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- Yet Another Major Setback
- Imagining a New Parliament

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- The Inner and the Outer Domain of Caste

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- Remembering Ajit Kumar Ghose (1947–2023)

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- *The Great Tragedy of India's Partition*

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- Some Contemporary and Classical Issues of Money and Finance
- Monetary Growth, Financial Structure, and Inflation: The Post-Pandemic New Normal
- Taming Inflation by Anchoring Inflation Expectations
- Monetary Policy in the Midst of Cost-push Inflation
- Credit Portfolio Assessment of Domestic Systemically Important Banks
- Do Foreign Banks Affect Market Power, Efficiency, or Stability in India?
- RBI's 'Financial Stability Reports' and Stress Testing Methodologies: A Commentary
- Retail Investment in India: During and after the Pandemic
- Understanding Sovereign Ratings and Their Implications for Emerging Economies

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Money, Banking & Finance

Eight papers discuss and explore classical and contemporary issues related to money and finance. Specifically, these papers assess issues related to money and inflation, banking and financial stability, retail investment in the Indian equity market, and the rating methodologies of the three big credit rating agencies. **pages 21–104**

Ajit Kumar Ghose (1947–2023)

A prominent labour economist, Ajit Kumar Ghose analysed the complex interactions between dual economies and structural transformation. **page 13**

Credit Risk Management

Banks can benefit from adopting the Basel III internal ratings-based approach to assess the risk involved in their business more accurately. **page 10**

Media and the Political

Intricate interactions of media infrastructures, networks and technologies together structure the political sphere of heavily mediatised societies. **page 17**

The Basel III Internal Ratings-based Approach

- 10 As Indian banks are becoming bigger due to business expansion, it is necessary to adopt the advanced Basel III internal ratings-based approach for better utilisation of scarce capital. — *Arindam Bandyopadhyay*

Remembering Ajit Kumar Ghose (1947–2023)

- 13 Focusing on the interlinked themes of dual economies and structural transformation, this obituary reflects upon the salient features of Ghose's many intellectual contributions towards studying the Indian economy. — *Amit Basole*

Money, Banking and Finance

- 21 A special series of eight papers shed important light on contemporary as well as classical issues of money and finance in India. — *Partha Ray*

Monetary Growth, Financial Structure, and Inflation

- 23 A key question of the operation of monetary policy is its decomposition into a price effect and an output effect. — *C Rangarajan, Dilip Nachane & Partha Ray*

Taming Inflation by Anchoring Inflation Expectations

- 33 By firmly anchoring inflation expectations, monetary policy can prevent a wage-price spiral and moderate the second-round effects of supply shocks, thereby avoiding an inferior macroeconomic outcome of lower growth and higher inflation. — *Sitikantha Pattanaik, G V Nadhanael & Silu Muduli*

Monetary Policy in the Midst of Cost-push Inflation

- 42 The analysis in this paper points towards the constraints of monetary policy in India due to the presence of a flat Phillips curve and indicates the possibility of adverse effect on output gap due to the presence of Taylor's rule. — *Zico Dasgupta, Indranil Chowdhury*

Credit Portfolio Assessment of Banks

- 51 The industry-wise default risk and bank-wise recovery risk estimates reflect on the expected and unexpected losses of domestic systematically important banks. — *Richa Verma Bajaj, Sagarika Rastogi & Rhythm Kumar*

Foreign Banks, Market Power, Efficiency, and Stability

- 62 Foreign banks have greater market power, lower marginal cost of the production of bank output, greater price-cost margin, and higher insolvency risk than domestic banks. — *Pradyot Kumar Das*

RBI's 'Financial Stability Reports'

- 71 Analysing the contents of the Reserve Bank of India's biannual FSRs and the methodology of the RBI's supervisory stress tests reveal that there is scope for improvement, specifically regarding the continuity in the tracking of certain risk drivers. — *Amulya Neelam*

Retail Investment in India

- 79 Retail investment into the Indian equity markets through direct as well as indirect channels picked up meaningfully during the pandemic, and continued thereafter. — *Tirthankar Patnaik*

Understanding Sovereign Ratings

- 93 The rating methodologies of the big three credit rating agencies—S&P, Moody's, and Fitch—are scrutinised and evaluated in this paper. — *Rahul S Chauhan, Ilisa Goenka, Kaushalendra Kishore, Nirupama Kulkarni, Kavya Ravindranath & Gautham Udupa*

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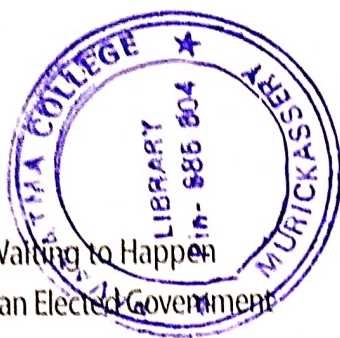
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Conditions of Delivery Workers

Recognising delivery partners as labourers and developing a legal framework to keep the aggregator companies under the purview of labour laws would compel the gig economy unicorns to categorise workers as full-time employees. **page 14**

Dravidian Politics and Dalits

The persistent systemic injustice against Dalits shows the limits of Dravidian parties who need to reorient the social justice politics against graded inequalities to pursue inclusive policies by eliminating the institutionalised segregation of Dalits. **page 17**

Russia–Vietnam Relations

Russia–Vietnam ties could reinforce their mutual aspirations to forge a multipolar world and hedge the growing antagonism between the US and China. **page 32**

Limits of Renaming

More than the tokenism of name change, women named *Nakoshi* (unwanted) need measures of reform to break free from the shackles of the patriarchal cultural practices and the subsequent sufferings. **page 39**

Destigmatising Mental Illness

Memoirs talking about mental illness can aid in considering the subjective dimensions of the experience and reducing the stigma of mental illness in India. **page 19**

Does Development Lead to More Crimes?

- 10 The claim that increasing development leads to reduction in crimes is critically examined in this article. — *Aranyak Saikia, Kuladhar Saikia*

Urban Underclass Labourers

- 14 The squeezed labour policies of popular corporate food-ordering apps in India have been a catalyst for delivery workers to break their silence and form a unified working-class consciousness. — *Sikha Das, Rajeeesh C S*

Elusive Justice for Dalits in Tamil Nadu

- 17 The inhuman incident of mixing human faeces in the overhead tanks supplying water to a Dalit colony reflects the perpetuating violence against Dalits in Tamil Nadu. — *C Lakshmanan, Venkatanarayanan Sethuraman*

Memoirs and Mental Illness in India

- 19 How reading memoirs about mental illness encourages us to get past its popular and stigmatised depictions in India is explored in this article. — *Ann Treessa Benny*

Russia–Southeast Asia Relations

- 32 Russia's relations with the West have reached its nadir following the military operation in Ukraine; this has led to a new emphasis on Russia's "turn" to Asia. Nevertheless, it is still unclear whether Russia's Asian pivot includes countries across the region or it will remain Sino-centric. — *Pham Quoc Thanh, Rafael Contreras-Luna & Phung Chi Kien*

The Forgotten Nakoshis of Satara

- 39 In Maharashtra's Satara district, female children, named *Nakoshi* (translated as "unwanted"), were renamed in 2011 in a public ceremony that drew global attention. Greater sustained state support, through educational and socio-economic welfare schemes, could perhaps have carved a better future for the girls. — *Priyanka Jagtap*

The Politics of the Pandemic

- 46 Did the pandemic produce any effect in the nature of politics in West Bengal? Despite an intuition that a pandemic of such unprecedented nature and scale would give rise to politics with a difference, evidence suggests that the politics of the pandemic is rooted in continuities rather than ruptures. — *Shibashis Chatterjee, Udayan Das*

Citizenship, Nationality, and Assam

- 53 The appearance of the Assam Accord in the recent citizenship debates in India has a historical significance. Drawing from vernacular literature and archival records, this paper offers a fresh perspective on the political history of citizenship in Assam from pre-independence until the signing of the Assam Accord in 1985 and its immediate implementation. — *Prarthana Saikia*

Postscript

- 62 *Navaneeth M S* on climate doomism and the importance of collective action; *Swechcha Dhara Dasgupta* on the culinary tradition of *Bangal* refugees from East Pakistan; *Vishnu Achutha Menon* and *P P Nikhil Raj* on the highly skilled display of fireworks during the *Vedikettu* festival, and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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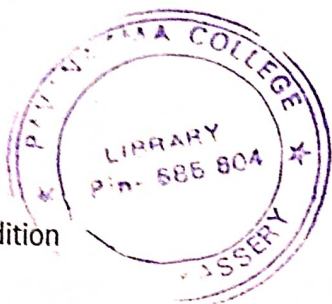
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Sugar Industry in Maharashtra

The reform policies, which started as a part of deregulation, have been instrumental for transition in the ownership structure of sugar industry that is increasingly moving away from cooperatives to private enterprises. **page 25**

NEP 2020 and Digital Capitalism

Behind the push to encourage an online mode of teaching-learning at all levels lies systematic planning to transform the education sector into an important part of the flourishing digital market. **page 13**

Protected Areas and Livelihoods

An inclusion strategy to provide alternative livelihoods, with the participation of both formal institutions represented by state officials and informal institutions represented by local residents, is required for the successful management of protected areas. **page 112**

Handloom Census Findings

The fall in real wages or real income, lack of market demand, and non-availability of proper credit facilities are the main reasons for the plight of the weavers. **page 17**

Monsoon Variability and Economy

Monsoon variability at the regional level better reflects its impact on the regional agricultural output than the variability at the aggregate level. **page 103**

Contested Imaginaries of Space

- 10 How the Madras High Court's dominant imaginaries of the contested space as a "public road" and the fish vendors as "encroachers" overlook the complexities and alternative imaginaries of space as Nochikuppam and the fishing community as "original inhabitants" who have the rightful claim to indigeneity is explored in this article. — *Indhusmathi G, Catherine Elisa John*

Homo Sapiens to Homo Digitalis

- 13 Through a systematic call for massive corporate investment in the education sector and a greater emphasis on the online mode, the education sector is manoeuvring the revival of the enfeebled capitalist system. — *Debabrata Das*

Status of the Handloom Sector

- 17 The Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019–20 reveals that the lack of market demand, dearth of capital/funds and the non-availability of credit are the major issues that handicap the working of the handloom sector. — *Pranab Nag*

The Sugar Industry

- 25 The sugar industry in Maharashtra has been undergoing a significant transition in its ownership structure, which is increasingly moving away from cooperatives to becoming private enterprises. — *Rajagopal Devara*

Science, Nation State, and Democracy

- 29 In an attempt to go beyond the formal ideas of democracy, especially the much-vouched frameworks of electoral-ism, new lifeworlds of democracy are reimagined. — *Shiv Visvanathan, Chandrika Parmar*

Monsoon Rainfall Variability in India

- 103 Investigating the effects of monsoon variability on the agricultural output at the regional level for five broad agroclimatic regions from 1980–81 to 2016–17, the analysis in this paper validates the postulation that the impact of rainfall deviation on regional economic output is highly varied and hence an aggregate analysis will not be reflective. — *Vinish Kathuria, Balaji Rajagopalan*

Dependency on Forest Resources

- 112 The dynamics between formal and informal players is essential to understand the local dependence on forest resources and the effects of institutional arrangements on conservation and conflict. A study of three villages at the Navegaon National Park, Maharashtra was undertaken to analyse these dynamics following an ethnomethodological approach. — *Aman Borkar, Bino Paul*

Banks' Credit Risk Analysis of Indian Firms

- 121 A firm-level panel data analysis of the top 200 companies of the Bombay Stock Exchange for 2017–21 is presented to link the environmental, social, and governance ratings and carbon dioxide emissions with their default risk and solvency position. The results indicate strong empirical evidence that the firm's risk of default is linked to its environmental performance along with the level of carbon emission. — *Arindam Bandyopadhyay, Ashutosh Kashyap*

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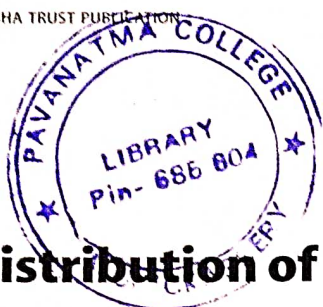
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■ **Distribution of Income in Indian States**

Given declining real incomes, caste and occupational composition, and risk of persistently deep poverty in the bottom deciles of high inequality states, the most critical concern of economic policy is the design of appropriate sustained income support programmes for the vulnerable populations. [page 37](#)

■ **Rural Mechanisation in the Nepal Mid-hills**

An examination of the spread of Nepal's agricultural equipment needs to take into account the role of macro policy such as machinery import policies, the growth of a remittance economy, the expansion of local small-scale repair and maintenance industries, and the effects of the external shocks to the economy. [page 29](#)

■ **DBT for Agricultural Households in Odisha**

The preponderance of marginal and smallholders, falling average size of landholdings to below 1 hectare, and patterns of low earnings from cultivation in Odisha raise concerns about the ability of direct benefit transfer schemes such as KALIA to generate stable and sustainable livelihoods. [page 13](#)

■ **Impact of Crop Insurance on Rice Yield**

The fact that crop insurance has a positive impact on rice yields means there is no strong evidence of moral hazard, and in the absence of which it may be a good idea to provide a larger subsidy to crop insurance schemes. [page 5](#)

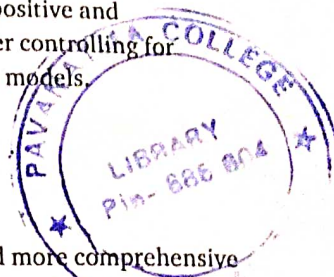
■ **Climate Justice**

The conflicting perceptions of climate justice between the developed and developing countries are apparently influenced by considerations of their respective domestic self-interests, bargaining power, hegemonic or vulnerable position, and reconciling these opposing perceptions is necessary for effective climate action. [page 22](#)

Crop Insurance and Rice Productivity

5 The factors affecting the demand for crop insurance are analysed and their impact on the yields of smallholder rice producers in eastern India is assessed in this paper. Using data from a large farm-level survey from eastern India, a positive and significant impact of crop insurance on rice yields is observed. The robustness of the findings is tested after controlling for other covariates and endogeneity, using propensity-score matching and endogenous switching regression models.

— *Anjani Kumar, Sunil Saroj & Ashok K Mishra*



Evaluating Direct Benefit Transfers for Agricultural Households

13 With the introduction of the Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme by the union government, and more comprehensive schemes such as Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation of the Government of Odisha, there is an emergence of various direct benefit transfer schemes for agricultural households. Political expediency aside, these schemes offer an opportunity to think about challenges and opportunities in evaluating causal impacts of large-scale public programmes. Using the case of the KALIA scheme in Odisha, the challenges arising out of multiple objectives, unintended consequences, and lack of appropriate counterfactuals in evaluating DBTs are demonstrated in this paper. — *Sarthak Gaurav*

Political Economy of Climate Change

22 Climate change is more than a science concern; it is as much a social science problem and more a consequence of anthropogenic rather than natural factors. Human interests and activities, particularly patterns of production and consumption, myopic domestic interests, and flawed development policies play a key role in it. Even the scientists have, over the years, come around the view that it is human activities over the past 50 years that have warmed our planet. Not all the countries are, however, equally responsible for climate change; those largely responsible are the developed countries of Europe and the United States. The major causes of climate change, a comparative appraisal of the two perspectives emerging from the global North and South, and a third perspective beyond them are advanced in this paper that traces the causes of climate change to a flawed vision of development. — *S L Sharma*

Rural and Agricultural Mechanisation in the Himalayan Rural Economy

29 Over the past 10 years, the Nepal mid-hills experienced rapid agricultural and other types of rural mechanisation, especially through the spread of small-scale equipment. Using case studies, published and grey documents, key informant interviews, and participatory observation to examine the extent and history of this mechanisation and the factors influencing the increased use of small-scale equipment, this paper finds that these changes were influenced by government and donor policies and projects, Nepal's migrant economy, the economic shocks of the 2015 earthquake and the 2015 Indian border blockade, the growth of a responsive local import and agricultural machinery industry, and the increased demand for rural goods and services. — *Scott E Justice, Stephen Biggs & Robin L Heath*

Distributional Dynamics of Income in Indian States

37 The distribution of income across Indian states for 2014–19 is examined in this paper. Particularly concerning in terms of high inequality are Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana—both income shares and real income growth in the bottom decile have declined from 2014 to 2019 in almost all these states. Across states, while Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe populations and small/marginal farmers and labourers are disproportionately represented at the bottom of income distributions, these groups are the most economically impoverished and increasingly vulnerable (due to declining real incomes) in the high inequality states. Using a stochastic model of income growth, this paper finds that states with high inequality are characterised by a negative redistribution of resources from poor to rich, raising concerns about the future of low incomes in these states. — *Anand Sahasranaman, Nishanth Kumar*