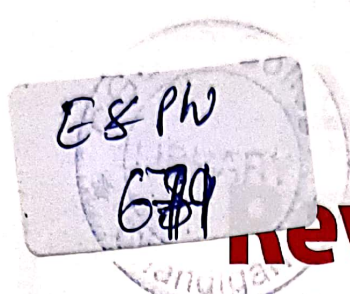


# Economic & Political WEEKLY

A SAMEEKSHA TRUST PUBLICATION

www.epw.in



## Review of Labour and Employment

### EDITORIAL

- Communist Centenary: Begin from the Beginning

### COMMENT

- Not Cop Outs but a Just Transition

### COMMENTARY

- The Suspect Muslim and the Grammar of Epistemic Violence
- Socialist Mayor in the Capital of Global Capitalism
- Incentive (Mis)alignment in India's Deceased Organ Donation Value Chain
- And more ...

### BOOK REVIEWS

- *Caste and Emancipatory Quest: Ethnography of Dalits in an Urban Neighborhood*
- *Poems of Chandalini: Poems by a Bengali Dalit Womanist, Kalyani Thakur Charal*

### INSIGHT

- The Retributive Turn: How Indian Courts Transform Pre-trial Detention into Punishment

### REVIEW OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

- India's Labour Market: In Transition, But Not Yet in Transformation
- An Employment-centred Perspective of Development
- Technology and Employment: Opportunities of Industrialisation and Self-reliance in India
- Understanding Women's Work in India, 1983–2024
- Rise of Unpaid Family Workers: Evidence on Distress-driven Employment Growth in India
- Women's Labour Market Potential

### CURRENT STATISTICS

Five papers examine the contradictions of India's labour market, where progress and precarity coexist amid persistent structural weaknesses. Rising participation masks stagnant quality; productivity growth in modern sectors coexists with fragile employment in traditional ones; and output expansion is marked by weak employment elasticity. This is not the pattern of structural transformation that development economics associates with rising prosperity. pages 33–80

### Socialist Mayor of New York

The deindustrialisation of the United States, the disappearance of stable jobs, and the struggle to make ends meet made the working people of New York very receptive to Zohran Mamdani's consistent message to tackle the multiple dimensions of the affordability crisis. page 13

### The Retributive Turn

The features of pre-trial detention—such as loss of liberty, stigma, censure, and hard treatment—resemble the consequences of punishment after conviction, and yet, the state imposes these effects without the procedural safeguards or formal findings of guilt that a trial provides. page 28

**The Suspect Muslim and Epistemic Violence**

10 The Tablighi Jamaat prosecutions exemplify how the state actively reproduces the hierarchies of belonging, making suspicion a permanent condition of Muslim citizenship. — *Burhan Majid*

**Socialist Mayor in the Capital of Global Capitalism**

13 The deindustrialisation of the United States, the disappearance of stable jobs, and the struggle to make ends meet made the working people of New York very receptive to Mamdani's message. — *Zaheer Baber*

**India's Deceased Organ Donation Value Chain**

15 Deceased organ donation in India remains critically low, at less than one donor per million population. Incentive mismatch is a key barrier stifling the programme. — *Satyajit Roy*

**Dehumanised Decisions**

19 The use of artificial intelligence-based tools by Israel raises serious questions about the commitment of countries to the international legal framework and the ethics of war. — *Gaurika Chugh, Kavita*

**The Retributive Turn**

28 Pre-trial detention in India is officially a preventive measure, but it often works as a form of punishment. The state imposes these effects without the procedural safeguards or formal findings of guilt that a trial provides. — *Chirag Balyan, Atmaram Shelke*

**REVIEW OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

33 Five papers demonstrate the contradictions of India's labour market, with structural weaknesses hindering apparent progress. — *Alakh N Sharma*

**An Employment-centred Perspective of Development**

36 Given an observed trade-off between maximising gross domestic product growth and maximising employment growth, the paper starts by posing the question: Growth of what? Based on a review of global and Indian experience, the paper proposes a three-pillar strategy of employment-centred development. — *Sudipto Mundle*

**Technology and Employment**

45 India's persistent import dependence has long been a structural challenge, and this trend is very much evident in the high-technology industry, which remains highly vulnerable and yet holds the key to industrial value addition, technological upgrading, and commensurate employment generation. — *Sabyasachi Saha, Syed Arslan Ali & Kanishk Rohilla*

**Understanding Women's Work in India, 1983–2024**

55 India's female labour force participation has fallen sharply over the long term, but also rose sharply since 2018, with women driving most of the recent labour force and employment growth. This recovery is concentrated in self-employment and unpaid family work, largely in low-paid, informal agricultural and own-account activities. — *Alakh N Sharma, Balwant Singh Mehta*

**Rise of Unpaid Family Workers**

67 Unpaid family helpers exhibit significantly lower productivity, while the real average daily earnings of own-account workers have marked a decline. The evidence strongly supports the interpretation that the recent expansion in employment reflects economic distress leading to subsistence work. — *Maitreesh Ghatak, Mrinalini Jha & Jitendra Singh*

**Women's Labour Market Potential**

73 Using the McCall–Mortensen macroeconomic job search framework, this paper models the potential impacts of policy interventions on female labour force participation rates. Formalising part-time employment contracts and equalising the time burden of unpaid care work between genders predict a 6 percentage point increase in female LFPR. — *Aakash Dev, Ratna Sahay*

**EDITORIAL**

Communist Centenary: Begin from the Beginning...7

**COMMENT**

Not Cop Outs but a Just Transition.....8

**FROM 50 YEARS AGO** .....9

**COMMENTARY**

The Suspect Muslim and the Grammar of Epistemic Violence — *Burhan Majid*..... 10

Socialist Mayor in the Capital of Global Capitalism: Zohran Mamdani and the Continuing Afterlives of Occupy — *Zaheer Baber*..... 13

Incentive (Mis)alignment in India's Deceased Organ Donation Value Chain — *Satyajit Roy*..... 15

Dehumanised Decisions: AI, International Law, and Ethics in Asymmetric Warfare — *Gaurika Chugh, Kavita*..... 19

**BOOK REVIEWS**

*Caste and Emancipatory Quest: Ethnography of Dalits in an Urban Neighborhood*— Urban Dalit Mobilities — *Dhiren Swain*..... 23

*Poems of Chandalini: Poems by a Bengali Dalit Womanist, Kalyani Thakur Charal*— Gender and Caste: The Bengal Chapter — *Anandita Pan*..... 25

**INSIGHT**

The Retributive Turn: How Indian Courts Transform Pre-trial Detention into Punishment — *Chirag Balyan, Atmaram Shelke*..... 28

**REVIEW OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

India's Labour Market: In Transition, But Not Yet in Transformation — *Alakh N Sharma*..... 33

An Employment-centred Perspective of Development — *Sudipto Mundle*..... 36

Technology and Employment: Opportunities of Industrialisation and Self-reliance in India — *Sabyasachi Saha, Syed Arslan Ali, Kanishk Rohilla*..... 45

Understanding Women's Work in India, 1983–2024 — *Alakh N Sharma, Balwant Singh Mehta*..... 55

Rise of Unpaid Family Workers: Evidence on Distress-driven Employment Growth in India — *Maitreesh Ghatak, Mrinalini Jha, Jitendra Singh*..... 67

Women's Labour Market Potential: Unpaid Care Work and the Formalisation of Part-time Employment — *Aakash Dev, Ratna Sahay*..... 73

**CURRENT STATISTICS** ..... 81

**LETTERS** ..... 4