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# Down To Earth

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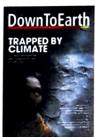
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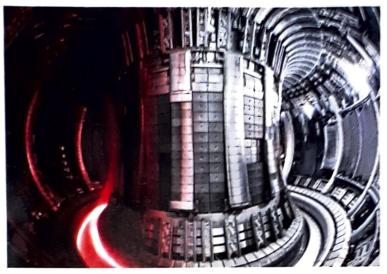
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## India's Nuclear Doctrine

10 It is essential for India to examine the robustness of its nuclear strategy and, particularly, the no-first-use policy. — Jawahar Bhagwat

# A Methodological Rectification in the Global Hunger Index

14 This article proposes a methodological correction to the original Global Hunger Index to improve its validity as a tool to measure hunger in a country. — Hariprasad T, Dennis Robert & Anish T S

# The NITI Aayog Multidimensional Poverty Index

The explicit limitation of the multidimensional poverty index curated by the NITI Aayog is its lack of comparability across the spectrum of human development within India. — Sanjay K Mohanty, U S Mishra & K D Maiti

# Regional Lockdown Policies and COVID-19 Transmission in India

21 Do lockdowns and mobility restrictions contain the spread of COVID-19? Findings from this article suggest that lockdown policies slowed COVID-19 death rates in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

# — Aarushi Kalra, Paul Novosad

Manipur and the ADCs Bill, 2021

The conflict about the proposed Manipur (Hill Areas) Autonomous District Councils Bill is a manifestation of the deep divide between the hills and the valley. — *Thongkholal Haokip* 

# **Political Reservation for OBCs**

The responses of the ruling state government and the opposition in Maharashtra to the retention of the OBC reservation in the local self-governments are explored and analysed in this article. — Yashwant Zagade

# Language, Purity, and the Logic of Democracy

38 Working towards building a chauvinism-free model of democracy that is equally available to all its citizens involves ensuring the freedom of critical discourse to question the proto-hegemonic narrative associated with every primordial (religious or linguistic) affiliation. — Probal Dasgupta

# **COVID-19 and the Formal Sector Crisis in IT and ITeS**

This paper draws upon media reports, a short online survey, and telephonic interviews to highlight the working conditions in the information technology and information technology-enabled services sector. — Smriti Singh

# Supply-side Problems in Food Loss and Waste

The food systems approach proposes reducing food loss and waste as a potential solution to achieve food and nutritional security. One-sixth of the agricultural production, accounting for one-tenth of the gross value added in agriculture, is lost. An efficient cold chain can reduce these losses substantially.

— Chandra S R Nuthalapati, S Mahendra Dev & Rajeev Sharma

# **Climate Change and the Miyawaki Forests**

The Miyawaki method is a path-breaking initiative in the recreation of forests in India, particularly in the context of climate change and environment conservation. A judicious conservation policy is the need of the hour as conservation initiatives are affecting people's lives and livelihoods.

— Anju Lis Kurian, C Vinodan

# **Postscript**

Partha S Ghosh on Bani Singh's documentary film Taangh; Mrinmoy Pramanick on the cultural narratives of Calcutta as codified through cinema and literature; Anirudh Raghavan's poem "Two Glasses"; and Last Lines by Ponnappa.

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# Jharkhand's Sarna Code Bill and the Possible Fallout

To overcome the challenge of the plurality of Adivasi religions and discourse, community leaders would require to create a consensus based on grounded realities. — Sujit Kumar

# Managing India's Pasts

13 The lack of clarity and transparency in the impending restructuring of organisations like the Films Division of India and the National Film Archive of India disenfranchises the real stakeholders of India's film heritage—the Indian public. — Ritika Kaushik

# Re-envisioning the Purpose and Delivery of Higher Education

16 The Union Budget 2022–23 proposes a step forward towards the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 by invoking the increased use of information and communications technology as a policy instrument.
— Saumen Chattopadhyay

# COVID-19 to Lockdown (Mis)-management

The crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic has been effectuated due to the authoritativeness of the state that has used its powers without paying heed to the decentralisation of powers, devolution of duties, and building of community resilience. — Gaurika Chugh

# NEP 2020 and the Discontinuation of the MPhil Degree

This article attempts to understand the perspective behind the move in the National Education Policy 2020 to discontinue the MPhil programme.
— Anil S Sutar

# **Understanding Sikh Museums in Contemporary India**

32 A study of Sikh museums is valuable in understanding the museum as an institution and its influence on the heritage politics of contemporary India.
— Kanika Singh

### **Once Upon a Time Was Karnad**

40 This article attempts to study Girish Karnad's Ondanondu Kaladalli (1979) by highlighting its richly layered representation of Indian martial arts, historical perspective of peasant mercenaries, and non-Kshatriya heroism.
— Sreeram Gopalkrishnan

# The Changing Face of New Towns in India

46 Socio-spatial equity has been at the core of the new town experiment during its origin in the Garden City movement. However, the Indian new town has undergone major changes towards a more exclusive private enclave.
— Aparna Vedula

# **Emerging Pattern and Trend of Migration in Megacities**

56 Based on analysing the census figures from 2001 to 2011 and the National Sample Survey Office data, this paper notes that the interstate and combined migration figures may be rural-to-urban but that characteristic is changing.
— Reimeingam Marchang

# Dynamics of Economic Growth in India

62 Using a model based on the Stojanovic's matrix of growth to understand India's economic progress shows that the service sector has been the dominant mover of the economy after the start of the reforms in 1990–91. — Pranav Raj, Siva Reddy Kalluru

# **Argumentation by Misrepresentation**

In this response to Chris J Perry and M Dinesh Kumar's critique of the authors' paper (EPW, 17 July 2021), the authors seek to respond to a distortion of their views as well as what they claim is a ridiculing of powerful solutions to India's water and agrarian crises. — Mihir Shah, P S Vijayshankar

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# The Russia-Ukraine War and the Changing World Order

- The double standards in implementing human rights and selective wars of aggression on smaller states by great powers have led to a delegitimisation of multilateral institutions and a world that is insecure for all.
  - Anuradha M Chenoy

# Interrogating Populist Tendencies within the Left Rhetoric in Kerala

- In Kerala, the process of mobilising the "people" is enmeshed with subnationalist sentiments and concerns around vikasanam (development). It is possible that this tendency can metamorphose into different directions depending upon the tactical priorities of the left in Kerala.
  - Balu Sunilraj, Sarath Sasikumar

# Making Sense of the Manipur Assembly Election Results

19 It is argued that it would be naïve to explain the Bharatiya Janata Party's success in Manipur as a wholehearted endorsement of its Hindutva agenda as there are substantial local reservations on this. — Kham Khan Suan Hausing

# Aijaz Ahmad (1941–2022): An Obituary

27 A tribute to the departed scholar looks at his immense contributions to literary criticism, world politics, and Marxist theory and brings out the consistent underlying thread of principled political commitment to the working-class politics. — Amir Ali

# **COVID-19 and India's Ongoing Migration Fiasco**

30 Drawing on empirical research with migrant populations, this article identifies four interlinked issues critical to understanding and addressing the contemporary migrant crisis that unfolded in India in the wake of COVID-19.
— Priya Deshingkar, Mukta Naik & Nabeela Ahmed

# **Assessing Direct Benefit Transfer of Agricultural Subsidies**

36 This study uses administrative data on the sale of 4.9 lakh subsidised agricultural implements in Bihar and Odisha to evaluate the effectiveness of the DBT of agricultural subsidies in the two states. — Avinash Kishore, Smriti Saini & Muzna Alvi

# COVID-19 Lockdowns and Intra-household Interactions in India

To understand the impact of the stay-at-home diktat, this paper examined the survey data (N = 388) on these broad domains: intra-household interactions, including interpersonal communication, work from home, leisure time, use of digital media, and overall subjective well-being. — B Devi Prasad, A Eswara Rao, Sumati Thusoo & Vedika Inamdar

# **Examining the Contemporary Status of Marathas**

In recent years, the Maratha community has mobilised for reservations in employment and higher education, claiming that the lack of reservations has resulted in socio-economic backwardness. This paper examines the income, education, and occupational status of the Marathas vis-à-vis non-Marathas while scrutinising the statistical limitations of the Gaikwad Committee report (2018). — Sumeet Mhaskar, Rahul Suresh Sapkal

# **Postscript**

63 Aamir Shiekh on doing ethnography in conflict zones; Anu Kuriakose on trans-inclusivity and transphobia in Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui;

Nayana George on the role of food in building and separating communities; and Last Lines by Ponnappa.

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# **Backward Class Reservation in Local Bodies**

The impasse over the implementation of reservations for "backward classes" in panchayati raj institutions and urban local bodies threatens the future of grassroots democracy in India. — Alok Prasanna Kumar

# The Quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey

This article examines the difference between the estimates of unemployment rate and worker population ratio in urban areas for the quarters ending in March and June 2021 in the Periodic Labour Force Surveys. — G C Manna

# **Equity Stake of Government in Vodafone**

With its existing equity in BSNL/MTNL, the government faces a serious conflict of interest through ownership in competing companies.
Merging these companies would promote policy objectives better.
— Mahesh Uppal, Vikas Kathuria

### Trade Measures and the COVID-19 Pandemic

20 This article analyses the non-tariff measures enacted by countries during the COVID-19 pandemic from the lens of trade protectionism.

— Adrita Banerjee

# Is Decent Work Elusive under Globalisation and 4IR?

26 The weakening relationship between economic and employment growth led by intense global competition and technology penetration is likely to complicate the decent employment agenda. — Ramya Ranjan Patel

# **Seasonal Variations in Childbirth**

The analysis of seasonal variations in births in India reveals a distinct trend of peaking of births during the August-October window and dips during February-March. This trend attenuates as we move from the north-western regions towards the south-eastern regions. — Apoorva Nambiar, Dripta Roy Choudhury & Satish B Agnihotri

# Broker Practices in the Municipal Governance of New Delhi

46 This paper analyses the ways in which informal mediation channels facilitate service delivery in the Citizen Service Bureaus at the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and give rise to an interplay between formal and informal institutions.
— Sushant Anand, Sylvia I Bergh

# **Analysis of the Productivity of Indian Banks**

This study reveals that cash holdings, the "growth rate of assets," the "incremental gross non-performing assets," and the "incremental cost of funds" negatively impact the productivity of banks, whereas the net interest margin has a positive impact. — Dilip Ambarkhane, Ardhendu Shekhar Singh & Bhama Venkataramani

# Miya Poetry: Identity Contestations and Reappropriation

62 An analysis of Miya poetry must be placed within the larger context of identity contestation of Bengal-origin Muslims. Accordingly, Miya poetry seeks to stabilise the contested identity of this community by reappropriating the stigmatised social identity of Miya. — Nayan Moni Kumar

# Dignity and Development in Tamil Nadu

69 Tamil Nadu has done relatively well, for sure, but whether the state presents a "model" is doubtful. — John Harriss

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# Growth and Decomposition of Nutri-cereals in India

With the United Nations adopting 2023 as the International Year of Millets, more needs to be done for these hitherto neglected, nutritionally beneficial and climate-resilient crops. — Diptimayee Jena, Srijit Mishra

# Is Growth Enough for Poverty Reduction?

14 This article shows that Telangana achieved faster poverty reduction from 2004–05 to 2011–12 than Andhra Pradesh due to a high growth elasticity of poverty. — Priyabrata Sahoo, Kirtti Ranjan Paltasingh

# **Fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals**

17 India's official publications have focused on interstate comparisons, but insufficient attention has been paid to the national progress in the Sustainable Development Goals. — Shiladitya Chatterjee

# No Coups and No-confidence: Pakistan's Constitutional Moment

The Shakespearean events leading to the constitutional removal of Pakistan's populist Prime Minister Imran Khan have entered the final act, but the question remains: Is any of this good for democracy? — Afiya Shehrbano Zia

# The Political Economy of the Crisis in Sri Lanka

35 Will the economic crisis in Sri Lanka lead to a progressive social contract between the state and the people based on democratic alternatives of redistribution or further augment repressive liberalisation with dispossession? — Devaka Gunawardena, Ahilan Kadirgamar

### **Nationalist Rhetoric and the Politics of Panic**

42 It was in the aftermath of the deadly plague crisis that the political discourse of cultural revivalism dominated by the Brahmins gathered incredible momentum, resulting in the consolidation of Hindu nationalist voices in western India. — *Prabodhan Pol* 

# India's Household Leverage and the COVID-19 Crisis

This paper analyses trends in credit deployment across different sectors of the economy to illustrate the rising share of household credit concentrated in credit card receivables and other personal loans post demonetisation. — Isha Gupta

# **Women and National Liberation Movements**

58 A critical evaluation of the burgeoning body of feminist scholarship on the expression of agency by women in conflict settings is undertaken in this paper, more specifically in the course of nationalist resistance movements.

— Bi Bi Ishrat Hassan

# Politics of Caste as a Census Category in Colonial India

63 Historians of colonial India have often argued that the censuses hardened caste divides in Indian society. This paper showcases how caste data in the census reports highlighted the marginalisation of the lower castes and was used by them to make their claims for power. — *Pritam Singh* 

### **Postscript**

71 Aparna Sharma, Ankuran Dutta, and Raja Das on archiving visual media from the North East; Neeraj Bunkar on the Adivasi resistance for "Jal, Jangal, Jameen" in Spring Thunder; Rohini Kejriwal's poem, "Ask"; and Last Lines by Ponnappa.

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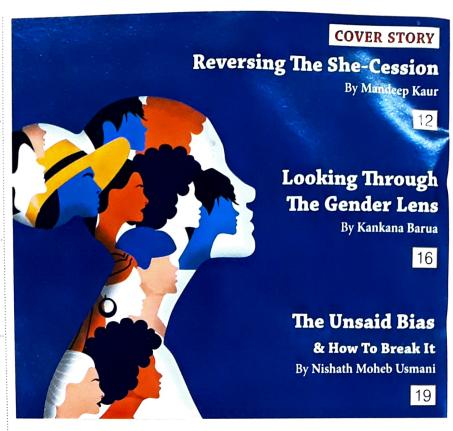
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Sales Manager

Harsh Agarwal

Ph: 7535077222

**Manish Singh** 

Ph: 7534877222

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Corporate and media connect

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## Owned by

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# Managed by

Neha Jain

Ph: 7060177222

Editorial@humancapitalonline.com

### **Senior Content Editor**

**Ajay Kumar** 

ajay@humancapitalonline.com

# **Content Manager**

Anushruti Singh







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a symposium on

the political representation

of women in India

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