



# *iift* NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2018

## 6th International Conference on “Empirical Issues in Trade and Finance”

The Institute has organized its Sixth International Conference on Empirical Issues in International Trade and Finance (EIITF) during 13-14 December 2018 at its Delhi Campus. The Conference was inaugurated by Prof. Alan L. Winters, a distinguished Professor of Economics at University of Sussex, United Kingdom and a leading specialist from the Empirical and Policy Analysis of International Trade; and Prof. Joshua Aizenman, a distinguished Professor of International Relations and Economics at University of Southern California, Research Associate for the National Bureau of Economic Research, and co-editor of the Journal of International Money and Finance. Besides them, Prof. Manoj Pant, Director IIFT and Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Chairperson (Research) were present at the Inaugural Function.

The Conference received wide response from the academia and the policy research community, and a total of 198 papers were submitted from Universities and Research Institutes from India and abroad. After suitable peer-review process, a total of 150 papers were selected for presentation and this includes the 12 papers from abroad from renowned universities like University of Sains; Malaysia, Abu Dhabi University; Drexel University, USA; Montpellier Business School, France; University of Washington, USA; Union College, New York, USA; Southern Illinois University Carbondale; AUT Business School, Auckland, New Zealand; Institute of Development Studies, UK; University of Virginia, USA, etc.



The Conference schedule accommodated a total of 29 technical sessions where ongoing research in different areas of international trade and finance were presented. Besides the technical sessions, two special lectures by the following dignitaries were also organized:

- (1) Prof. Prof. L Alan Winters, Distinguished Professor of Economics, University of Sussex, UK, delivered a lecture on “BREXIT, Trump: What is Happening to Rules-Based Trade?”, which was chaired by Prof. Sugata Marjit, RBI Professor of Industrial Economics, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata); and
- (2) Prof. Joshua Aizenman, Distinguished Professor of International Relations and Economics, University of Southern California delivered a lecture on “Global Financial and Macro Fragility and Emerging Markets Precautionary Strategies” which was chaired by Prof. Partha Sen, ECGC Chair Professor, IIFT.

In addition, four Policy Forums on issues of significant contemporary policy relevance, namely: ‘Trade and Employment Challenge in South Asia’ (in collaboration with ILO), ‘Bilateral Investment Treaty’ (in collaboration with Centre for Trade and Investment Law), ‘Emerging Issues in International Trade Negotiations (e-commerce)’ (in collaboration with Centre for WTO Studies)’ and ‘Trade, Technology and Global Value Chain: Issues and Challenges’ (in collaboration with UNESCAP) were also organized at the EIITF 2018 Conference.



The Valedictory Address was delivered by Dr. Anup Wadhawan, Commerce Secretary, Government of India. The ‘Best Doctoral Paper Award’ was given to Ms. Anesha Chitgupi, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore for her paper on “Sustainability of India’s Current Account Deficit: Role of Remittance Inflows and Software Services Exports”. The Conference ended with the vote of thanks to all dignitaries, paper presenters, session chairs, discussants, and sponsors. IIFT faculty, students and staffs have been acknowledged for their involvement to make this conference successful.



## Launching of Website of Institute's first-ever MA (Economics) Program with Specialisation in Trade and Finance

THE Institute has recently launched its first-ever MA (Economics) Program with Specialisation in Trade and Finance at both Delhi and Kolkata Campuses. A total of 27 students have taken admission in the first batch.

The specific objectives of the Program are:

- To prepare students to become excellent trade policy-makers and key strategists on trade issues in the corporate sector, involved directly or indirectly in international trade and financial transactions.
- To equip students with a set of tools, which would help them to solve real world problems.
- To prepare students to be full-time academicians, with specialized knowledge in international economics and finance.

On 26 October 2018, Prof. Manoj Pant, Director IIFT and Prof. (Mrs.) Vijaya Katti, Dean Administration (Academics) launched the website



of MA (Economics) Program. During the website launch, along with the students of both Delhi & Kolkata campuses, Program Directors, Prof. Ranajoy Bhattacharyya, Prof. Biswajit Nag, Dr. Basanta K. Sahu, Dr. Bibek Ray Chaudhuri, Dr. Jaydeep Mukherjee, Dr. Divya Tuteja, Dr. Papiya Ghosh and Mr. Balasubramanian were also present.

Please visit <http://maeco.iift.ac.in> for more details.

## Presentation by IIFT Faculty



Dr. (Mrs.) Vijaya Katti, Dean, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi & Kolkata giving a presentation on IIFT's Research Study on "Priority Directions for the Development of Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India". at

First Russia-India Strategic Economic Dialogue, 25-26 November 2018, St. Petersburg, Russia organized by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) of the Russian Federation.



## Division of Alumni Affairs



### • IIFT Alumni Executive Council Meeting

The IIFT Alumni Executive Council Meeting for the year 2018 was held at IIFT Delhi Campus on 17 November 2018. Prof. Manoj Pant, Director IIFT chaired the Meeting.

Dr. Sanjay Rastogi, Head (Division of Alumni Affairs) presented the report of activities to the EC members and also apprised members about the initiatives taken this year.

At the meeting presentations were made by student coordinators of Alumni Committee, IMF and Placecom Committee.

Presentations by Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi Alumni Chapter Heads were also given at the occasion.

### • Annual General Body Meeting (AGM)

On 17 November 2018, the IIFT Alumni Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) also was held at IIFT Delhi Campus. Prof. Manoj Pant, Director IIFT chaired the Meeting.

Dr. Sanjay Rastogi, Head (Division of Alumni Affairs) presented Report on the Accounts of IIFT Alumni Society.

At the meeting, Alumnus of the Year-2018 Award also was announced. The award was given to Mr. Milind Pant. His father received the award on his behalf.

Dr. Prateek Maheshwari, Faculty Coordinator (Division of Alumni Affairs) gave the Vote of Thanks.

### • Grand Alumni Reunion-2018

The main highlight of the evening of 17 November 2018 was the Grand Alumni Reunion-2018 in which more than 200 IIFT alumni were present.

Next day, i.e. on 18 November 2018, various Alumni Reunion Games were planned by Student Alumni Committee.

### • GDPI Mentorship Session

GDPI Mentorship Session was organized by Division of Alumni Affairs on 25 November 2018.

Total 11 Alumni from diverse fields guided students of MBA (IB) 2017-19 batch, as mentioned follows:



Anuj Jain (McKinsey), Anjali Rai (E&Y), Hemant D.P. (GMR), Rakesh Meet (Reliance Communication), Abhishek Bachhan (Toyota Kirloskar Motor), Siddhartha (Clinton Health Access), Amit (KPMG), Jagabandhu (JBanerjee), Vinay Maheshwari (DB Corp), Anish Kila (Perfect Group), Satish Monga (ICICI Bank).

- **Expert Session by Mr. K.V. Rao (Resident Director–ASEAN, TATA Sons Ltd.)**

An Expert Session on ‘Shaping an International Career in Turbulent Times...’ was taken by Mr. K.V. Rao (Resident Director–ASEAN, TATA Sons Ltd.) on 26 November 2018. Mr Rao is a distinguished alumnus of IIFT, PGDIT 1983-84 Batch. He

addressed students of MBA - IB (2017-19) and MBA - IB (2018-20) Batches.

- **25 years Reunion of PGDIT 93’ Batch**

The Golden Jubilee Reunion of PGDIT ‘93 Batch was organized on 30 November 2018 at

Prof. Manoj Pant, Director IIFT, Prof. Vijaya Katti, Dean Administration (Academics) and Prof. Satinder Bhatia, Chairperson EMP Division graced the occasion.

IIFT Quiz, Reunion Games and Campus Tour were organized by Student Alumni Committee for the guests. At the occasion, 22 Alumni were present.

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## IIFT Kolkata MoUs with NEC

IIFT Kolkata Campus with the support of North Eastern Council (NEC) recently initiated CeNEST (Centre for North Eastern Studies) as a dedicated centre for the development of north-eastern regions of India. IIFT, Kolkata is in the process of signing MoU with North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong to take the objective of CeNEST forward. The MoU will allow IIFT to provide handholding support to the entrepreneurs of the North Eastern states, undertake research and analysis on developmental issues related to International trade

and business of various North Eastern states and conduction of training programmes for the North Eastern states. IIFT, with its Kolkata campus, wants to collaborate with NEC extensively and use its domain expertise to assist North Eastern (NE) states of India in their development planning particularly in emerging areas of livelihood, export oriented entrepreneurship, venture funds, start-ups and skill development that will help in generating jobs in the region.

## IIFT Marathon 2018



IIFT Marathon 2018 was the official launch of Quo Vadis 2019 theme with the participation of students across Delhi running for the cause of ‘Stronger Than Yesterday’ on 28 of October 2018. The Marathon is an initiative taken by the student fraternity of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade as a part of its annual management and cultural festival, Quo Vadis. The event consisted of 4 races– 5.5 km (Men & Women), 11.5 km (Men & Women). This year, the Marathon concluded as a huge success with a large number of participation from residents and students of Delhi. An international level cricket player, Mr. Unmukt Chand flagged off the IIFT Marathon 2017.

## Management Development Programmes



MDP Division offers a wide spectrum of programmes in different areas of international business such as international marketing and trade operations, international financial management, Dollar/Rupee evaluation, international logistics and global supply chain, international business and negotiations, WTO and trade policies in India and abroad, for the executives of the industry, officers and policy-makers in the Government. These programmes are structured keeping in mind the changing global business environment and international standards which help in developing the skills and competencies of the participants.

During the October to December, MDP Division has conducted a total 10 programmes for Managers and Executives of various levels. Out of these, 1 Open Programme, 4 sponsored programmes were for Government Officers (including AIS officers) and Executives of PSUs. Besides, 1 long duration course delivered via hybrid mode and 3 courses delivered via online mode. A total of 408 participants benefited from these programmes.

The major programmes include the commencement of 24 weeks certificate programme on International Business Management for the officers of Indian Armed Forces

IIFT being the nodal agency for conducting Foundation training for Indian Trade Service Probationers, the 9 months (Jan.–Oct. 2018) residential programme for 4 ITS probationers is being conducted, Under the programme an interaction with Hon'ble President of India was organized on 17th September 2018 at Rastrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Valedictory of this programme was held at DGFT, Udyog Bhawan on 6th Nov 2018.

MDP Division also launched Niryat Bandhu Programmes 2.0 version under Niryat Bandhu Scheme DGFT, Department of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India. The details of the programmes/activities conducted during the said period are as under

| CATEGORY-WISE PROGRAM DETAILS |                   |                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Programmes                    | No. of programmes | No. of participants |
| Open                          | 1                 | 27                  |
| Sponsored                     | 4                 | 81                  |
| Hybrid/Online long duration   | 5                 | 300                 |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>10</b>         | <b>402</b>          |



## Launching of Niryat Bandhu @ Your Desktop 2.0

THE Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi & Kolkata has successfully conducted 27 batches of the Online Programme “Niryat Bandhu @ Your Desktop” - Certificate Program on Export and Import Business. So far more than 1000 participants across the country have been provided the training. The program has been highly appreciated by the participants and the industry / concerned organizations.

IIFT has launched its 28th batch, titled, “Niryat Bandhu @ Your Desktop 2.0” on 19 November 2018, with a revised course structure to make the curriculum more productive and relevant to the current business environment.

A total of 35 participants have enrolled for this batch. The new program focuses on practical aspects



of Export & Import Business and hands-on Business Plan preparation.

The number of sessions has also been increased to 25 sessions.

## Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan programme of the Government, the Institute observed Swachhta Pakhwara (Cleanliness Fortnight) during 15 September to 2 October 2018.



The Faculty and staff of the Institute actively participated in maintaining the Campus. The students of the MBA (IB) residential programme also took active part in upkeep of their hostels.

## New Research Projects

### Study on Developing India's Service Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI)

A Study on Developing India's Service Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) has been undertaken by the Institute sponsored by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

The objective of the study is to rework the STRI using the OECD STRI methodology, binary scoring and same weights for the 5 policy areas but including new regulations to increase coverage. It also aims at developing an alternate index covering countries and sectors which are important from the context of services trade including additional sectors as well as regulations. It will strive to explore the possibility of continuous scoring and assigning different weights to the different policy measures.

### *Intertemporal Optimization Approach to India's Current Account Solvency*

(26 October 2018)



**Dr. Bhavesh Garg**  
Ph.D.  
IIT Hyderabad

We examine the solvency of India's current account (CA) in the post-liberalization period using intertemporal optimization approach to the CA. Using quarterly data ranging from 1996Q1 to 2014Q2, we estimate a benchmark consumption-smoothing model and an extended model that incorporates external shocks. Overall, we find that the predicted optimal CA in both the models can track the actual CA movements and the extended model performs better over the benchmark model. Further, we also find that the optimal CA is more volatile than the actual CA, which implies that the capital flows have been less than optimal, and thus makes an interesting case for further liberalization of the capital account. Our findings suggest that policies aimed at further liberalization of capital flows will allow larger CA deficits to achieve higher economic growth since it will help agents to further smoothen their consumption without worrying about risks associated with insolvency.

### *Explaining Size Effect for Indian Stock market.*

(22 November 2018)

Using data for BSE 500 companies, we confirm the presence of strong size effect in Indian stock market. Controlling for penny stocks, we find that returns decrease almost monotonically with firm size. The findings are robust for alternative size measures, i.e. market capitalization, total assets, net fixed assets, net working capital, net sales, and enterprise value. We find the presence of non-synchronous trading bias and reverse seasonality effect. It is observed that market, size, value and business cycle factors explain size effect while liquidity and momentum factors have little role in this process. Thus, rational sources explain the size anomaly in the Indian context.



**Dr. Asheesh Pandey**  
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