warming make farming unpredictable. The need of the hour is to educate farmers on the use of modern technology and innovative approaches to increase productivity and profitability. Agriculture technology, also known as Agri Tech, is efficient in mapping, monitoring, and managing farming decisions. Technological innovations can bring about significant changes in agriculture from time to time.

From the creation of the plough to GPS-driven precision farming equipment, humans have developed new ways to make farming more efficient and grow more crops. It is necessary to find new ways to irrigate crops or breed more disease-resistant varieties. These continuous efforts are key to feeding the ever-expanding global population with decreasing freshwater supply.

Technology can play a major role in farming and agriculture practices, and with the advent of digital technology, the scope can be widened. Innovation in agriculture can lead to an evolution in agricultural practices by reducing losses and increasing efficiency. This can have a positive impact on farmers and help increase the income of the farming community. This paper attempts to study the benefits and consequences of technological advancement in agriculture for farmers.

Keywords: Global Warming, Unpredictable, Technology, Innovative, Digital Technology, Farming Equipment

E-COMMERCE MECHANICS: A PROCESS REVOLUTION FOR THE RETAIL INDUSTRY

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"Electronic commerce, or e-commerce, refers to the exchange of products and services over the internet. B2B, B2C, C2C, and similar opportunities support consumer markets and preferences by creating electronic infrastructure for future obstacles to overcome. Because of e-commerce, business has undergone a radical transformation. Competition with the computer communication network known as the Internet (The NET) is causing an online market to emerge for both customers and businesses. The differences between traditional markets and the global electronic marketplace, including the quantity of corporate capital, are gradually eroding as a result of

advancements in the Internet and web-based technology. India is growing quickly in terms of e-commerce, and one explanation for this is the low price of personal computers and the rise in Internet usage. The Indian business community is becoming increasingly aware of the possibilities presented by e-commerce. The major purpose of this paper is to explore the place of e-commerce in modern business."

Keywords: Communications, Technology, Digital Information, Market Strategy, Electronic Infrastructure