



EDITORIALS

- Conservative Judicial Activism in the US
- Quality of Higher Education

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

- Precarity That Encircles Society

COMMENTARY

- Blended Finance in the Health Sector of India
- Tax-to-GDP Ratio: India's Performance in Comparative Perspective
- Locked Abroad: Revisiting the Health and Human Rights of Indians Detained Overseas
- And more ...

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- *The Idea of a University: Possibilities and Contestations*
- *Scorching Love*

REVIEW ARTICLE

- *Ideas, Thoughts & Memories: Bengali Literary Essays*
- *Talking of Power: Early Writings of Bengali Women*

PERSPECTIVES

- Youth Identities and College Experience

SPECIAL ARTICLES

- Global Fertiliser Crisis and Its Impact on the Indian Fertiliser Sector
- Navigating ESG Disclosure and Ratings' Conundrum
- Tax Efforts of Major North Indian States
- And more ...

POSTSCRIPT

Crisis in the Fertiliser Sector

With a severe shortage of fertiliser products in agriculture, attempts to increase domestic production by hiking the targeted monthly production have failed due to the dependence on imported raw materials. **page 50**

Experience of Higher Education

Looking at diversity beyond enrolment and paying attention to understand the experiences of discomfort, inadequacy, and exclusion of socio-economically disadvantaged students is essential to counteract the reproduction of social (dis)advantage. **page 44**

Human–Animal Relationship

A romanticised understanding of the indigenous communities' relationship with nature based on a film like the *Elephant Whisperers* can create massive setbacks to the possible methods that mitigate the human–wildlife conflicts. **page 89**

History of the Bangla Essay

The task of the modern essay was to immaculately counterpoise individual desires with social demands, the personal being with impersonal experiences. **page 39**

MGNREGS during the Pandemic

Due to the large-scale pandemic-induced reverse migration, striking differences were noticed in daily wages that led to income fluctuations post-pandemic. **page 8**

Blended Finance in the Health Sector of India

- 10 The blended-finance vehicle created in India during the COVID-19 pandemic provided support to social initiatives in healthcare training and service delivery. — *Subramania Raju Rajasulochana, Diwahar Nadar*

Tax-to-GDP Ratio

- 13 Tax and gross domestic product data of 168 countries are used in this article to test the validity of the so-called Wagner's "law." — *Sanjay Malhotra, Nilanjana Roy & Balasubramanian K*

Human Rights of Indians Detained Overseas

- 16 A comprehensive overview of the current status of Indians detained abroad, with a particular focus on their health and human rights concerns, has been provided in this article. — *Muhammed Jabir, Anoop C Choolayil*

Interest Rates in Informal Credit Markets

- 21 Despite charging high rates of interest compared to formal financial institutions, informal credit markets add significant value. — *K G K Subba Rao*

Market Power and the Macroeconomy

- 25 While higher prices are a visible outcome of the exertion of market power, other latent effects need a closer empirical scrutiny. — *M Suresh Babu*

Synchronising Public Investment in Agriculture

- 27 Increasing public investment in agriculture is not translating into higher rates of growth in private investment in agriculture, output, and farmers' income. — *Seema Bathla, Pramod K Joshi & Gautam Kumar Das*

Youth Identities and College Experience

- 44 Highlighting the complexities of higher education participation in a stratified society, this article tries to understand the role that college contexts play in influencing the identities of socio-economically disadvantaged students. — *Nitika Bose*

Global Fertiliser Crisis

- 50 The effect on the domestic availability of fertilisers, their domestic production, and subsidy burden are examined in this paper. The results revealed that the agriculture sector faced a severe shortage of fertiliser products. — *Ajil Mankunnummal*

ESG Disclosure and the Ratings' Conundrum

- 7 The Securities and Exchange Board of India's proposal on the India-specific parameters for incorporation in environment, social and governance disclosures is analysed in this paper in view of the recent developments on the ESG disclosure and ratings globally. — *Kaushik Ranjan Bandyopadhyay, Kasturi Das*

Tax Efforts of Major North Indian States

- 5 The analysis in this paper shows that the tax efforts of Rajasthan and Bihar are far better than that of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. — *M Yousuf Malik, Kulsoom Raza, Samia Ansari & Santosh Yadav*

Jobless Growth in the Informal Sector

- 1 When capital is accumulated in the labour-intensive informal sector, then the economy witnesses growth, stagnant employment in the formal sector, persistent unemployment and a wage gap between formal and informal sectors. — *Rima Mondal, Subhasankar Chattopadhyay*

Guaranteeing Employment in Rural India

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was instrumental in bringing social security in rural areas during the pandemic. — *Subrat Kumar Mishra, Md Firoz Khan*

Postscript

- Nelson Varghese* on human-animal relationships in *The Elephant Whisperers*; *Nandhitha Muruganandan* and *Sathyaraj Venkatesan* on neo-casteist ideologies in *Suit*; *Aniruddha Jena, Ratan Kumar Roy* and *Souptik Garai* on the sociocultural morality shown in *Squid Game*; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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- Reforming the Goods and Services Tax

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- Politics in a Desperate Need for Dialogue

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- Amid a Legal Conundrum:
The Fate of Platform Workers in India

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- Overlapping Marginalities: Digital Education
and Muslim Female Students in Bhiwandi
- Exploring Abortion Laws: A Case Study of
Bangladesh, India, Russia, and the US

CURRENT STATISTICS

Digital Learning and Muslim Women

Muslim women students in Bhiwandi experienced a lack of digital access and poor quality of learning along with the curtailment of spatial mobility, offered by the physical access to the colleges. **page 52**

Platform Workers' Rights

Indian labour laws need to go beyond the binaries of supervision and control approach to define the employment status for platform workers, as they are largely driven by third-party contractors. **page 10**

Abortion Laws

Decriminalising abortion includes amending laws or any related policies and rules to achieve safe health services and sociocultural shift in the attitude towards abortion. **page 59**

Public Funding of Research in HEIs

An equity and diversity perspective would enable funding agencies to incentivise those higher education institutions that serve the masses and the deprived sections of the society. **page 14**

Lahori Ram Balley (1930–2023)

From among the many noteworthy contributions made by Balley, the establishment of *Bheem Patrika* in 1958, a monthly Urdu and Punjabi publication, is the most significant. **page 35**

The Fate of Platform Workers in India

- 10 With a rapid increase in digitally mediated platforms to govern the world of work, the legal existence of workers' employment status is often overlooked.
— *Areesha Khan, Rahul Suresh Sapkal*

Public Funding for Research in Higher Education

- 14 How public funding can be better utilised for the promotion of research and inclusive expansion of higher education is discussed in this article.
— *C M Malish*

Unconventional Monetary Policy in Japan and the US

- 17 When most of the advanced countries are on the recourse to exit the path of unconventional monetary policy, it is time to review the unconventional monetary policy from the lens of tool purchase by central banks under quantitative easing. — *Surobhi Mukherjee*

In Search of a More Innovative Innovation Index

- 25 The construction of the India Innovation Index by the NITI Aayog and the Institute for Competitiveness is a timely initiative that gained significant traction in academic and policy circles. — *K J Joseph, Kiran Kumar Kakarlapudi*

Assessing India's Energy Balances

- 30 Comparison of the data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the International Energy Agency for 2019–20 shows that the two energy balance estimates are different. — *Manisha Jain*

Lahori Ram Balley (1930–2023)

- 36 As a committed follower of B R Ambedkar's vision, Lahori Ram Balley (1930–2023) devoted his life to advancing the cause of social justice and equality. — *Ronki Ram*

Monetary Policy Debates in the Age of Deglobalisation

- 43 This article is the third and the last in a series on monetary policy debates in the age in which deglobalisation became a buzzword. The ongoing Turkish monetary policy experiment is analysed by focusing on the macro-prudential measures, capital controls, and central bank independence as examples of these debates. — *Hasan Cömert, T Sabri Öncü*

Digital Education and Muslim Female Students

- 52 The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic shows that excessive reliance on digital technologies for delivery of education can sharpen the inequalities in learning. In Bhiwandi, both a metropolitan and a digital periphery in Maharashtra, such unequal learning opportunities further marginalised the citizens of the locality. — *Abdul Shaban, Ayona Datta & Sheema Fatima*

Exploring Abortion Laws

- 59 Abortion has long been a divisive issue in the rights debate, particularly when it is presented as a conflict between a woman's right to choose and an unborn child's right to live. Unsafe abortion can lead to long-term issues detrimental to woman's health and psychological well-being, in addition to acute health risks and even fatality. — *Pooja Kapoor*

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