

**EDITORIALS**

- PLFS 2025: Some Labour Market Perspectives
- India's Productivity Challenge

LAW & SOCIETY

- Rehabilitation of Vulnerable Undertrials

COMMENTARY

- Chomsky, Epstein, and the 'Necessary Illusions' of the Intellectual Class
- Consumption Inequality and Poverty in India
- The Welfare Trap

BOOK REVIEWS

- *Cultures of Ageing and Ageism in India*
- *The Economics of Religion in India*

INSIGHT

- Social Sector Spending on Health and Education in Haryana: A Decadal Review

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- Between Assertion and Victimhood

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION

- Industrialising with a Dualistic Structure, Diverging Regional Patterns, and Environmental Challenges
- Recent Manufacturing Growth in India
- Significance, Heterogeneity, Performance, and Constraints
- Formal Credit and Persistent Constraints
- India's Industrial Archipelago
- Identification of Star Firms and Decoding Investment in Intangibles
- Does Competition Spur Investment?
- And more ...

CURRENT STATISTICS

India's Industrial Transformation

The contributions in this special issue highlight India's dualistic industrial structure and the challenges arising from it, policy lessons from the evolving regional patterns of manufacturing across the Indian states, market structure and how it affects the enterprise-level and sector investments and growth. pages 41–104

Mutant Brahminism

The slogan *Brahmanvad Zindabad* and the brazen assertion of upper-caste identity indicate how upper-caste groups are politically repositioning themselves in an era when the older, quieter languages of their hegemony are no longer useful. page 35

Chomsky in Epstein Files

The belief that mind, intellect, and analysis represent the essential core of human value and the body remains a vessel for consciousness, not its substance, seems to have rendered Epstein's victims structurally invisible to Chomsky during those dinner conversations. page 13

Consumption Inequality and Poverty

Overall consumption inequality across both rural and urban areas has declined, but the decline is uneven across food and non-food groups. page 17

Rehabilitation of Vulnerable Undertrials

- 10 The exceptional provisions in anti-terror laws and the lack of a solid blueprint on the rehabilitation of prisoners result in a travesty of justice. — *Anjali Mathur*

What Does Intelligence Excuse?

- 13 Noam Chomsky's repeated ties to Jeffrey Epstein and his defence—which relies on legal formalism and a "clean slate"—contradict his lifelong critique of systemic power. — *Pavan Korada, Raj Shekhar Sen*

Consumption Inequality and Poverty in India

- 17 There is a decline in overall consumption inequality across both rural and urban areas, coinciding with periods of high real GDP growth. — *Ritika Agrawal, Rohan Bansal, Sunil Kumar & Avdhesh Shukla*

The Welfare Trap

- 21 The state's neo-liberal cash transfer mechanism engenders natural consciousness among Adivasi peoples, which narrows a comprehensive rights framework to a mere land distribution scheme. — *Dipika Adhikari*

Social Sector Spending in Haryana

- 29 Despite a relatively high spending and performance on key social indicators, outcomes in education and health in Haryana remain below those of comparable high-income states. — *Anil Autwal, Kiran Devi*

Upper-caste Discontent and the UGC Equity Regulations

- 35 Upper-caste common sense manifests as both assertion and victimhood when caste-based policies challenge entrenched exclusions and hierarchies. — *Balu Sunilraj, Prithiraj Borah*

India's Industrial Transformation**Industrialising with a Dualistic Structure**

- 42 Seven papers discuss India's dualistic industrial structure, regional patterns of manufacturing, market structure and the impacts of these on enterprise and sectoral growth and investments. — *Nagesh Kumar*

Recent Manufacturing Growth in India

- 47 Evidence points to an increasing concentration of output and value added among larger, more capital-intensive establishments, alongside continued employment significance of smaller units, suggesting an incomplete process of structural reallocation. — *M Suresh Babu*

Unorganised Manufacturing Enterprises

- 53 The characteristics and performance of the unorganised manufacturing enterprises in India and the constraints they face are examined using nationally representative unit-level data for 2010–11, 2015–16, and 2023–24. — *Rajesh Raj Natarajan, Kunal Sen*

Formal Credit and Persistent Constraints

- 65 An analysis of institutional credit access among small and medium enterprises shows no significant improvement over time, highlighting the dual challenge of expanding access and reducing transaction and compliance burdens. — *Mohd Shadab Danish, N R Bhanumurthy*

Uneven Manufacturing Growth in a Services-led Economy

- 74 From the development of planned industrial estates in Uttarakhand to the persistence of a services-led structure in the north-eastern states, India's structural transformation has diverged from conventional trajectories, underscoring the centrality of policy in shaping sectoral outcomes. — *Meenakshi Shekhar, Twinkle Halder*

Identification of Star Firms and Investment in Intangibles

- 80 Analysing firm-level data from 2000 to 2023, the emergence of star (superstar) firms is investigated, with a comparative analysis highlighting intangible expenditure and assets. — *Jitamitra Behera, Ruchi Sharma*

Does Competition Spur Investment?

- 90 Cross-country evidence suggests that higher levels of competition are associated with increased investment rates, particularly in emerging economies and in contexts characterised by low baseline investment. — *Harendra Kumar Behera, Pawan Gopalakrishnan & Abhinav Narayanan*

Industrial Growth and Environmental Degradation

- 97 The environmental Kuznets curve hypothesis is empirically tested to understand the long-term environmental impact of the growth of core industries. — *Nivaj Gogoi, Farah Hussain*

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