



## तकनीकी पत्रिका विषय-सूची

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**Vol.5 No.05, May, 2021**

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## Down To Earth

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Vol 29, No 22; Total No of Pages: 60

Editorial, subscriptions and advertisements:  
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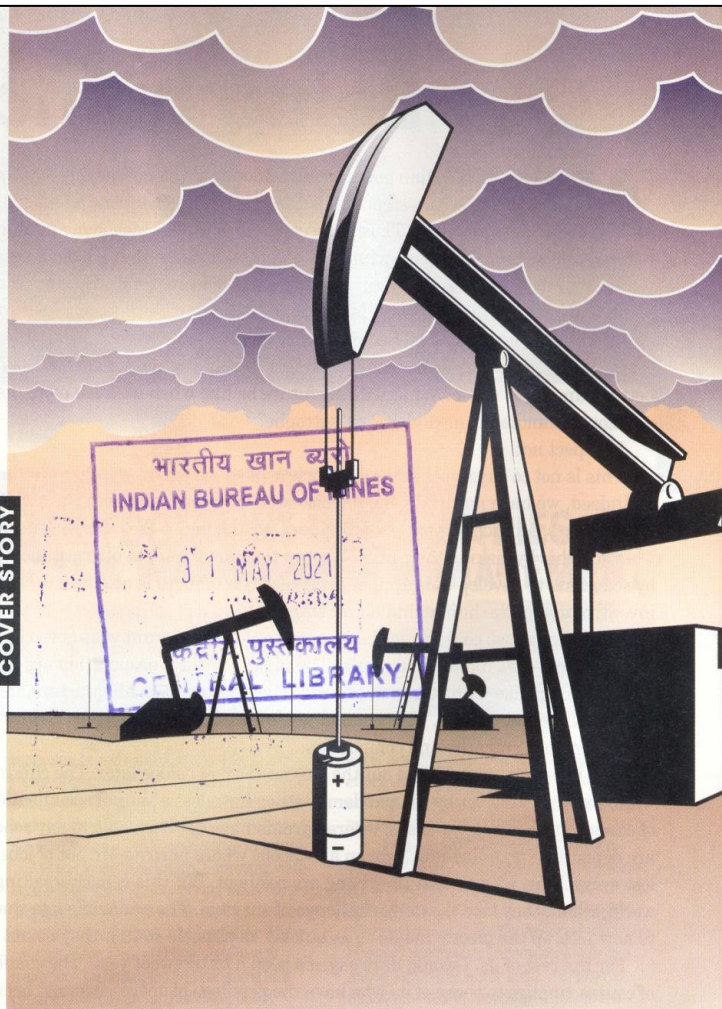
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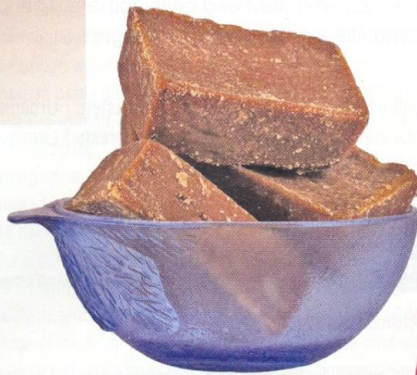


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International Print-o-Pac Limited, B-204, 205, Okhla Industrial  
Area, Phase I, New Delhi-110020, India, and published at

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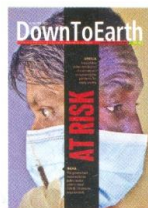
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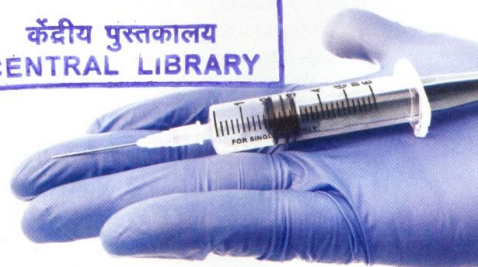
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## Rethinking Federalism

Based on the distinction made between "diversity claims" and "equality claims," a study argues that India's democratic success has remained a poor match to its federal success. [page 51](#)

## Disputing Airport Management

The ongoing controversy regarding the leasing of the Thiruvananthapuram airport to the private sector and the tussle between the centre and the state government of Kerala is examined. [page 23](#)

## Ill-conceived Measures

The article argues that the new recommendations for monthly length/height measurements might derail the existing system of data collection and management, and lead to misreporting on malnutrition. [page 21](#)

## Improving Bank Performance

A study explores the relationship between income diversification and risk-adjusted returns for banks in India for the period from 2000 to 2017. [page 10](#)

# Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.56 No.14, April 3, 2021

## Income Diversification and Risk-adjusted Returns for Indian Banks

- 10 Banks diversifying into non-interest income category are able to get higher risk-adjusted returns. — *Navneet Kaur, Dhananjay Bapat*

## Budget 2021–22: Any Lessons Learnt from the Pandemic?

- 15 In the context of the pandemic, budget 2021–22 and its six-pillar framework is evaluated. It is found that the budget fell short of what was required for problems facing the Indian economy. — *Mala Lalvani, Ajit Karnik*

## Misconceived Measures for Malnutrition

- 21 The recent Government of India recommendation for monthly length/height measurements by anganwadi workers promises to be a disaster in its current form and might lead to a severe derailing of the existing system of data collection and management. — *Vandana Prasad*

## Thiruvananthapuram Airport Controversy

- 23 The article investigates the ongoing tussle between the central government and the Government of Kerala regarding the leasing of the Thiruvananthapuram airport to the private sector. — *K Ravi Raman*

## Reading K N Raj in the Age of Free Market Fundamentalism

- 33 This article tries to assess how K N Raj would have weighed in on some of the major contemporary issues like the trade policy, farm crisis and reprivatization of public sector banks on the basis of his many writings. — *Mihir Shah*

## Professional Development of Higher Education Faculty in India

- 39 A critical look at the decisions taken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the University Grants Commission reveals the reasons behind the current chaotic scenario in the professional development of higher education faculty in India. — *Jayanti Dutta*

## Language Issue in Constituent Assembly Debates

- 44 The issue of the national language was one of the most contentious and passionately debated ones by members of the Constituent Assembly. This paper unravels the varying standpoints of participants in this debate. — *Paramjit S Judge*

## Rethinking Indian Federalism

- 51 On the basis of a distinction between what has been termed “diversity claims” and “equality claims,” it is argued that India’s democratic success has remained a very poor match to its federal success. — *Harihar Bhattacharyya*

## Kerala Deluge: Were the Dams at Fault?

- 58 Responding to the critiques, the authors look at the role of dams in reducing the damage during the 2018 floods in Kerala. — *M Dinesh Kumar, Meera Sahasranaman & Arijit Ganguly*

## Postscript

- 63 *Harish S Wankhede* on the web series *Aashram* offering a more rooted representation of Dalit–Bahujan communities, but not entirely without a Savarna gaze; *Abhishek S* on notes from an Ambedkarite cultural troupe about taking the protest site online; *Abhishek Kumar* on the online classroom, opening up unseen relationships between time, knowledge, culture, and society in determining a student’s identity; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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The Architecture of Online Classrooms — *Abhishek Kumar* (64), Last Lines (p 66)

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- Farmer Suicides in India, 1997–2013
- Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme in Kerala

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## Precarious Work in Print Media

Rural stringers constitute the most vulnerable and invisibilised category of print media journalists whose work helps the media firms minimise news production costs while the work conditions remain deplorable. [page 36](#)

## Vaccines and Legal Issues

A robust and equitable No-Fault Compensation System for COVID-19 vaccine injury would pre-empt product liability complaints against the government, and could build trust among citizens about government-initiated immunisation programmes. [page 17](#)

## Agrarian Politics in West Bengal

The nature of the dependence of small and marginal farmers on the local elite and the dynamics of decision-making at the gram panchayat are analysed. [page 42](#)

## Urban EGS in Kerala

The Ayyankali Urban EGS is viewed as a last-resort welfare programme for the poorest of the poor and has not succeeded in achieving its objectives on the lines of MGNREGS. [page 57](#)

## Strategy of Monetary Policy

The RBI's *Report on Currency and Finance, 2020–21* is reviewed with a focus on its analysis of the flexible inflation targeting regime. [page 14](#)



# Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.56 No.15, April 10, 2021

## Fifty Years of Independent Bangladesh

- 7 The Bangladesh model shows how mutually reinforcing economic and social policies foster inclusive growth.

## Economic Cost of Gender Gap

- 8 To truly close the gender gap, gender equality must be mainstreamed into economic policymaking.

## Ethics of Reading Ambedkar's Text

- 10 Why should one read Ambedkar's texts and why should other texts be written about these texts are discussed. — *Samar Kavi*

## A Performance Appraisal of the Inflation Targeting Regime

- 14 The recently published *Report on Currency and Finance, 2020–21* of the Reserve Bank of India reviewed the performance of the flexible inflation targeting regime in India as well as called for its continuation as a strategy of monetary policy in India. — *Partha Ray*

## COVID-19 Vaccines: Legal and Consumer Issues

- 17 Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement of the World Trade Organization, consumer rights, and product liability for the COVID-19 vaccines are discussed, as the raging pandemic has created uncertainties in the implementation of these laws. — *Nithyananda K V*

## The Smallholder in the Agriculture Market Reforms in India

- 22 This article critically analyses market reforms in India with respect to smallholders' bargaining position and provides insights on the ways and means to improve market participation as well as the bargaining position of smallholders. — *M Manjula*

## The Need for Saving Livelihoods for Saving Lives

- 27 In order to curb the ongoing economic crisis from aggravating further, an international fiscal coordination is the need of the hour.  
— *D Tripathi Rao, Vanga Deeksha Reddy & Ishan Mittal*

## News Hunters or Ad Gatherers?

- 36 This article provides a field-based account on the insecure world of stringers's work, which is characterised by precarious employment with deplorable working conditions. — *Babu P Remesh*

## Farmers' Politics in West Bengal

- 42 A decade-long ethnographic study conducted during and after the political transition in West Bengal unravels the reasons why emphasis on agriculture fails to benefit the small and marginal farmers, at places where farming is still profitable. — *Suman Nath*

## Farmer Suicides in India, 1997–2013

- 50 The underlying causes of farmer and non-farmer suicides may be similar across states on account of a high correlation between their corresponding numbers, suggesting that the causes of suicides may include factors other than economic and livelihood issues. — *Dipanjana Roy*

## Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme in Kerala

- 57 At a time when the entire country is seeking an urban counterpart of the rural employment guarantee scheme, the potential and pitfalls of its urban version in Kerala need to be looked into. — *Jos Chathukulam, Manasi Joseph, Rekha V, C V Balamurali & Shaji George*

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- Non-interest Income and Stability of Commercial Banks: Some Evidence for India
- Gender Politics and Public Sphere: Shrines in Kashmir Valley

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## Risk of Indian Banks

Increasing the share of non-interest income may not lead to improving the stability of private sector banks, but the diversification of income to fee-based services can increase bank profits and reduce instability. [page 44](#)

## Force Majeure and Fairness

Examination of the contractual disputes from various sectors, in the times of pandemic, points towards conditional justification for *force majeure* clause along with the instances of its disingenuous use. [page 37](#)

## Rental Housing in Indian Cities

Projects under the Affordable Rental Housing Complex scheme may not be able to compete with existing private rental housing options, and profit-centring in the scheme will conflict with the aims of inclusion and tenant protection. [page 15](#)

## Primary Education in West Bengal

The state government's initiatives to achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools and anganwadis are reviewed. [page 12](#)

## Reforming the Judiciary

Drawing upon the debates on the Supreme Court reforms in the US, Indian experience of the single-point, agenda-driven reform is analysed for its limitations. [page 10](#)



# Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.56 No.16, April 17, 2021

## Debating Supreme Court Reform

- 10 While the US Supreme Court inhabits a vastly different legal, constitutional and political sphere from its Indian counterpart, nonetheless there are interesting parallels given common shared values towards the independence of the judiciary and constitutional governance. — *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

## Foundational Literacy and Numeracy in West Bengal

- 12 The shortage of trained anganwadi workers is the major drawback of the Shishu Aloy programme to strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy in rural villages of West Bengal. — *Lipi Ghosh*

## Affordable Rental Housing Complexes Scheme

- 15 Examining the guidelines of the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes scheme and using data from the National Sample Survey Office, this article establishes the dimensions of the competition between this scheme and private rental housing options. — *Swastik Harish*

## Remembering Partha Nath Mukherji

- 20 The great sociologist, Partha Nath Mukherjee, is fondly remembered for his eminent contributions to sociology. — *B B Mohanty*

## Indian Agriculture Needs a Holistic Policy Framework, Not Pro-market Reforms

- 27 The government's move to introduce the farm legislations shifts the focus onto issues relating to marketing of agricultural products, which, though important, divert attention from the critical problems that Indian agriculture is saddled with. — *Biswajit Dhar, Roshan Kishore*

## COVID-19 and Supreme Court Contractual Disputes in India

- 37 The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed a catena of contractual disputes. The paper synthesises the Indian Contract Act and relevant case laws to present a legal position on *force majeure*, frustration of contract and contractual gaps, in the context of COVID-19. — *Ram Singh, Utkarsh Leo*

## Non-interest Income and Stability of Commercial Banks

- 44 The impact of the share of non-interest income on the risk of banks in India for the period 1993–2018 is examined, employing coefficients of variation, and linear and quantile regression techniques. — *Kalluru Siva Reddy, Moumita Paul*

## Gender Politics and Public Sphere: Shrines in Kashmir Valley

- 53 Shrines of Sufi saints in Kashmir are an important public space in the larger vacuum of spatial avenues for Kashmiri women. Drawing on ethnographic research, this paper seeks to unpack the gender politics in a religious public space and its ramifications for our larger understanding of the public sphere itself. — *Zohra Batul*

## Postscript

- 63 *Aditi Upmanyu* on Mary Hays that remains an unfamiliar name despite the recent efforts of feminist literary theory to reclaim the lost tradition of women's writing; *Mitul Joseph Koickakudy* on supporting characters in contemporary Malayalam cinema echoing the trope of the "magical Negro" in American cinema; *Tapas Mitra* on a satirical take on a couple watching, from the wings, as migrant workers walked thousands of kilometres back to their villages one year ago; and last lines by *Ponnappa*.

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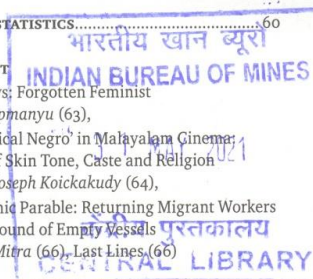
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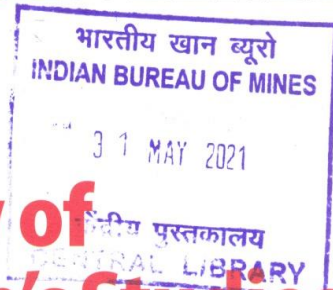




# Economic & Political WEEKLY

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- Surging Wholesale Prices

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Six articles analyse the gendered effects of the COVID-19 pandemic through state and market failure to provide for the working class; the gendered nature of the labour market; the Irish constitution's patriarchal norms around unpaid domestic work; the invisibility of and hazards faced by waste and sanitary workers; the plight of female microworkers on digital labour platforms; and domestic violence and civil society's response to it. **page 35 onwards**

### Analysing the Trinamool Rule

Political-economic nature of the "parivartan" or the transformation promised by the Trinamool Congress from 2011 is explained, and the reasons for the rise of the right are explored. **page 10**

### Valuing the Homemakers' Labour

Highlighting the importance of fixing a monetary value for the housework done by women, potentialities for reforming the family law to negotiate homemakers' economic rights are discussed. **page 31**

### Microfinance and Dispossession

Financial inclusion can only work under strong political institutions that remain on the side of the precarious workers. **page 19**

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## West Bengal under Mamata Banerjee, 2011–21

- 10 Between 2011 and 2021 West Bengal was dominated by the personality of Mamata Banerjee and the period can be described as the Mamata era. However, she committed a same-side goal in the panchayat election of 2018 and gave a fresh lease of life to the opposition. — *Debraj Bhattacharya*

## Modernity and Democracy in India

- 15 As long as capitalism in India remains backward to a large extent, in agriculture and industry, we will be stuck with the impasse of backward-looking nationalism and authoritarian populism. — *Anil Kumar Vaddiraju*

## Women, Informality, and the Role of Political Institutions

- 19 Women's empowerment in the informal economy is mainly understood through a solution-based approach. Yet, little consideration is given to the root cause of their precarity. — *Namira Samir*

## Vilas Wagh (1939–2021): Ambedkrite Scholar, Publisher and Activist

- 22 A public intellectual of Maharashtra who believed that the social and political ideas of Ambedkar were the key for the emancipation of all oppressed communities. — *Ashok Chousalkar*

## All Work, No Pay: On Valuing Women's Housework

- 31 In a judgment delivered on 5 January 2021, the Supreme Court of India emphasised the importance of fixing a monetary value for the housework done by women as homemakers. This article analyses the contemporary developments in this regard, through economic, legal and feminist perspectives. — *Saumya Uma, Malabika Pal*

## Review of Women's Studies

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(Abstracted/Indexed in AGI's Bibliography and Index of Geology, Chemical Abstracts, Current Contents, GEOBASE, GEORef, Mineralogical Abstracts, GeoArchive, Thomson ISI database (SCIE, CC/PC & ES))

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All papers intended for publication and also related correspondence should be addressed to:  
B. Mahabaleswar, Editor, Geological Society of India, No.30 & 31, 1<sup>st</sup> Main, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cross,  
Byrappa Garden, Kathriguppe, BSK 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage, Bengaluru - 560 085, India.  
Email: editorjournalgsi@gmail.com; jgsi.journal@gmail.com; Mobile: 09341264052;  
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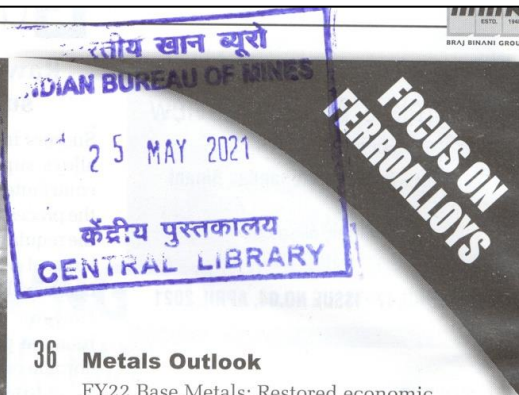
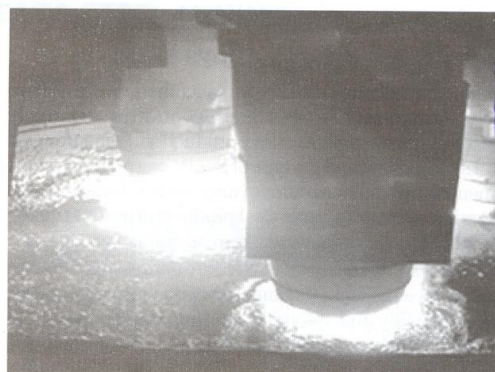
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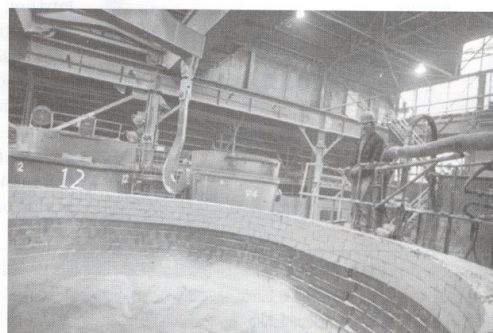
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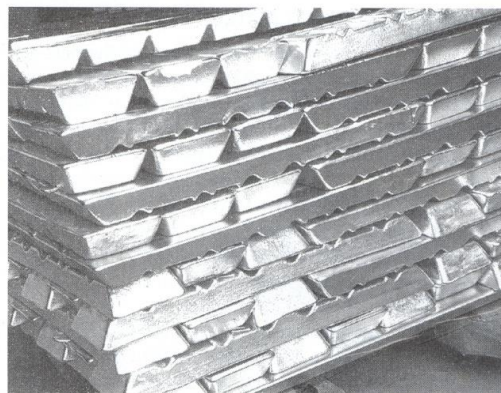
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