

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

The current issue of the Journal of Indian Research carries several papers on international economy, banking sector and social spending. Jahangir Ahmad Khan from Central University of Gujarat has examined the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism in Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) in his paper, "*An Empirical Analysis of Investor State Dispute Settlement Mechanism: A Case Study of Bilateral Investment*". The author argues that ISDS was initially created to depoliticise the investment dispute settlement mechanism. However, in the actual practice, this system has flaws like confidentiality, inconsistency and unfairness. Some critics have equated ISDS as a transfer of sovereignty to companies. Vedanta Resources PLC has filed a cases against India for a sum of \$3 bn in 2016 under India-UK BIT(1994). Though, India has amended its BIT regime but there was not substantial change in its ISDS provision, and no respite appears possible in such a skewed system that favours the MNCs and the richer North. Najish and Afroz Ahmad have discussed about post-BREXIT India-EU relationship. Authors conclude that as a rising economic power with immense scope in the European market and as an important player in counter-terrorism with a presence of strong Indian diaspora in Europe, India would continue to vie for heightened significance to EU in the near future.

Kokila Gupta from Mewar University has co-authored the survey on customer satisfaction of services with Axis Bank. They found that bank requires new strategies to attract customers for seeking loans. Geeta Ozwald Menezes has evaluated Mid-Day Meal Programme (MDMP) with specific reference to Mumbai's municipal schools. She concludes that MDMP has delivered to a great extent on school participation, especially among girls and marginalized sections of the society, and fostered gender and social equality in the context of India's rigid social milieu. Above all, its mission to reduce classroom hunger and provide nutrition to school going children is above reproach.

We are glad to share the news that the Journal of Indian Research is UGC-recognized journal. It is just a small team of research staff who are carrying out this immense task of bringing out quarterly peer-reviewed journal, while maintaining quality and widening the geographical expanse of contributors. We have been receiving quality papers from all over the world now and hope to enhance the standard in the coming issues.

On the eve of Diwali, I wish the readers auspicious time ahead. Just like biological clock within human bodies, festivals are the social clocks. We can enrich our heritage by adopting these social clocks. Festivities enthuse us with zeal to explore further possibilities during next cycle with greater intensity. Hopefully this issue of Journal would add to this zeal of scholars.


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