IIT KANPUR'S

STUDENTS' OPINION SOCIETY

Newsletter

MAY 2020

THE COMMUNIQUÉ

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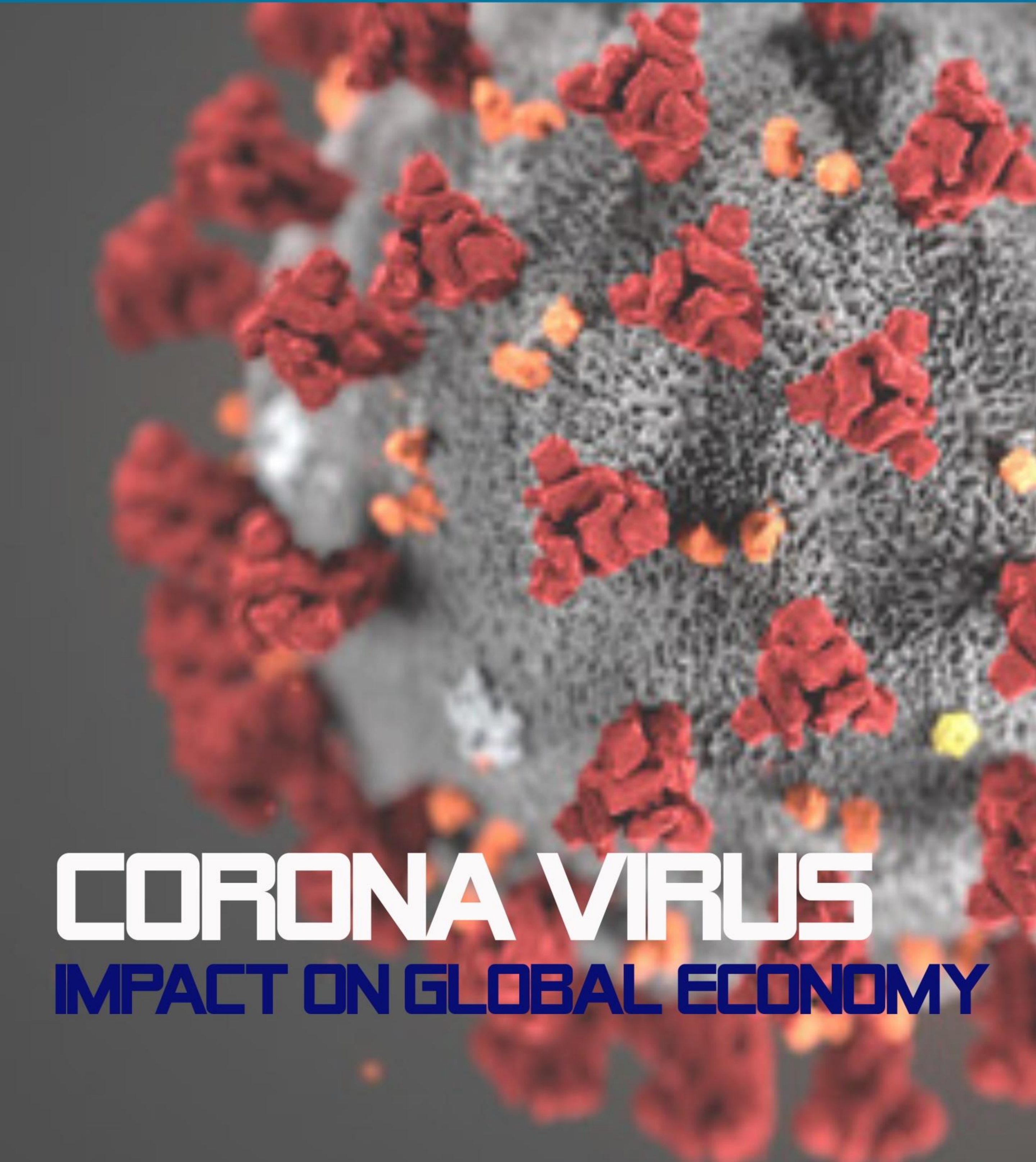
The Communiqué

MAY 2020



CORONA VIRUS

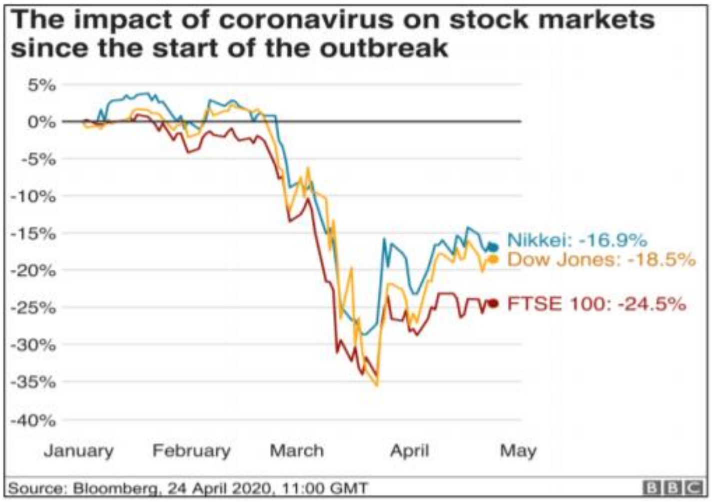
IMPACT ON GLOBAL ECONOMY

Impact of Coronavirus on Global Economy

Confirmed COVID-19 coronavirus cases have surpassed 4 million globally. Industries are grappling with lost revenue and fragmented supply chains as production shutdowns and quarantine policies extend across the world, limiting travel, commerce and exchange. Despite the governments across the countries taking measures to enact fiscal and monetary steps to relieve the pressure on people and shore up under extreme strain economies, unemployment and financial burden is skyrocketing.

The Coronavirus pandemic has resulted in the plummeting of a lot of markets. Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the coronavirus pandemic had caused an economic slowdown the planet had not seen since the Great Depression. The virus has disrupted the normal business in several ways. We will be highlighting the major impacts in this article.

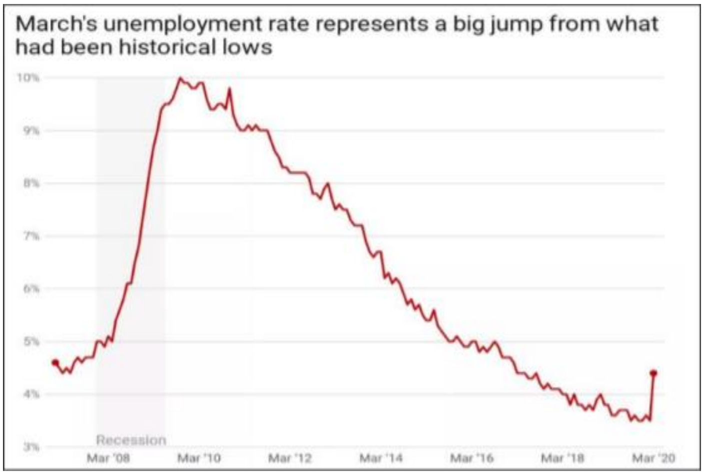
Global Stock Market takes a Hit: Significant movements in capital markets, where shares are bought and sold in businesses, may impact the valuation of stocks or individual savings accounts (ISAs). Many businesses across the world are going up and down with their markets and profits.



That would contribute to the crisis where people will lose their employment and the future work applicants won't have that much hope for either work. Investors around the world are concerned that coronavirus spread would destroy economic prosperity, and that policy intervention will not be enough to stop the downturn.

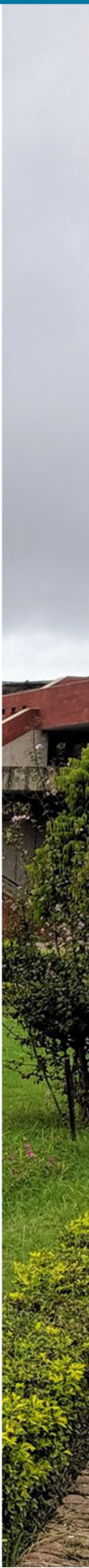
In reaction, several nations, including the United Kingdom, have seen central banks cut interest rates. In theory, this should make borrowing cheaper and spur spending to boost the economy. But some experts have cautioned that once the pandemic is controlled, financial stocks may become turbulent.

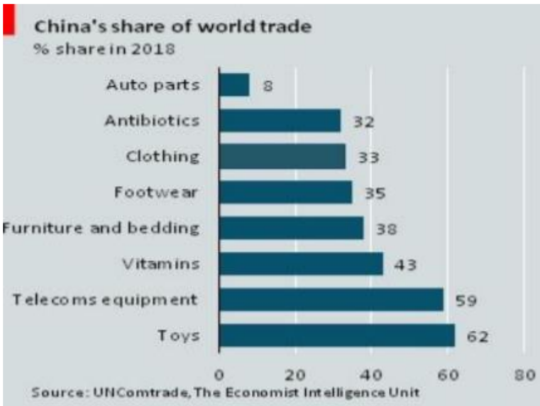
Increase in the Unemployment Rate: Across the world, the number of individuals applying for unemployment would reach a record high. In the U.S., that means an end to a decade of growth for one of the world's biggest economies. There is a lot of doubt about the future about whether many of them will get back their work to will delay the economy. That will also contribute to heightened criminal activities because they will be faced with no other escape choices



It forecasts about the unemployment rate to peak at about 15% later this year, contributing to a 9% fall in the gross domestic product in the US alone in the first quarter accompanied by an unprecedented 34% drop in the second quarter, which will be by far the worst in post-World War II history.

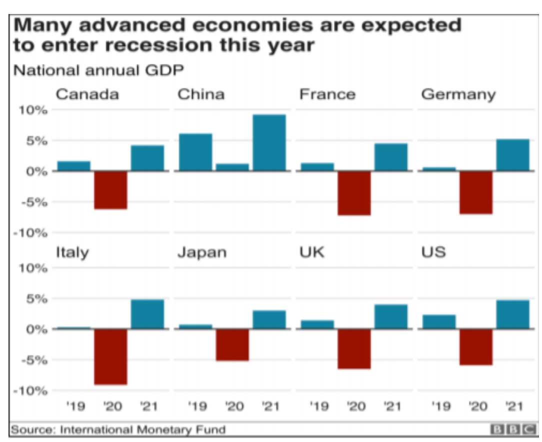
Global Supply Chain: Shattered and Bruised: As Covid-19 cases have spread throughout China and Europe, shutdowns of production have gathered momentum, with subsequent consequences for other manufacturers. This has produced major supply-shocks as quarantine steps and manufacturing closures interrupting key material production. COVID-19 has clearly affected all of the nodes of the supply chain connected through the China-centric network. Since China is the largest manufacturer and supplier of several categories in both essential and non-essential goods, companies outside





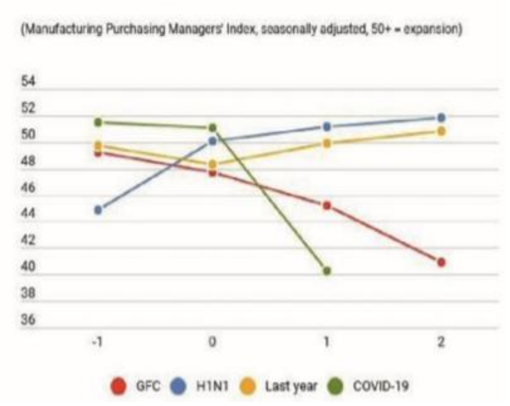
China are deeply impacted as their Chinese vendors are unable to provide the goods and resources. Due to the epidemic, the effects on firms have expanded internationally, and corporations across the world are facing pressure because their Chinese service sector suppliers are unable to make invoice payments.

World Economy towards Double Recession: Global policymakers are supplying trillions of dollars to sustain their economies in investment programs. A future debt crisis in each of these countries would spread quickly to other developing countries and emerging markets, throwing the world economy into another slump-probably even worse. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts the world economy is expected to contract by 3 percent this year. While the IMF claimed the coronavirus threw the globe into a "crisis like no other", if the pandemic disappears in the second half of 2020 it predicts global growth to climb to 5.8 per cent next year

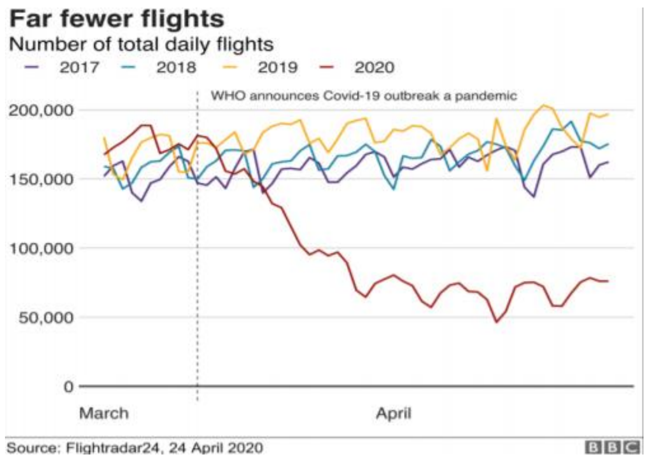


Made in China to Made Elsewhere: The coronavirus epidemic in China has sparked imports away from the industrial center of the world — a move that started in the tariff war between the United States and China. The disruption to the domestic and international transportation systems have compelled the global businesses to look for new territories for a continuous production and cheap labor. Countries like Japan are now trying to diversify their manufacturing and supply chains to new destinations.

The government is working to tackle disabilities across industries, like pharmaceuticals and cars, and try to develop India as an alternative to China to produce local and global markets across industries.



Disruption to Travel Industry: The travel industry sustained serious disruption, with airlines slashing flights and consumers cancelling business trips and vacations. Governments across the world also imposed limitations on transport to seek to control the virus. In an extraordinary attempt to close their boundaries owing to the coronavirus epidemic, several countries across the world restricted passengers from outside their boundaries



Experts have agreed that it would take around 18 to 24 months before there is a significant rise in demand. Meanwhile, the travel sector is going to face some very major changes: Airports might introduce different kinds of security measures to track sick passengers, worried visitors going to holiday closer to home, and the travel experience would be dominated by large chains while tiny hotels and restaurants would fail to survive. Despite the damage to the broader economy, virus infections have continued to gain pharmaceutical stocks, telecommuting, and online jobs. Use of mobile applications such as Zoom and Slack have shot up as more people rely on video conference calls and email to hold meetings or get tasks done.

Overall, It’s very evident that the world leaders and global businesses would require a lot of time and strategies to overcome the wrath of this pandemic, both in terms of mortality rates and fiscal stability.

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Downfall of oil Prices

Downfall of Oil Prices

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was a group of countries, which were involved in oil extraction and export. It was formed in Baghdad. It had 13 members. Now it is replaced by OPEC+, which includes previous OPEC countries and also Russia. They now collectively control the price of oil in the International markets and even the oil extraction outputs

CURRENT OIL SCENARIO:

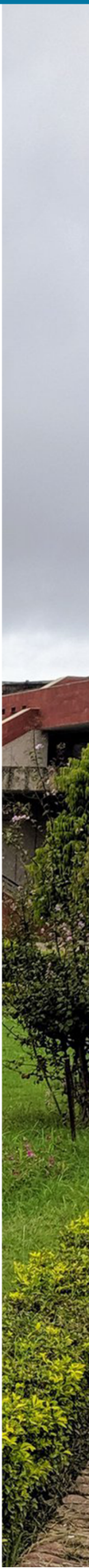
Currently, the OPEC+ nations are in one of the worst oil price plunges. Why did the current situation arouse? The problem started with Russia. They firstly declined to cut the energy output in March. Then a considerable oil price war followed between the Saudis and the Russians. Finally, as the oil price turned negative (-$37/barrel) for the WTI May futures, the OPEC+ countries agreed for oil output cuts. Still, to no avail, as already the world is running out of storage space, e.g., almost 95% of all the area of with Indian oil refiners are full. Also, around the world, many essential storage spaces like Oklahoma, Storage sites of Singapore, European Union and even the strategic reserves of almost a lot of countries having them are full or will be packed in a span of a fortnight or so, as the oil demand is down as nearly more than 50% of the world population is locked down. Many oil-consuming businesses, like airliners and transportation and power generation, are shut. So, the oil price war backfired.

WHY OIL PRICE WAR?

The story started when the USA began mass-producing shale oil, which is a form of oil obtained by proper mechanized cutting of the shale rock. This increases the price of shale oil for extracting companies. So, the US needs a higher price to sustain. This opportunity was taken by the Russians, to bankrupt the US companies, the Russians didn't cut their output of oil. The other reason for their rigidness was that Saudi Arabian Oil company Aramco could quickly flood the world market once the demand picks up due to very well-developed oil infrastructure as compared to Russia, thus eating away the markets. So, the Russians didn't accept the cuts and banking on high forex reserves of around $550 billion+ and less debt to GDP ratio (15%) than Saudis (25%). Saudi agreed to enter the oil price war as it also had enough forex reserves of around $465 billion, and even Saudi had an advantage that they can produce oil at a cost as low as $3 per barrel. In contrast, Russia needs around $30 to sustain production costs. So, armed with that factor, Saudi entered the oil price war.

IMPACT ON OPEC NATIONS AND OMCs:

The OPEC nations, which depend whole and sole on the oil export money, are devastated like the Sultanate of Oman and Iraq, etc. Their breakeven oil price, i.e. the cost needed for a barrel to balance the fiscal budget, has started skyrocketing. E.g. Bahrain's breakeven price has reached around $100 per barrel, and African nation Algeria has crossed the $155 per barrel mark. African countries like Nigeria, which are not much developed, have just around 5 to 6 days of oil storage space left if they continue pumping at the same rate, and have to shut rigs and scale down the production compulsorily. In the USA, the oil is extracted by private companies, and do not have proper government support like in Russia and OPEC nations; now the impact is so severe that the companies have started laying offs and rig shutdowns, and are down 50% in these seven weeks of oil crisis to 408. The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have started cutting the dividends on their shares to investors, and many have plunged into massive losses, e.g. US super major Exxon



-Mobil has reported a quarterly loss for the first time since 1999 of $610 million. To sustain the oil companies, Washington is planning to start buying stakes in the struggling firms, to prevent their closure. The biggest victims' major problems now are to feed the hungry people, who are left unemployed because of this oil price plunge. Their other headache is how to buy imports? As their dollar revenue source is shut now.

Not only these African and Arabian nations, but even big countries like Canada are also facing huge problems as around 5% of its revenue is by the oil and gas sector. They are now facing a massive recession. The Saudis have booked almost all the supertankers and super carriers to store oil on the sea at highly expensive rates. The US companies have started saving fuel in the oil pipelines, to continue the Production of oil. Right now the OPEC nations have reached the top of the curve as now the production has hit a 13 month high, outputting 30.25 million BPD of oil in April. The output cuts have started, and they aim to take around 9.7 million BPD of oil off the market.

IMPACT ON INDIA:
The international oil prices have a significant impact on our economy. As each dollar reduces the cost in the global oil rates, we save around Rs. 3000 crores from our import bill. So, it is a positive impact; another impact is that the fuel rates are dipping in the nation along with the gas rates. But it also has a negative effect, as due to low oil rates, many companies have started cutting the spending and are trying to conserve cash. Hence many jobs are getting revoked and also the remittances to the country from the Gulf are dipping, and too many people are getting fired. So, many jobless people now will return to India from the Gulf and other parts of the world, creating even more problems here. Even a high valued deal of Reliance Industries with Saudi Aramco is also not taking due to strain in the cash reserves of the company, which dented the hopes of the Indian Business Manganite Ambani of making RIL debt-free.

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FACEBOOK & JIOMART

Chaning business landscape of Indian Kirana Stores

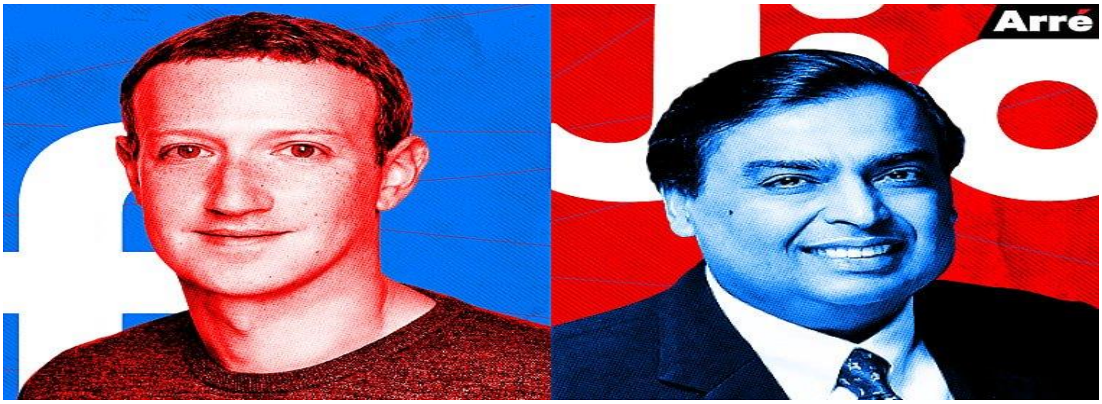
Jio-Facebook Deal and Impact on the business landscape of Indian Kirana Stores

The coming together of the world's largest Internet company with India's largest telecom player created a lot of buzz in the Indian market last month. Facebook's investment for an approximate 10 per cent stake in Jio Platforms was the single largest FDI in the Indian telecoms and technology sector. This investment has made Facebook the largest minority stakeholder in Jio. The deal has priced Jio platforms at an overall value of Rs 4.62 lakh crore taking it to the list of top 5 registered companies in India by market cap.

This deal brings a win-win situation for both the players, as Reliance industry would intend to deleverage its balance sheet through this and speed up the launch of its e-commerce venture – JioMart. Further, Facebook will also get its long-awaited entry to enter India's booming telecom market. The agreement enables Reliance Retail and Facebook operated WhatsApp to enter into a commercial association which would help the RIL subsidiary's e-commerce marketplace platform in serving small businesses through WhatsApp. It would try to target the customers to get access to the local Kirana stores using WhatsApp, combining both offline and online retail. Along with this, it would also give a boost to the Prime Minister's mission of cashless India by providing a seamless online transaction experience for the door to door customers.

JioMart is built in partnership with small merchants and 'kirana' shops, it will allow customers to buy goods and services using WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger from these neighbourhood retail stores. Jio Platforms will also focus on introducing digital solutions for 60 million micro, small and medium businesses across the country. It will also target 120 million farmers, 30 million merchants and millions of SMEs in the informal sector. The COVID-19 has impacted the global economy and Reliance Industries is not left out of this pandemic situation. It has encountered loss which likely has weakened its refining and petrochemical segment as a result of this. The proceeds from the JioMart transactions should help the industry to offload its debt and improve its fiscal state.

With Reliance Retail venturing into the digital market space, JioMart poses growing risks to global e-commerce players in India. Smaller retailers have frequently reported that global firms including Amazon India and Flipkart have positioned them out of the business, due to which there have been changes in the key guidelines for international e-commerce players. The new policy has banned foreign e-commerce firms in India from manipulating prices, utilizing deceptive advertising practices and misrepresenting the feature or functionality of their product offerings. The launch of JioMart has come at a very opportune time as this will put extra pressure on foreign players who would be bound to set up local data collection and storage centres.



Although there is a public statement about the deal that has indicated that there will be no data sharing between Reliance Jio and Facebook, but the official press communication has already stated that there is an intent to cross-leverage ecommerce platform JioMart and the recently approved WhatsApp Pay, to foster both businesses. Both Mark Zuckerberg and Mukesh Ambani, the latter more so, have gone out of the way to explain how the agreement would allow dependence on WhatsApp's more than 400 million-strong network while it tries to jump-start its business under JioMart. The company now clearly has the potential to create an 'e-commerce monopoly' and upturn the e-commerce ecosystem in India.

Facebook's investment in Jio is a safe bet on avoiding the future wrath by India's authorities. There has never been more criticism of the technological challenges posed by foreign companies in terms of law enforcement and how they handle the sensitive personal data of Indian citizens and organizations. The ongoing crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic

will only speed up these protective concerns and by picking up a near 10% stake in Jio, Zuckerberg appears to be buying 'protection' in a manner of speaking.

For a fact, with a strong database, this relationship undermines the entire idea of net neutrality and opens the path to much more anti-competition practices such as extreme discounting, etc. Amazon and Flipkart won't be able to compete because they won't have the leverage of data. Besides, digital payment apps such as PayTM and PhonePe which already face cash crunches would be compelled to enter the Jio and Facebook gateways.

The sale of branded categories in apparels, electronics and consumer goods have gone online but a large chunk of Indian population still shops for a wide variety of daily essentials from their neighborhood 'kirana' shops. Jiomart intends to target this unorganized market which constitutes approximately 90 percent of the total Indian retail market, and where most of the sales take place through kirana stores or stand-alone outlets.

RIL's latest announcement indicated that Jio Platforms, Reliance Retail and WhatsApp are working together on the JioMart platform for stimulating Reliance Retail linking kirana shops with consumers, enabling home delivery through Jio's mobile app. For suppliers and consumers, Jiomart would be the most important component in the value chain. The large volumes of data will enable wider assortments, procurement, just-in-time fulfilments, and curated promotions. This would not only enable faster delivery of day-to-day items from nearby local shops but also help the small kiranas in growing their businesses and create new employment opportunities using digital technology.

Effect of Jiomart on Indian Kirana Stores Market

Jiomart has already started its field testing in Mumbai amidst the lockdown, aiming at serving users in three neighbourhoods surrounding the city. The customers can get the JioMart link to place an order which is shared with a local grocer. The customer is then notified via WhatsApp when and where to pick up the items. This successful roll out during the toughest of times surpassing the supply-chain limitations has taken the senior Ambani a step closer to his goal of setting up a digital platform to take on the international players in the Indian e-commerce market.

The Indian retail market is ready for intervention and there has never been a better moment for the kirana store to become a part of India's digital revolution, it could be the turning point everyone has been waiting for. It would also be interesting to see how the Amazon led 'Local Shops on Amazon' program launched on the similar lines challenge Jiomart and who would ultimately be the frontrunner on this, the businesses or the kirana stores.

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The Communiqué

May 2020

Changing Dynamics of FDI

Changing Dynamics of FDI

As soon as China's central bank bought a 1% stake in HDFC limited government of India brought changes to its FDI policy to curb opportunistic takeover of Indian companies by Chinese.

RECENT CHANGES IN FDI POLICY

- All FDI proposals from countries sharing a border with India will be under the government approval route.
- Earlier, the central bank simply had to be informed after money was invested(the so-called automatic route), has been blocked in such cases.
- Companies whose beneficial ownership also lies in such countries will have to undergo government scrutiny for any change in foreign holding.

NEED FOR THESE MEASURES

- Many Indian businesses have come to a halt due to the lockdown imposed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic; subsequently, their valuation has plummeted.
- Many such domestic firms may be vulnerable to the opportunistic takeovers or acquisition from foreign players.
- Recently people banks of china made a portfolio investment through the stock market in housing finance company HDFC and now holds a 1.01% stake in the company.

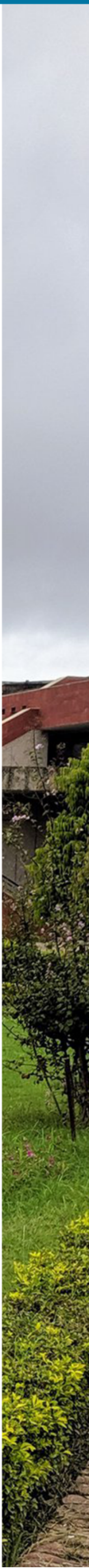
CONCERNS AND UNINTENDED IMPACTS

- The amended policy makes every type of investment by Chinese investors subject to government approval. Such a blanket could create unintended problems.
- It does not distinguish between greenfield and brownfield investments. It may pose challenges to greenfield investments where Chinese investors bring fresh capital to establish new factories and generate employment in India.

- The new policy does not distinguish between the different types of investors, such as industry players or financial institutions or venture capital funds. The restriction on venture capital funds may impact the prospect of many startups in the Indian market.
- Also, these changes are said to be a violation of WTO's principle of non-discrimination, and thus without the appropriate and regulatory sanctions, India might experience reciprocal measures from China.

Although the policy is well-intended, the consequences are inevitable. China's footprint in the Indian business space has been expanding rapidly since 2014; by 2107 total investment has increased fivefold to at least $8 billion accompanied by a market shift from a state-driven to a market-driven approach. This is in the form of stake in the company such as Paytm, Ola Byju's, Swiggy, Big Basket Snapdeal. Also, China has made enormous investments in 18 out of the 30 unicorns. China has delivered on quality and service and leads to electric and green technologies. Therefore India should fast-track Chinese investment approvals after FDI changes. The centre could try approving proposals in non-sensitive sectors in 15 days, where the stake being bought isn't significant. Every Chinese investor is worried, says a law firm after India changes FDI rules as any government approval could take months. This will affect India's digital businesses who are in urgent need of funds. According to Brooking india paper, total current and planned Chinese investment in India is over $26 billion.

The recent turn of events over the last couple of years ,has been causing distress to the companies to shift their units from china. Despite being a developing market and a lucrative destination for investment, it has been observed that the production shift from china is being transferred to a relatively smaller economy that is ranked 45th in the world, which is Vietnam. Only three out of fifty-six companies exiting China came to India. Let us look at some reasons in which we can work-



- The infrastructural developments in Vietnam are way ahead than that of India due to which corporates find it easier to set up production in the former country. Along with that, Vietnam has made considerable investments in healthcare and education. In contrast, India's total expenditure on human capital is as low as 7.5% of its GDP.
- Costs of starting a business in India have added more restrictions. There are 12 procedures required to initially set up a business and take up to 27 days on average. In comparison to this, there are a total of just eight systems that are necessary for setting up a business in Vietnam.
- Lastly, The manufacturing hub of Vietnam-Ho Minh chi city offers a benefit of synergy since the factories are adjacently situated, which in turn aid in producing a more prodigious output.

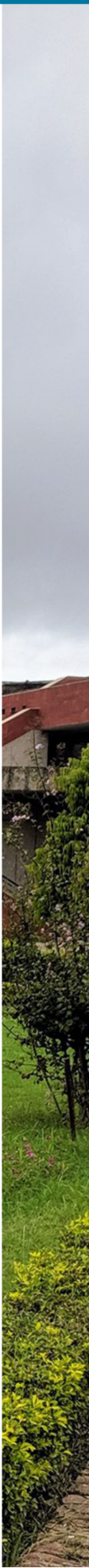
Besides this, India should also focus on Japan's economic package on business exiting china. China is Japan's biggest trading partner under normal circumstances. But imports from China slumped by almost half in February as the COVID 19 shuttered factories. This, in turn, starving Japanese manufacturers of necessary components(Nisan to shut Japan factory due to the shortage of Chinese parts), the recent events have renewed talk of Japanese firms reducing their reliance on China as a manufacturing base. The government's panel on future investment last month discussed the need for- manufacturing of high-added value products to be shifted back to Japan, and for production of other goods to be diversified across southeast Asia. To help companies to turn their production units out of China, Japan announced a dollar 2.2 billion trillion package. Out of which it will give .2 billion to manufacturers moving to southeast Asia. Firms have already started shifting their production base.

About 200 US companies seeking to move manufacturing base from China to India says USISPF.

We need to understand how we can attract those companies. And that means all the way from land issues to customs issues to being part of the global supply chain. Those are critical issues. There are a whole plethora of reforms that need to go further down, and It will create a lot of jobs. One recommendation, which I firmly believe is going to help India, is that we should now start thinking of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the U.S," Aghi said. A piece of recent positive news is emerging out where 100 US firms want to shift their base from China to UP, which includes some big firms such as Cisco, Adobe, UPS, FedEx. Representatives of these companies showed interest in the fields of agriculture, electronics, medicine, scientific instrumentation, logistics, defence, aviation, food processing MRO, etc. On the other hand, the UP government has assured them of providing Various incentives such as capital subsidy, land subsidy, etc.

South Korean companies want to move units from China to India. Hyundai Steel, Posco are in talks With the Indian Government. We have requests from two iron and steel companies. Besides the two behemoths, several companies want to come to India. But with Covid, there might be some delays, So we can make sure that we are making the best use of it.

Every state of India must realize that it is high time to make things happen by pulling all the resources and offer a workable platform to allure private investments instead of borrowing any further.



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Analysis of US Invasion of Iraq

In the light of Petro-Dollar

*PC: Watching America

Analysis of US invasion of Iraq: In the light of Petro-Dollar

In the early 1970s after the Arab crisis happened with the oil embargo, OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting countries) drastically increased the prices of oil to the western world. That made America particularly vulnerable because they were importing up to 70% of all the oil for their domestic consumption. In light of the above events, the then US president Richard Nixon sent his Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger to Saudi Arabia for a secret meeting. What ensued was a pact under which the United States would defend Saudi Arabia and make sure that the house of Sa'ad would stay in power. In return, they wanted Saudi Arabia to use the US Dollar as the currency of exchange for all oil sales. This pact still stands to this date and the US and Saudi Arabia remain close allies. Following this many other Gulf countries too adopted the US Dollar as the de-facto medium for the sale of oils. This new currency that was born began to be called the petrodollar.

"Petro-dollar is one thing that is holding America right at the top of the world. If the petro-dollar dies so does America as a superpower" - Marin Katusa

Other countries had to now buy the US Dollars before officiating any purchase of oil. What followed was an exponential increase in the worldwide demand of the US Dollar. This made the US Dollar extremely popular as a global currency and made it tremendously powerful in comparison to other currencies, and to date, it remains one of the major factors in keeping the US economy right at the top of the world. So much is the demand that it remains an astonishing fact that over 70% of all the $100 bills (currency notes) are outside the USA.

We all know of the US invasion of Iraq in an attempt to restore democracy in the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein, and to save the world from an imminent war being conspired by Saddam Hussein. What ensued, we all know. But there were a series of events, the versions of which are essential for us to get a complete and unbiased understanding of the subsequent war.

The relations between the USA and the majority of Gulf Countries had never been too good, primarily owing to the conflicts inflicted upon the region by the intervention of powerful countries to gain hegemony over the oil trade. During the period 1962-91 Iraq fought numerous wars with other countries and was involved in active research and employment of weapons of mass destruction. Though there were no nuclear weapons built, the damage caused by the rest of biological or chemical weapons used in wars with Kuwait and Iran was catastrophic. Iraq openly agreed with the allegations and soon after the Persian Gulf War, in 1991 it was forced to sign a treaty by the United Nations Security Council forbidding it from developing, possessing or using chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. Also, it was forbidden from keeping missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres. The United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) was created to carry out weapon inspections in Iraq and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was given the charge of dismantling Iraq's Nuclear Program. Between 1991 and 2003 various inspections were done by the UNSCOM and other UN Council bodies and most came out to the conclusion that Iraq didn't possess any weapon of mass destruction. So what exactly happened in 2003, that all of a sudden, America rejected all the claims of twelve years of investigation and realised that Iraq was a threat to world peace.

By early 2000, the relations between Iraq and the USA were highly strained owing to continuous American interference in the Gulf region and the difference in viewpoints of the Iraqi dictator and US Authorities. During that time Iraq was the world's second-largest producer of oil. In October 2000, Saddam Hussein insisted upon the dumping of “the currency of enemy” and rather to adopt Euro as the official medium of exchange for Iraq's oil trade. How powerful is the impact on a currency's valuation by global trade demand, can be appreciated from the fact that sometime soon after the declaration, the valuation of Euro made a huge jump from ‘0.82’ to ‘1.08’ against ‘1’ US Dollar.

Almost all of Iraq's oil exports under the United Nations Oil-For-Food programme have been paid in euros since 2001. Around £17.4 billion has been paid alone by the United States for 3.3 billion barrels of oil traded into the USA. From the status of the supplier of Dollars, America had now turned into a buyer of Euros. This move had Iraq generating a huge amount of profit ,and on the other hand, America incurred losses and its position at the top of the global economy was badly struck. America was turning more paranoid at the minute and in a quick unfolding of events Iraq was invaded. The sole and main reason stated was Iraq possessing Weapons of Mass Destructions, which were ultimately never found to date. Saddam's Regime was overthrown, and a puppet American government was established. The new government soon restored the US Dollar as the currency medium for oil exchange and the thought of dropping the US Dollar has never resurfaced again.

America's invasion of Libya under Col. Gaddafi too had a similar unfolding of events. Gaddafi had also proposed the dropping of the US Dollar for its oil trade. The US military intervention of Libya, US conflicts with Venezuela all can be related to America's hunger for power which it is meeting through the petro-dollar. We will be writing in detail about these events in the subsequent editions of the newsletter.

A note from the Author:

Saddam Hussein was a criminal who was running a very tyrannical and oppressive regime in Iraq. Minorities were massacred and civilians were denied basic human rights. This article in no way sympathises with any individual, it's sole purpose is to bring into light the true nature of the '*harbingers of peace*' and to inform the readers about the power of petro-currencies which are holding an economy right at the top.

Students Opinion Society
IIT Kanpur

The Communiqué aims to explore the events from national and international sphere be it political, economic, geopolitical etc.. The debut issue covers some relevant topics such as coronavirus and economy, FDI, oil prices, FB-Jio deal and one long term series on US Invasion of Iraq which shall be explored in much detail in the upcoming editions.

Any constructive suggestions for the improvement are welcome and shall be acknowledged.
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