

XTRAVAGATE

- THE BUSINESS PROBE

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*"If I have a thousand ideas,
and one turns out to
be good. I am satisfied..."*

- Alfred Nobel



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7th Pay Commission: Recommendations

“Govt. workers to get 7th pay commission benefits this year” by The Times of India, “Has the 7th pay commission narrowed the gap between Central government and private sector state salaries” by The Economic Times, “Cabinet clears 23.5% hike in the pay for Central government staff” by The Hindu – are some of the articles published by eminent and renowned news editors highlighting the different strands associated with the new recommendations of 7th pay commission. It could turn out to be a benevolent fortune for some and problematic for others. The entire pay band structure has been dispensed with a new Pay matrix which has separate design for Civilians, Defence Personnel and even for Military Nursing Service. Increasing role, responsibility and accountability are to be given importance in deciding the final salary amount. The minimum pay for the lowest level employee has been revised to Rs. 18,000 whereas Class I officer would receive Rs. 56,100. Few additional features for the Defence and Combined Armed Police Forces include enhancement in gratuity amount to 20 lakhs; subsuming hospital, special disability and sick leaves into composite new leave named “Work Related Illness and Injury Leave” (WRIL); terminal gratuity emoluments for short service commissioned officers; increment in the advances for House Building, Medical Treatment or transfer.

General recommendations on pension and related comforts have also been approved by the cabinet. Apart from these, two distinct committees have been formulated as well, to suggest measures for streamlining the implementation of National Payment System(NPS) and to look into the anomalies of the Commission’s report.

In the recent study done by IIM Ahmedabad, huge differences in the salaries of government and private sector have been compared. A normal government officer’s pay would be around Rs. 56,100/month whereas a cabinet secretary would earn up to Rs. 2.5 lakhs/month. With regard to private sector, a junior level employee may earn in between Rs. 25000 – 2.5 lakhs per month and CEOs might earn Rs. 12.5 lakhs – Rs. 2.5 crore per month. A central government employee’s salary may look to be on a lower side, but it’s not so. Their pay structure also involves a house, car and driver, phone bill reimbursements, medical bill payments, pensions and whole range of allowances which are not always available in the private sector. A government job also ensures security of employment and assured pay hike. Working hours are fixed in government offices whereas in private sector, if the client or supervisor has some unfinished work, you have to stay back. The top-level employees of any private corporation might still have an upper hand on a cabinet secretary, in terms of salary, but same might not be true for a private junior level employee’s pay structure against the minimum officer salary working in central government.

The cabinet finally approved the recommendations of 23.5% increase in compensations of government employees and pensioners. It has brought good news for finance minister who was looking to reboot the economy, but at the same time, raised concerns for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor who will have to deal with the upside risks of the Consumer Price Index(CPI) inflation. Additionally, the government will have a fiscal burden of 1.02 lakh crore to implement the proposals. In order to control these fluctuations government might have to look for more resources through higher tax collections and PSU (Public Sector Unit) disinvestments. NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog has provided some proposals to monetize the public assets. It could be a positive start for the government, if they follow it.

“Discovery consists of looking at the same thing as everyone else and thinking something different “

- Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

Explosive Mitigation

Samsung, the name familiar with mobile devices and the current market leader in the smartphone industry is facing a lot of troubled waters. Figures of losses worth 17 Billion dollars are predicted by the analysts. And why is this South Korean electronics giant facing these troubled waters? Let's delve a bit deeper into the matter.

Samsung released the flagship mobile phone Galaxy Note 7 in August 2016. The beginning of the story was like a fairy tale in which Samsung had a dominant market share and people were coming in large numbers to buy the latest flagship smartphone. "Note" series which was introduced by Samsung back in September 2011, proved to be a major game changer for the smartphone industry. Samsung took the smartphone industry by storm as it sold millions of Galaxy Note devices. The current iteration of the Note, however backfired. And it literally fired up.

After the phones were shipped, reports started to pour in about the Galaxy Note 7 blowing up and catching fire, causing burns and damage to property. Several reports were registered. There were even instances in which the Galaxy Note 7 caught fire in aircrafts. This prompted the safety regulations board of various countries to ban the usage of Galaxy Note 7 in flights. The issue was with respect to a design fault in the battery system. The batteries were manufactured by Samsung's own subsidiary. Samsung started to re-call all the devices and promised that the fault will be changed.

From October 2016, Samsung started shipping the revamped models and marked them safe. But again, the Galaxy Note 7 started to get burned up. This caused the manufacturer to stop production of the Galaxy Note 7 altogether on October 11th 2016.

In order to retain customers, Samsung is trying to offer free replacement and cash back policies and is trying to provide the old Galaxy Note 7 owners, a Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge which was the previous flagship model of the company. But many people are not willing to go for Samsung again. Samsung has recalculated the expected profits and has slashed it by one third. Given the reputation of the company is now at stake, the only way Samsung can maintain the lead in the market is by creating a flawless next device namely in the form of Samsung Galaxy S8.

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"I am one of those who think, like Nobel, that humanity will draw more good than evil from new discoveries "

- Marie Curie

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Resurrecting the Intuitive way of Indian Management

Having a fascination for Indian mythology and awfully attracted to different dimensions of it, my bookshelf is majorly filled with this genre. One such author who puts these dimensions in a refreshing way is 'Devdutt Patnaik', who is a trained doctor, a business adviser in healthcare and pharmaceutical industries and a reciter, who has written over 25 books on Indian mythology. His book called the 'Business Sutra' is yet another rendition of Indian myth and speaks on how it can provide a fresh framework in management. Reading this book a while ago nudged me towards understanding the very culture of business and management in India.

A chapter of it elaborates the management systems across the Western, the Chinese and the Indian culture. A gist of it is that the western culture consists of both flexibility and alignment which ever serves the purpose at the time, the Chinese system demands order and authority and the Indian system is just an amalgamation of all of it, due to annexation by powerful countries. He finally takes the reader on how Indian myth can serve as a base for a belief based management system and how it aids in stepping against the competition.

Thoughts over this did not sprout again until my first class in 'Data Analytics', when the professor started the class by saying how Data analytics took its roots from the Japanese system and the Indian system was based only on intuition and experiential knowledge. Well, every management school in India is currently pushing Data analytics and Big data into the syllabus and it surely has proven to provide an edge. Is it because of the data collection that these tools bring or the insights that germinate from the chaos?

This led me pondering over where we lost our system of management. Did we have a system in the first place or was it just focused on expanding the horizon of human mind? Current businesses demand innovation, creativity and uniqueness in sustaining and thriving against the competition. Top businesses in the world today have emerged because the founders have had a strong feeling about something that's been obvious, yet in oblivion.

An article I came across very recently mentioned that the schools in USA are replacing punishments with meditations i.e. the kids are sent to a 'mindful moment room' to understand themselves from within, which resulted in only a single suspension in over a year. This has indeed proven that the west is now focusing on the Indian way of inward and holistic management. If we look back, Indian system has always been inclusive, nothing is ever left out and that is why even if there is such diversity in culture, religion and languages, it somehow exists with integrity.

To quote Steve Jobs on his visit to India from his biography by Walter Isaacson, "*Coming back to America was, for me, much more of a cultural shock than going to India. The people in the Indian countryside don't use their intellect like we do, they use their intuition instead, and their intuition is far more developed than in the rest of the world. Intuition is a very powerful thing, more powerful than intellect, in my opinion. That's had a big impact on my work.*"

As the facetious remark goes, "when the west gets cold, the whole world sneezes", the shift in approach to management towards the Indian way of intuition and inward harnessing of everything around is ultimately resurrecting itself.

***"Its Just Life. You cant
beat life..."***

- Alice Munro

The Battle Between Two Giants

"If it's not an iPhone, it's not an iPhone" has got a recent face off challenge from Google's Pixel Phone, both having similar pricing. With not much of a change in design of iPhone 7 from iPhone 6S, iPhone 7 has the antenna lines curving around the top and bottom rim of the device, a dual camera setup in iPhone 7 Plus and doing away of the physical home button and 3.5mm headphone jack, which have already created a buzz. What we get now is a soft home button cum fingerprint scanner. Android Nougat made its official debut with the Pixel duos. Undoubtedly, iOS 10 is the best iOS till date, but Android Nougat creates an edge over iPhone for Google, in terms of upgradation. Work has been done for the introduction of split screen, a double tap app switch, Just-in-time compiler which makes an app load faster and takes up less space and the Day-dream View Virtual Reality capabilities, the full capabilities of which is yet to be seen. The processor Snapdragon 821 has a 10% increase in the performance speed compared to Snapdragon 820. Apple A10 is the first quad core chipset. Although these specifications triumphs over Apple's specification on paper, Apple still has the lead as both, the hardware and the software are designed by the same company. So, the apps are tailor made. This does not make the Pixels any slouchy and they are as fast as the iPhone, most of the time. Hence, these phones are the talk of the town and seem to create a twinkle in the eyes of enthusiasts.

The significance of this type of competition is their interest to show innovation and win customers' hearts. The brand value of iPhone might get a good competition due to Google Pixel, but this speaks more of the need to change the monopoly of the high-end mobile phone manufacturer market. Changing this focus from iPhone to Google would need quite a few efforts and this would seem a difficult path for Google. Yet, there have been positive responses with regard to the necessity to change in the perspective of market dominance. More the variants, more will be the fascination to innovate and outshine contemporaries. If the Wallets are ready to shell out money, surface of more giants would be highly likely. As such, Google has a real chance to surpass its competition this year, and with some promising specifications, let us be hopeful that it can deliver what it has perceived for future supremacy.

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"There is no need for temple, no need for complicated philosophies. My brain and my heart are my temples; my philosophy is kindness..."

- Dalai Lama

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***“If I Could explain it to
the average Person, I
wouldn't have been
worth the Nobel
Prize...”***

- Richard Feynman

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It May Be the World's First Trillion Dollar Business !!!

James Cameron's fantasy, science fiction movie "Avatar" (2009) screened about the space mining by Research Development Administration (RDA) on planet Pandora for the valuable mineral "Unobtainium", which is worth more than \$20 million per kilogram. This mineral replaces the severe energy crisis of planet Earth. The movie Avatar maybe just a fiction, but it is going to be factual due to the bold move taken by USA in space mining.

Even though planet Earth is not at the state of brink of energy crisis or scarcity of minerals, still big daddy United States of America moved first step to mark its reign over the space mining. Last year November 2015 President Barack Obama signed SPACE (Spurring Aerospace Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship) Act, which allows commercial extraction of minerals and other materials from the extra-terrestrial lands. This legislation gives assurance for both private and public aeronautic industries to pioneer in the exploitation of extra-terrestrial resources.

Space mining companies Planetary Resources (PR) and Deep Space Industries (DSI) cherished the USA government's decision on legislating space mining law. This legislation of space mining law allows more number of investors to show their attention in investing in space mining companies and there won't be any scratch work needed by space mining companies for convincing the investors. Principally, this legislation doesn't make space mining to be crazy or fictitious anymore.

According to the international space laws, the space should be pooled by everyone on earth for scientific research and investigation, it establishes the right of investors to profit from their efforts. Seeing this possibly profitable space mining business, earlier in the year 2016 small European nation Luxembourg entered into this space mining business. Luxembourg is the first nation in Europe and second in the world to take this unflinching move. As of now, they didn't make any decree for the space mining business, but it is working to make a valiant legal framework. In October 2016, SES (Society of European Satellites), a Luxembourg based Space Technologies Company, initiated to buy satellite launch vehicles from Space Exploration Technology (SpaceX) to make a mileage in space mining business race.

For now, there are still uncertainties and constraints about the success of space mining and there is no clear picture for countries that have entered into space mining regarding the required amount of urbane technologies or equipments, to mine the asteroids. If not now, may be after a decade, the mining business will emanate for sure. If space mining business is successfully deployed, certainly it will be in the pool of trillion dollar business without any struggles.

Twist of Fate - A Tale of Twisted Fate

Amidst the deep bushes of Africa, there raised the old proverb. The proverb is the story that every African child knows. It is the story about life, or perhaps, the story of life. It is the story of a Gazelle and the leopard. Every day in Africa, when the Gazelle wakes up, it knows that it should run faster than that of a leopard or else it will be caught and eventually, it will die. On the other hand, the leopard knows it should run faster than that of Gazelle or else it will die of hunger. Some say the above story is about death, and some say it is about life. Some say it is the story that differentiates the thin line that separates extinction from existence.

I say, the above story could be the story of every wrestler who aspires to reach his/her goal of becoming the face of WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment). Marketing the art is difficult than marketing the product, because the product portrays what it actually is, but the emotions can only mean what it would be, because art is an entertainment that intertwines with the emotion of an individual and is a mere fantasy, as art is twice removed from reality as of Aristotle. After losing his mother at the age of 9 to brain cancer, Jeff Hardy was on his own. He still lingers on to the hope of becoming the face of WWE. The will of the heart and the determination of that young boy, gave him the confidence to establish his own wrestling promotion(OMEGA) along with his brother Matt Hardy.

It was the time of 'Attitude era', which was the bell the cat moment for Jeff Hardy. After being trained professionally by the likes of wrestlers, Kurt Angle, Train and Christian, Jeff Hardy wrestled his first match in WWE in the later part of 94, but as a jobber. Rey Mysterio, in his book 'Behind the mask' Quotes, "***The real challenge of a wrestler starts once he enters WWE***"

Every wrestler knows the challenges they have to face, after entering WWE. To get a push, one needs to gain popularity among the viewers and that could be a life-time task. It was the time when WWE wrestlers were known for their body-building skills, rather than High-flying. It was the time of Razor Ramo and Austin 316.

"Even if you can't control everything...you can always control something. Your body - Use it...Amuse it...because one day...you're going to lose it." - Jeff Hardy in 98.

Jeff Hardy meant what he had actually meant it to be. He used innovation and high-risk as his weapons to stand among others. He formed a tag team with his brother and fellow wrestler Lita and began to perform high risk stunts like Swanton Bomb from the top of a ladder. He marketed his high-flying skills successfully with his glamorous style and his appealing finisher, Twist of Fate, innovated the older version of DDT. He named his team, Team-Extreme, and the rest is history.

Henry Fayol states initiative as a weapon of success in his 14 principles. It is the guts of taking initiative and the innovative twist of fate, which twisted the fate of the city boy, who later became the WWE champion at Armageddon 2008.

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" Alfred Nobel stipulated that no distinction of race or colour will determine who received of his generosity ..."

- Abdus Salam

DoMS Snippets

10th October: Ayudha Pooja

The pooja was organized in department library. All the faculties and students were presented for the pooja.



14th October: Progyan 2016 - Sastra University

DoMS NIT Trichy were overall winners. Mr Charukesh M (Best CFO), Ms Basila Sali (Best CEO), Marketing Event Winners Sahiya, Shriram, Dinesh, Praveen G and Runner ups are Prashanth, Asif, Banu Ganga, Susithra. HR event winners Madhan, Ganesh, Shilpa and Abhishek.



17th October: Dandiya Night

In lieu of Navarathri, NIT Trichy organized a Dandiya Night in Barn Hall



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