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**Current Awareness Service
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May 2022



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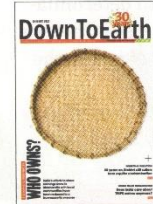
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India's Trade Policy and GVCs

10 This article studies the trends in the global value chain participation of six sectors from Indian manufacturing with an emphasis on the nature of participation. It analyses the trends over the last few decades and connects it to the changes in the trade policy of the Indian government.
— *Deeparghya Mukherjee*

Repealment of the Rubber Act, 1947

14 The Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022 proposed to replace the Rubber Act, 1947 is vehemently criticised by the politicians and farmers forums from Kerala. There are several aspects to be relooked at and modified in the bill, though most of the criticisms are unfounded. — *Toms Joseph*

Pandemic and Delayed Payments under MGNREGS

20 The problem of delayed payments of wages in West Bengal, which stands second in terms of the severity of payment delays in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is studied in this article.
— *Dipanwita Chakraborty*

Crimes against Women in Indian Metropolitan Cities

33 This article is concerned with the inter-urban analysis of incidents and the rate and nature of the crimes against women in Indian metropolitan cities. The impact (footprints) of metropolitan cities on crimes against women in the respective states is also analysed. — *Rambooshan Tiwari*

Unpacking India's COVID-19 Social Assistance Package

39 This paper assesses who benefited from COVID-19 social assistance in India and to what extent, using administrative data from each of the main programmes included in the package. The analysis shows that the implementation constraints, partial uptake, and substitution effects reduced the overall transfer of resources to households relative to budget allocations.
— *Urmila Chatterjee, Martin Rama & Deepak Varshney*

Sex Work, COVID-19, and Half-truths

49 This paper draws upon the results of a multistate survey of female/male/transgender sex workers to revisit and complicate some of the stereotypes concerning the immobility of sex workers within informal labour markets, their indebtedness, and bondage to informal creditors. — *V Kalyan Shankar, Rohini Sahni, Meena Saraswathi Seshu, Aarthi Pai, Laxmi Murthy & Tejaswi Sevekari*

The Making of 'Sisoti'

57 How the word society transforms into "sisoti" in the film *Manthan* and how this process of translation leaves the villagers with a residual meaning are analysed in this paper. This spillover of meaning eventually helps the characters deconstruct and recalibrate caste relations in the film.
— *Chahat Rana, Rita Kothari*

Hijab, Patriarchy, and the Women's Question

63 In a reply to contemporary philosopher Sundar Sarukkai's argument in his editorial comment, "Uniformity or Equality?" (*EPW*, 12 February 2022) that school uniforms symbolise disciplinary order, this article argues that school uniforms, at the same time, uphold the essential patriarchal order.
— *Muzaffar Ali*

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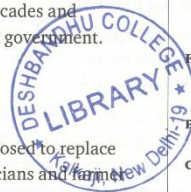
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The New Thrust of Fiscal Conservatism

10 The International Monetary Fund in the April 2022 edition of its "Global Financial Stability Report" has called for reining in bank credit to governments as a way of weakening the sovereign-bank nexus. — *C P Chandrasekhar*

NPA Resolution and Bad Bank

13 The success of the newly announced "bad bank" or the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd will depend on its ability to maximise recovery with minimum costs. — *Santosh Kumar Das*

India's Arctic Policy

16 The Arctic policy is a nascent step forward in the articulation of India's Arctic interests since being accorded the observer status in the Arctic Council. — *Jawahar Bhagwat, A E Shaparov*

Degree Devaluation

23 This article argues that a policy of dual degrees may lead to the deterioration of standards in higher education. — *Sudhanshu Bhushan*

Land Tenure Informalities and the Pandemic

31 For tenure security and reforms, governments must design and implement post-revival and resilience strategy across industrial, urban, and rural land uses and economic landscapes. — *Pranab R Choudhury, Sumita Sindhi & Ranjan K Ghosh*

Money, Banking and Finance

39 A special series of six articles provides a through analysis of monetary policy and financial inclusion during the tumultuous time of the pandemic. — *Partha Ray*

Priming Monetary Policy for the Pandemic

41 Distinguishing between conventional and unconventional policy measures, this paper makes an impact assessment in terms of key macroeconomic and financial variables. — *Michael Debabrata Patra, Indranil Bhattacharyya*

Pandemic and the Monetary Policy in the Global North

49 The present paper looks at the effectiveness of monetary policy in the global North in stimulating real economic activity. — *Parthapratim Pal, Partha Ray*

Bank Merger, Credit Growth, and the Great Slowdown

58 The banking crisis post 2008-09 was primarily exposure-driven and was due to the lack of an appropriate credit appraisal process. — *Abhiman Das, Subal C Kumbhakar*

Managing Equity Capital

68 The impact of excess capital in banks is examined through a partial adjustment approach with unbalanced panel data for listed Indian banks from 2006 to 2017. — *Nitya Nand Tripathi, Naseem Ahamed & Sudhakara Reddy Syamala*

Regulatory Risk Containment Measures

77 This study concentrates on assessing the ban on trading in single stock derivatives arising from the downward revision of market-wide position limits on liquidity and volatility. — *Latha Chari, Pradiptarathi Panda & C K G Nair*

Financial Inclusion and the Pandemic

85 Three broad aspects that have affected the financial inclusion space during the pandemic are examined in this paper. — *M S Sriram*

Postscript

95 *Rutuja Deshmukh* and *Swapna Gopinath* on the non-linearity of memory in *Sardar Udham*; *Deepu Pratheep* on overcoming a methodological dilemma in ethnographic research; *Sagarika Srivastava's* poem "love in the time of corona"; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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Precipitous Fall in Press Freedom

7 The fall is not only about silencing the press but also due to the amplification of governmental propaganda.

Making Sense of the Supreme Court Order on Sedition

8 The recent Supreme Court order on sedition ensures some relief but is incomplete.

Life Insurance Claims and the Impact of COVID-19 in India

10 This article uses a hitherto unused data source—death claims settled by Indian life insurers—to estimate the impact of COVID-19 in India in 2020 and 2021. — *Mihir Mahajan, Shekhar Sathe*

Affordable Urban Housing and Budget 2022–23

13 The Union Budget 2022 gives a boost to affordable urban housing in terms of allocation against the backdrop of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) housing for all by 2022 and entails key structural reforms to address some of the deep-rooted problems in the housing sector. — *Arjun Kumar, Soumyadip Chattopadhyay*

Capitalising Nature

17 While producing “cheap” nature, capitalism produces climate change that challenges the entire process of capitalising nature. — *Soumitra Ghosh*

LIC Must Adopt Industry Best Practices

22 The article argues that the Government of India must set a realistic initial public offer price band for the Life Insurance Corporation, taking into account the insurer’s risks and weaknesses. — *Nandini Vijayaraghavan*

Decoding the Three Pandemic Budgets

27 Despite substantial socio-economic disparities in health, education, and nutrition outcomes, the government is pitching human development expenditure against capital expenditure. — *Mukesh Kumar, Pratap C Mohanty*

Impact of COVID-19 on the Indian Banking Sector

36 This article investigates the impact of COVID-19 on the banking sector through the trend analysis of return on assets and return on equity of the scheduled commercial banks. — *Brijesh C Purohit*

Does Public Procurement Benefit Paddy Farmers?

42 This paper investigates the impact of public procurement on paddy farmers in Bihar. Whether farmers’ access to public procurement agencies led to higher price realisation by them is examined here. — *Anjani Kumar, Vinay K Sonkar & Seema Bathla*

Impact of Public Debt on Subnational Economies

49 The empirical analysis in this paper reveals that the increase in public debt-to-gross state domestic product ratio and interest payments burden would have an adverse impact on the long-run economic growth of UP. — *Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Samia Ansari*

The Proposed Deregulation of India’s Sugar Sector

58 The deregulation of agricultural markets and its scope for benefits to farmers are examined in this paper using the system generalised method of moments to estimate India’s supply equations of sugar and sugarcane. — *Anshuman Kaler, Atulan Guha*

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Sedition and the Misuse of Laws

10 The magistrates and civil judges are just as important as the Supreme Court or the high courts but receive much less attention in conversations about fundamental rights. — *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

Banks and Expected Loan Loss Provisions

13 This article explains how banks can use their forward-looking internal credit risk estimates and apply on loan cash flows over different time horizons. — *Arindam Bandyopadhyay*

Monetary Fiscal Coordination and the Evolution of Public Debt

17 Using an accounting framework, this article simulates the evolution of the debt ratio based on four policy interventions. — *Advait Moharir*

Unfolding the Employment Story in Uttar Pradesh

26 The article examines labour market changes in Uttar Pradesh and finds a deeper employment crisis in the state. — *Indervir Singh, Kamal Singh & Ashapurna Baruah*

Review of Women's Studies

33 Five papers examine the state of performative labour and art in India through inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives.

Women-only! Reframing of Erotic Lavani in Contemporary Maharashtra

37 This paper discusses how the possibilities for transgression of heteronormative desire are complicated by caste and class divisions, the work-leisure binary, and the politics of the folk. — *Anagha Tambe*

Dancing the Night Away: Erotic Outlaws of the Democracy

45 The varied trajectories of Bengali cabaret/bar dancers who ferried themselves between the two cities of Mumbai and Kolkata in search of livelihood and shelter since the last decades of the 20th century are mapped in this paper. — *Aishika Chakraborty*

Corpo-activism: Dance and Activist Labour in the Work of Komal Gandhar

53 Based on in-depth interviews with Komal Gandhar members, this paper proposes "corpo-activism"—the activation of human rights through embodied aesthetic labour—as a crucial phenomenon that mobilises the agency of minoritised groups. — *Prarthana Purkayastha*

Bodies in Waiting: Remapping Gender, Labour, and Histories

60 Reflecting on the burgeoning field of feminist media histories and contemporary debates around Shanta Apte's oeuvre, this paper argues that her work enables us to rethink the questions of gender, creative labour, characteristics of film work, and the industrial milieu. — *Madhuja Mukherjee*

The Legacy of Balamani Ammal in Tamil Theatre

69 Using Balamani Ammal's sketchy life available through scant resources, the paper would like to raise issues with the historiographic practices existing in theatre history from a gendered point of view. — *A Mangai*

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79 *Umesh Patra* on whether English can still be considered as a "foreign" language in India; *Sreya Majumdar* on natural birth centres and respectful pregnancy; *Binayak Choudhury* on the murderous cables snagging our dreams of smart cities; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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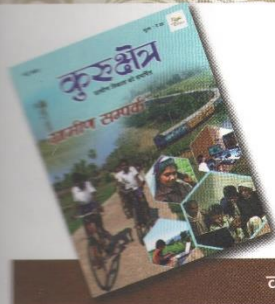
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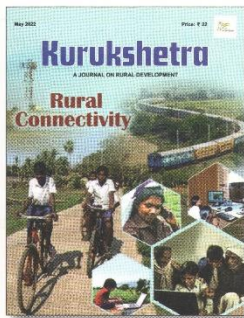
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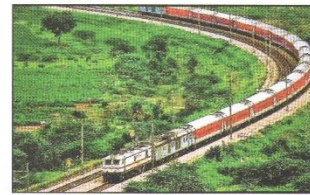
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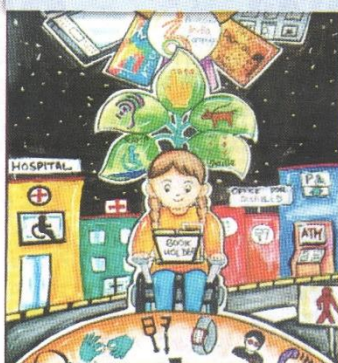
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