



**A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE**



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Madhurima Khosla

*Structural Changes in The Russian Economy*  
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*UBI: Old Wine in a Fancy Bottle*  
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*The Trump Card*  
Arshya Aggarwal

*To be or Not to be?*  
Sanchie Shroff



# STRIDES

A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

Volume 1 Issue 1 2016-17

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# Principal's Message

The mission statement of the College, signifying the existence and its road map to the achievement of its vision, reads as:

***“To achieve and sustain excellence in teaching and research, and enriching local, national and international communities through our research, the skills of alumni, and the publishing of academic and educational materials”***

To achieve and promote excellence in publications and applied research, the College has taken the initiative to launch a new journal exclusively to publish students' research papers and articles. It will be an add-on to the enriched catalogue of College publications and academic literature.

The journal has provided an opportunity to the students of our college to focus on research at the undergraduate level. Since the students were not opened to the research methodologies at the undergraduate level, they were mentored by *experienced senior faculties* of our College. Simultaneously, their articles were also reviewed by the referees and tested for plagiarism before publication. After reporting all the suggestions recommended by the referees, the articles were revised and then finally published. The College is successfully releasing the foundation issue of the journal i.e. *STRIDES – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of*



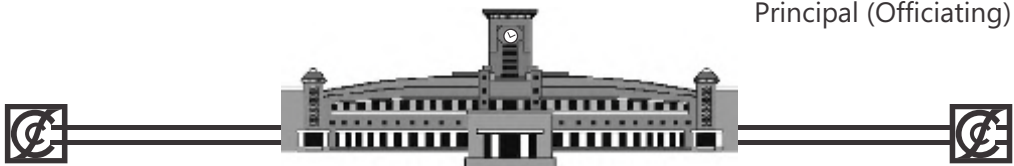
*Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17* on the occasion of 91st Annual Day of College held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The Journal is released by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

The college has already applied for *International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)* for the Journal. The application for ISSN is still under process.

I would like to congratulate the students whose papers are published in the foundation issue of the journal and simultaneously, encourage all the students to contribute their research papers and articles for the successive issues of the Journal.

Best wishes for their future endeavor.

Dr. R.P. Rustagi  
Principal (Officiating)



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## Editor's Message

Shri Ram College of Commerce is well known for its academic excellence and dedicated approach towards dissemination of knowledge in the academic world. The College appreciates the role of research in education and is committed to developing an inclination towards research in both faculty and students. In this pursuit, the College has taken the initiative to launch a new Journal named 'STRIDES – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce' to encourage students to pursue research under the guidance of the faculty of Shri Ram College of Commerce.

It is an annual journal launched exclusively to publish academic research papers and articles by students on contemporary topics and issues in the area of commerce, economics, management, governance, policies etc.

In order to maintain high standards of publication, a Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) has been constituted. The COPE shall be the apex authority to take all decisions related to publication of research papers and articles in STRIDES. The decision of the COPE shall be final and binding.

To maintain the *academic standards*, *academic ethics* and *academic integrity*, a rigorous process of blind review of

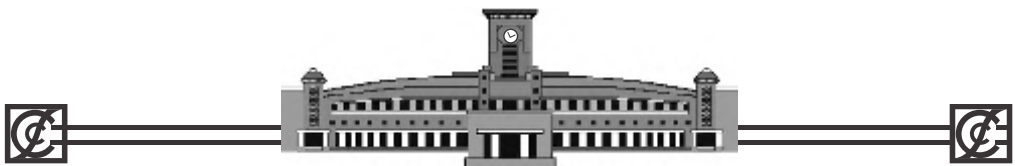


articles is followed after screening for plagiarism of each manuscript received by the college for publication. The research work published in STRIDES is original and not published or presented at any other public forum.

The foundation issue of the Journal i.e. *STRIDES – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17* is successfully released on 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Day held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Successive issues of STRIDES will be released every year on the occasion of College Annual Day.

Dr. Santosh Kumari  
Editor



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# STRIDES

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Volume 1

Issue 1

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# UBI: Old Wine in a Fancy Bottle

*The entire concept of UBI has gained a lot of stars and stares in the last few months. What runs in every mind is whether this acclaimed to be a new system is actually new or just an old thought put forward in fancy words and promises. On the face of it, the current designs of UBI haven't catered to the actual problem of poverty in the way they should, rather it only proportions additional expenditure on solving it. The question is whether it actually provides an add on benefit or is it a compressed form of whole gamut of welfares provided by the government. What one needs to ponder over is whether it's really needed now and would it reap the benefits as projected.*

## INTRODUCTION

The idea of Universal Basic Income (UBI) has been gaining glory globally. It is a form of **social security** in which all citizens or residents of a country regularly receive an unconditional sum of money, either from a government or some other public institution, in addition to any income received from elsewhere.

According to a recent Media reports, the government of India's flagship economic survey is likely to endorse UBI, setting the platform for its introduction into the system. Basically, UBI is being discussed as a solution to two problems; unemployment due to automation and poverty caused by extreme inequality and precarity.

### **Mentor**

Ms.Reena Chadha  
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## BEYOND THE DEFINITION

According to common belief, it'll solve the first problem by decoupling subsistence from jobs and thereby helping humans to realise their true potential. It'll also solve the second by providing monetary resources to fulfil basic human needs. However, things are not all gold and glitter.

The debate on UBI in India has gained enough light but what has not received adequate attention is why now and what are the 'add on benefits' if any.

Most importantly, it signals towards killing the incentive to work among individuals. The idea of 'something for nothing' doesn't go well with opponents of the idea, who fear a population that would become idle, signalling the end of high-functioning capitalism.

Also, the cost and expenses relating to UBI aren't coordinating with the benefits the public would rope in. Basically, if UBI is only about reducing poverty and curbing unemployment, then there's a lot the government could do at the fraction of its cost.

When talking of add on benefits, there are two conditions that need to be fulfilled for it to pass as a redistributive policy which it is believed to be. Firstly, it must come by taxing the rich, and the already provided benefits to the poor must not be taken away. Only such a policy would provide the aimed for income cushion. However, by far whatever designs for the said policy have been presented haven't been able to successfully cater to the said conditions.

In India, UBI is certainly not an add on benefit. It is more about giving cash under one umbrella, replacing what is already given to the poor (in cash and kind) via different channels. The only riding thought behind the entire policy is the age old conclusion stating "giving cash to the poor is better than the general notion of traditional welfare". As a matter of fact, in 2008, Arvind Subramanian, along with other economists talked about directly distributing in cash the huge amounts spent on subsidies to the poor. Henceforth, it's clear that UBI is nothing but old wine of direct cash transfer put in a new fancy bottle. The age old argument of replacing PDS with direct cash transfer is now coming with the tag of UBI wherein neither the substance is altered nor the motive.

Considering the enormous funds required to fund such a policy, the argument of increasing tax revenue is under scrutiny. However, given the narrow tax base of India and the hostile mindset of people towards mooching tax from the wealthy, this option doesn't stand a chance. So, the only way to make it a success would be to first, reduce the coverage of people under UBI and second, to reduce the amount being

promised. Logically, this hampers the universal" and "basic" part of universal basic income. In case the thought of rolling back the already provided benefits is cropped up, the citation of benefits provided by PDS, Mid day meal scheme, and MNREGS are infinite.

There's no denying to the fact that UBI appropriately fits into the current system by compressing all benefits into one umbrella, but the question arises, why now?

Perhaps doing away with PDS and state procurement of grains would pave the way for India in submitting to the age old pressure of developed nations. However, we can't forget this system would be a kickback for the grain producing farmers. When argued about the efficiency of such systems, one must not forget that these are rights based social entitlements with specified outcomes- not accidental.

## CONCLUSION

To conclude, the final question is whether UBI aims at reducing poverty? if yes, then there's a lot more that can be done like timely release of funds for MGNREGS and enforcing wage laws. However, if these tried and tested ways of reducing poverty are looked over for UBI, a huge scepticism is around the corner.

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