



EDITORIALS

- A Retreat from Progressive Fiscal Federalism
- A New Political Economy of Welfare

STRATEGIC AFFAIRS

- Theory and Practice of Imperialism 3.0

COMMENTARY

- Local Verdict, Larger Message
- Local Government Election Results in Kerala: Towards a Tripolar Polity
- Tumultuous Times for Indian Cotton Supply Chain

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- *Social Work's Histories of Complicity and Resistance: A Tale of Two Professions*
- *Modernity, Print and Sahitya: The Making of a New Literary Culture, 1866–1919*

INSIGHT

- Artificial Intelligence, Demand Switching and Sectoral Wage Gap

AGEING, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

- Care, Security and the Silver Dividend
- Population Crossovers and India's Ageing Dynamics
- Negotiating Space and Care for Older Adults in a Transitioning Society
- Invisible in Retirement
- Is Grandparenting Emotionally Fulfilling?
- A Critical Analysis of Market-based Care Institutions for Older Adults in India
- Widowhood, Social Participation, and Gender
- Ageing with Absent Family Financial Support
- And more ...

CURRENT STATISTICS

Ageing, Health and Social Security

A set of 10 papers explore the dynamics of a rapidly ageing world and its intersections with evolving socio-economic realities, examining emerging trends in demographic transition and age-crossovers, the elderly care ecosystems and institutions, healthcare needs and gaps, social security mechanisms for older adults, gendered ageing, grandparenting, social participation and emotional fulfilment, offering insights for the designing of policies that enable healthy ageing. pages 37–104

Civic Polls in Kerala

Two articles underscore the need for introspection by the left on strategy, class orientation, and ideological fidelity and argue that welfare expansion, when detached from the deepening of local democracy and participatory governance, yields diminishing political and developmental returns. pages 12 and 16

Indian Cotton Supply Chain

Alongside efforts to raise productivity through technological change, farm policy aimed at reviving cotton supply must address both the reduction of cultivation costs and the assurance of remunerative prices. page 20

Theory and Practice of Imperialism 3.0

10 The US strategy of reasserting unilateral imperial dominance faces resistance from countries that support multipolarity, international law and strategic autonomy. — *Anuradha Chenoy*

Local Verdict, Larger Message

12 The setback suffered by the Left Democratic Front in the local body elections in Kerala points to the salience of religious and economic factors, and their interface with governance. — *K T Rammohan*

Towards a Tripolar Polity

16 The local body elections in Kerala signal a major political realignment, paving the way for a tripolar polity. — *Jos Chathukulam, Manasi Joseph*

Tumultuous Times for Indian Cotton Supply Chain

20 India's cotton supply chain is under strain, reflected in declining productivity and acreage, rising imports, and weakening farm-firm linkages. — *Ranjini Basu*

AI, Demand Switching and Sectoral Wage Gap

32 A finite-change general equilibrium framework models AI as a technological shock transmitted through price adjustments, showing that preference shifts towards AI services can widen wage gaps. — *Shreya Roy, Bibek Ray Chaudhuri*

Ageing, Health and Social Security

37 A set of 10 papers explore the dynamics of a rapidly ageing world and its intersections with evolving socio-economic realities. — *S Irudaya Rajan*

Population Crossovers and India's Ageing Dynamics

40 India's emerging ageing trajectory is examined, identifying potential age-crossover tipping points in the latter half of the 21st century. — *S Irudaya Rajan, J Retnakumar*

The Trinity of Support

46 The emerging landscape of ageing in India rests on a shifting "trinity" of support—family, self, and state—each of which must adapt to demographic and gender transformations to ensure secure and dignified ageing. — *Debasis Barik et al*

Invisible in Retirement

53 A gender gap of approximately 11% persists in social insurance coverage among older adults, with women facing compounded disadvantages due to informal work histories and economic dependence. — *Saddaf Naaz Akhtar*

Is Grandparenting Emotionally Fulfilling?

60 Intergenerational transactions around care, economic security and affect are socially desired in India. These "happy" transitions are questioned to move beyond the normative entrapments around caregiving. — *Tannistha Samanta, Ashwin Tripathi*

Stratified Ageing

67 Market-based care institutions for older adults reconfigure care as a commodity and facilitate a broader shift from embedded familial modes of ageing to more individuated and corporatised forms of ageing. — *Shivangi Patel, Paro Mishra*

Widowhood, Social Participation, and Gender

73 Widowhood increases the likelihood of low social participation, which reduces healthy ageing scores. This indirect pathway was significantly stronger among women than men. — *Sayani Das*

Ageing with Absent Family Financial Support

79 Given the gendered and spatial experiences of ageing, it is critical to identify groups of older adults who are more vulnerable to adverse health outcomes when such financial support is absent. — *Babul Hossain*

Sanctuary in Numbers or Security in Personal Income?

85 India's policy framework relies on the increasingly tenuous premise that the multigenerational household functions as a sufficient safety net. The conflation of household economic status with individual well-being is critically analysed. — *Varsha Rani, Allen Prabhaker Ugargol*

The Unmet Need for Healthcare among Older Adults

92 Using unit-level data from the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India, the paper defines unmet healthcare needs among older adults using various parameters. — *Dipti Govil, T V Sekher & Manish Lekhwani*

Socio-technical Imaginaries of Social Robots

99 An analytical review of social science research on social robots for elder care in the Netherlands and India, focusing on socio-technical imaginaries in media, research, and policy. — *Tanja Ahlin*

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