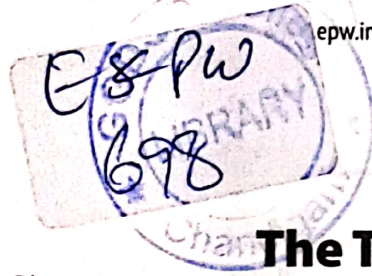


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- Healthcare in India: Scrawny, Bloated and Stunted
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- A Chance to Set a New Paradigm in Political Funding

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The Thali Index

When we measure the value of food consumption with imputation, that is, having included subsidised and free food distribution, 40% of the rural population cannot afford two thali meals a day. **page 45**

Global Monetary Order

The world is not at a point of global de-dollarisation; however, it has entered a period of diversification within a still dollar-centred monetary order. **page 10**

Challenges of EU Enlargement

As yet, there is no substantive discussion of the need for the European Union to undertake a fundamental transformation of its internal structures in order to function as a developmental-supranational entity. **page 51**

Horizontal Inclusiveness

Contrary to the perception that "freebies" are designed to woo the marginalised, welfare benefits in the form of high-value durable items are disproportionately cornered by more well-off sections. **page 26**

Dalit Moral Worlds

Without officially converting to Buddhism, Dalit families in Bahraich are reconfiguring their social and ritual life through Ambedkarite ethics. **page 72**

The Myths of Petrodollar and De-dollarisation

- 10 There has largely been no such thing as the petrodollar, and although the dollar's dominance has been eroding for some time, the world has not yet reached a point of global de-dollarisation. — *Engin Yilmaz, Boran Bodur & T Sabri Öncü*

New Series of Consumer Price Index

- 14 Conceptual oversights pervade the new series, such as the lack of essential data for the rural housing index and price imputation for items that became free during the currency of the CPI series. — *Sanjay Kumar, N K Sharma & Siraj Hussain*

Intertemporal Dynamics of Household Consumption

- 18 Household consumption data are examined to track intertemporal changes in consumption patterns since 2011–12 and assess patterns of inequality across economic groups. — *Vachaspati Shukla, Santosh Kumar Dash*

Artificial Intelligence and Industry Productivity

- 22 The beneficial effect of artificial intelligence on industry productivity is characterised by potential non-linearities. The overall impact has, to an extent, been held back by a drag on labour. — *Saibal Ghosh*

Revisiting Inclusiveness

- 26 Welfare benefits in the form of high-value durable items are disproportionately cornered by more well-off sections of society. — *Vikash Vaibhav, Arun Kumar Kaushik*

Do Fiscal Rules Promote Fiscal Performance and Growth?

- 36 The relationship between fiscal rules, fiscal performance, and economic growth in India and its sub-national economies from 1991 to 2022 is examined. — *Irsad, Mohd Yousuf Malik & Syed Hasan Jafar*

The Thali Index of the Standard of Living

- 45 The use of a food consumption-based index of the standard of living is proposed, positing the consumption of two thali meals a day by an individual as the minimum acceptable level. Using such an index, we estimate the share of the food-deprived population using the NSS's Household Consumption Expenditure Survey for 2023–24. — *Pulapre Balakrishnan, Aman Raj*

Will the European Union Absorb Its Poor?

- 51 As of early 2026, discussions on Ukraine's prospective membership dominate international coverage of the European Union's evolving borders. That is somewhat peculiar, given that as many as 10 countries are candidates for membership, most of whom emerged from the disintegration of the former socialist bloc and exhibit substantially lower per capita incomes than any state previously admitted to the EU. — *József Böröcz*

Decolonising Political Theory through Comparison

- 61 Existing interventions to decolonise political theory are limited by their inordinate focus on diversifying the content of political theory via canon expansion, instead of correcting the hierarchical form of the discipline through methodological innovation. Through the creation of a novel collaborative-decolonised approach, this paper demonstrates how "comparative studies" can be used as an effective mode of decolonising political theory — *Suhasini Das Gooptu*

Postscript

- 71 *Rincy Daniel* and *Sreejith Kadiyakkol's* reflections from a dera in Bhopal; *Sanjay Kumar* on cultural Buddhism and Dalit moral worlds; *Ayush Gaur* on stand-up comedy as a neo-carnival; and *Last Lines* by *Ponnappa*.

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