



तकनीकी पत्रिका विषय-सूची

CURRENT CONTENT

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(A Monthly Current Awareness Service from Technical Journals)

Vol.4 No.09, September, 2020

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- Reforming Indian Agriculture
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Taking on COVID-19

India needs a task force, an effective public health system and health surveillance rather than reactive measures to tackle what can turn into a national-level epidemic. **page 13**

'Economic Sudden Stop'

COVID-19 has brought economic activity to a sudden halt, resulting in supply and demand shocks to the global economy, as major cities in infected countries are put on lockdown, and the oil price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia deepens. **page 10**

Doubling Farmer Incomes

How a policy focus shift, improvement of land and water efficiency, support in coping with risks in agriculture, and better prices for their produce will help Indian farmers is examined. **page 35**

The US–China Trade War

The economic and trade agreement between the world's two largest economies and its implications for the two countries are critically analysed. **page 19**

India's Nominal Exchange Rate

The swings in the Indian nominal exchange rates, associated with global events, are driven more by surges in global capital, and there are no evidences of systemic overvaluation. **page 29**

Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.55 No.11, March 14, 2020

Yes Bank Bought by Yes Men

- 7 Yes Bank fell prey to faulty and dubious lending strategies.

A New Normal with No Room for Dissent

- 8 The ruling government has failed all tests of reason and reasonability in its treatment of anti-CAA protests.

Triggering a Global Financial Crisis

- 10 Whether a black swan or a scapegoat, COVID-19 is an extraordinary event that has given birth to the concept of the economic "sudden stop."
— T Sabri Öncü

How Prepared Is India to Control the COVID-19 Pandemic?

- 13 A nationwide COVID-19 epidemic of unprecedented seriousness is imminent and a full-time war-room, run by a task force with the best national experts, must be set up. — T Jacob John

Engaging Rural Youth Gainfully

- 16 Harnessing rural youth's potential to contribute to the country's growth would require rural-centric policies and the creation of an ecosystem for the establishment of own enterprises. — Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Gyanendra Mani

Assessing the US–China Economic and Trade Agreement

- 19 The United States and China had signed Phase One of the Economic and Trade Agreement, which reads like a charter of demands that the us has made on China in several key areas. — Biswajit Dhar

How Far Is India's Nominal Exchange Rate from Equilibrium?

- 29 The swings in the Indian nominal exchange rates, associated with global events, are driven more by surges in global capital, and no evidences of systemic overvaluation are revealed. — Ashima Goyal, Kritika Banerjee

Reforming Indian Agriculture

- 35 Reforms in four areas—focus of agricultural policies, allocation and efficiency of land and water, weather and price volatility, and agricultural markets—should be the priority for the current government's agenda of doubling farmer incomes. — Ashok Gulati, Devesh Kapoor & Marshall M Bouton

Weak Governance, Good Deals, and Their Economic Impact

- 43 The National Democratic Alliance government has tried to tackle India's low rankings in the World Bank's Doing Business Indicators by improving the *de jure* rules related to the business climate. — Rajesh Raj S N, Kunal Sen & Sabyasachi Kar

Relocating Women Insurgents in Assam

- 54 Through in-depth interviews across five districts of Assam, the work of former women combatants of the United Liberation Front of Asom within the organisation is highlighted. — Dixita Dekha

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- Intellectual Legacies of Birth Control in India
- Water Resource Management of the Damodar Valley Corporation

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- Women's Education and Fertility in the Hindi Heartland

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Against Principles of Federalism

The centre's attitude to the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission on states undermines the stature of the institution of the commission. **page 12**

NPR and Census Exercise

The concerns raised from many quarters about linking the National Population Register to the population and housing census must be resolved while keeping politics aside. **page 15**

Dalit Feminist Consciousness

Using the framework of vulnerability, an attempt is made to assess Dalit women's experiences of powerlessness, humiliation, violence, and exploitative material relations, and their struggle against complex forms of hierarchies. **page 31**

Damodar Valley Project's Goals

Policy measures are suggested to deal with the limitations of the multipurpose project, which was meant to enhance irrigation potential in the targeted areas. **page 46**

Ignoring Their Abilities

Persons with disabilities in India live with the twin reality of being neither counted nor planned for, and the economic toll of such neglect is catastrophic. **page 61**

Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.55 No.12, March 21, 2020

Economics, Prudence, and a Pandemic

- 7 Clinging on to orthodox fiscal prudence is not the best practice in the time of a pandemic.

Impacts of the Oil Price War

- 8 A "pass-through effect" of low crude prices is improbable given the constrained fiscal space.

Humpty Dumpty Jurisprudence

- 10 In interpreting the scope of Section 24(2) of the 2013 land acquisition law, the tools of statutory interpretation have been twisted by the Supreme Court's constitution bench in a manner little known to law. — *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

Finance Commission Report for 2020–21

- 12 The action taken by the union on some of the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission for 2020–21 is indicative of a major departure from the established practices followed so far. — *G R Reddy*

Citizenship (Amendment) Act: How Do We Move Forward?

- 15 Tagging the updating of the National Population Register, a base document to identify "citizens," to the forthcoming 2021 population and housing census has raised strong objections from several corners. — *Amitabh Kundu, P C Mohanan*

National Medical Commission Act, 2019

- 19 The relevance, provisions, and the implications of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 for the future of medical education and health practice in the country are examined. — *Rajagopal Devara*

The Mandal System in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

- 26 The decentralisation of taluks into *mandals* was done with a two-pronged strategy of modernising the revenue administration, record-keeping as well as further decentralising the panchayati raj system. — *Anil Kumar Vaddiraju*

Dalit Women, Vulnerabilities, and Feminist Consciousness

- 31 It is important to address the lacuna in conventional feminist movements which do not account for caste-based gender violence, as also to assert Dalit women's quest for and claim to universal transformative emancipatory practices. — *Abhinaya Ramesh*

Intellectual Legacies of Birth

- 39 An intellectual history of the language that surrounded birth control focuses on notable thinkers of the early 20th century: B R Ambedkar, M K Gandhi, and Margaret Sanger. — *Urvi Desai*

Water Resource Management of the Damodar Valley Corporation

- 46 The water resource management of the Damodar Valley Corporation project for irrigation purposes has been examined to reveal that illegal canal water utilisation has been increasing over the years. — *Raj Kumar Kundu, Apurba Kumar Chattopadhyay*

Women's Education and Fertility in the Hindi Heartland

- 54 Evidences from the Sample Registration System and the National Family Health Survey show that the fertility rate continues to be high in the Hindi heartland of the country, and that too among educated women. — *Saswata Ghosh, Vikash R Keshri*

Postscript

- 61 *Jo Chopra McGowan* on the economics of disability; *Sunaina Bose* on the figure of the *Hindustani Ladki* in Hindi cinema; *Mallika Nawal* on India's obsession with the male child; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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- Financial Misconduct, Fear of Prosecution and Bank Lending
- Time-varying Nature of Stock Market Interdependence

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- What Drives Transitions in Milk Productivity?

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Money, Banking and Finance

A set of five articles analyses issues relating to monetary policy and financial regulation from the standpoint of emerging markets and developing economies, the interdependence of global equity markets from a heterogeneous investor perspective, the structural malaise affecting India's growth process, regime changes in India's monetary policy, and the impact of financial misconduct on bank behaviour. **pages 26–71**

Re-imagining the World Order

While societies may be more inter-connected than ever the absence of genuine multilateral cooperation has been exposed by the COVID-19 outbreak. **page 10**

Participatory Rehabilitation

The involvement of persons with disabilities in planning and implementing of rehabilitating programmes is essential to realise the actual goals of rehabilitation. **page 12**

The Precariat Non-citizen

The worst-off sections of society find little meaning in the concept of citizenship, as the citizenship ideal remains a mirage by not challenging social inequalities and class exploitation. **page 18**

Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.55 No.13, March 28, 2020

COVID-19 Should Make Us Re-imagine the World Order

- 10 As a biosecurity crisis brings the world to a brink, a humane globalism and institutions that actually supply public goods are in need.
— *Zorawar Daulet Singh*

Excluded in Rehabilitation: Disability in the Neo-liberal Era

- 12 The experience of disability is explored within the growing impact of neo-liberal globalisation utilising an ethnographic approach.
— *Deepika Sharma, Kumar Ravi Priya*

Majoritarian Politics and the Ayodhya Verdict

- 16 The Ayodhya verdict favours politics over history and the religion of the majority over principles of equality and justice. — *Nayakara Veerasha*

Waiting for Citizenship

- 18 Social groups that are forced to live in precarious and vulnerable conditions are effectively reduced to being non-citizens, despite being recognised as formal citizens. — *Harish Wankhede*

What Drives Transitions in Milk Productivity?

- 72 The trend in milk productivity and its association with breed improvement, feeding and animal husbandry practices, and efficiency in dairy farming at the household level are examined in Punjab. — *S K Srivastava, Ramesh Chand, Anjani Kumar & N P Singh*

Money, Banking and Finance

In the context of the global recession and deepening economic slowdown in India, a set of five articles discusses topical issues pertaining to the global financial markets in general and Indian financial markets per se.

Finance and Monetary Policy beyond Neo-liberalism

- 28 The emerging economies need to practise enhanced and active surveillance of their financial sector in their quest for maintaining high growth along with financial stability. — *Rakesh Mohan*

Indian Monetary Policy and Tenures of RBI Governors

- 37 The regime shifts in Indian monetary policy during the period 1998–2017 are examined using a multivariate Markov-switching Vector Autoregression (MS-VAR) model. — *Utso Pal Mustafi, Rajeswari Sengupta*

Economic Slowdown and Financial Fragility

- 46 The dual phenomenon of an unprecedented slowdown as well as financial fragility in the Indian economy is addressed in the context of India's overall growth trajectory and policy regime in the last two decades.
— *Zico Dasgupta*

Financial Misconduct, Fear of Prosecution and Bank Lending

- 54 In the presence of financial misconduct, state-owned banks typically cut back on credit creation and instead increase their quantum of risk-free investment.
— *Abhiman Das, Avijit Bansal & Saibal Ghosh*

Time-varying Nature of Stock Market Interdependence

- 62 Employing novel time-frequency based wavelet techniques, the interdependence of global equity markets is analysed from a heterogeneous investor perspective, with a special focus on the Indian stock market.
— *Avishek Bhandari, Kamaiah Bandi*

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Fighting COVID-19

The long-term effects of the COVID-19 outbreak will not only require political will and decisive actions of the government for economic stimulus, but also the fostering of social solidarity for community resilience. **pages 10, 16**

Goal of Higher Education

Is the massification of higher education in India aimed at providing knowledge for its sake, or to facilitate the training of minds in a neo-liberal nationalist agenda of economic development? **page 21**

Dynamics of Folk Music

An exploration of Assam's Goalpariya folk form reveals that the dynamism in folk music is rendered through its linkages with the themes of identity assertion, tradition, authenticity, and contexts of appropriation. **page 30**

Devolution vs Reforms

When economic reforms triumph over democratic decentralisation, as evidenced in Gujarat, there arises a need for a minimum constitutionally guaranteed devolution to local governments to safeguard against the vicissitudes of state-level politics. **page 44**

Right Approach for Adivasi Rights

With the rights-based approach failing to amend the historical injustice of exclusion of Adivasis from their forest lands and resources, it is high time to think of their collective rights beyond mere legal frameworks. **page 53**

India's Public Health System on Trial?

- 7 A decentralised public health system that socialises the cost of healthcare is required.

Survival and Mobility in the Midst of a Pandemic

- 8 The working poor disproportionately bear the adverse impacts of the pandemic amidst the economic slowdown.

Impact of COVID-19 and What Needs to Be Done

- 10 Tackling the COVID-19 outbreak will require political will and decisive actions from the government, which should not constrain expenditures in view of maintaining the permissible limit of fiscal deficit. — *Arun Kumar*

Fighting Fires: Migrant Workers in Mumbai

- 13 The causes and aftermaths of fires in Mumbai's most industrially dense areas and how the migrant workers cope with them even as their skills and knowledge prevent bigger accidents are examined. — *Maansi Parpiani*

Reducing the Spread of COVID-19

- 16 Long-term measures are needed to reduce the possibility of the disastrous spread of diseases like COVID-19 and to enhance the ability of communities to deal with such eventualities. — *Vikalp Sangam Core Group*

Politics of Scheduled Tribe Status in Assam

- 18 The trajectory of six communities of Assam in demanding the Scheduled Tribe status and the operations of the various government committees that were formed to look into the matter are traced. — *Jayanta Krishna Sarmah, Joyjit Hazarika*

The Idea of a University in India

- 21 Are universities producing knowledge for knowledge's sake, or training individuals to fall in line with a neo-liberal nationalist agenda of economic development? — *Swatahsiddha Sarkar*

Interrogating the Politics of Folk

- 30 The analysis of *Goalpariya* folk music of Assam and its various facets helps deconstruct the conventional notion of "folk" as a neutral, static, historically continuous, and an unproblematic concept. — *Simona Sarma*

The Troubled Ascent of a Marine Ring Seine Fishery

- 36 Fieldwork in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu suggests that regimes function as arenas for deliberating and battling alternative futures in fishing and mask deep sociolegal divides. — *Maarten Bavinck*

Have Economic Reforms Trumped Democratic Decentralisation?

- 44 Based on a critical analysis of the interrelationship between the nature of devolution and economic reforms, it is argued that the latter seems to have triumphed over democratic decentralisation in Gujarat. — *H S Shylendra*

The Lost Ground: The Fate of the Adivasi Collective Rights

- 53 We need to think about Adivasi collective rights beyond the state legal framework which can ensure for them the free use of resources in forests and hills. — *Bhangya Bhukya*

Postscript

- 62 *Nandana Bose* on the long-overdue recognition of the South Korean film industry; a poem by *Maaz Bin Bilal*; *Rena S Kulkarni* on effecting political consciousness in the diaspora; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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Food in the Time of COVID-19

The immediate policy challenge from the lockdown that has disrupted India's food supply chain is to restore food supplies and the purchasing power of the poor without exposing them to greater risk from the virus. **page 12**

On Macroeconomic Uncertainty

India's response to the macroeconomic uncertainty created by COVID-19 requires more fiscal-monetary policy coordination, and simultaneous policy intervention in terms of public health infrastructure and livelihood. **page 16**

The Promise of Payments Banks?

An analysis of the evolution of payments banks shows that the goal of financial inclusion may remain elusive, unless the regulatory framework is fundamentally altered to allow for experimentation and even possible failure. **page 38**

Revisiting the Death Penalty

The doctrine of "collective conscience" has been repeatedly used as a justification for the death penalty by the Supreme Court, revealing the flaws in this doctrine's application in India's death penalty jurisprudence. **page 30**

India's Emissions Projections

The historic and current drivers, and projections of green house gas emissions are investigated to reveal rising energy use that will require strong decarbonisation of the energy sector. **page 46**

Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.55 No.15, April 11, 2020

The Yes Bank Rescue and Its Aftermath

- 10 Doubts persist about the wisdom of the public-private partnership model for rescue of Yes Bank. — *T T Ram Mohan*

India's Food System in the Time of COVID-19

- 12 India's complete lockdown has caused unnecessary disruptions in the food supply chain, while the consumer sentiment and business outlook on recovery are bleak. — *Abhishek, Vaibhav Bhamoriya, Puneet Gupta, Manu Kaushik, Avinash Kishore, Ritesh Kumar, Abhishek Sharma & Shilp Verma*

COVID-19 and Macroeconomic Uncertainty

- 15 The macroeconomic uncertainty created by COVID-19 demands simultaneous policy intervention in terms of public health infrastructure and livelihood and more fiscal-monetary policy coordination. — *Lekha Chakraborty, Emmanuel Thomas*

Ideologies and Their Impact on Higher Education

- 19 Whether the new inroads made by privatisation in higher education, exacerbating coercive inequality among the youth of the country, are a manifestation of the dominant right-wing ideology needs examination. — *Seerat Kaur Gill, Gurparkash Singh*

The Caste, Class and Regional Face of Vegetarianism

- 21 Changes in the incidence of vegetarianism across time are sought to be analysed by identifying the specific trends at the level of region, caste and class. — *Suraj Jacob, Balmurli Natrajan*

Revisiting the Death Penalty in India

- 30 The consistency with which the doctrine of "collective conscience" has been used by the Indian judiciary while imposing the death sentence, compels us to contemplate how it has been applied. — *Anurag Bhaskar*

Can Payments Banks Succeed?

- 38 The Reserve Bank of India's argument that technological innovation will allow payments banks to achieve a seemingly impossible trilemma of financial inclusion while still being competitive and profitable is examined. — *Indradeep Ghosh, Ajit Ranade*

Key Drivers of Indian Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- 46 The underlying drivers of changes in the greenhouse gas emissions over time in India are investigated using several complementary approaches, and emissions projections are compared with a range of emission scenarios. — *Jonas Karstensen, Joyashree Roy, Barun Deb Pal, Glen Peters & Robbie Andrew*

Scaling Up Demand-side Management and Solar Pumping Programmes: Use of Multi-stakeholder Cost-Benefit Regulatory

- 54 Using a cost-benefit regulatory framework, agricultural programme strategies for energy-efficient pumpsets and grid-connected solar pumpsets are analysed. — *Priya Sreedharan, F Kahrl & S Mavanoor*

Manufacturing Slowdown in India

- 60 The real value added in the Indian manufacturing sector for the period 2011-12 to 2016-17 is measured using the double deflation approach and the results corroborated by the movement of high frequency indicators that are correlated with manufacturing activity. — *Sutirtha Bandopadhyay, Rahul Nilakantan*

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COVID-19 Preparedness

Bihar's public health system lacks the necessary infrastructure as well as human resources needed to deal with and properly respond to the challenge of the pandemic. **page 16**

Rereading Ambedkar

The collective sociopolitical response overlooking the poor in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak is analysed, and the development of an Ambedkarite framework for social policy is emphasised. **page 34**

Hospitals and Caste Prejudice

A study of government hospitals in three states finds that unhygienic practices and behaviours pose serious risks of infection to patients, even as deeply ingrained caste prejudice against cleaners prevents the professionalisation of their work. **page 38**

Green Financing

A globally coordinated orderly debt deleveraging mechanism to address the global debt overhang problem based on the German Currency Reform of 1948 and the "Modern Debt Jubilee" of Steve Keen is proposed. **page 20**

Politics of Alternative Movements

An exploration of social movement politics based on learnings from activists of a major national movement and resistance against demolition by residents of a Mumbai slum **page 45**

Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.55 No.16, April 18, 2020

Indian Federalism and COVID-19

- 7 Following the principle of fairness to regulate the centre-state relations during a crisis becomes urgent.

Plight of the Stranded Workers

- 8 India's urban economies depend on migrant labour who should not be treated like "problems" during a lockdown.

Mapping the Appointments and Tenures of Supreme Court Judges

- 10 The debate about the tenure of judges of the Supreme Court is fixated somewhat unnecessarily on the retirement age than the actual time spent in the Court. — *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

Skewed Urbanisation and the Contagion

- 13 Alongside the dearth of healthcare infrastructure, unplanned and market-driven urbanisation further challenges the containment of the outbreak of infections like COVID-19, in India. — *Partha Pratim Biswas*

COVID-19 and the Public Health System in Bihar

- 16 Bihar's public healthcare system is not equipped to deal with the challenge of COVID-19, lacking in both infrastructure and human resources. — *Avinash Kumar, Manish Kumar*

Coordinated Climate Authorities for Financing Green

- 20 A globally coordinated orderly debt deleveraging mechanism is proposed to address the global debt overhang problem, and the Climate Authorities are added to the mechanism to discuss how it may help improve the situation. — *Ahmet Öncü, T Sabri Öncü*

Post-harvest Management and Farm Outcomes

- 24 An evaluation study across Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha, finds that post-harvest management plays a crucial role in value generation and distribution of crop value chains by mitigating post-harvest losses. — *Ruchira Boss, Mamata Pradhan*

Reading Ambedkar in the Times of COVID-19

- 34 The "social distancing" induced by COVID-19 does not address the deeper levels of distancing caused by "social isolation" and "social nausea," two concepts used by B R Ambedkar. — *Awanish Kumar*

Caste Prejudice and Infection

- 38 Government hospitals continue to be dangerously unhygienic, as casteist notions of cleanliness weaken the rigorous implementation of infection control measures by hospital staff. — *Payal Hathi, Nikhil Srivastav*

Politics of Social Movements at the Margins

- 45 Based on the learnings from activists associated with the National Alliance of People's Movements and participants of a social movement at a slum site in Mumbai, the concepts and processes associated with social movement politics are explored. — *Kishore Bhirdikar*

The 'Missing Middle' Problem in Indian Manufacturing

- 51 The Indian manufacturing sector, with few mid-size firms, has the problem of the "missing middle" due to the corruption of "predatory institutions" that mid-size firms face in their day-to-day interactions with the state. — *S N Rajesh Raj, Kunal Sen*

Postscript

- 63 *Aditi Aggarwal* studies the labour-lives of women vendors on Mumbai's local trains; a poem by *K Srilata*; *Suyash Saxena* on imbibing art in the silence of art galleries; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*

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A Gendered Epidemic

The lockdown due to the COVID-19 crisis has not changed the nature of the public and the private spheres for Indian women, overburdening them with familial expectations instead. [page 13](#)

Public Health and the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the need for the government to improve the much-neglected social determinants of health and disease and to strengthen public health. [page 17](#)

Beyond Legalism for LGBT Rights

The LGBT movement, having gained rights and legitimacy through the assimilationist approach, needs to move forward by visibilising diverse identities and intersectionality. [page 28](#)

Trade War and Institutional Reforms

The issues surrounding the current trade war point to the need to reform global financial institutions and to study the ability of emerging economies to influence its course. [page 35](#)

Capitalism in India

The prospects of the capitalist system in India are analysed with regard to its viability in the long run considering the current sociopolitical climate as well as climate change itself. [page 42](#)

Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.55 No.17, April 25, 2020

- 7 Civil society leverage, though transitory, works as a breather for the governments and the businesses.

A Robust Media

- 8 The COVID-19 pandemic poses serious questions about newsroom practices and for media companies.

COVID-19 and US-China Tussle

- 10 The Sino-American relations have hit a new low in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, with both engaged in a propaganda war against each other that the United States seems to be winning. — *Atul Bhardwaj*

Gendering the COVID-19 Pandemic: Women Locked and Down

- 13 The COVID-19 crisis has affected Indian women differently due to their perceived dependency and status as secondary citizens; rather it overburdens them, bereaves them of agency, and compromises their safety. — *Madhuri Dixit, Dilip Chavan*

Public Health during Pandemics and Beyond

- 17 The rapid spread of COVID-19 in India brings home the importance of strengthening public health services and investing in the broader determinants of health. — *Daksha Parmar*

COVID-19 Relief Package: Will Central Largesse Help Construction Workers?

- 20 With construction workers being among the worst hit by the COVID-19 crisis, the role of construction welfare boards is assessed, and questions are raised over the proper distribution of direct benefit transfers to them. — *Ajit Jha*

What Lies beyond Legalism for the LGBT Movement?

- 28 The legalist approach taken so far with respect to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movement has marginalised more radical possibilities of resistance by rendering diverse identities and intersectionality invisible. — *Francis Kuriakose, Deepa Kylasam Iyer*

Trade War and Global Economic Architecture

- 35 Whether the emerging economies have the ability to influence the course and outcomes of the current trade war, and whether this trade war can generate the possibility of reform of the international institutions are explored here. — *Biju Paul Abraham, Partha Ray*

Present Crises of Capitalism and Its Reforms

- 42 The future prospects and long-run viability of capitalism in India are delimited by the accentuating threats of ecological imbalance and growing inequality. — *Pulin B Nayak*

Health Insurance in Private Hospitals

- 49 The availability and spread of private hospitals in the country and their empanelment in government-sponsored health insurance schemes are analysed. — *Mita Choudhury, Pritam Datta*

Land Acquisition in Punjab

- 57 Analysing a case of development-induced displacement through a survey of land dispossession in Punjab reveals how displacement for development projects adversely affects farmers. — *Sandeep Kaur, Gurminder Singh, Jashanpreet Kaur & Harpreet Singh*

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Capitalism and COVID-19

Since long-run solutions to COVID-19 can barely emerge from outside the interstate systems, there arises a need to reimagine these systems for letting science and technology flourish without the fetters on their ownership. **pages 14, 28**

Together They Stand

By containing the COVID-19 contagion through decentralised, scientific, and humane policies, Kerala demonstrates the efficacy of participatory governance in handling calamities. **page 10**

Food Supply during COVID-19

With the PDS supplying barely 5% of India's food consumption, policies should work towards making the private food supply chains rebound, instead of replacing these by government food distribution. **page 18**

Small Business Meets Big Duty

Debates on the effects of GST on small businesses in India get a unique evidence base from the primary surveys of such enterprises facing this indirect tax reform. **page 32**

An Old Boys' Club

The additional hierarchy of "masculine" standards of performance deters women loco-pilots in Indian Railways from fully engaging in their job. **page 40**

Rescuing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- 7 Monetary and fiscal measures are needed to help MSMEs withstand the exogenous shock caused by the lockdown.

Undemocratic Evasion of Environmental Responsibility

- 8 The draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification is an affront to the environment and to democratic processes.

When People and Governments Come Together

- 10 Kerala's success in managing the COVID-19 pandemic, as it continues to draw strength from its political culture of participatory governance and emphasis on social welfare, is elaborated on. — *Aruna Roy, Saba Kohli Davé*

World Economy and Nation States post COVID-19

- 14 The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major ruptures in the world system, which has serious implications for global accumulation of capital. — *KN Harilal*

COVID-19's Disruption of India's Transformed Food Supply Chains

- 18 The government faces a trilemma of challenges—eliminating the virus, supporting the food supply chain's small and medium enterprises, and marshalling resources to face the first two problems fast—in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. — *Thomas Reardon, Ashok Mishra, Chandra S R Nuthalapati, Marc F Bellemare & David Zilberman*

Epidemics and Capitalism

- 28 In the context of the spread of COVID-19, a number of left and progressive thinkers tend to present a one-sided view of this relationship, founded on a deeper confusion regarding the human-nature relationship under contemporary capitalism. — *Sandipan Baksi*

Small Businesses, Big Reform: A Survey of the MSMEs Facing GST

- 32 This paper draws evidences from field surveys to bring out the impact of the goods and services tax on the competitiveness and viability of the micro, small and medium enterprises. — *Sangeeta Ghosh*

'Piloting' Gender in the Indian Railways

- 40 Women loco-pilots in the Indian Railways, although few in number, face unique challenges as they negotiate with masculine forms of labour and technology in a male-dominated work environment. — *Arundhati*

Implementation of Community Forest Rights

- 46 The study of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra reveals that there is need to support the upscaling of community forest rights and analyse the broader implications for forest resource governance at a national scale. — *Geetanjoy Sahu*

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- 55 *Akshyah Krishnakumar* on the relationship between food and identity for the Indian Tamils from Ceylon; *P P Vijayalakshmi* and *Rajlakshmi Kanjilal* on the film *Chopsticks* and its exploration of animal rights; *Indu Divya* on storytelling and listening to our inner narratives; and *Last Lines* by *Ponnappa*.

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Recognising Silent Epidemics

Class, region and social dimensions explain why the illnesses afflicting the poor and those in the world's backward regions are not identified with a definitive causation. **page 13**

States and Revenue Protection

A look at what the union government must do to protect the revenue of states that are foregoing revenue due to interstate purchases of out-of-GST petroleum products by businesses at a concessional rate **page 18**

Manufacturing Mobile Phones

Dependence of Indian domestic manufacturers on import of parts can be reduced by greater emphasis on innovation, and public research and development programmes. **page 50**

Gandhi and Self-interrogation

M K Gandhi's path of self-reflection and dialogue must be followed in democratic societies to help resolve conflicts and assess our approach and analysis in comprehending the changing social reality. **page 38**

Perception of Art

Artists are generally neglected, but more so in a crisis like the present pandemic, and it is important to examine what support structures mean for the arts and artists. **page 10**

Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.55 No.19, May 09, 2020

The Uselessness of Art

- 10 Art is a rare form of economic activity that has an impact on every other human endeavour without ever proclaiming its influence. — *T M Krishna*

Identity of a Disease

- 13 The intersections of class, region and other social dimensions that go into the discovery and identification of some diseases as epidemics while relegating other pervasive and lethal illnesses as "ordinary" are examined. — *Maya John*

Plugging Loopholes in Taxation of Interstate Sales

- 18 The risk of revenue loss on account of the interstate purchase of out-of-gst petroleum products at a concessional rate of 2% may not give an opportunity to state governments to lift the economy out of fiscal shock. — *Sacchidananda Mukherjee*

The Mathadi Model

- 21 The relevance of the Mathadi model of social security to casual and other workers in the present context is highlighted, and inputs on adopting its good practices in the proposed code on social security are provided. — *Manoj Jatav, Deepika Jajoria*

Saving Jobs and Averting Lay-offs

- 25 In the short run, fixing accountability on employers for wages and jobs will provide an interim relief, but in the long run we need to take financial viability into consideration and provide stimulus wage subsidy. — *Rahul Suresh Sapkal*

Migration and Reverse Migration in the Age of COVID-19

- 28 The source to destination streams of migrant labour is outlined, and it is then argued that reverse migration will perhaps usher in the greatest crisis in the rural landscape of India. — *Ajay Dandekar, Rahul Ghai*

Gandhi's Reflective and Dialogical Approach

- 38 Gandhi's path of self-reflection and dialogue among different views are the need of the time, to find deliberative ways to resolve conflicts. — *Ghanshyam Shah*

Linguistic Dimension of Draft National Education Policy

- 43 The Kasturirangan Committee's framing of the draft National Education Policy, 2019 seems to be rather ill-informed linguistically with impractical recommendations. — *Rama Kant Agnihotri*

Developing India's Mobile Phone Manufacturing Industry

- 50 Despite a spike in domestic manufacturing of mobile phones, high import dependence for parts is an outcome of the sector's weak innovation capability. — *Sunil Mani*

Challenges in Implementing PCMA, 2006

- 58 The role of child marriage protection officers, who have been given the power to prevent and prosecute solemnisation of child marriages and create awareness on the issue, is examined. — *Trupti Jhaveri Panchal, Sumati Thusoo & Vinita Ajgaonkar*

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- Gender, Labour and the Constitution
- Social Reproduction, Constitutional Provisions and Capital Accumulation
- Dispossessed Women's Work
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Six articles examine women's unpaid labour subsidising the wage economy, land dispossession leading to adverse social inclusion, gender implications in anti-reservation judgments, the working of local committees addressing sexual harassment at the workplace, the Maternity Benefit Act and its amendments, and implications of the labour codes and anti-trafficking interventions on female labour migration. **page 29 onwards**

From Classroom to a Device

A look at the visual politics of video conferencing as a necessary mode of engagement in the spaces of higher learning that are already marked with rugged ridges of inequality and lack of access. **page 21**

COVID-19 and Disease Progression

Data gathered from eight Indian states underline the importance of identification and quarantine of those who are infected in slowing down the spread of the disease. **page 12**

Peasant Life and Culture

A review of three books on Swami Sahajanand Saraswati who produced an Indian history of a peasant struggle through his memoir **page 24**

Outsourcing the Stimulus

- 10 The government's attempts to outsource the stimulus have run into multiple roadblocks. — *C P Chandrasekhar*

Significance of Testing for Identification of COVID-19

- 12 The official and media discourse's focus on the cumulative or daily detection of infected cases, irrespective of the number of people tested, confuses the issue of disease progression. — *Sourindra Mohan Ghosh, Imrana Qadeer*

Density, Distancing, Informal Settlements and the Pandemic

- 16 Demographic density, particularly in the low-income settlements in urban India, is posing some unprecedented challenges to governance for containing the COVID-19 contagion. — *Sarani Khatua*

Remaking the Indian Military for Women

- 18 The judgment in the Babita Puniya case illustrates the gender stereotypes, inequality and discrimination deeply embedded in the Indian military. — *Prerna Dhoop*

Visual Background as a Window to the Social Background

- 21 In a time when online education is becoming prevalent, an aspect of it that needs to be discussed is that of social disparities and embarrassments made visible by video conferencing. — *Mahashewta Bhattacharya*

Review of Women's Studies

Six articles examine the relationship between labour and the Constitution through the gender lens.

Social Reproduction and Capital Accumulation

- 30 The relationship between social reproduction and capital accumulation is delineated by arguing that social reproduction subsidises wages through unpaid labour time. — *Chirashree Das Gupta*

Dispossessed Women's Work

- 37 This paper examines the experiences of dispossessed women in terms of accessing work opportunities in a setting of opencast coal mining in Talcher coalfields of Odisha. — *Suravee Nayak*

Impact of Uttarakhand's Reservation Judgment on Women

- 44 This paper evaluates the effects of the anti-reservation judgments with a gender lens, looking at the potential and possibilities for lower-caste women in education and employment. — *Sameena Dalwai, Aabhinav Tyagi*

Examining Local Committees under the Sexual Harassment Act

- 51 There remains a lack of data when it comes to understanding the functioning of the local committees under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. — *Anagha Sarpotdar*

Some Reflections on the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961

- 59 The amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 are juxtaposed with feminist and constitutional principles as well as ground-level realities and practices. — *Saumya Uma, Aditya Kamath*

Labour Migration, Trafficking and Gender

- 66 The absence of a gender perspective in the labour laws and the absence of any labour rights perspective in the anti-trafficking frameworks are detrimental to the interests of migrant women workers. — *Indrani Mazumdar, Neetha N*

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- 79 *Isha Bhallamudi* on the need for healthy conversations about sex in our families and homes; *Yogesh Maitreya* on the journey of the Dalit protagonist; *Badrinarayanan Srinivasan* on the lockdown as an opportunity to be more mindful about our "essential" needs; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*

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Kerala's COVID-19 Strategy

A detailed analysis of the state's successful measures to fight the current pandemic along with the predominance given to local bodies and transparency in doing so **page 35**

A Healthy Labour Force

India needs a data-driven exit and post-exit strategy from the COVID-19 lockdown to deal with the immediate food crisis and structural blocks that limit poor households' access to food. **page 13**

Analysing Who We Are

Immigrants and the institution of immigration pose the question of inclusion of migrants in their adopted lands and the social and political linkages with their societies of origin. **page 21**

Taxing Times

There is a demand worldwide for immediate tax relief measures, and it would be helpful to view India's steps in this regard in relation to those taken by other countries. **page 25**

Synthesiser of Complex Ideas

Yogendra Singh (1932–2020) was an outstanding scholar, theorist, teacher and founder member of Jawaharlal Nehru University's sociology centre who analysed Indian society with understanding and concern. **page 28**

Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.55 No.21, May 23, 2020

A Regressive World View on Scheduled Tribe Reservations

- 10 The Supreme Court's setting aside of the preference scheme for Scheduled Tribes in schools in Scheduled Areas in Andhra Pradesh goes against the high court's more nuanced and sensitive position in the same case.
— *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

Health and Nutrition of India's Labour Force

- 13 India needs a data-driven exit and post-exit strategy from the COVID-19 lockdown that will not only mitigate the immediate food crisis, but also reduce the long-term structural bottlenecks limiting poor households' access to food.
— *Uma Lele, Sangeeta Bansal & J V Meenakshi*

Mumbai's Struggles with Public Health Crises

- 17 The economic catastrophe precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the response of the dismal public health system has actually led to the heightening of the public health crisis. — *Ravi Duggal*

Coerced Movements and the Unravelling of a 'People'

- 21 There is a need to take cognisance of the coevalness of deterritorialisation, capital accumulation and the pronounced turn to the ethnic in the conceiving of sociopolitical identities. — *Sudeep Basu, Sarasij Majumder*

Taxation in the Times of COVID-19

- 25 An analysis of the measures to provide tax relief by the Government of India shows the need to adopt a holistic approach and devise a strategic plan in respect of direct tax laws. — *Kajol A Punjabi*

An Apostle of Sociological Theory: Yogendra Singh (1932–2020)

- 28 A student and fellow sociologist reminisces about Yogendra Singh, a distinguished scholar and theorist, and a founding member of sociology centres at the University of Rajasthan and Jawaharlal Nehru University.
— *K L Sharma*

COVID-19, Public Health System and Local Governance in Kerala

- 35 Kerala has been successful in containing COVID-19 and in achieving a low rate of spread, high recovery, and low fatality. — *T M Thomas Isaac, Rajeev Sadanandan*

Community Self-governance in Education

- 41 The struggles for self-determination and self-governance by Adivasis have provided ample legal space to alter the present governance in education to democratise and establish community self-governance in education.
— *C R Bijoy*

Access to Credit in Eastern India

- 46 The impact of access to credit on the economic well-being of agricultural households is empirically evaluated using a large, farm-level data set from eastern Indian states. — *Anjani Kumar, Vinay K Sonkar & Sunil Saroj*

Revisiting Open Defecation

- 55 The results from a late 2018 survey that revisited households from a 2014 survey in four states—Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh—show that open defecation remains very common in these four states.
— *Aashish Gupta, Nazar Khalid, Devashish Deshpande, Payal Hathi, Avani Kapur, Nikhil Srivastav, Sangita Vyas, Dean Spears & Diane Coffey*

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Closing the Gaps for MSMEs

Measures that will help this priority sector tide over the lockdown crisis are suggested, and its changed definition in the relief package is analysed. **page 10**

Saving Lives and Livelihoods

A clear strategy is outlined for dealing with the virus and the economy, and for identifying industries and areas where limited economic activities can resume. **page 38**

Controlling Medical Inflation

A regulatory mechanism is needed for the dominant private healthcare sector that induces inflationary pressure on household costs and potentially on the government health budget through the insurance route. **page 18**

Reimagining the Labour Market

If stringent labour laws are the cause of underdevelopment in certain regions, what explains the abysmal condition of labour in the more developed regions where investment is much more? **page 33**

No 'Factory Reset Buttons'

There is much speculation about how the post-pandemic world will be, but capitalism, or healthcare, or the environment is not an object-like system with specific principles that can be changed at will. **page 63**

The Elusive Home

- 7 Do Indian states have the political will to make the return migrants feel at "home"?

Fortifying Investors' Interests

- 8 The government's stimulus package, by prioritising foreign and private capital, undercuts the significance of self-reliance.

Examining the COVID-19 Relief Package for MSMEs

- 10 The COVID-19 relief package for micro, small and medium enterprises and the changes to the defining criteria for MSMEs are examined. — *Sangeeta Ghosh*

A Gender-responsive Policy and Fiscal Response to the Pandemic

- 14 It is important to include women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex+ in government policy and the fiscal response to the ongoing health crisis. — *Jashodhara Dasgupta, Sona Mitra*

Role of the Private Sector in Escalating Medical Inflation

- 18 Analysing 75th round NSS data, it is found that treatment costs in private commercial hospitals as well as in private charitable hospitals are manifold compared to public facilities. — *Pritam Datta, Chetana Chaudhuri*

Paradox of a Supply Constrained Keynesian Equilibrium

- 22 This article looks at the possible impact on prices and discusses the implications of select policy interventions for a "supply-constrained" Keynesian equilibrium. — *Dipankar Dasgupta, Meenakshi Rajeev*

Labour Law Changes: Innocuous Mistakes or Sleight of Hand?

- 33 The changes in labour laws announced during the lockdown period in several states reflect a lack of concern for the highest unemployment seen in the past 45 years and the large number of workers returning back to an economy ravaged by agrarian distress. — *Atul Sood, Paaritosh Nath*

Lives and Livelihood: An Exit Strategy from Lockdown

- 38 A road map for resuming limited economic activities with necessary precautions in certain industries that can lessen economic pain, given the prevailing situation, has been drawn up in this paper. — *Partha Chatterjee, Soma Dey & Shweta Jain*

Rapid Growth of Private Universities

- 45 Based on higher education enrolment data from the All India Survey on Higher Education, the social and academic character of universities is studied to understand the consequences of the rapid growth of private universities. — *Anirban Sengupta*

From Field Diaries to Institutional(ised) Authorship

- 53 The ways in which three doctoral scholars engaged in ethnographic research in differing social worlds are explored here, raising important questions about the dilemmas of authoring social worlds. — *Anupama Mahajan, Krupa Rajangam & Savitha Suresh Babu*

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- 63 *A P Ashwin Kumar* on understanding social systems and the calls to overhaul them in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; *Varsha Gopal* on Pixação as a visual art form born from resistance in São Paulo; *Madhumati Dutta* on life at the threshold of the COVID-19 pandemic; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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The Virtue of Maithri

B R Ambedkar argued that the state, even when acting at the behest of the poorest, must ensure that its authority does not settle into permanent coercion. **page 10**

Women Farmers and the Lockdown

Women cultivators across 14 districts in Maharashtra share their concerns, among others, about access to institutional credit and enrolment in employment guarantee scheme. **page 15**

Online Teaching and the Home

The feminine world of domestic work must always adjust to the supposed "impersonal" masculinity of the world of "productive" work, but the latter will not adjust to the needs of domesticity. **page 19**

The Virus of Racism

An examination of the rise of racial discrimination in two largest democracies of the world and how it can hinder the collective fight against the pandemic **page 21**

Workings of PM-KISAN Scheme

A study based on the effect of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme on 1,406 farmers of Uttar Pradesh examines its implementation, role in the adoption of modern technologies, and benefits. **page 49**

Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.55 No.23, June 06, 2020

Employment Insecurities in the Service Sector

- 7 Employers' strategies of pushing lay-offs and labour reforms intensify the precarity of employment.

Migration Commission

- 8 The Migration Commission must listen to the workers' voices and their concerns.

Of Whales and Wheels: Buddhist Lessons in Democracy

- 10 For B R Ambedkar, Buddha's dhamma embodied an ethics of restraint and a sense of *maithri* that the state should adhere to. — V Geetha

Digital Global Warming

- 12 We are producing an enormous amount of "invisible" digital waste, which will lead to a new kind of global warming that we call digital global warming. — Sekhar Sarukkai, Sundar Sarukkai

Locked in a Crisis: Concerns of Rural Women

- 15 This article is based on the documentation of issues faced by women farmers across 14 districts of the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions of Maharashtra that the present pandemic has exposed. — Seema Kulkarni

What Is So Wrong with Online Teaching?

- 19 A university teacher assesses what is wrong in visualising the online space as a place for regular education in the context of the pandemic. — Saumyajit Bhattacharya

COVID-19 Pandemic and Racism in the United States and India

- 21 This article examines the rise of racial discrimination in the United States and India, and argues that the stigmatisation of a certain race triggers racial division and hinders the collective fight against the pandemic. — Nehginpao Kipgen

Understanding Citizenship and Refugees' Status in India

- 31 This article seeks to argue that India's kindness for some refugee communities and ignorant behaviour for Muslim refugees has raised doubts on its way of refugee dealings, and has posed questions on the very secular face of the Indian state. — Prachi Raj

Use of Algorithmic Techniques for Law Enforcement

- 35 In the light of the possibility of state regulation and surveillance of social media, the proposed use of the technique of sentiment analysis of social media data to guide actions of law enforcement agencies merits close scrutiny. — Hans Varghese Mathews, Amber Sinha

The Naga Homeland Movement

- 43 This article is a critical endeavour to understand and (re)imagine the relevance of Naga homeland politics in the light of its expectations in the neo-liberal era. — Kedilezo Kikhi

PM-KISAN and the Adoption of Modern Agricultural Technologies

- 49 This study, based on 1,406 farmers of Uttar Pradesh, examines the differential impact of the PM-KISAN scheme on the Krishi Vigyan Kendra beneficiaries. — Deepak Varshney, Pramod Kumar Joshi, Devesh Roy & Anjani Kumar

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The Kerala Experience

People's participation led by empowered local governments and a strong public sector in health and education are the most effective ways to fight a pandemic like COVID-19. **page 11**

Parliaments during Pandemics

Unlike India's Parliament, several parliaments across the world are committed to meet on set dates through the year and have switched to virtual or hybrid sessions. **page 14**

Enrolment in Higher Education

An eligible enrolment ratio is proposed as a more judicious measurement to measure the access to higher education, as it focuses on eligibility and optimises the precision of the indicator. **page 34**

Return Migration to Bihar

As one of the topmost states of origin for migrant workers, Bihar needs to tackle its unemployment rate and increasing landlessness by generating farm and non-farm employment. **page 21**

The Power of Fiction

Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year* describes the horrors of the Great Plague of London in 1665 and shows fiction's ability to tell the timeless truths of life. **page 64**

Economic & Political Weekly, Vol.55 No.24, June 13, 2020

Exiting the Lockdown Sustainably

- 10 To lockdown or "open up the economy" is a false dichotomy.
— *Avinash Persaud*

Challenges in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 11 Kerala's experience shows how public investment in healthcare and a participatory mode of governance with empowered local governments can help in pandemic mitigation. — *Pinarayi Vijayan*

Parliaments in the Time of the Pandemic

- 14 Taking a cue from the parliaments worldwide that are functional during the pandemic, modalities to ensure the functioning of parliamentary institutions need to be devised. — *Maansi Verma*

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- 18 Enabling people to identify unscientific claims and hoaxes is the way forward to build rational immunity to halt the infectious spread of misinformation.
— *Aniket Sule*

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- 21 The return migration to Bihar in the wake of COVID-19 necessitates that the state generate farm and non-farm employment to address the crisis situation.
— *Avinash Kumar, Manish Kumar*

Economic Implication of a Novel Disease Outbreak

- 25 It has become highly imperative to invest in total epidemic preparedness involving health and non-health interventions, research and development as well as capacity building at all levels. — *Unmilan Kalita, Arup Kumar Hazarika, Rajiv Kumar Bora, Subhash Khanna & Tapash Kumar Barman*

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- 27 Recurrent droughts in Tamil Nadu necessitate that its waterbodies be restored and protected, and encroachments are removed. — *S Rajendran*

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- 34 It is proposed that the eligible enrolment ratio could be a better indicator to measure the level of participation in education instead of the gross enrolment ratio, as highlighted by a study of five-year data of 10 different countries.
— *Pankaj Mittal, Anjali Radkar, Anitha Kurup, Ashwani Kharola & Bhushan Patwardhan*

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- 38 The FRA's success has been limited, as it has been unable to fully take into account specific histories, socio-economic conditions, and political discourses of conservation advocates and Adivasi rights activists. — *Priya Gupta*

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- 46 The analysis provides an assessment of the domestic and global implications of the negative interest rate policy and how it differs from that of quantitative easing. — *Abhishek Anand, Lekha Chakraborty*

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- 57 A response to Srirupa Bhattacharya's article "Groundwater, Gurus, and Governmentality: Seva in the Neo-liberal Development Regime in India" (EPW, 10 August 2019) — *Sachin Tiwale*

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- 8 The media regurgitates learned biases when reporting on people with mental health disorders.

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- 10 India's management of the COVID-19 global pandemic has been marked by excessive centralisation, lawless lawmaking and non-consultative decision-making processes at the union-government level.
—Alok Prasanna Kumar

Procedural Rationality in the Time of COVID-19

- 13 In complex situations like the current global pandemic, where Knightian uncertainty plays a big role, the behaviour of countries, sectors of the economy, and individuals may be characterised by procedural rationality.
—Utteyo Dasgupta, Chandan Kumar Jha & Sudipta Sarangi

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- 16 Policy and practice related to water management have failed to create inclusive solutions due to blinkered disciplinary thinking about a resource that plays multiple sociocultural, environmental, economic and ecological roles.
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- 19 A critical reading of the Greek tragedy *Oedipus Rex* with a focus on the protagonist as a ruler overseeing a city under a plague is illuminating for our times. —Maaz Bin Bilal

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- 21 Some characteristics of the contemporary phase of global neo-liberalism in light of the recent coup organised by the extreme right-wing forces in Bolivia against the leftist President Evo Morales in 2019 are examined.
—Tathagatan Ravindran

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- 25 A Vaidyanathan was a stalwart among social scientists and has made distinguished contributions to several branches of economics: agriculture and irrigation, water management, data analysis and development policy.
—V K Natraj

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- 34 During the 1918–19 Spanish flu in India, the letters and utterances of Mohandas Gandhi give some clues as to why he may have been numb to what was transpiring around him. —Thomas Weber, Dennis Dalton

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- 8 Respect for the party workers' efforts is the pre-eminent condition to realise inner-party democracy.

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- 10 The COVID-19 pandemic is stretching the contradictions of the present economic arrangements to the limits, making change inevitable.
— K N Harilal

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- 15 The significant spatial spillover effect of the pandemic across the wards of the city is likely to make the exit from the enforced lockdown a major challenge.
— Ajit Karnik

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- 21 The article explores various methodologies of estimating the relation between population density and COVID-19 cases to suggest that deaths per million may not be a sound indicator as a guide to public policy.
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- 23 Massive online education without addressing the huge access gap and disparities in digital infrastructure would be exclusionary and exacerbate existing socio-economic disparities. — Bheemeshwar Reddy A, Sunny Jose & R Vaidehi

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- 33 This article aims to study the global trade-union initiatives and their efforts besides understanding the journey of global union federations in wading through the forked challenges posed by globalisation and nationalism.
— Santanu Sarkar

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- 40 India's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is linked to its abandonment of the welfare state, marginalisation of the public good principle and collapse and fragmentation of the public health system. — Sourindra Mohan Ghosh, Imrana Qadeer

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- 49 An integrated reading of Gandhi's ideas, images, personal life, and political activities, at times, inflicts considerable damage to the understanding of his thoughts. — Samiksha Goyal, Nirmalangshu Mukherji

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- 56 The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has been touted as an important tool to achieve universal health coverage, but there is still no clarity regarding the financial implications of this scheme. — Indrani Gupta, Samik Chowdhury, Abhijit Roy & Ramandeep

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Phone: 91-033-2465-8581/9406
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Subscription Rate

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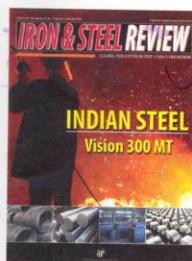
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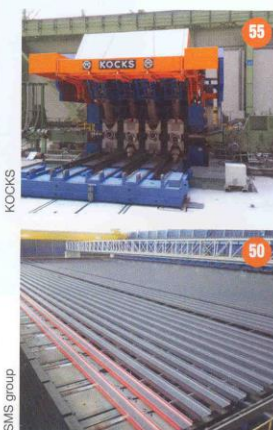
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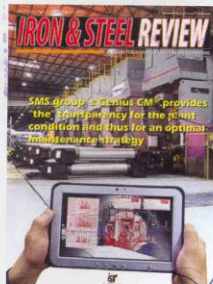
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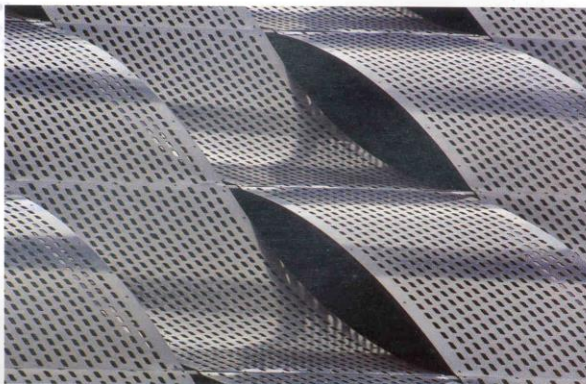
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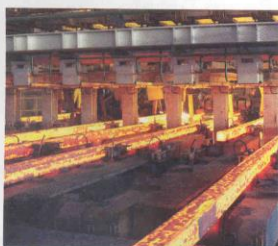
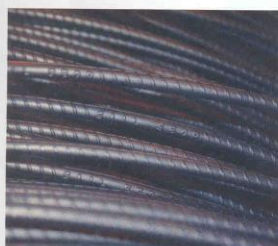
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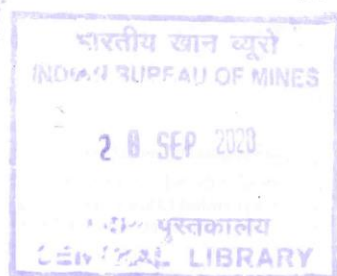
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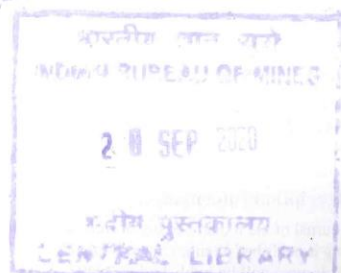
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INCORPORATING INDIAN MINING JOURNAL (II ISSN 0022-2755)

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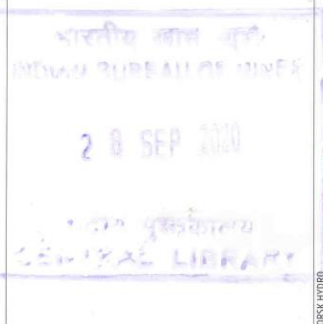
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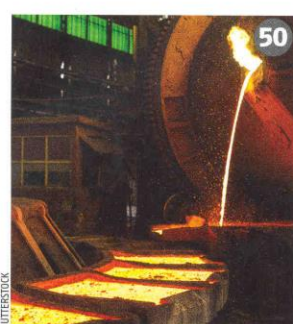
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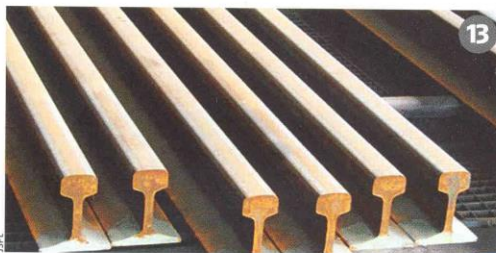
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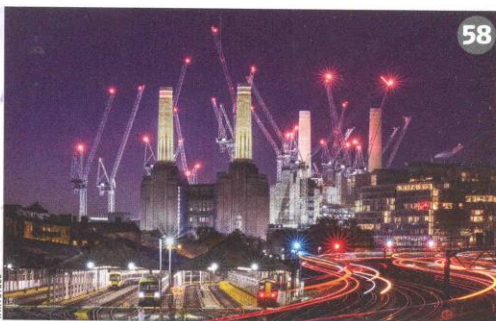
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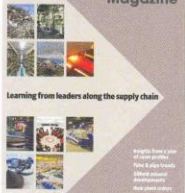
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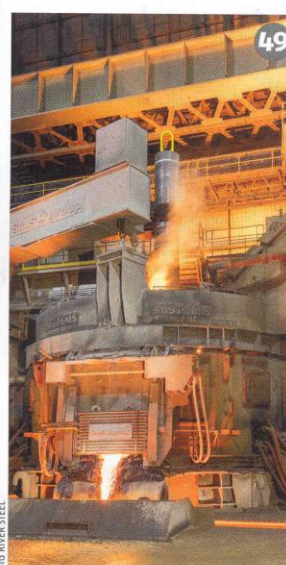
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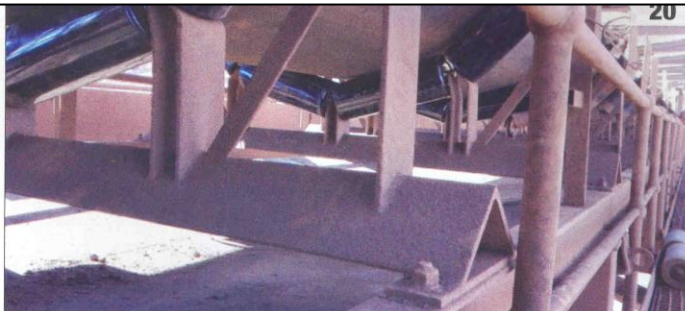
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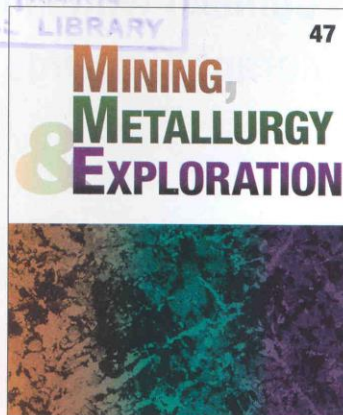
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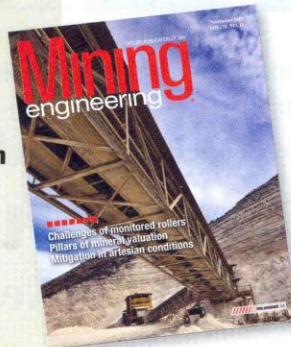
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The failure of a single roller on a conveyor belt can lead to costly shutdowns. A team from ULMA Conveyor Components has been working since 2012 to utilize technology to monitor rollers in harsh conditions. J. Perlacia writes about the findings on page 20. The International Mineral Valuation (IMVAL) Committee develops strategies for conducting mineral valuations. On page 33, F.L. Pirkle and W.C. Bagby explain the three pillars of mineral valuation. In Glenrock, WY, a legacy of coal mining has led to flooding and subsidence issues. A team from Brierley Associates was tasked with mitigating the old mine workings in unique artesian conditions, see the story on page 40. Cover image, Shutter Stock.

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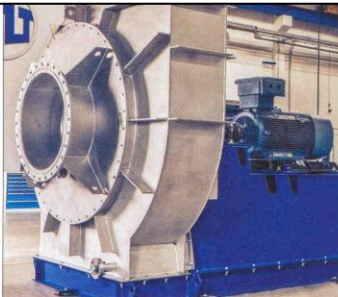
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In This Issue

Water management for mining companies around the world is critical. Many companies are mandated by their membership in the International Council on Mining and Metals to comply with best practice framework for sustainability. On page 26, Dennis Gibson and his coauthors write about enhancing sustainability through the optimization of water systems. The shift to battery electric vehicles in underground mining has led to improved air quality and productivity. Franck Boudreault writes about the growth of electric vehicles in mining on page 34. SME Managing Technical Editor Chee Theng took part in a short course offered at the Colorado School of Mines, and she provides a day-by-day recap on page 40. Cover photo courtesy of Black & Veatch.

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Aftermath of a disaster: a year on

While writing this, it's been almost a year to the day since a tailings dam at Vale's Córrego do Feijão iron ore mine in Brumadinho, Brazil, ruptured and spilled mine waste into the surrounding environment, killing more than 250 people.

The catastrophic event certainly hasn't been forgotten, and much work still remains to be done to find the real causes of the dam burst. In an internal report put together by independent counsel to the company, Vale outlined heavy seasonal rain, poor drainage and a brittle wall structure as contributing factors to the failure.

To mark the anniversary of the collapse, a group of 350 people, calling themselves the 'Movement of People Affected by Dam Collapses', also set out on a 300-kilometre march from Belo Horizonte to Brumadinho.

State prosecutors in Brazil have also brought murder and environmental charges against Vale and the tailings dam's safety auditor TÜV SÜD. Former Vale chief executive Fabio Schvartsman is among the 16 people facing homicide charges.

The Global Tailings Review, working on a global tailings standard, finished the consultation phase of its draft at the end of 2019, and the aim is still to publish the final standard in 2020.

"A draft standard, which was the culmination of an initial research phase, was shared globally for public consultation in November 2019," said Bruno Oberle, chair of the Global Tailings Review, in a statement.

"With the consultation conducted online in seven languages, and through in-person consultation in Kazakhstan, China, Chile, Ghana, South Africa and Australia, many constructive and helpful insights were received from a wide variety of stakeholders.

"We are currently in the process of analysing the comprehensive feedback received and balancing diverse stakeholder views to strengthen the standard."

Moreover, environmental organisation GRID-Arendal, which is part of the Investor Mining and Tailings Safety Initiative, has launched the world's first global database of tailings storage facilities.

"This portal could save lives," said Professor Baker, who is senior expert at GRID-Arendal globally. "Tailings dams are getting bigger and bigger. Mining companies have found most of the highest-grade ores and are now mining lower-grade ones, which create more waste. With this information, the entire industry can work towards reducing dam failures in the future."

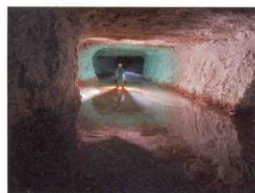
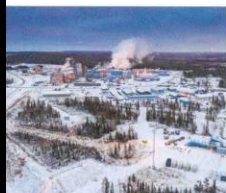
Talking to consultants, engineers and contractors for this mining services-focused issue also brought home how incidents like this affect all levels of the industry. While technology and equipment suppliers have been working on tailings storage and management solutions for years now – seeing as this wasn't the first nor will it probably be the last tailings dam failure to unsettle the industry – some are still in the pilot stage or waiting for full commercialisation.

In this issue, we have also announced the winners of the 2019 Mining Magazine Awards, and it seemed only appropriate to highlight a technology, and the two companies behind it, that could make a difference in tailings dam monitoring and management. Accordingly, the Editor's Award this time goes to Inmarsat and Knight Piésold UK, which have combined IoT technology with consultancy to offer a new approach to the way tailings dams are currently audited and managed.

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"The entire industry can work towards reducing dam failures in the future"



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The Carlson Cavity Auto-scanning Laser System (C-ALS) Gyro is a unique specialized, underground, laser cavity-monitoring system that enables the mapping of previously inaccessible parts of mines. The C-ALS Gyro system can be used to increase operation and exploration safety, assess risks, and design solutions. With the system's internal gyro, the C-ALS Gyro probe is able to orient itself upon a brief calibration prior to deployment. Operators can view recorded data in real time and incorporate it with future mine planning. Learn more at: <http://info.carlsonsw.com/cals-gyro>

Do the right thing

It is an interesting time to be talking to companies within the mining sector, whether this is miners, OEMs or service providers. Conversations often – without much prompting – turn to the sustainability credentials of projects, social implications and climate strategies.

ESG talk, of course, has been around for ages, but more on the sidelines rather than front and centre. It's no longer the realm of activists alone; mining houses, METS providers, investors and other stakeholders have joined the chorus.

Swedish mining company LKAB's senior vice president for market and technology Markus Petäjäniemi believes that the topic of carbon-dioxide emissions, while always there in the background, is now a focal point.

"We need to decrease our emissions," he confirms. "It's becoming more and more urgent that we need to do things around the world. That's why we decided on the LKAB board, and it's also committed on the Swedish government level, that we need to speak to the 2030 agenda [for sustainable development] commitments."

Nonetheless, according to a recent report from US consulting firm McKinsey on 'Climate risk and decarbonization in mining', the mining industry has only just started to set goals for emissions reduction.

"Current targets published by mining companies range from 0 to 30 per cent by 2030, far below the Paris Agreement goals," authors Lindsay Delevingne, Will Glazener, Liesbet Grégoir and Kimberly Henderson write.

Importantly, when scrutinising the mining sector, we need to take into account the entire value chain, rather than just the mines themselves.

"The mining industry generates between 1.9 and 5.1 gigatons of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) of GHG emissions annually. The majority of emissions in this sector originate from fugitive coal-bed methane that is released during coal mining (1.5 to 4.6 gigatons), mainly at underground operations. Power consumption in the mining industry contributes 0.4 gigatons of CO₂e," the report says.

"Further down the value chain – what could be considered Scope 3 emissions – the metal industry contributes roughly 4.2 gigatons, mainly through steel and aluminium production. Coal combustion for the power sector contributes up to roughly 10 gigatons of CO₂."

Patrick Marshall, vice president of product management at MacLean Engineering, thinks there is a "moral commitment" for the industry to look into solutions for decarbonisation. Of course, most miners are waiting to see the financial benefits of moving to, for example, battery-electric equipment.

The McKinsey report notes that electrification of mining vehicles is only now really starting to become cost-effective.

"Right now, only 0.5 per cent of mining equipment is fully electric. However, in some cases, battery-electric vehicles have a 20 per cent lower total cost of ownership versus traditional internal-combustion-engine vehicles," it says.

As such, the pace of decarbonisation efforts still seems fairly slow.

However, with mining companies' licence to operate on the line, perhaps a sense of urgency will accelerate these developments. The industry is certainly now talking the talk.

NIA KAJASTIE, EDITOR

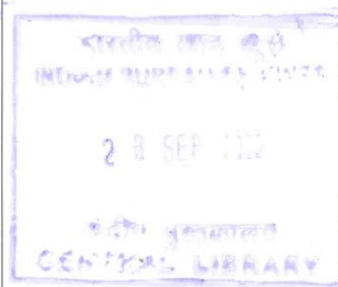
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"The mining industry generates between 1.9 and 5.1 gigatons of CO₂ equivalent of GHG emissions annually"



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COVER

Dr. Merouane Rachidi PGeo, of GoldMinds, showing the high-grade native silver core of the first wedge programme of Canada Cobalt Works Castle Property at Gowganda, Ontario under GMG supervision. The interval runs 50,583 g/t Ag over 0.6m.

For more information, email:
Info@goldmindsgeoservices.com

Mineral Economics, Vol.33 No's 1-2, July 2020

Volume 33 • Numbers 1–2 • July 2020

**Raw
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Report**

Special Issue: John Tilton's 80th birthday

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