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FACULTY DESK

A post-pandemic greener world

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children" - Native American proverb

The covid-19 pandemic has brought immense disruptions to the lives and livelihoods of the individuals in the countries across the world. The pandemic-induced income and employment shock not only left the individuals and households more vulnerable, but it has also been a testing time for the governments and corporations globally. The governments across countries resorted to a variety of policy measures to help individuals and corporations absorb the pandemicinduced economic shock in the form of fiscal and monetary stimulus. While the fiscal stimulus packages involve spending trillions for economic revival and restoring the livelihoods of individuals, the absence of sustainability considerations in the stimulus announcements may exacerbate the climate crisis and the problem of environmental sustainability. Such a recovery aimed at returning to the business-as-usual practices and achieved at the cost of environmental considerations may not be sustainable. The remarkable decrease in the carbon emissions as a result of the halt in economic activities worldwide owing to pandemic-induced multiple lockdowns may not be desirable either as it pushed millions into joblessness, poverty, and hunger. Similar pattern of reduction in emission levels due to slowdown in the economic activity was witnessed during the global financial crisis of 2007-08 which could not be sustained as a result of swift recovery induced by the stimulus packages without any attention to the environmental concerns. The world, this time, is again at the same juncture looking forward to a solution that takes care of the people as well as the planet.

ABOUT NUKSA

Nuksa The Pine Chronicle is the monthly news magazine of IIM Shillong.

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The pandemic seems to have again provided us with the opportunity to rebuild our economies and societies in a more sustainable and inclusive manner. This necessitates the post-pandemic world to have adopted an investment strategy that is renewable-energy focused, transportation system that emits less carbon, and production systems that are energy efficient helping in restoration of the nature and the biodiversity and building of a more resilient and prosperous world. The stimulus packages are to be designed in such a way that it not only addresses these concerns but it also provides immediate relief to the individuals and corporations and mitigates environmental degradation at the same time in the long-term.

Prof. Atul Mehta



TIMELINE

Celebrating the Birth Anniversary of former President of India Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam 15th October 2021

Interaction with Dr V.K Saraswat Member, NITI Aayog and Chancellor, JNU



Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis of IIM Shillong had organized a lecture by Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat who is presently a member of NITI Aayog and Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Dr. Saraswat is a distinguished scientist who has formerly served as the Director-General of the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Scientific Advisor to the Indian Minister of Defence. Dr. Saraswat is the key scientist in the development of the Prithvi missile and its induction in the Indian armed forces. He is a recipient of the Padmashree and the Padmabhushan from the Government of India.

Dr Saraswat recalls working with Dr. Kalam and credited him for his vision and teaching which undoubtedly led to a strong foundation of India's scientific achievements and in positioning India in the global stage. He mentions Dr. Kalam's book 'Beyond 2020: A Vision for Tomorrow's India" and emphasized why it is important for India to become a strong and resilient nation as it is only "Strength that respects the Strength". Dr. Kalam was always curious and concerned on "How to make our nation a number one". He also stated that Dr. Kalam, in his talks and speeches, always emphasized how to improve our country's value system, which he feared was deteriorating. He believed that teaching values should begin at home, so whenever Dr. Kalam interacted with students or children, he always asked them to take an oath that stated, "I will succeed with integrity and honesty in my life and career".

While mentioning the celebrations of the 75th Year of India's independence (Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav), Dr. Saraswat calls on where we stand today in fulfilling the dreams of Dr Kalam. Underling the achievements and initiatives undertaken by the Government at the helm of affairs he stressed on India @ 75 and key initiatives taken by the Union Government like 5 trillion economies, Make in India, Startup and Standup India, Defence advancement, historic COVID vaccination drive etc. Dr Saraswat in his address touched upon 5 important pillars of making India a self-reliant country and Atma Nirbhar Bharat viz

- a. Economy: He suggests that bringing an economy that doesn't bring incremental change but quantum jump. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has set a target of 5 Trillion economies despite the pandemic. According to the International Monetary Fund, the Indian economy is growing at the rate of 9.5% to 11.5% this year.
- b. **Infrastructure:** We need an infrastructure that can become the identity of modern India.
- c. **System:** A system that doesn't follow the norms of the previous century. It should be able to fulfil our 21st-century dreams and should be technology-driven.
- d. Vibrant Democracy: Democracy is our strength. It is the source of energy for our dream to make India self-reliant.
- e. **Demand**: The demand-supply chain is our power and we should use it to its fullest potential.

He made a special mention of the strategic initiative taken on allowing FDI on the Defence sector that resulted in huge investment in defence production and development. He remarked that after the launch of the Startup India scheme, there are now approximately 50,000 startups with an average of 11 employees per startup in our country having 45% of startups initiated by women. Dr. Saraswat stressed that India's international ranking in 'Ease of Doing Business has improved by 14th ranks, from 77th to 63rd in 2019. There is a major push through Digitalization and Single Window approaches for business processing, which has led to an improvement in India's ranking in Ease of Doing Business.

Praising the effort of the Government and civil society in dealing with the COVID 19 pandemic he said that the inner strength of India was reflected at the time of lockdown, the policies at the time of pandemic were more focused on giving a stabilized economy and healthcare facilities. During this time the contribution and support received from all the sectors to fight the pandemic were remarkable, it reflected the unity and strength we possess as a country. The frontline, healthcare professionals did a remarkable job and the vaccine diplomacy of India had received huge praise from the global community.

Stressing on the welfare schemes initiated by the Government, he mentioned various schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana etc. He also mentioned the various initiatives that were brought to bring reforms in the Agriculture sector by doubling farmer income, Swach Bharat Mission for health and hygiene, Digital India and in Education Sector through the National Education Policy 2020.

Dr Saraswat suggested some of the thrust areas for the development of the North Eastern Region, which is as follows:

- 1. NER has the Potential for Exporting a wide range of products but it needs to focus on improving its **export promotion architecture**.
- 2. It is important to improve the **Cold storage facilities** in the region and avoid wastage of fruits and vegetables
- 3. The logistics support system needs to be improved, the initiative under the Bharatmala project by Central Government in this regard will bridge the logistic gap in NER.
- Maximum utilization of Bamboo from the region in terms of production and export of goods and need to enhance and develop entrepreneurship skills among artisan who produced bamboo related crafts.
- 5. **Reduction in the compliance burden** in all states by individually identifying challenges and taking decisions.
- 6. Initiative in Medical tourism can be explored.
- 7. Introduction of Shifting cultivation in the region. The use of technologies and added innovation in agriculture would benefit the farmers. The entrepreneurship development programmes that need to be organized by the institutions like IIM can be added advantage for the agrarian community in the region.
- Policy intervention by institutions like IIM Shillong in the region could be a helping hand to various State Governments to improve the development of the different sectors in the individual states.

Further, he stated that India @ 75, is doing extremely well and India is reaching the set target of 5 trillion Economy, also the educational sectoral reform, improved agricultural growth, development of Startup system are few examples for growth of our nation. The entry into disruptive technology is a big step for growth but it needs reskilling for people to get used to new technology. The re-skilling can be provided by institutions like IIM Shillong for the better use of new technologies.

Few select Questions & Answers

Q.1 What are the other alternatives India have to tackle air pollution so that India can set up research stations in India?

A. pollution is a global problem that needs every individual to take responsibility and try to minimize as much as they can. The initiatives are being taken by all the governments to reduce pollution in every possible way. For example, the burning of rice straws by farmer's increase the pollution in the city. The initiatives like;

development of harvesting machines that harvests the paddy leaving only millimetre straws so that farmer does not have to burn the straws after harvesting. The second solution they have come up with is the chemical spray, which turns stock into a fertilizer. Despite all the advanced technology, the cultural practice is such that the farmers continue to burn the straws. To reduce pollution government has switched on to renewable energy. He also mentioned that we need to bring cultural change among the people by using clean coal energy and renewable energy. The technology in place and cultural change could be vital for pollution control. The problem of space debris could be a serious issue shortly if it's not taken care of now.

Q. 2 How is the transition relevant to the common man as we celebrate the Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav?

A. The schemes and policies which are launched by the Central Government are focusing on the upliftment of the common man itself. If we look at all the platforms which are created today in the field of the education sector, IT sector, industrial sector etc. are the programmes that provide opportunities to the disadvantaged segment of the society. Recognizing the unsung heroes from various fields of our country by our PM through his programme **'Mann ki Baat'**. Dr V K Saraswat also mentioned that it's the focus and the passion that drives the individual to achieve something if it is missing, even when the person gets the best facilities may not get the best out of him.

Q. 3 What did you learn from Dr. Kalam and what was his leadership like?

A. Dr. Kalam's leadership was by coordination, he was the biggest coordinator of man. Also, Dr. Kalam was a servant leader where he always demonstrated first how things to be done believing that everyone can do things. Dr. Kalam had a 360-degree personality where he led by example, coordinated the team as well as was the greatest human being who supported human values and allowed everyone to flourish in his team. His leadership is such that, today we call it as, he was a combination of Yogi, Sannyasi and Scientist. Q. 4 What is the position of India in Quantum computing?

A. quantum computing is emerging as the large-scale integration is becoming smaller and smaller. The developing countries, where Google and all are making 50 qubit quantum computers. India also has Quantum computing Programme, which was launched last year, significant progress has been done in quantum cryptography. We are still lacking in Quantum computing as it involves a huge amount of funds to set up the facilities. India is taking a collaborative initiative to develop quantum computing in the future and it will be operational soon.

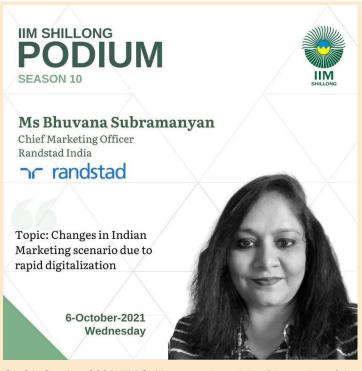
Q. 5 How to impart knowledge of human capital among school students and the unorganized sector of rural India?

A. Under Human Development Index India is still lacking behind. To improve we need to focus on education (NEP 2020), which will lead to societal development. Need to improve our health care system, also as we still have the problem of malnutrition which needs serious attention. NITI Aayog has started a programme 'Aspirational Districts' where the focus is given on Education, Agriculture, employment and Health. Another aspect NITI Aayog is doing is bringing innovation in schools. The Atal Innovation Mission has become a great success, where several innovation kits have been provided to schools and many schools have started taking part in national and international innovation exhibitions.

Signing of MoU with Ming Chuan University, Taiwan

IIM Shillong signed an MoU with Ming Chuan University, Taiwan, on 5th October, 2021. This MoU permits the exchange of scholars, professional staff members, students and academic between the signatory institutions. By establishing of such exchange, the instructional and research activities at both institutions will be enhanced and greater mutual understanding between scholars and students of both institutions facilitated.

Podium Session Season 10: Ms. Bhuvana Subramanyan



On 6th October 2021, IIM Shillong conducted the 4th session of the 10th Season of its flagship Corporate Connect Series, PODIUM. The Public Relations Cell hosted Ms. Bhuvana Subrahmanyan, Chief Marketing Officer at Randstad India, for an enlightening session.

Ms. Bhuvana is a leader in marketing and communications in the corporate world with over 20 years of experience under her belt. An MBA Graduate from Indira Gandhi National Open University, she has worked at IBM India Pvt. Ltd. as a portfolio marketing manager

and as a digital and performance marketing lead before moving on to her current role as Chief Marketing Officer at Randstad India.

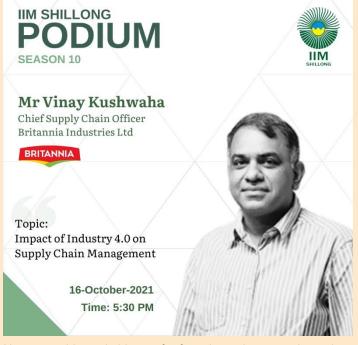
The session was conducted in a virtual capacity to discuss the topic "Changes in Indian Marketing scenario due to rapid digitalization." Ms. Bhuvana began by highlighting the importance of having a purpose behind marketing, followed by the need to provide each customer with a wholesome experience and not just a product. She shared her insights on the significance of data and technologies such as IoT, AI, and Virtual reality and how they could be utilized to aid customers in making smarter decisions. She spoke about how essential it was to place the customer at the center of marketing by invoking practices such as collecting customer feedback and analyzing customer satisfaction scores. The discussion focused on techniques to find the perfect balance between 'Tech & Touch' as the future of services would be essentially hybrid. The session was concluded by Ms. Bhuvana, emphasizing how necessary it was for all employees across the globe to constantly skill and reskill themselves to ensure readiness in today's rapidly changing world.



Podium Session Season 10: Mr. Vinay Kushwaha

On 16th October 2021, IIM Shillong conducted the 5th session of its flagship annual Corporate Connect Series, PODIUM (Season 10). The Public Relations Cell hosted Mr. Vinay Kushwaha, Chief Supply Chain Officer at Britannia Industries Ltd, for an insightful session.

A Mechanical Engineer from IIT Delhi, Mr. Vinay Kushwaha started his career with the Hindustan Lever group in 1986. As a part of his 22 year-long stint in Hindustan Lever, he has donned many hats, such as Supply Chain Director in the North African Business, Regional Vice president for Skincare category - Asia, and was also a part of Unilever's Singapore based Supply Chain Leadership team. In his current role as Chief Supply Chain Officer at Britannia Industries Ltd, he is responsible for manufacturing, projects, and technology. He is also actively involved in creating capability and technology for their new products. The session was conducted in a virtual capacity to discuss the topic "Impact of Industry 4.0 on Supply Chain Management". Mr. Vinay began by highlighting how Covid had impacted the supply chain industry in India - a sector that thrived on the importance of communication. He spoke about how the utilization of technology in business had evolved over the years



He stressed how vital it was for factories today to not just rely on human decision-making abilities and to start leveraging suitable technologies. He said that the need of the hour was to develop a "predictive nature" in technology and that systems and algorithms should continue to learn, evolve and grow with time.

He concluded with the following quote- "Technology is not taking away any jobs, it is only creating new ones" and motivated the participants to focus on upskilling themselves continuously. The session ended with a Q&A round where Mr. Vinay shared his valuable insights with the participants.



Navratri Celebrations 2021

The festival of Navratri is known to celebrate the victory of the goddess Durga over the demon king Mahishasura. On 13th October 2021, IIM Shillong celebrated Durga Ashtami and Poojan. Students welcomed Maa Durga to the new campus and embraced the festive spirit with joy, peace, and contentment. Students in groups of 20 visited the puja venue, and Prashad was distributed to everyone.

If there is one thing that everyone waits for with bated breath during Navratri, it is the grand night of Dandiya Raas. On 22nd October 2021, the Cultural Committee organized the Dandiya Night'21.

It was a 3-hour event where dandiyas and refreshments were provided to all those who attended. A group of students prepared a dance performance and also taught their peers, hence making sure nobody was left out of the festivities. All the students were dressed to kill, and a photo booth had been set up by the Cultural Committee to capture these beautiful memories. There was a footfall of around 150 students who enjoyed the Jashn-E-Dandiya night with great pomp and enthusiasm.



Kill the Quarandom!

During the course of a quarantine period that extended for almost a month, the Cultural Committee hosted a 3-day event, "Kill the Quarandom," for the quarantined participants of the PGP20 batch. The event saw enthusiastic participation from all the quarantined members and achieved its aim of lifting their spirits amidst a taxing isolation period.



The event consisted of a series of fun games and activities conducted online with a chance for the participants to win exciting cash rewards. It began with a Treasure Hunt competition on the first day, where the teams were required to don their thinking hats and deduce the answers for a set of visual clues given to them. On the second day, the teams competed in an interactive game of Charades with a Twist. The last day of the event consisted of a unique Quiz Game Show where we tested the participants' quick-wittedness and pop-culture knowledge in a series of 3 theme-based rounds.

The entire event brought a sense of relief and togetherness among the participants during the wearing times of isolation.

IIM Shillong opens Applications for the 10th Batch of PGPEx

IIM Shillong takes pride in announcing the commencement of the 10th batch of its flagship program PGPEx. The institution has begun to accept applications for the same since October 11th, 2021. This 12-month course has been designed to train young professionals to hone their critical problem-solving skills alongside functional management knowledge. The participants will be provided with opportunities to engage with the collaborative community at IIM

Shillong and subsequently build awareness around the ethical and sustainability challenges in business and the disruptions catalyzed by the emerging technologies.

The program curriculum has also undergone changes to remain contextually relevant and to aid the participants in developing competencies essential for thriving in today's increasingly collaborative organizations.



The program is highly global in its curriculum. The international module of the program ensures that each participant gets insights into the economic, social, and cultural aspects of emerging countries. Each participant receives first-hand exposure to the country during the visit and understands the contemporary situation and society's evolution. The workshop series and innovation camp are the hallmarks of this program that provides an opportunity to think outside the box and translate each participant's innovations, creativities, and insights into something relevant.

Corporate Alumni Workshop Series



The Alumni Committee conducted a Corporate Alumni Workshop on 23rd October 2021 on the topic" General Management: Jack of All Businesses - Master of One" with the esteemed Alumni of our college.

The speakers for the evening were the following alumni from the PGP 2014-2016 batch:

-Mr. Sagar Riaz - Sr. Manager, Business Operations at Talent500

-Mr. Akhil Rathi -Special Projects Lead, IIFL

The discussion during the 1.5 hr workshop revolved around five core topics –

- 1. What are the roles and responsibilities offered to an intern having a General Management profile?
- 2. SIP interview preparation for a general management role
- 3. Prerequisites for the internship
- 4. Companies that candidates to look forward to for General Management roles
- 5. Should you be looking into the depth or breadth of the experience

A total of 225 participants from the PGP'21 batch attended this session. The speakers helped the participants understand the roles and responsibilities that a General Management role would entail. Participants who were inclined towards pursuing a career in a general management role gained valuable insights from their experience in the industry. Future prospects and possibilities in this role were extensively discussed, and the speakers encouraged the participants to develop a genuine interest in problem-solving and an analytical mindset.

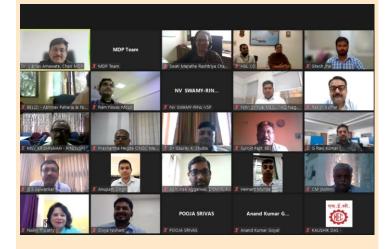
IIM Shillong conducts "General Management Program" for IOCL Officials

A week long MDP on General Management Program, focusing on leadership, was organised by IIM Shillong for the Officers from IOCL (Indian Oil Corporation Limited) from 25th to 30th October, 2021.

The program saw participation of 22 Officers who joined (virtually) from across the country. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Vippin Kumar Jain, Chief General Manager(e-L&D), liPM in the presence of the program coordinators Prof. Mousumi Bhattacharya, Prof. Pratap Chandra Mandal, Prof. Vibhas Amawate (Chairperson MDP) along with other faculty and staff.



MDP on "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat identification of Sector specific opportunities for CPSEs" under Department of Public Enterprise.



IIM Shillong conducted "Online Training Programs/Workshop for Executives of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and State Level Public Enterprise(SLPEs) for FY 2021-22 under RDC Scheme of Department of Public Enterprise" from 20th to 22nd October, 2021. The program saw participation of 36 Officers who joined (virtually) from across the country. The program coordinator Prof. Vibhas Amawate (Chairperson MDP) inaugurated the program along with other faculty and staff of IIMS.

Corporate Alumni Workshop



Corporate Alumni Workshop was conducted on 23rd October 2021 on the theme of "General Management: Jack of All Businesses -

Master of One" with the esteemed Alumni of our college.

The speakers for the evening were **Mr. Sagar Riaz** and **Mr. Akhil Rathi** from the batch of PGP 2014-2016. Mr. Akhil who was working in the role of Program Manager at Curefit, handled projects related to Therapy business, Yoga business, Online DIY content, 3rd party gym onboarding and telesales in Curefit. Currently he is handling transition related projects in Talent500.

Mr. Sagar has worked In Mahindra in Sales & Strategy and currently he is working in IIFL, handling projects as cross business.

The discussion during the 1.5 hr workshop revolved around six core topics –

1. What are the roles and responsibilities offered to an intern having a General

Management profile

- 2. SIP interview prep for a general management role
- 3. Prerequisite for the internship (if selected)

4. Importance for an intern to crack PPO (if the company is offering)

5. Companies to look forward to

6. Should you be looking into the depth or breadth of the experience

Students of PGP'21 who attended the session were keen on understanding the General Management role that the companies offer. The speakers helped participants understand the roles and responsibilities that General Management role would be entailing. Valuable insights were gained from their experience in the industry, and this was beneficial to students who would like to pursue this as a short term as well as a long-term goal.

General Management is the executive role within a company overseeing most or all of a firm's function. Prospects in this role were extensively discussed and an analytical mind genuinely interested in problem solving was thoroughly encouraged.

Five crucial information were provided by the Alumni to the batch, aimed at helping them prepare for General Management role and for the interviews :

1. Shaping the Work Environment

Every company has its own particular work environment, its legacy from the past that dictates to a considerable degree how its managers respond to problems and opportunities. But whatever the environment a general manager inherits from the past, shaping—or reshaping—it is a critically important job.

2. Crafting a Strategic Vision

Since the general manager is the only executive who can commit the entire organization to a particular strategy, the best GMs are invariably involved in strategy formulation, spearheading the effort, not just presiding over it. To begin with, they have a strategic vision for each business, or they develop one quickly when they're appointed to a new job.

3. Marshaling Resources

All general managers say they allocate resources to support competitive strategies, keep the company economically healthy, and produce high returns. Yet if you analyse the way the process works in most companies, you find excessive support for marginal businesses, low pay-out projects, and operating necessities. In short, no strategic focus. The best GMs concentrate more resources on situations that provide the opportunity to gain an important competitive edge, or at least improve on one they already enjoy.

4. Organizational Bodybuilding

One of the most innovative GMs know about his plan to reorganize and decentralize his business in order to make faster decisions, improve execution in local markets, and reduce costs. Great objectives if they're realistic.

5. Up and Running

The fifth and last area of responsibility for a GM is supervising operations and implementation. That means running the business day-to-day by producing sound plans, spotting problems and opportunities early, and responding aggressively to them.

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Project Management: The Managerial Process | 8th Edition Paperback – 29 October 2021 By Erik W. Larson (Author), Clifford F. Gray (Author), **Rohit** Joshi (Author)

Project Management

The Managerial Process

Erik W Larson | Clifford F Gray | Rohit Joshi



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PANELIST

 Dr. Bhaskar Kr. Kakati was invited as panelist for the session entitled "emerging Trends of Grassroots Development in Northeast India" organised under "North East Samagam" by SeSTA in collaboration with PRADAN, PRIYA and CYSD, held on 8th October 2021.

OFF BEAT

Do I really love my family?

It was the month of December 2016. For the second time I was on my way to Delhi. The first time, I had gone for three days. This time I wasn't aware about the duration as I was going to find a place to earn my food. It was about seven in the morning and the train reached Ghaziabad. I came out and stood on the gate of the compartment. Usually duty going people of Ghaziabad go to Delhi by early morning trains. A train standing on the other platform was leaving the station. It was in its initial speed. A man having a bag on his back was running to catch the train, and maybe he would have thought if I am not going to catch the train I will be late. He, however, wasn't successful. While holding onto the iron rod at the gate, and as he placed his one foot at the step, he slipped and went underside of the boogie. He was totally crushed by the train.

I stepped outside of train and went to see him. Many people gathered near his body. His face was unrecognisable. As I saw his body I got shocked. People around me were humming with different opinions. One of the man from the crowd said, "I know him. He was very hard working. He loved his family a lot. His family lives in Ranchi. He used to live here with his brother. Last week he was very happy as it was his son's birthday." He said today is my son's birthday, and I have sent money and asked him to buy anything as per his wish and many more things. But as soon as I heard "He loved his family a lot," I asked a question to myself. "Did he really love his family?" If he really loved his family he would not have run to catch the train.

I started talking to myself. I asked what is the equation of loving his family and catching the train. He was here to earn his existence. He was here to earn for the existence of his family. He was working here, earning money. He had his family. He was sending money to his family. Definitely he loved his family. He had made the mistake of trying to catch a running train but it doesn't mean he didn't love his family. Again a question struck. If he loved his family then why hadn't he gone home for his son's birthday. It is very ironical to say that he loved his family. A counter thought arrived that maybe he had been stuck up with his work. Numerous thoughts were coming in my mind but I couldn't find the exact answer. After this incident I was in shock for three days.

It was 14th November 2019. My 24th birthday. It had been a month for me in Oman. Being selected for a job in Oman was a very happy moment of life in terms of income perspective. On that day I arrived at my workplace, and everyone in the department congratulated me. They organised a party too and I thanked everyone personally. Everyone in my department was above 40, and I was the youngest one.

After the party one of the colleagues belonging to Philippines called and asked various questions about me, my family, my past, and my future plans. He was listening very carefully, and gave me various advice. He made me aware about different perspective of life. At last he asked me a question that I had asked myself three years

ago. "Do you love your family?" I said, "Yes!" and he laughed! I asked, "Why are you laughing?" He said nothing. After a pause he said it is ok and that everyone shares their happy parts to everyone. What about the sad things? They aren't aware about yours. They hide many things from you, and you hide many things from them. You are not aware about daily ongoing things of your family. To some extent sharing may be carried out but what if you are not being participative in their happy moments or the sad moments? They need you, and you need them! Once in a year, merely for a month you meet them. it is not a meeting. It is a visit and you are saying you love your family. Today is your birthday and I am not going to upset you but honestly ask yourself a question. "Do you really love your family?"

I read his mind. He was looking into his past younger days through me. His eyes were red and wet. He was angry at himself. He was feeling sad for himself! From that day on, he regularly shared his experiences. Not only he, but most of the people see their younger days through me. I too can see the struggles and my further experiences of my life through them. They see their youth in me, and I see the older me in them.

But still I am unable to find the answer to the question.

Last month, one of my colleagues called and asked me to come to his room in a very low voice and started crying. I use to fondly call him Ashok bhaiya. I reached as soon as possible. I held him and asked, "What happened?" He said, "My mother has passed away. I did whatever I could do to console him. The flights were closed. He asked "What should I do?" I said you have nothing to do. I then applied for his leave, talked to one of the agents for a ticket on a special flight. The flight was after five days. He became very sad that he would not be able to see his Mom for the last time. He would not be available for the rituals. He was very upset.

Due to manpower shortage, Management and the sponsor were not in a mood to send him home. They were giving different suggestions. With the different suggestions from different people he was left confused, but he was in a mood to go home. I went together with him to the taxi stand. We sat there for 30 minutes without saying single word. At last when he was about to leave, he said, "We are fake. We think we are here for our family but do we really think of them? Do we really care for them?" At that point of time I said, "Don't think so much. Go home with a free mind." At that moment I managed to console him with my words but I wasn't able to find the answer to his question.

Whenever this question arises in me, especially during the daytime, I'm too busy to think that much. But before going to sleep at night, to find the answer to this question I think through it. I ask myself "Why am I still here doing this job? I should consider going back home." But then a second thought would immediately wake me up: "What can I do for my existence if I went back?" For people like me, our common dilemma is that in the place we call home, there are no jobs; but where there are jobs, it can never be home for us. Without money we can't survive, and can't exist. If we are going for money we have these types questions in our mind. If we could choose, who would want to be far from family? It's just that, most times, we cannot find a way to earn a living back home. Lucky are those, who are having a better way of earning where home itself is.

Due to Covid, many changes have been observed such as the practice of work from home on large scale, and also its prevalence in the corporate world. If you ask me, I think this is the only thing which Covid has given in terms of a constructive change. However, many people have complaints about this too. I have read various articles on topics such as *stress of work from home*. Work from home leads to slower salary growth, and exposure issues. I think the people who are having this opportunity are lucky enough and that they should enjoy it. Post Covid too, work from home must be promoted on large scale with proper norms.

Anurag Pandey WEMBA21

छठपूजा।

8छठ पूजा, सूर्य की उपासना का यह त्योहार वैदिक काल से चली आ रही है जो कार्तिक महीना के षष्ठी को मनाया जाता है। नहाय - खाय(पहले दिन चावल और लौकी कि सब्जी का सेवन व्रती करता है), खरना(दूसरे दिन पूरे दिन का व्रत रखने के बाद व्रती रोटी और गुड़, पानी, चावल के खीर का सेवन व्रती करता है), डूबते हुए सूर्य का अर्ध्य (तीसरे दिन) फिर उगते हुए सूर्य का अर्ध्य (चौथे दिन)। चार दिन तक चलने वाला ये त्योहार बिहार, बिहार के सीमावर्ती इलाकों और झारखंड जैसे जगहों पर जोर - शोर से मनाया जाता है। अब तो इसकी गाथा पूरे भारतवर्ष और देश -विदेशो तक पहुंच गई है।

इस त्योहार ने कभी किसी छोटे - बड़े , अमीर - गरीब , जात - पात , ऊंच - नीच में फर्क नहीं किया।इस पर्व को मूलतः हिन्दू धर्म के लोगो के द्वारा मनाया जाता रहा है लेकिन इसकी महिमा ने हर धर्म के लोगो को अपने तरफ आकर्षित किया है। इस पर्व को मनाने में उपयोग होने वाली हर सामान हर जात धर्म - समाज के निचले तबके से लेकर ऊपर तबके के लोगो के द्वारा बनाया या बेचा जाता है। इस पर्व ने हमेशा समानाता की पाठ पढ़ाई है, इस पर्व ने हमारी संस्कृति ,सभ्यता,प्रतिष्ठा, परम्परा को जीवित रखने का सीख दिया है, यह पर्व सामाजिक एकता तथा सामाजिक समरसता का पाठ पढ़ाया है, इस पर्व ने प्रकृति से दूर हो रहे नय जमाने के लडके - लड़कियों को प्रकृति के करीब रखा है।यह पर्व दूर प्रदेश में काम कर रहे परिवारों को एकजुट करता है।सबसे बड़ी बात यह पूजा किसान और खेती केंद्रित है।

ज्ञान और मोक्ष की धरती बिहार!!!जहां डूबते हुए सूर्य को भी अर्ध्य दिया जाता है!!!और यही छठ पूजा की विशेषता है।यह पर्व बिहारियों कि पहचान है। उगते हुए सूर्य का अर्ध्य तो सबने सुना होगा लेकिन इस पर्व में डूबते हुए सूर्य को भी अर्ध्य दिया जाता है। जिससे हमें यह शिक्षा मिलती है कि उठने वालो से पहले या साथ - साथ झुकने वालो को भी तवाज्जो देना चाहिए। अगली पंक्ति में खड़े होने वाले के लिए तो हर कोई तलियां बजाता है लेकीन पिछली पंक्ति में खड़े रहने वालो के लिए भी तालियां बजनी चाहिए,डूबता सूर्य इतिहास होता है,इससे एक और शिक्षा मिलती है की अपने इतिहास को भी पूजा जाना चाहिए क्योंकि कोई भी संस्कृति या सभ्यता तब तक दीर्घजीवी होता है जब तक उसका इतिहास पूजा जाए।

छठ पूजा उगते हुए सूर्य की उपासना का त्योहार है जो हमे यह सीखा देता है की किसी भी सभ्यता को अगर अनंत काल तक जीवित रखना है तो उसके भविष्य की पूजा - अर्चना जोर - शोर से होनी चाहिए।यह पूजा इस दुनिया के उस शख्स को धन्यवाद करने का एक तरीका भी है जो खुद जलकर समग्र विश्व को अंधकार से उजाला की तरफ ले जाता है। जो यह शिक्षा देता है की परिस्थिति चाहे जैसा भी हो अगर हम जलकर भी किसी के लिए कुछ कर सकते हैं तो करना चाहिए। यह पर्व एक परम्परा है। परम्परा ही जीवन का आधार है। हर बार ये पूजा कुछ नया स्मृति देकर ही जाता है, यह अपने परम्परा, सांस्कृतिक विरासत को संजोने में मदद करता है।

दुनिया के सबसे पुरानी सभ्यता "भारत" के किसी दूर - सुदूर गांव में छठ पूजा वाले दिन जब कोई बालक या बालिका अपने सर पर फलों की डलिया रख छठ घाट पर जाता है,जब कोई माता या बहन सम्पूर्ण वैभव के साथ सज - धज अपने आंचल में फल को रख पानी में खड़े होकर भगवान आदित्य को अर्घ्य देती है,जब कोई पुरुष अपने धोती को हाथ में पकड़ भगवान आदित्य के सामने हाथ जोड़ता है तब समय भी खुद को रोक कर एकबार भारतवर्ष के इस अप्रतिम सौंदर्य वाले संस्कृति को निहारता है,सोचता है!! मैं अपने इस वैभवशाली क्षण को क्या नाम दूं,खुद से कहता है काश!!यह क्षण यही रुक जाता,इसे और ढंग से निहार पाता।दुनिया में चल रहे तमाम उथल - पुथल के बीच यह भी दुआ करता है की जबतक यह सृष्टि रहे तब तक इस संस्कृति को कोई आंच न आए।

बचपन में इस पूजा का बेसब्री से इंतजार रह है क्योंकि पूरे 10 दिन की स्कूल की छुट्टी , कॉलेज में भी छुट्टी कर ही लेते थे और पूरे साल कोई नया कपड़ा मिले या ना मिले इस दिन जरूर मिलता था। यह त्योहार ही नहीं एक प्रकार का संस्कार है।पूरे गांव का जमावड़ा एक नदी या तालाब के किनारे एक जगह होता है।सब एक दूसरे से मिलते - जुलते है।इस व्रत के लिए न विशेष धन की आवश्यकता है न पुरोहित या गुरु के अभ्यर्थना की। यह सामान्य और गरीब जनता के अपने दैनिक जीवन की मुश्किलों को भुलाकर सेवा-भाव और भक्ति-भाव से किये गये सामूहिक कर्म का विराट और भव्य प्रदर्शन है।

यह पूजा संयम ,संतुलित और सुखमय आधार है।छठ पूजा की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं!!!

> अनुराग पाण्डेय, Anurag Pandey वी - एमबीए'21 / MBA (WE) 2021

CONGRATULATORY NOTE

1. The CFA Ethics Research Challenge:



TEAM IIM SHILLONG







Gourav

Nikunjkumar Kikani

Sakshi Malani

NATIONAL WINNERS



The CFA Society India recently organized The CFA Ethics Research Challenge, in which team IIM Shillong has emerged as the National Winners. The Ethics Challenge is a competition between university-sponsored teams that analyze a case containing various ethical dilemmas. The case incorporates common ethical issues and the application of the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.

The participants were:

Gourav Mittal, Nikunjkumar Kikani and Sakshi Malani.

2. Global Investment Banking Valuation Olympiad 2021:



Another event organized recently was the Global Investment Banking Valuation Olympiad 2021 by Global Banking Training, London. It is a unique opportunity for business students to participate in a three-stage competition against other teams worldwide. Each stage of the competition puts students' valuation skills to the test in the form of an online assessment, a Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) case study, and a final presentation (for the Top 10 qualifying teams). This event has attracted thousands of participants over the years, and the students of IIM Shillong were among the Top 10 Global Finalists.

The participants are:

Manish Kumar, Nihar Mehta, Siddharth Dalmia, Suraj Agarwal, Aritro Datta, Arko Datta, Hardik Goyal, and Yash Juthani.

3. TATA Steel-a-thon:

The TATA Steel-a-thon was organized by TATA Steel which is an Annual Business Challenge for premier B-Schools in India. It offers

C	ONGRATULATION	vs! 🎳
	TEAM IRONGIRLS	IIM
Anshika Bansal	Apoorva Baranwal	Swarnilee Patra
	TEAM 3 ACES NATIONAL WINNERS - 2nd RUNNERS UP	
Akshay Kalsi	Aayushi Pandey	Amit Saxena
	TATA STEEL STEEL-A-THON PGP 2021-23	0000101011

students the chance to work on real-life business challenges and an exclusive opportunity to get mentored by Tata Steel Senior Leadership and Management. IIM Shillong's 'Team IronGirls' has been declared the National 1st Runners-up and 'Team 3 Aces' the National 2nd Runners-up in the eighth season of TATA Steel-athon.

The participants were:

Team IronGirls: Anshika Bansal, Apoorva Baranwal, and Swarnilee Patra

Team 3 Aces: Akshay Kalsi, Aayushi Pandey, and Amit Saxena

Education

LENS CAPTION

A Sunday Afternoon (Just before Covid Pandemic) Place: New Delhi, India











Anjan Patra MBAWE





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