Editorial: The Impact of Regulations and Technology on the Business Environment in India AABFJ Volume 12, Issue 2, 2018

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A hearty welcome to the Special Issue of INBUSH 2018 (International Business Summit & Research Conference) organised by Amity International Business School, Amity University, India, which is an excellent & magnanimous platform that witnesses the participation of over 500 Thought Leaders, Management Gurus, Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors & High Commissioners, Members of Parliament, Vice Chancellors, Deans and Directors from reputed National & International Universities, Noted Academicians, High profile media personalities, Corporate leaders and students from almost 115 countries who share ideas, exchange thoughts, deliberate on various research insights and brainstorm to provide conclusive, logical and relevant world-class best practices.

From scores of papers presented during INBUSH, seven papers have been accepted for this special issue titled "The Impact of Regulations and Technology on Business Environment in India".

One of the major changes in the business environment in India is the mandatory requirement by Indian companies to give back to the community and to spend a percentage of their profits in socially responsible activities. Therefore, corporate social responsibility (CSR) has been gaining momentum in India and has become an integral part of every business portfolio in India, having made significant contributions to the development of the country. We have three papers in the area of CSR.

The first paper by Charumathi and Gaddam (2018), also in the area of CSR, studies the impact of technology and CSR regulations on CSR disclosures on Indian Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) having Maharatna status, which means that they can decide on investments of up to 15 per cent of their net worth in a project without the approval of the Government. Corporate Social Responsibility Disclosure Index (CSRDI) developed by Charumathi and Padmaja (2015) was adopted for measuring the level of CSR disclosure and

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Corporate Information and Communication Technology Usage Index (CICTI) was developed and used to measure the level of IT usage. Post CSR regulatory period in India, CSR disclosures significantly increased and it is found that there is a positive and significant relationship between the ICT usage and the CSR disclosures of Maharatna companies. India is a huge country with the world's second-largest population and 69% of them live in rural areas. To reach the masses in India and to make them beneficiaries of the CSR activities of PSUs in particular and corporates in general, there has to be a paradigm shift and this shift can only come with the large-scale use of Information Technology. The second paper by Sharma, Kanojia and Gupta (2018) takes a step further and studies the extension of corporate governance in the form of introduction of electronic board meetings in India after the introduction of Companies Act 2013. It was found that electronic delivery of documents and electronic voting have already found a strong footing in the country but shareholders are not making use of them at the desired pace. Electronic meetings still need the full-fledged infrastructure, well-thought provisions, and a proper jumpstart. Future research in both these papers can be in the direction of IT infrastructure development: one, the external aspect, i.e., how IT can make companies reach out to the grassroots and help the actual needy. Future studies in this area could be very crucial for the corporates and policymakers; and two, the internal aspect, i.e., how the Government can provide the physical infrastructure to include electronic formats and improvement of existing corporate governance framework. The scope of further research in these areas is tremendous.

The major thrust of the present Indian Government is on Cleanliness which is being driven through "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" or "Clean India Mission". The government recognises that this is a huge task and seeks the collaboration of corporate in implementing programs such as the construction of toilets, sewage treatment, river cleaning and so on. Therefore, the mandatory spending that large corporates have to do every year as part of their CSR goals, could be to help the government in combating developmental challenges. The third paper by Lawania and Kapoor (2018) discusses the concept of how government and corporate can work together to ease out developmental challenges in the ambit of Corporate Social Responsibility. There are studies in the area of CSR and PPP (Public Private Partnership) in countries like the Czech Republic (Sára, n.d) and Korea (Hong and Kim, 2017). The future area of research is to study the impact assessment of such collaborations on communities in terms of the developmental goals.

The next four papers discuss the impact of regulation and technology on Indian stock markets. Mishra (2018) investigates the relationship between BSE Sensex and macroeconomic variables such as Index of Industrial Production (IIP), inflation, rate of interest, price of gold, rate of exchange, FII and supply of money for the period of eighteen years and finds that BSE Sensex causes changes in exchange rate and money supply, FII, gold prices and IIP. The 1991 economic reforms in India opened up the Indian economy to the world and the revived industrialization policy increased the FDI inflows to India and Goel and Singh (2018) analyse the role of technology and regulation in capital flows in India by identifying indices like Regulation Index and Competitiveness rank. The authors conclude that the technology and regulations role in inviting FDI in India is not only important but also vital and an increase in FDI will result in increase in the flow of development in the financial market, which is evident from the positive movement in the NSE index price, and also in the economy as a whole. Demonetization, announced by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in an unscheduled television address on 8th November was one of the unprecedented reformatory moves by the government. The sixth paper by Patil, Parab and Reddy (2018) studied the impact of demonetization on Indian stock markets and found a significant negative impact on stock markets, such as, Nifty 50 Index and sectoral indices such as Nifty Auto Index, Nifty Financial Services Index, Nifty FMCG Index, Nifty IT Index, Nifty Media Index, Nifty Private Bank Index, and Nifty Realty Index. The study also found that Nifty Realty Index was the most affected sector due to demonetization. Further studies analysing the internal factors like impact development initiatives, which have improved India's ranking in Ease of Doing Business index, such as giving boost to entrepreneurship, goods and services taxation reforms, improving corporate governance regulations and infrastructure improvements; and external factors like US-China trade relations, on the stock markets in India are promising future areas of research.

The seventh paper by Varma, Singh and Munjal (2018) discusses the share buyback regulation which was enacted by the Government of India (GOI) in 1998 with an objective to revive the fast declining Indian capital markets and protect the interest of the investors and companies from hostile takeover bids. The study found that firms undertake buybacks for improving the leverage, capital structure correction, dividend substitution and availability of high liquidity but lack of opportunities to invest.

India is on the path of growth and development and development does not come without a cost. The final paper by Murthy and Gambhir (2018) discusses the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC), which relates economic development to pollution. There is a definite relationship between economic development and international trade. This leads to the conceptualization of the trade-environment triangle between the type of economic development, environment and trade and investment, which remains incomplete without accounting for the pollution haven hypothesis (PHH). In this paper, the authors have evolved a framework, which is based on both the critical evaluation of extant studies and an extension of these studies to the Indian context. They have modelled EKC using alternative model specifications to bridge the gap between conventional and modern EKC literature and have combined the effect of EKC as well as PHH in the Indian context. It is found that gains of green technologies are being wiped out by over-consumption of environmentally unfriendly goods and indiscriminate introduction and encouragement of FDI raises the level of pollution in India. This brings to the fore that any country should look at growth but with responsibility and accountability towards preserving the environment and this is not different for India. Further detailed studies on FDI into India and whether India is becoming a dumping ground for polluting technologies need to be conducted. In addition, analysis of consumption of environmentally unfriendly goods and related bad practices has good scope for future research.

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