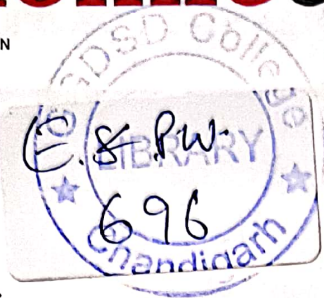


Economic & Political WEEKLY

A SAMEEKSHA TRUST PUBLICATION

www.epw.in



EDITORIAL

- The War in West Asia

COMMENT

- Renewed Ethnic Conflict in Manipur

COMMENTARY

- Muslims, Labour and Belonging in Assam
- Judges behind a Veil: The Perils of *Per Curiam* in a Constitutional Democracy
- Role of Artificial Intelligence of Things in Agricultural Sustainability in India
- New Nepal: A Radical Change and the Challenges Ahead

BOOK REVIEWS

- *The Ceremonial of Power: The Mughal Empire under Shah Jahan*
- *Freedom and Partition: Momentous Events of 14–17 August in India and Pakistan*

PERSPECTIVES

- Beyond Criminalisation: The Limits of Law in Addressing Marital Rape and Domestic Violence

SPECIAL ARTICLES

- Intellectual Contributions of Amiya Kumar Bagchi
- Productivity Gains from GVCs Participation: Evidence from Indian Manufacturing Firms
- Inequalities in Landholdings: Evidence from Social Groups in India

NOTES

- Judicial Fortitude versus Executive Overreach

CURRENT STATISTICS

Labour without Belonging

The paternalistic tolerance and refusal to accept the Bengali Muslim as an equal member of Assamese society labour are central to understanding the regime of socio-economic exploitation that the minority community remains caged in. page 10

Amiya Kumar Bagchi's Contributions

In *Perilious Passage*, Bagchi painstakingly builds a parallel narrative of the global history of human development, dethroning economic growth or capital accumulation as all-encompassing indicators of progress of nations. page 34

New Dispensation in Nepal

The new RSP government is not only the most powerful one the country has seen during the two decades of republican order but is also heavily burdened by popular hopes and expectations. page 21

Landholding Inequalities

Post-reform economic policies have reinforced inequalities, with sharper disparities in urban areas for SCs and STs, and significant concentration among affluent OBCs and Forward Castes in rural areas. page 48

Appointments to Higher Judiciary

Despite multiple instances of the government trying to stymie appointments, the absence of a transparent system has made it difficult to hold either the executive or the judiciary accountable for their choices. page 57

Muslims, Labour and Belonging in Assam

- 10 The Bengali Muslim labourer in Assam remains stuck in an intensifying framework of racialised exploitation, social marginalisation and political disenfranchisement. — *Angshuman Choudhury, Manoranjan Pegu*

Judges behind a Veil

- 13 By mandating judges to take ownership of their reasoning and applications of the law, the judiciary could reinforce both legitimacy and public trust in the judicial process as a whole. — *Vivek Kumar, R Rajesh Babu*

Artificial Intelligence of Things in Agriculture

- 17 Artificial intelligence of things can bolster sustainable farming practices and influence the economic conditions of farmers, enabling progress towards a modernised and efficient agricultural future. — *Prasanta Moharaj, Susanta Kumar Sethy*

New Nepal

- 21 The new leadership in Nepal faces challenges related to a cadre that lacks political and administrative experience. To add to this is the chronic bureaucratic lethargy and strong resistance from vested interests. — *S D Muni*

Beyond Criminalisation

- 29 Sustained carceral feminist discourse and activism have been instrumental in advocating for the criminalisation of marital rape in India. While acknowledging the normative validity of this demand, this article critically examines the inherent limitations of relying heavily on legal reform in effectively addressing deeply rooted and complex societal contexts. — *Stuti Shah*

Intellectual Contributions of Amiya Kumar Bagchi

- 34 In his academic writings spanning over six and a half decades, Amiya Kumar Bagchi straddled several areas, among which economic history and political economy of development/underdevelopment attracted his abiding interest. He generally drew his insights from Marx and Keynes and illuminated the problems of underdevelopment with his own analytical perspective steeped in history. — *Achin Chakraborty, Simantini Mukhopadhyay*

Productivity Gains from Global Value Chains Participation

- 41 Using data on Indian manufacturing firms for 1999–2019, this paper examines the impact of participation in global value chains on total factor productivity, with the findings indicating a statistically significant and positive effect on firm productivity. Even limited participation yields gains, while deeper integration into gvcs leads to further improvements in TFP. — *Bishwanath Goldar, Anindita Goldar*

Inequalities in Landholdings

- 48 Landownership is highly concentrated, particularly among the top decile. Post-reform economic policies have reinforced these inequalities, with sharper disparities in urban areas for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and significant concentration in rural areas among affluent Other Backward Classes and Forward Castes. — *Azad P, Ratnakumari KA*

Judicial Fortitude versus Executive Overreach

- 57 Questions concerning the constitutional system of appointment were posed during the Emergency, post which the Collegium system was preserved and deemed essential for maintaining judicial autonomy. The article examines the administration of appointments and transfer of judges of the higher judiciary under the Bharatiya Janata Party dispensation. — *Swarati Sabhapandit*

EDITORIAL

The War in West Asia 7

COMMENT

Renewed Ethnic Conflict in Manipur 8

FROM 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO 9

COMMENTARY

Muslims, Labour and Belonging in Assam
— *Angshuman Choudhury,
Manoranjan Pegu* 10

Judges behind a Veil: The Perils of *Per Curiam*
in a Constitutional Democracy
— *Vivek Kumar, R Rajesh Babu* 13

Role of Artificial Intelligence of Things in
Agricultural Sustainability in India
— *Prasanta Moharaj, Susanta Kumar Sethy* 17

New Nepal: A Radical Change and
the Challenges Ahead
— *S D Muni* 21

BOOK REVIEWS

*The Ceremonial of Power: The Mughal Empire
under Shah Jahan—Court Culture of
Medieval India*
— *Vikas Rathee* 24

*Freedom and Partition: Momentous Events
of 14–17 August in India and Pakistan—
The Politics of Memorialisation*
— *Pallavi Raghavan* 26

PERSPECTIVES

Beyond Criminalisation: The Limits of Law in
Addressing Marital Rape and Domestic Violence
— *Stuti Shah* 29

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Intellectual Contributions of Amiya Kumar Bagchi
— *Achin Chakraborty,
Simantini Mukhopadhyay* 34

Productivity Gains from Global Value Chains
Participation: Evidence from Indian
Manufacturing Firms
— *Bishwanath Goldar, Anindita Goldar* 41

Inequalities in Landholdings:
Evidence from Social Groups in India
— *Azad P, Ratnakumari KA* 48

NOTES

Judicial Fortitude versus Executive Overreach:
Appointment of Judges to Indian Higher
Judiciary (2014–22)
— *Swarati Sabhapandit* 57

CURRENT STATISTICS 65

LETTERS 4