

**EDITORIALS**

- Taking Aim at Equal Citizenship
- A Rereading of Railway Budget 2026–27

LAW & SOCIETY

- The Epistemological Bankruptcy of Indian Legal Academia

COMMENTARY

- Student Suicides and the Governance of Care in India
- Dynamics of Indian Payment Systems
- Politics of PRCs and the Morans in Arunachal Pradesh
- Digital Platforms, Green Services and New Informal Work: Opportunity or Trap?

BOOK REVIEWS

- *The Third Eye and Other Works: Mahatma Phule's Writings on Education*
- *A Political Theory of Money*

INSIGHT

- Sexual Slander against Women Politicians

SPECIAL ARTICLES

- Increasing Female Employment in India: Distress or Better Opportunities?
- Disseminating Alternative Discourses in Kerala
- The Colonial Impact on Chieftainship: The Case of the Zo People (1896–1954)
- Swadeshi as Congress Hegemony: The Case of a Mill in Colonial Madras, 1930–34

DISCUSSION

- Can Farmer Producer Organisations' Structure Be Anti-competitive?

CURRENT STATISTICS**Distress-driven Employment**

The increase in the female workforce participation rate post 2017 is accompanied by a worsening nature of female employment, with a significant decline in the average working hours of women and stagnant or declining real earnings. page 37

Slander as Political Strategy

Sexual slandering against K K Shailaja during the 2024 Parliament elections shows how gender essentialisations position women within a moral spectrum of gendered roles, ranging from reproduction to the fulfilment of male desirability. page 31

Political Theatre in Kerala

Pattabakki's legacy influenced trade union movements and contributed to the formation of workers' cultural organisations, thereby institutionalising theatre as an instrument of class consciousness and social transformation. page 46

Politics of PRCs

Assam government's decision to grant permanent residential certificates to the Morans residing in Arunachal Pradesh offers only a temporary solution for a long-standing structural problem. page 20

Indian Legal Scholarship

Indian legal research suffers from normative overload and descriptive anaemia, which render the discipline incapable of assessing the actual operation of justice. page 10

The Epistemological Bankruptcy of Legal Academia

10 Institutional pressures reward publication volume over empirical rigour, which confines scholars to textual analysis, leaving systemic discrimination, registry manipulation, and bail disparities unexamined. — *Syed Mohammed Nasif*

Student Suicides and the Governance of Care

13 Student suicides in India have largely been addressed through individualised, psychocentric frameworks, despite their persistently high rates. — *Shaweta Anand*

Cash and Cashless

17 Cash and digital payment trends are examined, and the factors that potentially drive payment method choices and the constraints faced by customers are explored. — *Abhiman Das, Smita Roy Trivedi*

Politics of PRCs and the Morans in Arunachal Pradesh

20 The demand for permanent residential certificates by non-Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribes, including the Morans, has been a long-standing issue in the internal governance of the state. — *Priyanandini Baruah, Priyanka Sharma & Dibyajyoti Dutta*

Digital Platforms, Green Services and New Informal Work

23 Evidence indicates that while platforms can improve visibility, price discovery and access to formal contracts, they often reproduce existing hierarchies, fragmented employment relations and exclusionary onboarding requirements. — *Sushanta Kumar Mahapatra, Madan Meher*

Sexual Slander against Women Politicians

31 How does political masculinity respond to female presence in politics? Sexualised gender essentialisations position women within a moral spectrum of gendered roles that range from reproduction to the fulfilment of male desirability. — *Anandakrishnan S K, Daigy Varghese*

Distress or Better Opportunities?

37 Evidence indicates a worsening nature of female employment in India, where most women enter the workforce as unpaid or subsidiary workers, with stagnant or declining real earnings, and falling real household expenditure. — *Indervir Singh, Ankita*

Disseminating Alternative Discourses in Kerala

46 *Pattabakki* (Lease Balance) (1938), written by K Damodaran, was the first political *natakam* in Kerala that challenged the dominant theatrical, political, and cultural paradigms by dramatising systemic agrarian oppression and advocating collective resistance. — *Manu Mohan, Smriti Singh*

The Colonial Impact on Chieftainship

53 Colonial rule, while hollowing out the core attributes of Zo chieftainship, entrenched landownership systems and economic power in favour of the chiefs within this system. This ultimately hastened the dissolution of the institution itself, in parts of the region, while further strengthening the hold of the chiefs on village lands in other places. — *Thangkhanlal Ngaihte, Jangkhongam DOUNGEL*

Swadeshi as Congress Hegemony

60 While the resistance to colonial rule forms the substrate all through, in its original phase, swadeshi pitted Indianness against foreign imposition, whereas, during Civil Disobedience, swadeshi also embodied the hegemony of the Congress over determining what was in India's national interest. — *M V Shobhana Warriar*

Can Farmer Producer Organisations Be Anti-competitive?

69 While farmer producer organisations offer significant benefits, their structure raises concerns about potential anti-competitive implications, such as market control, exclusive agreements, collusive behaviour, and impacts on related markets. — *Hartej Singh Kochher*

EDITORIALS

Taking Aim at Equal Citizenship 7
A Rereading of Railway Budget 2026–27 8

FROM 50 YEARS AGO 9

LAW & SOCIETY

Performative Doctrinal Compliance:
The Epistemological Bankruptcy of
Indian Legal Academia
— *Syed Mohammed Nasif* 10

COMMENTARY

Student Suicides and the Governance of Care
in India
— *Shaweta Anand* 13

Cash and Cashless: Dynamics of
Indian Payment Systems
— *Abhiman Das, Smita Roy Trivedi* 17

Politics of PRCs and the Morans
in Arunachal Pradesh
— *Priyanandini Baruah, Priyanka Sharma,
Dibyajyoti Dutta* 20

Digital Platforms, Green Services and
New Informal Work: Opportunity or Trap?
— *Sushanta Kumar Mahapatra,
Madan Meher* 23

BOOK REVIEWS

*The Third Eye and Other Works: Mahatma Phule's
Writings on Education*—Translation as Archiving
Ideas and Their Form: Phule's Poetics on
Education—*Anagha Ingole* 26

A Political Theory of Money—Politics, Value,
and the Theory of Money
— *Rahul Menon* 28

INSIGHT

Sexual Slander against Women Politicians:
A Case in Kerala
— *Anandakrishnan S K, Daigy Varghese* 31

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Increasing Female Employment in India:
Distress or Better Opportunities?
— *Indervir Singh, Ankita* 37

Disseminating Alternative Discourses in Kerala:
Cultural and Political Implications
of *Pattabakki* (1938)
— *Manu Mohan, Smriti Singh* 46

The Colonial Impact on Chieftainship:
The Case of the Zo People (1896–1954)
— *Thangkhanlal Ngaihte,
Jangkhongam DOUNGEL* 53

Swadeshi as Congress Hegemony:
The Case of a Mill in Colonial Madras, 1930–34
— *M V Shobhana Warriar* 60

DISCUSSION

Can Farmer Producer Organisations'
Structure Be Anti-competitive?
— *Hartej Singh Kochher* 69

CURRENT STATISTICS 73

LETTERS 4