



SIR M. VISVESVARAYA INSTITUTE OF
MANAGEMENT STUDIES & RESEARCH,
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International Conference - Pratisandhi on 1st and 2nd April 2022

The NKE Society Group of Institutions organised a two-day multi-disciplinary International Conference sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. The participating institutions were Sir M Visvesvaraya Institute of Management Studies and Research (SVIMS), SVIMS Business School, NKES College of Arts, Science & Commerce under the aegis of University of Mumbai and as part of the Government of India's Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative.

The theme of the conference was – PRATISANDHI "A SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION IN TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN ERA"

The CONFERENCE was held on April 1, 2022 and April 2, 2022 at the NKE Society's campus.

April 1, 2022

Dr Purshottam Patil, Director SVIMS welcomed the dignitaries. In his address he highlighted the relevance of the event and the importance of sustainability.

Dr Sateesh Ojha, Regional Dean, Lincoln University, Nepal was the Chief Guest at the conference. Dr Ojha delivered the inaugural address. This was followed by a special address of Dr Smita Shukla, Director, ICSSR, Western Region.

Dr Kuldeep Kumar and Dr Sandeep Poddar respectively from Bond University Australia and Lincoln University Malaysia delivered the felicitation address.

This was followed by a vote of thanks by Dr Veena Prasad In charge Principal, NKES Degree College.

A presentation on "How technology enables business transformation in organizations" was made by Mr Parameshwaran Iyer, Partner Consulting – ET & P –SAP, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP in the afternoon session on Day 1

A presentation by research scholars from various universities and educational institutions were held in four different tracks namely, Finance & Economics, Marketing and General Management, IT & Business Analytics

April 2, 2022

There were presentations by students of both MMS and PGDM and also by management students of RISHIHOOD Business School, Sonipat, and Haryana including a student from Uganda.

Ms Asha Ruth, Finance Controller, ITC Group of Hotels presented a topic titled "Achieve the best and adapt to the change" which was a lively management game theme, The students enthusiastically participated in the proceedings.

This was followed by a lecture on "Resolve to evolve & Balancing ESG sustainability in organisations" by Mr Sankar Raman, Sr. Vice President, Raychem RPG.

This was followed by valedictory address by Mr Pradeep Godbole, CA and an independent director – Risk & Compliance, The South Indian Bank Ltd., Mr. Hiten Kapadia, CA, Mazars India, and Dr Koel Roychoudhury, Principal SIES College.

The conference ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr Vasumathy Hariharan, Dean – Academics, SVIMS and Convenor of the Conference.

RBI Leaves rates unchanged

- Compiled by Prof Mani

The RBI in its recent monetary policy announcement on 8th April 2022, left the key policy rates unchanged. The RBI Governor also said that the policy stance would be accommodative (that is RBI would ensure sufficient liquidity). The RBI has revised the GDP growth numbers downwards from the previous 7.8% for the FY 22-23 to 7.2%. The RBI has also revised the inflation number to 5.7% as against 5.1% projected earlier.

Merger of HDFC Limited and HDFC Bank Limited

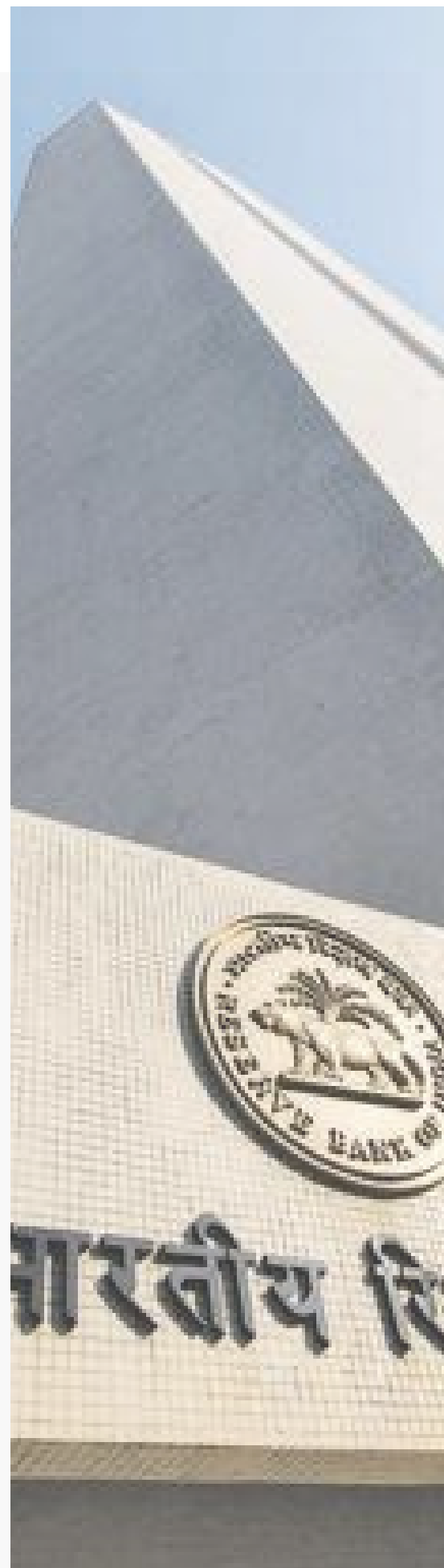
HDFC Bank and HDFC Ltd on April 4, 2022 announced the merger of the two entities, setting the stage for one of the biggest deals in the Indian financial sector.

Post the merger, HDFC Limited's shareholding in HDFC Bank will be extinguished and HDFC Bank will be 100 per cent owned by public shareholders. Existing shareholders of HDFC Limited will own 41% of HDFC Bank. While this will improve the ability to cross-sell products to a larger customer base, the move will help them leverage their distribution across urban, semi-urban and rural geographies.

Axis Bank takes over Citi Bank's Indian Consumer Business Operations for Rs.12,325 Crores (30th March 2022)

Axis Bank's planned acquisition of Citigroup's consumer banking portfolio will strengthen its retail market position as well as diversify the revenue profile, global rating agency S&P said on Friday. This significant improvement in profitability will accrue from fiscal 2025 onwards as it will take time to complete the acquisition and integrate the assets. The acquisition is likely to be completed over the next nine to 12 months, while full integration will take another 18 months.

Post the acquisition of approximately 30 lakh unique customers of Citibank India, Axis Bank will have approximately 2.85 crore savings accounts, over 2.3 lakh Burgundy customers and 1.06 crore cards.



Failure comes first, Victory later

- By Priya Krishnamoorthy

Diya Sathe was a Post-graduate in Commerce. She was 24 years old and lived in Mumbai. Her dream was to become a Chartered Accountant.

She had already cleared her C.A. Inter exams and was now preparing for her C.A. Final examinations.

She was confident of clearing it at the very first attempt. Having attempted the C.A. Final exams for the first time, she eagerly waited for the results. There was bad news in store for Diya, she failed to clear her exams. Feeling extremely dejected, she again attempted the C.A. Final examination, this time with better preparation and more confidence and less of over-confidence.

This time too, the same thing happened. But Diya had not only the spirit of a warrior but she was also wise enough to remember that failure always precedes victory.

Thinking thus, she prepared herself even better and appeared for the exams. The fifth time, her tenaciousness was rewarded and she was a winner.

She celebrated with her family and friends and was glad that god had blessed her with wisdom and the right attitude.

Indeed, defeat precedes victory and those who understand this and live by it, Win.



The Story of Sri Lanka's Economy

- By Faizan Shaikh - MMS - 2nd Year

Sri Lanka faces a severe crunch in its foreign exchange reserves, with only enough dollars to cover less than two months of imports. By the end of July, Sri Lanka had just \$2.36 billion worth of forex, compared to \$6.93 billion in August 2020. The Sri Lankan rupee has fallen by 7.5 per cent against the US dollar this year. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka recently increased interest rates in a bid to shore up the local currency—becoming the first central bank in Asia to tighten its monetary policies post the pandemic.

This, even as the country faces the prospect of repaying \$1.5 billion of foreign bond payments in January and July. These payments are in part responsible for the crisis: In July, Sri Lanka paid off a \$1 billion debt repayment from its foreign exchange reserves. While Sri Lanka has long borrowed to cover the cost of development, it has for most of its history enjoyed low-interest concessionary loans. But, when Sri Lanka became a middle-income country, it started having to rely on alternative financing sources.

As a story in The Diplomat noted in February, by the end of 2019, 56 per cent of Sri Lanka's foreign loans were commercial borrowings, mostly of International Sovereign bonds. In a bid to stem the tide, Sri Lanka received 554.8 special drawing rights (about \$800 million) from the International Monetary Fund. In addition, Sri Lanka's central bank received \$150 million via a currency swap agreement from Bangladesh.

The impact of the balance of payments crisis has translated into rising prices of commodities like sugar, rice, onions and potatoes, while long queues have formed outside stores because of shortages of milk powder, kerosene oil and cooking gas. While imposing rules against hoarding, the government has denied any food shortages. The wide-ranging measure is also aimed at recovering credit owed to state banks by importers. Concerned over the mounting inflation, rating agency Moody's placed the Government of Sri Lanka's Caa1 foreign currency long-term issuer and senior unsecured debt ratings under review for downgrade.

In recent weeks, the prices of most essential goods have been skyrocketing due to the falling local currency and high global market prices driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. The government blames traders for hoarding.



There are other factors too: A dip in tourism—which accounts for over 10 per cent of Sri Lanka's GDP—has also hurt the local economy. Tourism was the third-largest contributor to foreign exchange. Interestingly, the dip in tourism took place before COVID-19: 2019 saw tourist footfalls drop by 18 per cent, the first dip after roughly a decade's worth of consistent growth. The UN rights body on Monday expressed concern on the state of economic emergency declared in Sri Lanka amid deepening recession and noted that it may "further expand the role of the military in civilian functions" in the island nation.

Giving an oral update on Lanka's human rights situation in Geneva, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said, "The current social, economic and governance challenges faced by Sri Lanka indicate the corrosive impact that militarisation and the lack of accountability continue to have on fundamental rights, civic space, democratic institutions, social cohesion and sustainable development."

"A new state of emergency was declared in Sri Lanka on August 30 with the stated aim of ensuring food security and price controls, amid deepening recession. The emergency regulations are very broad and may further expand the role of the military in civilian functions," she said, adding that her office will closely monitor their application.

A wider spectrum of students, academics, medical professionals and religious leaders critical of government policies, she said.



India's forex reserves to face \$256 billion overseas debt challenge in next 12 months

-By Harshal Sarode - MMS 2nd Year

India's enormous foreign exchange reserves faces its biggest test in the next 12 months as a record \$256 billion of total overseas debt comes up for repayment amid a possible flight of capital due to monetary tightening by the Federal Reserve.

External debt worth \$256 billion matures over the next 12 months, according to the September data released by the finance ministry. This is about 43 per cent of the September external debt outstanding at \$596 billion.

While the reserves still top \$600 billion there could be short term pressures on the currency as the RBI is likely to temper its interventions rather than defend the currency. The recent US consumer price inflation at 7 per cent at 39 years high, the Fed might be swifter in hiking rates than earlier anticipated that could result in higher pull out of dollars from emerging markets including India. "The expectation of a rate increase by the Fed and other advanced economies is likely to accentuate capital outflow, and this is likely to put pressure on the exchange rate, current account deficit and prices" said M Govinda Rao, chief economic advisor at Brickwork Ratings.

India is still in a comfortable position with reserves adequate to fund over 12 months' imports and this short-term debt is just about 40 percent of forex reserves then. "Residual debt maturity is quite manageable in the current environment both in terms of composition and given our reserve position." said Rahul Bajoria, chief India economist at Barclays Capital.

Though reserves position is comfortable compared to 2013, they may not grow as much, or as consistently, as they have in the last couple of years. "Of course, the impact may be less than that of the 2013 taper tantrum, but the pressure will be real," Rao said. India added only \$48 billion to its stock of reserves in 2021 compared to \$124 billion in 2020.

Economists are also bracing for an overall balance of payments deficit after almost twelve quarters in March'22 if capital outflows surge as the current account is expected to widen further on rising crude and commodity prices. Moreover, India faces a double blow with rising funding costs as interest rates are set to rise as also higher amounts of dollar funds as the capex cycle is set to pick up.

There would certainly be an impact on the way it would intervene in the forex market. "We believe the RBI may no longer continue to absorb excess foreign currency inflows through intervention, but may at times need to sell reserves to stabilize the currency", said Bajoria.

Corporates would be caught on the wrong foot in a situation of a volatile rupee with a downward bias, especially those who have not hedged their foreign currency exposure. "From the RBI's perspective, it could be actively monitoring hedging ratios of the corporate sector so that they are well covered" Bajoria said.

Last two years have been benign for the rupee. "But this year with greater volatility of the rupee you would want to make sure that corporations are not making losses just in case the rupee depreciates" said Rao

GLOBAL

Global Warming Is Real!

- By Nevin Mathew - MMS - 1st Year

Global warming or climate change has today become a major threat to the mankind. The Earth's temperature is on the rise and there are various reasons for it such as greenhouse gasses emanating from carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, burning of fossil fuels or deforestation. For over 6,000 years, humans restricted their settlements to a climate niche or set of temperatures between 11 degrees Celsius and 15 degrees Celsius mean annual temperature. But global warming could trigger the next wave of migration and at least 3 billion people would be affected by it by 2070. India would be among the worst-hit in Asia.

As per the study by a group of Researchers, called Future of the Human Climate Niche - projected that over 3 billion people, currently living in 0.8 per cent of the Earth's surface that experiences average annual temperature of more than 29°C, would have to move to migrate to more places with suitable conditions.

Impact of Greenhouse Gases

The rise in the levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) leads to substantial increase in temperature. It is because CO₂ remains concentrated in the atmosphere for even hundreds of years. Due to activities like fossil fuel combustion for electricity generation, transportation, and heating, human beings have contributed to increase in the (CO₂) concentration in the atmosphere.

Global Warming: A Gradual Phenomenon

Recent years have been unusually warm, causing worldwide concern. But the fact is that the increase in carbon dioxide actually began in 1800, due to the deforestation of a large chunk of North-eastern American, besides forested parts of the world. The things became worse with emissions in the wake of the industrial revolution, leading to increase in carbon dioxide level by 1900.

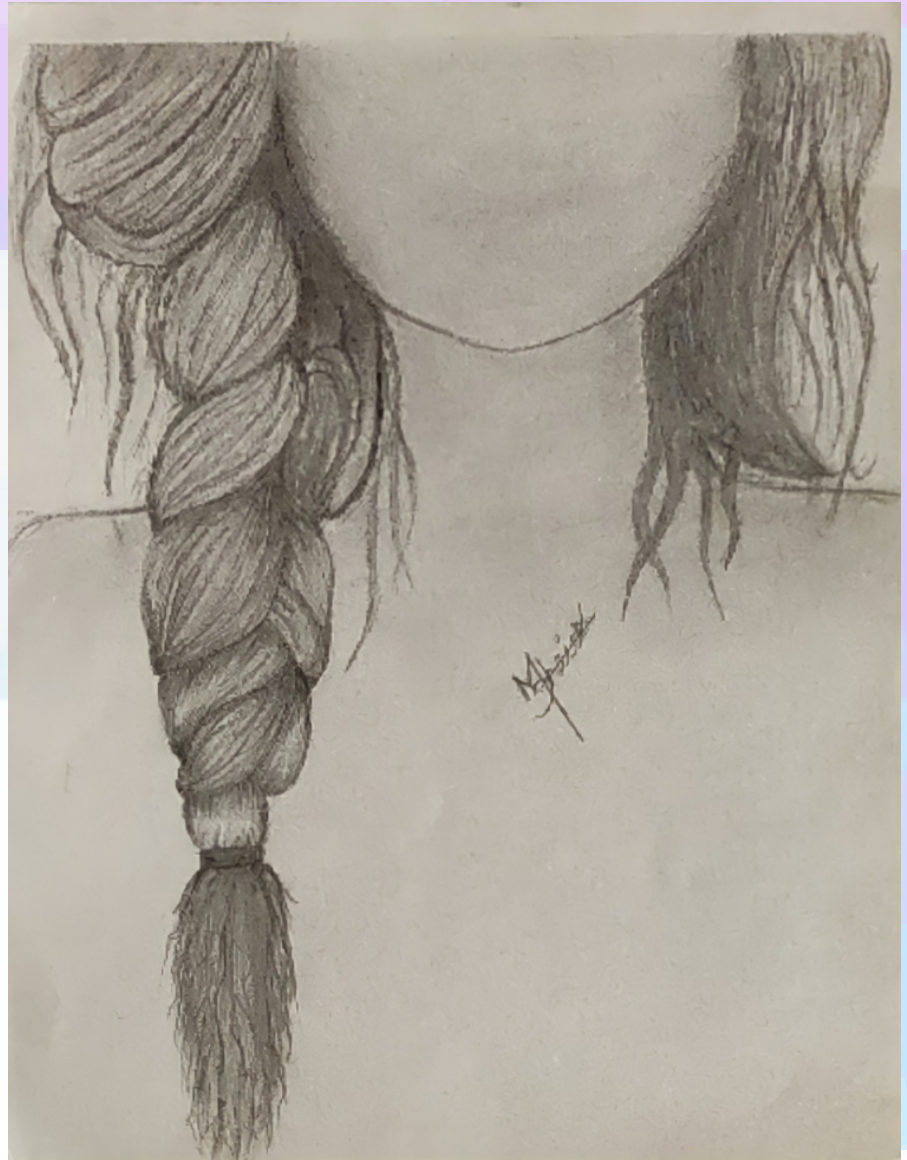
Impact of Global Warming

Glaciers are gradually melting. Animal populations are gradually vanishing as there has been a widespread loss of their habitat and so on.

Conclusion

As per Kyoto protocol, developed countries are required to cut back their emissions. There is a need to reduce coal-fired electricity, increase energy efficiency through wind and solar power, and also high efficiency natural gas generation.

Drawings by Mobasshir Shaikh
- PGDM 2nd Year





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