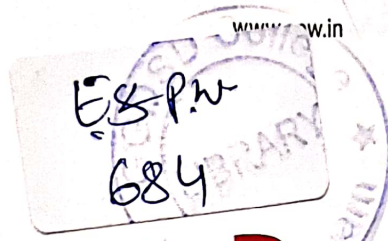


# Economic & Political WEEKLY

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## Review of Urban Affairs

A set of 10 papers posit that spatial planning rooted in people's knowledge, in its broadest sense, is more likely to encourage compliance than invite violation; highlight the voices of urban denizens that go unheard in planning exercises; and train an interrogative lens on the actors, networks and paradigms that shape systems of urban data/information and expertise/interests in India. **pages 41–94**

### Making of a Perpetual Accused

The denial of bail to political prisoners is not an aberration attributable to prosecutorial excess or judicial error alone, but a structural outcome of a legal regime that has normalised incarceration as a mode of governance, where the UAPA detention operates as a de facto preventive detention without the constitutional safeguards associated with such measures. **page 17**

### Undermining Workers' Welfare

The underlying rationale of the strategy to extend permissible working hours to attract investment and generate employment remains contested, as longer working hours do not necessarily lead to productivity gains and may adversely affect workers' well-being. **page 33**

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- Fangs Bared against Equality

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- Surveillance Society and the Impacts of Digital Governance Initiatives
- And more ...

#### CURRENT STATISTICS

#### POSTSCRIPT

**The Human Cost of Electoral Roll Revision**

10 Excessive workloads, lack of proper training, and coercive supervisory behaviour can be linked to cases of severe sickness and fatalities among booth-level officers. — *Md Aadil Akhlaque, Prachi Pranji*

**Sustainable Energy at an Unsustainable Cost**

13 The shift from conventional sources of energy to sustainable energy has created a green energy paradox, evident in the Karbi Anglong hill district of Assam. — *Babachandra Singha*

**Exceptional Law and Normalised Incarceration**

17 The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has institutionalised a regime of normalised incarceration through ordinary criminal process, producing the “perpetual accused.” — *Rafique Khan*

**Does Having a Disability Certificate Ensure Benefits?**

20 Data from the 76th National Sample Survey Office round reveal significant disparities in disability certificate issuance. — *Subramania Raju Rajasulochana, Mohd Imran Khan*

**Working Hours and Productivity**

33 The extension of statutory working-hour limits has emerged as a pro-business instrument, promoted as part of the ease of doing business agenda. — *Rahul Suresh Sapkal, Kinchan Chakma & Daksha C Parmar*

**Review of Urban Affairs**

41 Ten articles assess the domains of urban practice and the inclusions and exclusions they trace, especially with regard to tensions between local/located and expert epistemologies. — *Keshab Das, Sheema Fatima, Kanchan Gandhi & Ashima Sood*

**Urban Planning in Contemporary India**

44 Four approaches posited as foundationally elemental to comprehend the origin and long-term development of India’s urban planning are examined. — *Ashok Kumar, Sanjeev Vidyarthi*

**To Plan or Not to Plan?**

49 Both anti-urban utopianism and market-led planning have created exclusions, creating a false dichotomy of state versus market in urban planning in India. — *Darshini Mahadevia, Rutool Sharma*

**Is Participatory Local Planning Possible in India?**

53 The Chittur–Thathamangalam Master Plan 2042 has succeeded in replacing the state town planning department’s plan through innovative, people-centred processes. — *Jayaraj Sundaresan, Malini Krishnankutty*

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60 Migrant housing is an extreme site of exclusion that works not only as shelter poverty but also as a structural mechanism that perpetuates the marginalisation of a vulnerable workforce. — *Tara Nair*

**Living with the Monsoon**

63 Speculative, enclave-led urbanisation in Gurugram has disrupted historic blue–green networks, concentrated risk on low-income residents and produced fragmented responsibility for drainage. — *Samar Verma*

**Surveillance Society and Digital Governance**

67 Deemed a planned utopia, Chandigarh is one of the most heavily surveilled cities in India. The panoptic city is used to surveil some groups of people more than others. — *Kanchan Gandhi, Anu Sabhlok*

**Engineering Expertise and Sustainability**

73 The conceptualisation of expertise in a municipal waste water management project in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region has led to a continuation of epistemic hegemonies in municipal governance. — *Jennifer Spencer*

**Towards a Critical Sociology of Resettlement**

79 This paper attempts to understand the idea of the “social” and proposes the concept of a humane “social fix” to achieve the desired goals of the resettlement policy. — *V Gajendran*

**Unified Urban Development Control**

85 Since 1979, Maharashtra’s urban development regulation has followed a distinctly expert-driven, technocratic trajectory, with development control regulations progressively standardised and unified. — *Aparna C Vedula, Priya M Chavan*

**Bureaucratic Evasion and Planning as Negotiation**

89 The prolonged absence of a functioning master plan is embedded in Bihar’s sociopolitical and agrarian-rooted reality that informs landed elites’ spatial practices in urban areas. — *Sheema Fatima*

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97 *Aruna Parandhama* on the devolution of articulation; *Gopikrishnan Kottoor*’s poem, “The Ant on my Hand;” *Suruma*’s poem, “Julienne;” Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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