
Editorial

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The Jaypee Business School, India, organised its first 'International Conference on Advances in Management and Technology in a Global World (ICAMT-2015)', in association with the University of Nebraska, Omaha, USA, in 18–20 December 2015. This conference aimed at recognising the importance of upcoming business practices and the changes brought about by technology, and attempted at offering a platform for discussion on contemporary issues. The conference aimed at bringing together leading academic scientists, research scholars and members of the corporate sector to exchange their experiences and research results on diverse aspects pertaining to business, management and technology. The conference also provided an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary forum for delegates to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends and practical challenges encountered, and solutions adopted. This special issue covers a set of research papers presented at the conference, which are supposed to add value in the fields such as BRICS integration and big data analytics.

The first paper, 'Enhancing BRICS integration: a cloud-based green supply chain concept', authored by Professor Saroj Koul et al., focussed on the emerging power of BRICS and how their drive towards increasing the economic integration in response to the new global challenges. The research paper explores the applicability of mutually beneficial cloud-based green supply chain system to help achieve development targets while mitigating the environmental impacts associated with rapid development and industrialisation. Data on the BRICS countries' trade potential and patterns was reviewed to get a sense of the movement of goods and services between the BRICS nations.

The second paper, 'Evaluating the competitiveness of Indian metro cities: in smart city context', by Harish Kumar et al., focussed on the need for smarter, effective, efficient and sustainable cities in developing countries like India. The paper attempted to measure the competitiveness of four metro cities in India and identified the diverse indicators which are essential for city competitiveness. The paper further proceeded to develop a framework for exploring the competitiveness of cities in an Indian context based on standardised scores; that would throw light on some areas to take smart initiatives towards the beginning of smart city development.

The third paper, 'Big data analytics for exploratory social network analysis', by Chetna Dabas aimed at addressing issues pertaining to big data analytics for exploratory social networks and proposed an experimental study. This case study was carried out for a group of members in an electronic store which sold, installed and maintained mobile phones, tablets, and other electronic devices. The analysis and results highlighted the importance of social network analysis in decision making while working with big data.

The fourth paper, 'The internet of things – new value streams for customers' by Professor Ashok Kumar Wahi and Dr. Vandana Ahuja traces the changes in the organisational ecosystems which will pave the way for the evolution of the business systems for 2020 and studies the diverse applications of the internet of things (IoT). IoT can help companies in creating new value streams for customers, speed time to market, and respond more rapidly to customer needs. Real-time information on mission-critical systems-enterprises can capture more data about processes and products more quickly and radically improve market agility. The manuscript further proceeds to outline the varied applications which would eventually translate into long-term benefits for the corporate sector with respect to creation of *new business models*, *real-time mission critical systems*, *diversification of revenue streams*, *global visibility through digital marketing and efficient*, and *intelligent operations*. While some benefits may have greater value to the corporate sector, the others while having tremendous potential may spell out slightly lesser significance and advantage to the commercial sector.

The fifth paper on 'Antecedents for success of e-commerce platforms: an investigative approach', by Dr. Asif Ali, Dr. Gowhar Rasool and Dr. Anjali Pathania attempts to examine the role of each critical success factors as suggested by DeLone McLean, towards the success of e-commerce platforms and how it can be leveraged for enhancing customer value by laying strong foundation on most vital factor. The DeLone model was applied to make a comparison between Flipkart and Snapdeal which are two dominant players of e-commerce in India, so as to investigate the antecedents for the success of e-commerce platforms.

This special issue intends to throw light on some fascinating subjects in the field of technology and management and share value with researchers in this domain. These domains evolve as new technologies, concepts and ideologies continuously emerge. The changes in thought further open up venues to academics, research scholars and corporate practitioners for their research and knowledge transfer venturing.