ECO HORIZON

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to pen down a few words for the fourth issue of Eco Horizon, the quarterly journal published by the enthusiastic students and faculty of the Department of Economics. As we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee year 2024-25 of St. Aloysius College, Edathua, this publication truly reflects the enthusiasm, intellect, and commitment of our students and faculty.

This edition brings forth a remarkable collection of articles and features. I am particularly delighted to see the insightful piece, a respectful tribute on Dr. Manmohan Singh, a visionary economist and former Prime Minister, whose contributions to the Indian economy are set without a matching one in 21st century. The article decoding the Union Budget 2025 is a commendable effort to simplify complex economic concepts, making them accessible to readers from diverse backgrounds.

The feature on the Economist of the Quarter, dedicated to Karl Marx, is another thought-provoking addition that underscores the relevance of his ideas in today's socio-economic landscape. The journal also takes pride in congratulating the award and scholarship winners from the Economics Department, whose achievements are a testament to their hard work and dedication.

I take this opportunity to specially congratulate Mr. Lane Joy, the Head of the Department, for his steadfast guidance, and the team of student editors, whose relentless efforts have shaped this impressive edition. I am equally appreciative of the dynamic initiatives led by the Department of Economics, including the impactful survey on financial literacy and the thoughtful donation of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution to the local community. These activities reflect a sense of social responsibility and a commitment to community engagement that are truly commendable.

The Economics Department continues to inspire us all with its passion for academic excellence and community service. I wish the entire team behind Eco Horizon continued success and look forward to many more editions filled with intellectual vigor and community spirit.

With best wishes..

PROF.(DR.) INDULAL G.
PRINCIPAL

EDITORS' COLUMN

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the fourth issue of Eco Horizon, the quarterly journal published by the talented students of the Economics Department. In this issue, we take a deep dive into a number of crucial topics that are shaping the global economic landscape. The highlights of the issue are an insightful article on Dr. Manmohan Singh, an in-depth analysis of the Union Budget 2025, and an article on Karl Marx, as the Economist of the Quarter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Editorial Board of the academic year 2024-25. Their collective effort has played a vital role in bringing this issue to life, and their leadership and collaboration have been instrumental in ensuring the continued success of Eco Horizon.

The continued success of Eco Horizon reflects the passion, creativity, and intellectual curiosity of our students. I extend my congratulations to all contributors for their hard work and commitment.

LANE JOY (HoD)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Welcome to the fourth edition of Eco Horizon! In this issue, our tribute article honors Dr. Manmohan Singh, a visionary economist whose reforms shaped modern India's economic landscape. We also bring you an in-depth analysis of the Union Budget 2025 and we explore the enduring relevance of Karl Marx's economic theories.

This edition also features a special section showcasing the prodigies of the Economics Department for the academic year 2024-25, celebrating the accomplishments and academic spirit of our vibrant student body.

We hope these articles inspire thought-provoking discussions and offer valuable insights into the complexities of both Indian and global economies. Happy reading!

SWATHY SREEKUMAR
MANAGING EDITOR

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: ARCHITECT OF INDIA'S ECONOMIC RENAISSANCE

Dr. Manmohan Singh, a name synonymous with India's economic transformation, is remembered not only as a former Prime Minister of India but as an economist of unparalleled vision and integrity. His contributions to India's economic growth and global stature, particularly during the 1990s, have left an indelible mark on the country's economic landscape. As an economist, his role in shaping India's economic reforms and steering the country through turbulent financial times remains a remarkable testament to his deep understanding of macroeconomic principles and his ability to translate them into policies that impacted millions of lives.

A Humble Economist with a Visionary Approach

Born on September 26, 1932, in Gah, Punjab (now in Pakistan), Dr. Manmohan Singh's academic journey set the stage for his future as one of India's foremost economists. After completing his undergraduate education at Panjab University, he pursued a master's degree in economics at the University of Cambridge, followed by a D. Phil in economics at the University of Oxford. Dr. Singh's early career included stints at the United Nations and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), where his economic expertise began to shine. However, his landmark contribution came when he was appointed the Chief Economic Advisor in 1976, marking the beginning of his long-standing association with India's economic policy.

The 1991 Economic Reforms: A Defining Moment

The year 1991 marked a pivotal moment in India's history—both politically and economically. Facing an unprecedented balance of payments crisis, Dr. Singh, who was serving as the Finance Minister under Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao, led

India through one of the most transformative periods in its economic history. The country's foreign exchange reserves were dwindling, and India was on the brink of defaulting on its international obligations.

His visionary approach to economic policy emphasized the importance of market forces, and he advocated for a gradual but decisive shift from a centrally planned economy to a market-driven economy. His reforms laid the foundation for India's current status as a rising global economic power. The growth trajectory during the 1990s was nothing short of remarkable, with GDP growth rates reaching an average of 6% per annum, lifting millions out of poverty and contributing to India's economic clout in the global arena.

Post-2004: India's Emergence on the World Stage

Dr. Manmohan Singh's tenure as Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014 saw India's economy continue to grow and diversify, though the global economic climate posed new challenges. He was a firm believer in economic inclusiveness, stressing the importance of sustaining growth while addressing the needs of the poor and underprivileged. Singh's prudent handling of the global financial crisis of 2008, and his insistence on fiscal consolidation, ensured that India remained relatively insulated from the worst of the crisis.

Dr. Manmohan Singh's legacy as an economist is not confined merely to his policy decisions but also his personal integrity and unwavering commitment to public service. In an era when the intersection of politics and economics is often fraught with conflict, Dr. Singh remained a symbol of economic pragmatism and ethical leadership. His tenure, especially as the finance minister and Prime Minister, was defined by a calm demeanor and a focus on long-term goals, avoiding populism in favor of sound economic principles.He will forever be remembered not just as a former Prime Minister, but as the man who redefined India's economic destiny, steering the country towards a future of inclusive and sustainable growth.

P.S ANANTHAPADMANABHAN
III BA

UNION BUDGET 2025: A BLUEPRINT FOR GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Union Budget of India, presented annually by the Finance Minister, plays a pivotal role in shaping the nation's economic policies and determining the fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. The 2025-26 budget, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, marked a significant step towards fostering inclusive growth, enhancing infrastructure, and promoting sustainable development. Here, we highlight the major topics and initiatives from the recent Union Budget that will have a profound impact on India's economic landscape.

Tax Reforms: Simplifying the Tax System

- Increased Income Tax Exemption: The income tax exemption threshold was raised to ₹12 lakh per annum, benefiting the salaried class.
- New Tax Slabs: New tax slabs were introduced, with 5% tax on incomes between ₹4-8 lakh and 30% tax for incomes above ₹24 lakh.
- TDS Exemption: The Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) exemption limit was increased, which will help taxpayers save more and reduce their tax liabilities.

Agriculture and Rural Development

- Pulse Crop Production: A six-year program was introduced to enhance pulse crop production, with government guarantees to procure crops like pigeon peas at minimum prices.
- Cotton Production Boost: Investments were directed towards increasing the production of extra-long staple cotton, benefiting farmers and reducing imports.

Healthcare: Enhancing Accessibility and Quality

- **Increased Healthcare Allocation: The Ministry of Health was allocated ₹99,858.56 crore, with a focus on promoting medical tourism in collaboration with the private sector.**
- **Nutrition and Health Programs: Enhanced cost norms for programs like Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, which aim to improve nutrition for children and women.**

Gender Budgeting: Promoting Women's Welfare

- **Increased Allocation for Women's Welfare: ₹4.49 lakh crore was allocated to support women and girls, marking a 37.25% increase.**
- **Women-Centric Schemes: Several schemes focused on improving women's access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.**

The government's commitment to gender equality is evident in the robust investments directed toward empowering women across the country.

Education: Strengthening the Foundation for Future Growth

- **Increased Budget Allocation: ₹1,28,650 crore was allocated to the Ministry of Education, a 6.22% increase from the previous year.**
- **Expansion of Broadband and Labs: The budget includes provisions for expanding broadband connectivity in rural schools and establishing Atal Tinkering Labs in government schools.**
- **Investment in AI: A ₹500 crore allocation was made for artificial intelligence in education, and ₹20,000 crore was allocated for research and innovation, with a focus on private sector involvement**

Financial Sector Reforms: Boosting Investment and Inclusion

- **FDI Increase in Insurance: The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap in the insurance sector was raised from 74% to 100%, boosting the sector's growth potential.**
- **Business-Friendly Reforms: A High-Level Committee was set up to review business licenses and compliance rules, aimed at reducing regulatory burdens.**
- **Investment Friendliness Index: The introduction of an Investment Friendliness Index encourages states to compete for investments, promoting faster economic development.**

Infrastructure Development: Paving the Way for Growth

- Nuclear Energy Investments: A ₹20,000 crore allocation for Small Modular Reactors, part of India's goal to achieve 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047.
- Urban Challenge Fund: ₹1 lakh crore was allocated to improve urban infrastructure and make cities more globally competitive.
- Green Manufacturing: Incentives for sustainable manufacturing in solar photovoltaic cells, wind turbines, and electric vehicle batteries were announced.

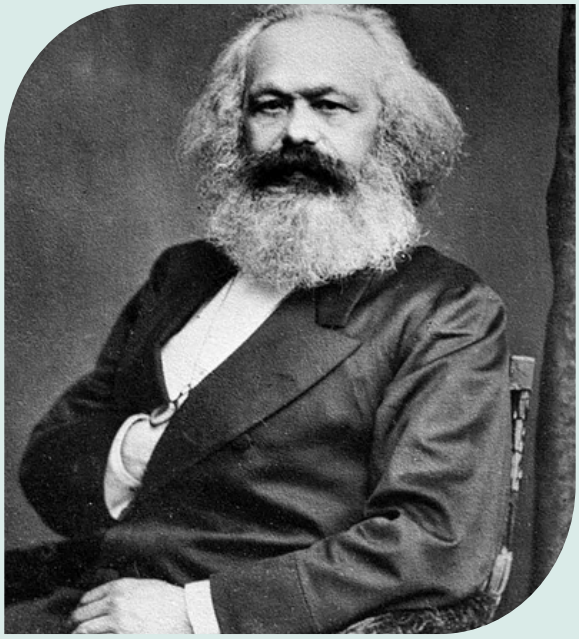
Defense, Cybersecurity, and Space Exploration

- Defense Manufacturing: Increased investments were allocated to AI-driven defense manufacturing, aiming to modernize India's security infrastructure.
- Cybersecurity Investments: More funds were allocated for strengthening the nation's cybersecurity infrastructure.
- Space Exploration: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) received increased funding for ambitious missions like Gaganyaan and Small Satellite Launch Vehicles, positioning India as a leader in the global satellite market.

The Union Budget of 2025 sets a clear and ambitious roadmap for India's economic growth, focusing on multiple sectors critical to the country's long-term development. Key areas such as tax reforms, agricultural advancement, healthcare, education, and infrastructure development have been prioritized to lay the foundation for a more robust and inclusive economy. The government's efforts to simplify the tax system and provide greater tax relief will increase disposable income for individuals and improve compliance, while also boosting economic activity. The focus on agricultural development, with provisions for enhancing crop production and ensuring food security, will benefit farmers and strengthen rural economies. These measures, if implemented effectively, will position India as a leader on the global stage, with strong economic foundations and a more equitable society, thus shaping the nation's future prosperity.

ABHINAV RAJ
III BA

ECONOMIST OF THE QUARTER



KARL MARX

Born : May 5, 1818
Died: March 14, 1883
Contributions:

- **Theory of Surplus Value**
- **Labour Theory of Value**
- **Historical Materialism**

Karl Marx, born on May 5, 1818, and passing away on March 14, 1883, is widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in the history of economics and social theory. His works, particularly Das Kapital and The Communist Manifesto, have left a profound impact on the study of economics, politics, and society. Marx's theories have inspired countless movements and academic debates and continue to shape modern economic thought.

One of Karl Marx's most important contributions to economic theory is the concept of surplus value. Marx argued that in a capitalist system, the value produced by labor exceeds the wages paid to workers, and this excess value, or surplus value, is appropriated by capitalists as profit. Marx believed that this exploitation of workers was a fundamental characteristic of capitalism, which he saw as inherently unequal.

The theory of surplus value remains a cornerstone in Marxist economics and is central to his critique of capitalist economic structures.Building on the classical economics of Adam Smith and David Ricardo, Marx expanded the labor theory of value. According to Marx, the value of any commodity is determined by the amount of socially necessary labor time required to produce it.

However, unlike classical economists, Marx argued that under capitalism, the value created by workers through their labor is not fully compensated in wages, with the difference (surplus value) being taken by capitalists as profit. This idea is key to understanding Marx's critique of exploitation in capitalist economies.

Another significant contribution of Karl Marx is his theory of historical materialism. Marx argued that the development of human societies is primarily driven by changes in the economic base, or the mode of production. According to this theory, economic forces shape society's structure, laws, politics, and ideology. Marx's perspective on history sees class struggle as the motor of historical change, with different stages of history defined by the conflict between ruling and oppressed classes. This theory shifted the focus from idealist to materialist explanations of social development and revolutionized the way we view history.

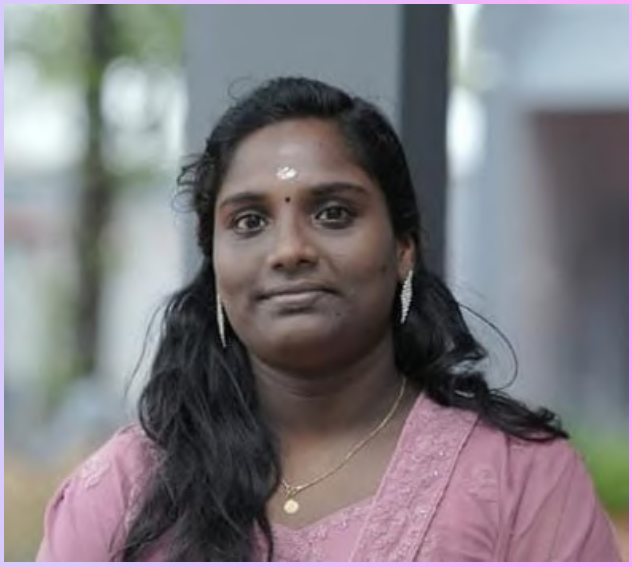
In Das Kapital, Marx presented a thorough critique of the capitalist system, focusing on the process of capital accumulation. He argued that capitalism is inherently exploitative and leads to the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few capitalists, while the majority of the population, the working class, remains oppressed. Marx observed that capitalists continuously strive to accumulate more capital by exploiting workers, leading to the centralization of wealth and economic inequality. He also predicted that this accumulation would eventually lead to economic crises, as overproduction and the alienation of labor would disrupt the system's stability.

Karl Marx's contributions to economics were revolutionary, as they challenged the prevailing capitalist paradigms of his time and presented a radical critique of economic systems based on exploitation. His theories on surplus value, labor, historical materialism, and capital accumulation have provided profound insights into the functioning of capitalist economies and continue to be relevant in understanding modern-day economic systems. While Marx's predictions about the collapse of capitalism have not materialized as he envisioned, his ideas have inspired movements for social change and continue to be an essential part of economic and political discourse.

SAJESH KUMAR S.
III BA

PRODIGIES OF THE YEAR

ROSE MARY TOMY
FIRST RANK
M.A. DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS
2022-2024 BATCH



DEVULEKSHMI K.
SECOND RANK
M.A. DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS
2022-2024 BATCH

ARUN GEORGE JACOB
THIRD RANK
M.A. DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS
2022-2024 BATCH

AHISHA S.
THIRD RANK
M.A. DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS
2022-2024 BATCH

PRODIGIES OF THE YEAR

DHANYA SHAJI
HIGHEST MARKS FOR
B.A ECONOMICS
2021-24 BATCH

AMRITAPRIYA S.
HIGHEST MARKS FOR
POLITICAL SCIENCE
2021-24 BATCH

ABHIRAMI VISWANATH S.S.
HIGHEST MARKS FOR
HISTORY
2021-24 BATCH

ABHINAV RAJ
BEST OUTGOING STUDENT
OF THE COLLEGE (ARTS)
2024-25

JIYA MARIYAM CHAKO
BEST STUDENT - SPORTS
OF THE COLLEGE (WOMEN)
2024-25

SWATHY SREEKUMAR
WINNER, PTA PROFICIENCY
PRIZE & HIGHEST MARKS IN
MALAYALAM
2022-25 BATCH

PRODIGIES OF THE YEAR

P.S. ANANTHAPADMANABHAN
HIGHEST MARKS IN ENGLISH
2022-25 BATCH

VIVEK G.
HIGHEST MARKS IN MALAYALAM
2023-26 BATCH

ANGEL ACHAMMA VARKEY
HIGHEST MARKS IN HINDI
2023-26 BATCH

ANJU ROY
FINALIST
EXEMPLAR CONTEST

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