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XTRAVAGATE

Something
HAPPENED?



Editor's Note

Few months doesn't seem long enough in isolation, but place them with recent events and poof! Suddenly, seems like a long night, and GoT fan out there, NO! we aren't talking about your beloved show here – though winter (read recession) is coming. Jammu & Kashmir was still a state till the Cricket world Cup'19, Auto mobile industry wasn't in the state its finding itself in, the steel industry wasn't laying off employees, left, right and center. The only constant thing remaining is nude nut scampering of Donald Trump's gaffe and Brexit discussion. To hell with dot-com bubble crash. Banish the nonsense about 2009s global recession. Junk the pessimistic undertones. There is silver lining in all of this. To put ourselves on anvil and show how much we have learnt from the history. This quarter, to put it mildly, it was chaotic. It was cruel. It was unbelievable. It was extraordinary. It was epochal, a blockbuster of a ripper.

Welcome all again!

This month's edition is a mixed bag, of emotions, articles, experience and everything in between. Starting from the internship experience, priming the juniors of what to expect, the welcome of juniors and the FIRM Games - where house Falcons ended up lifting the trophy. Interspersed with discussion over global recession and Human values

Aniket Sharma
2nd Year DoMS



August 2019

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Incoming Global depression Fear or Paranoia

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One coward may lose a battle, one battle may lose a war, and one war may lose a country – UK's MP Tufton Beamish said this addressing the house of commons in 1930. Almost 90 years later, we may be unfortunate enough to see the physical instantiation of it, only this time around the coward(s) are the premiere of two biggest economies of the world, and we stand to lose the global economic stability than just a country.

Origin



The seeds of the Trump-era trade war between the U.S. and China were planted during the last presidential campaign when then-candidate Donald Trump said Beijing couldn't be allowed to continue to "rape our country." In June 2018, Trump approved tariffs on about \$50 billion in Chinese goods. Then in September 2018, he imposed a 10% tariff on \$200 billion of Chinese products. This time the Chinese hit back with tariffs on \$60 billion in American goods. And... the tit for tat continued. But it has taken a serious turn now, In a development likely to have severe ramifications for global growth, Donald Trump threatened to impose a new

tariff on \$300bn (£248bn) of Chinese merchandise in a fast heightening of the trade war among Washington and Beijing.

Other Major flashpoints

While a trade war is a crystal-clear moniker for the possible premonition, there are other major flashpoints which are directly or indirectly paving way for the economic slowdown. The cyclical downfall in Auto-sales demand in many

countries is overlapping with the downfall in the steel industry, which in turn, is peeving the hagridden developing economies around the world. Disruption is coming at neck-breaking pace and jolts of reforms are not helping, Global headwinds are on the wrong side of the rub of the green with Crude oil prices firming up, and with Embargo on Iran – an oil-rich country by the USA, making the task even more onerous.

Global Fallout

Monetary investigation recommends that bilateral trade wars are unwinnable in an interconnected world. By firing his latest tariff salvo against China, US President Donald Trump has further raised the stakes in an increasingly damaging dispute – and the world economy is likely to emerge as the biggest loser.

The silly fight is nudging the world economy toward its first recession in a decade with investors demanding politicians and central bankers act fast to change course.

The US-China trade dispute has had a chilling effect on the world economy as global trade volumes plummet and major companies pause investments. Development has facilitated far and wide, while a few noteworthy nations have played with subsidence.

New Zealand's national bank as of late dazed financial specialists by dropping its benchmark rate by 50 premise focuses, twofold the normal decrease and sending the kiwi tumbling. Thailand additionally astonished, cutting by 25 premise focuses. India's national bank brought down its rate by an unusual 35 premise focuses. The worry is without a trade truce soon, markets will extend their recent slide and uncertainty-plagued companies would pull back further on investment, extending the pain of manufacturers to the services sector. Then, an otherwise tight job market would start to crack and consumers would retrench.

Global employment opportunity is about to be impacted too if JPMorgan economists are to be believed who reckons that the pace of global hiring in the second half of this year will slow to its softest since 2012-13 USA is on course to do so.

German industrial production has suffered its biggest annual decline in nine years after the escalating trade war took its toll on exports. Which has Europe's economic engine, which has increasingly relied on exports to Asia to bolster factory output, was left teetering on the edge of a recession in the second quarter after a 1.5% fall in industrial production in June, which is expected to be repeated in July.

While central banks would likely cut interest rates and perhaps resume quantitative easing, which is nothing but a fancy way of saying, "Hey, we are going to print more currency bills. Thank you!" that may no longer be enough to revive animal spirits this time and governments might not be fast enough to loosen fiscal policy.

Paranoia, maybe? –

John Maynard Keynes once famously said "if economists could manage to get themselves thought of as humble, competent people on a level with dentists, that would be splendid"

Bashing economists is scarcely out of fashion and we hope the trend never goes away. They are accused of being blinkered by mathematical models, of overestimating their predictive powers and churning out narrow-minded graduates. This fear-mongering just might be the result of their theoretical models coincidentally overlapping with temporary economic slowdown which isn't all that new as we have seen that same kind of gloomy clouds were drawn around 2012 period and it all fizzled away, overall amidst the slowdown, the world economy has held its own.

As evidenced in tight labour markets globally, the recent shift by central banks should provide a cushion, economists are starting to war game for how a recession could happen. Their fears are mainly centred on trade and not so much on the production and its consumption front. The consumer in China and the U.S. and other big economies have continued to spend, perhaps encouraged to by tight labour markets.

Conclusion-

No matter how optimistic you are, the recession is the modern world's worst nightmare and the signs are pointing towards that spurious idea to be turning into reality in coming years. The MSCI index of world stocks dropped by 0.6% is one of those signs, signalling selling pressure around the globe.

We all would love for these economist experts to make fool out of themselves & finding out that this was just another faux pass fear-mongering attempt by them or Donald Trump and Xi Jinping comes to their senses and we stop this mess to spiral down into unbridled chaos.

We need to be brave like soldiers, unlike the cowards who set these dangerous chains of events in motion possessing the power to consume the whole world economy. Little wonder that coward is often counted as the most contemptible of vices: while heroes achieve fame, cowards are often condemned to something worse than infamy – Oblivion.

But at the same time, we need to embrace for the impact and wish that paranoia was all that it was. Either way, history has taught us that recession doesn't last long and market flourishes even better after taking the critical hit.

Thank you!

Aniket Sharma
2nd Year DoMS





HUMAN VALUES

A FORGOTTEN ASSET?

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Albert Einstein once quoted thus,
"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value."

The reason this quote is distinguished is because values define our path of life and help us in every single step that we take, along the course of our journey.

The term 'values' is usually defined as the beliefs of a person or group to which they assign significant attachment. Humans, the explorers of the mysteries of the universe, the discoverers of new places, the indigenous group of self-obsessed people, the creators of value for both tangible and intangible things, have progressed prodigiously in every aspect of life. But in the run for power, politics and money, we have been compromising on our values. There are no hard and fast rules as to what constitutes our value systems. For one, values maybe a set of rules to adhere to, while for yet another, they maybe the norms dictating the way of life. Whatever they are to different people, they may collectively be called as ideas and principles guiding us in action. And, these are expressed in the way we carry ourselves and through our attitudes and behavior. It is reflected in every single action that we do and the words we speak. From choosing an eco-friendly product to deciding to help someone in crisis, we showcase our value systems in all that we do.

Human values, like a set of well-defined goals, help us to navigate the journey of life with better clarity. Every time we look back on a situation and do a SWOT Analysis, our ideologies and values get re-defined, reshaped and re-prioritized.

The reason they are called an asset is only fair and square because just like how assets contribute to the growth of an organization, values help us grow personally. They have the ability to chalk out an individual and society's progress in the right direction.

Nobody gave us a set of values to be followed at the start of our lives. We have inculcated them along the journey of life based on experiences. There aren't any rulebooks to be followed in the case of our value systems. But they are consequential and thus, need to be carefully chosen.

Our values are slowly deteriorating like natural resources. We have successfully depleted the abundance that Mother Nature bestowed upon us and now are managing to destroy our value systems. The simple act of kindness and generosity have been long-forgotten by us. This isn't an exaggeration but a sad state of affairs. When one girl was molested and brutally hurt, the passersby crossed her without offering help. But yes, the whole nation mourned after she passed away. There are accidents everywhere and people do try to help them. But the number of people not bothering about the environment and choosing to ignore crucial events and staying silent, makes us generalize that human values are long lost.

But there is still hope. We are trying our best to gather together and save the only planet that we have, from our own evil acts. That reinforces the fact that humans are capable of change and that getting our values back on track isn't long enough.

As Mahatma Gandhi rightly quoted,

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world."

Let's be more compassionate and humane individuals who choose values, love and integrity over anything else. Together, we shall rebuild our value system and make the world a better place to live in.

G. VASANTHA
1st Year DoMS



The Junior's Arrival

The Department of Management Studies, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli welcomed the new batch of 2019-2021 on 22nd July, 2019. The inauguration of the academic year marked the start of a week filled with activities and workshops to induct the new batch. This year, the MBA batch has seen a huge intake with over hundred students in the batch.



The inaugural event was graced by Prof. Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas (Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli) and had Mr. Rashmiranjan Mohapatra (Managing Director, Kemppi India) and Prof. Dr. Rajendran C (Professor, DoMS, IIT Madras) as the chief guests. The event started on an auspicious note with the lighting of the lamp followed by a warm welcome by the Head of the Department, Dr. P Sridevi. The presidential address was delivered by the Director of NIT Tiruchirappalli Mini Shaji Thomas who encouraged the students to take advantage of all the opportunities in the next two years. The first- and second-year students were enlightened with thought

provoking speeches by the guests that set the tone for their illustrious time at the Department of Management Studies and taught them on how to equip themselves to step into the corporate world and achieve their full potential.



In the week ahead, the students were involved with many lectures and workshops from various eminent leaders. The orientation week was structured in such a way that the students were given knowledge regarding the course and the technical aspects of it along with the guidance on how to make the right decisions and building on emotions and relationships. The students were taught not only on how to ace their masters but also on how to grow as a person and give back to society. The last day of the orientation was a fun filled day with the seniors and juniors mingling in fun filled activities and games.

Miriam Ann Phillip
2nd Year DoMS



During my two months of Internship at IFB Industries Ltd, Verna, Goa as an Operation Intern gave me opportunity to implement Six Sigma Methodologies to reduce PPM level rejection for the parts (Facia/DD handle ASSY) supplied by Elin Electronics Ltd, Verna, Goa, a supplier of IFB.

I was an intern under the Supply Chain department in the home Appliances i.e. Washing Machine division of IFB. Supply Chain head, Mr Jitendra Mohil was my Project guide and he really motivated me a lot for this Project. Special Thanks to Mr Amit Shukla (Vendor Management IFB), Mr Manikandan Murugesan (Rolls-Royce) for guiding me throughout my project tenure regarding Six Sigma. I am really thankful to various other departments of IFB as well as Elin for helping me to get data and co-operating me for the improvements as per the project. I am thankful to DoMS, NITT for giving me this opportunities to do internship at IFB.

I have analysed the PPM level rejection of all the parts supplied by Elin to IFB and chosen an aesthetic part (Facia/DD Handle Assy of front loading washing machines) where rejections were maximum. Then using Six Sigma Methodologies I analysed deep into the root causes and most feasible solutions considering the cost and benefits as well. For the analysis I took data from Elin as well as IFB various departments like Quality, Vendor Management, Strategic Sourcing, Stores and Production as well. I arranged brain storming sessions for the possible and feasible solutions as a part of my project. Every day as a part of my work, I was visiting Elin for collecting real time data in define, Measure and Analysis phase and continued to improve the things at Elin in Improve and control phase, which were causing most of the defects. Some of the improvements such as mandatory usage of hand-gloves, banning of wearable on hands, Preventive maintenance cleaning procedures at Paint shop, Box packaging & transportation to trolley system of transportation, maintained desired LUX level Illumination at pre-packaging quality check, Proper monthly training session to all the operators, introduction of proper supervision of painting thickness using DFT meter were implemented as a part of my project. As per suggestions from my project, as a part of Kaizen some more improvements such as new balanced Assembly line set up and relocation of department for more convenient flow of WIP among the departments are under process and expected to be completed before the deadline approved by Elin. As planned in the project charter the PPM rejection were reduced and sigma level improved for Elin at IFB's end.

Apart from the brainstorming as well as hard work throughout the week, I was taking a break on weekends exploring amazing places at Goa. I really enjoyed the summer as well as rainy weather at the famous beaches, striking landscape, astounding monuments and churches and last but not the least the never ending blue sea.

At last with lot of memories I returned with real time experience of operations at plastic industry as well as washing machine manufacturing industry and hands on experience in Six Sigma methodologies with discrete data which will surely help me in future to grow further towards never-ending success in my career.

Sushree Supriya
2nd Year DoMS





Trucking Ahead

Change in the Logistics Industry

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Fresh group of companies are trying to change the huge but fragmented logistics market, employing technology to achieve efficiency, better volumes and lower costs. The startups, backed by large private equity firms are improving the way logistics of delivering goods is done through trucks.

I got the chance of working in one of such startups named Umbrella protection systems as a intern for 2 months. Location of my work was New Delhi. The company has been started by one of our NIT Trichy alumnus, Ankit Jain of 2004 Chemical engineering and Kamal Mewada of 2012 CSE. I was given the position of working as a Business analyst- IT Operations of the company. My company has developed an Enterprise resource planning (ERP) software namely Logistics management system (LMS) for logistics companies. It was both a product and service-based company.

First let us know what logistics management is. Logistics management is a supply chain management component that is used to meet customer demands through the planning, control and implementation of the effective movement and storage of related information, goods and services from origin to destination. Logistics management helps companies reduce expenses and enhance customer service. Logistics management involves numerous elements, including:

- *Selecting appropriate vendors with the ability to provide transportation facilities*
- *Choosing the most effective routes for transportation*
- *Discovering the most competent delivery method*
- *Using software and IT resources to proficiently handle related processes*

My job role involved implementation of LMS software at client location. Client was Delhi Gujrat Fleet Carriers (DGFC) which is one the biggest fleet carriers in India. It has more than 5000 own trucks and 2000 market run trucks. For implementation of LMS software I used to visit the client location everyday and used to work with them. The major challenge I faced while implementation was that, the employees of DGFC know how the trucking industry works and how one trip is completed which includes loading of goods and unloading at final

location. But when the same thing must be done through the software, they were too much confused of how to do that work in LMS. First, I gained knowledge on how a logistics company works and how to enter the same in LMS. I made the documentation of the same. This helped me in increasing my knowledge on logistics and through the documentation, employees will be able to study and understand about LMS. I used to sit with them and helped them in creating trips, billing of a trip and creating ledger account which will help them in billing. If any bugs were found in LMS then I used to co-ordinate with my technical team and troubleshoot the problem. We used to work in JIRA which is a project management tool. JIRA is a tool developed by Australian Company Atlassian. It is used for bug tracking, issue tracking and project management.

We had also installed tracking devices in each of the trucks so that we can track them in real time and see the status of the goods that is to be delivered. By these tracking devices no truck driver can lie about their location. LMS also had HAPPAY cards through which the truck drivers can pay tolls. The amount has to be feed in LMS and it will get credited in the card.

All these things helped DGFC in minimizing the cost per trip and safe transit of goods from loading point to unloading point.

The logistics industry is growing day by day and many startups have opened like Rivigo, Fortigo and BlackBuck which are being backed up by investors such as Warburg Pincus, Accel Partners, Nandan Nilekani, Flipkart, IFC (World Bank Group), Tiger global etc, which has shaped the future of logistics business. But they must have a sustainable business model or they will burn their investors cash. It is easy to do business on somebody else's money.

The long term vision of the logistics company should be to make all trucks in the industry technology enables and plug the leakages. Technology has made our life easy and now it is speeding our life as well. The logistics domain is surely going to change with the introduction of technology in it.

Nitish Kumar
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