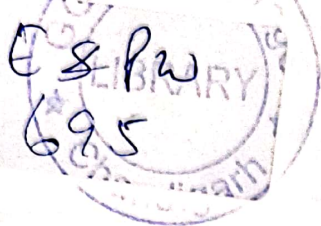


# Economic & Political WEEKLY

A SAMEEKSHA TRUST PUBLICATION

www.epw.in



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- Defeat of the Government's Delimitation Agenda
- The Return of Labour

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- Chinese Perceptions of the US-Israel War on Iran

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- How Indian Academia Is Outsourcing Its Credibility to Foreign Journals
- The Industrialisation of the Workforce
- Anti-caste Print and Vernacular Publics: The Case of *Panchama*

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- The Shifting Discourse on Tribes in Uttar Pradesh

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- Migration, Social Identity, and Education: Quality of Life Disparities in Urban India
- Changing Profile of Major Ports of India

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- Coping with Aadhaar: Insights from a Village in Bihar

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## POSTSCRIPT

## Hindutva Forays in Tamil Nadu

The communal mobilisation following the Thiruparankundram judgment marks a possible shift in the mode of political opposition in Tamil Nadu—from direct electoral confrontation to the slow reconfiguration of cultural and religious spaces. page 14

## Aadhaar-linked Barriers

Aadhaar's integration with various schemes to create a digital public infrastructure necessitates a systematic enquiry to assess the loss of welfare due to Aadhaar-related errors. page 64

## Anti-caste Print Culture

*Panchama* represents a critical intervention in the history of anti-caste print in postcolonial India, functioning as a site where intellectual labour, political practice, and community participation intersected. page 27

## Chinese Lens on West Asia

A broad consensus among China's strategic affairs community is that the US-led Middle Eastern order is crumbling, and some scholars argue that the war is causing the strategic defeat of US hegemony. page 10

## Quality of Life Disparities

Caste- and religion-based social norms and segregation continue to influence the housing and neighbourhood conditions and, consequently, the quality of life of marginal households in urban India. page 50

**Chinese Perceptions of the US–Israel War on Iran**

- 10 Chinese experts have long been warning that the United States military strikes against Iran will be a high-stakes gamble that could draw Washington into a prolonged and widening crisis it may struggle to control. — *Hemant Adlakha*

**Sacred Geography and Political Imagination**

- 14 With the Thiruparankundram controversy in Tamil Nadu, Hindu nationalist organisations are seeking to transform an administrative and judicial intervention into a civilisational conflict. — *Arun Kumar G*

**Indian Academia and Foreign Journals**

- 19 A research ecosystem compels scholars to publish in expensive international outlets while institutions simultaneously pay substantial public funds to access the very knowledge they produce, revealing a paradox. — *Sonali Gupta*

**The Industrialisation of the Workforce**

- 23 While much is expected of industry-led growth, the industrialisation of the workforce is hindered by the import of technology, persistent skill shortages, and labour market regulations. — *Arup Mitra*

**Anti-caste Print and Vernacular Publics**

- 27 The periodical *Panchama* functioned as a counter-public, a site of intellectual and technical labour, and a community archive documenting caste-based violence and everyday marginalisation. — *Yashashwani Srinivas*

**The Shifting Discourse on Tribes in Uttar Pradesh**

- 36 New identity formations at different periods have led to the exclusion of tribal/Adivasi communities from the Scheduled Tribe list in Uttar Pradesh. — *Sanjay Singh*

**Horticulture Sector in India**

- 42 Trends in the progress and performance of India's horticulture sector are analysed, evaluating its impact on farmers' incomes. Higher returns from horticulture, relative to field crops, have been a key driver of its expansion, with the sector exhibiting robust growth over time. — *Sant Kumar, Anjani Kumar, Nalini Ranjan Kumar, Kriti Sharma & Immanuelraj Kingsly*

**Quality of Life Disparities in Urban India**

- 50 While marginalised groups in rural areas opt to migrate to urban centres to elude social hierarchies, disparities persist. But the triple interaction of migrant status, social background, and education helps in reversing some of these inequalities, as higher education benefits the marginalised sections more. — *Ayushi Basoya, Rama Palf*

**Changing Profile of Major Ports**

- 58 An examination of the total factor productivity growth in India's major ports, with a focus on the Sagarmala programme, indicates that although productivity improvements have been recorded, there remains significant divergence in performance across ports. — *Prabir De, Arpit Barman*

**Coping with Aadhaar: Insights from a Village in Bihar**

- 64 All welfare benefits for communities living at subsistence levels are linked to the 12-digit Aadhaar ID containing demographic and biometric data. A rapid survey conducted in Kinaroo village, Bihar, found that 116 out of 124 Scheduled Caste households faced Aadhaar-related barriers to accessing entitlements. — *Swati Tirkey, Vyom Anil*

**Postscript**

- 71 *Pragya Dev* and *Binod Mishra* on the representations of care in *Piku*; *Avienaash Poovaragavan* on the emergence of subaltern stand-up comedy in India; *Moamenla Longkumer* and *Prerana Srimal* on facial and body tattoos as a cultural archive in Nagaland; and *Last Lines* by *Ponnappa*.

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