

# Economic & Political WEEKLY

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- India–EU Free Trade Agreement

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- A Conviction and Sentencing Order in the Guise of a Bail Order

## HT PAREKH FINANCE COLUMN

- A Small Shift That Does Not Change the Basic Policy

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- How Policy Enables Elite Educational Insulation And more ...

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- *Meet the Savarnas: Indian Millennials Whose Mediocrity Broke Everything*

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- Socio-economic Determinants of Common Mental Disorders among Salt Pan Workers
- Joint Parliamentary Committees in India
- Classical Languages and the Ideology of Class and Privilege

## CURRENT STATISTICS

## Period of Counter-movement

Higher incomes in agriculture and the non-farm unorganised sector are important factors that have not received sufficient attention in the explanation of the Great Indian Boom of the 2000s. page 42

## Legal Pluralism and Personal Laws

Shukkur and Sheena's remarriage under the Special Marriage Act draws attention to the possibility of a growing harmonisation between secular and religious laws at the intersection of family, property, and gender rights. page 15

## JJM Data and NFHS

Despite claims of a huge increase in rural households having piped water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission, comparisons with NFHS data reveal discrepancies at both the district and state levels. page 32

## Elite Educational Insulation

Indian education policy has gradually produced a dual and uneven architecture of inclusion, and a distinct "inclusion-exempt" segment has emerged within elite private schooling. page 19

## Classical Language Status

Constituting some languages as "classical" involves not only the creation of hierarchy, privilege, and cultural inequalities but also entails the cultural marginalisation of other languages and, hence, even communities. page 66

**Foreign Bank Presence in India**

10 Recent foreign investments in Indian banks signal only a modest shift in policy rather than a fundamental change in stance. — *T T Ram Mohan*

**America's Bilateral Tariff Spat**

12 Trump's unilateralism signals the weakening of rule-based multilateralism and the anxieties of American hegemony. — *Gouri Sankar Nag, Ayush Mazumdar*

**Muslim Personal Law, Inheritance, and Innovation**

15 After 29 years of marriage, a Muslim couple from Kasaragod remarried under the Special Marriage Act in 2023 to secure their daughters' property rights, sparking public debate. — *K C Mujeebu Rahman, Anindita Chakrabarti*

**Inclusion-exempt Schools**

19 Operating via interlocking mechanisms of fee-gating, board-gating, and spatial-gating, elite private schools remain structurally exempt from the RTE Act and consolidate caste-class homogeneity while evading equity mandates. — *Sandeep Hegade, Yogini Andalgavkarkulkarni*

**Does the Atal Pension Yojana Use 'Nudge Theory'?**

23 The Atal Pension Yojana's auto-enrolment mechanism substantially departs from established best practices in behavioural economics and may result in non-consensual enrolment and retention. — *Manoshij Banerjee, Mohammed Shahid Abdulla*

**Piped Water Policy in Rural India**

32 While the Jal Jeevan Mission claims that about 77% of rural households have piped water connections, up from 17% at the start of the scheme in 2019, comparisons with the National Family Health Survey data reveal discrepancies. — *Shiuli Vanaja, Niruj Deka & Dona Maria John*

**Legacies of Amiya Kumar Bagchi**

37 Can there be an alternative to the prevailing disruptions which the developing countries today are facing under subordination? A change from the current regime requires instituting a welfare state with developmental goals and a people-oriented class composition of those in charge of administration. These are in line with what Amiya Kumar Bagchi had dreamt all his life. — *Sunanda Sen*

**Towards a Three-sector Structuralist Framework**

42 To theoretically understand this divergence between output and formal employment in India since the 1990s, this paper argues that a framework different from the usual three-sector classification—agriculture, industry, and services—may be required. A structuralist framework is developed with three sectors—agriculture, unorganised, and organised—to study this transformation. — *Rohit Azad, Dipa Sinha*

**Common Mental Disorders among Salt Pan Workers**

52 Salt pan workers face harsh socio-economic conditions that markedly increase their vulnerability to psychological distress. A survey of salt pan workers in Marakkanam, Tamil Nadu shows that 75.4% of workers exhibited symptoms of common mental disorders. — *Supriya Bedi*

**Joint Parliamentary Committees in India**

59 Does the realpolitik in the Indian scenario enable the functioning, effectiveness, or efficacy of joint parliamentary committees and what ails the working of parliamentary committees in India or its so-called "mini-Parliaments"? — *Rupak Kumar*

**Classical Languages and the Ideology of Class and Privilege**

66 Often overlooked in discussions about "classical" languages is the ideological framework within which it functions. Hidden within the classical is the category of class and caste as a definite material basis. — *V Sebastian*

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