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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOWN TO EARTH	:	1-4
ECONOMIC & POLITICAL WEEKLY	:	5-8
HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW	:	9-10
THE INDIAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS	:	11-12
INDIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL WORK	:	13
KERALA SOCIOLOGIST	:	14-15
RALLY	:	16
SEMINAR	:	17
SOCIAL CHANGE	:	18-19
VAIHARAI	:	20



Down To Earth

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COVER STORY

26

India cannot end plastic pollution until it holds the petrochemical behemoths and the plastic industry accountable for manufacturing the menace

10 Digest

A quiet revolution towards cleaner cooking in Pune

14 Outdated cycle

Despite changed weather, India yet to update its crop calendar

24 Shift in Zimbabwe

Government launches irrigation schemes for climate adaptation

42 Patently Absurd

Vaccine inequity inevitable as world races to curb monkeypox

55 Initiative

Himachal Pradesh sees benefits of natural farming, but gaps remain

58 Civil Lines

The current planetary drought is a glimpse into a dry future



Contents

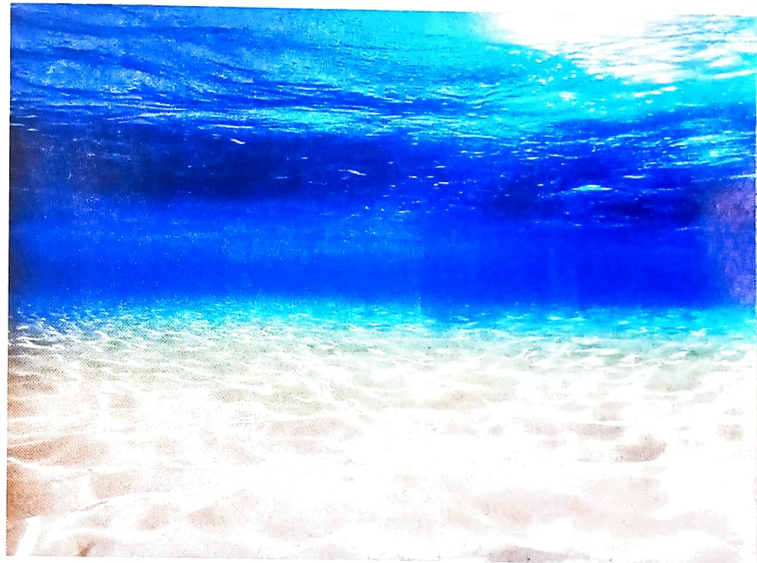
36

The fourth industrial revolution is changing the physical and virtual worlds we inhabit. Is it all good?



Scientists find strong links between seafloor spreading of magma and global warming in geologic past

46

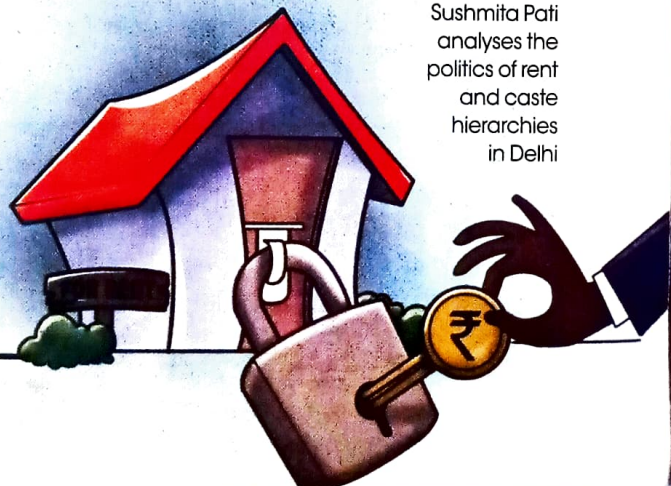


50

Failure to translocate Asiatic lions from Gir to Kuno risks reversing 100 years of efforts to conserve the big cat

52

Sushmita Pati analyses the politics of rent and caste hierarchies in Delhi



30 years Down To Earth

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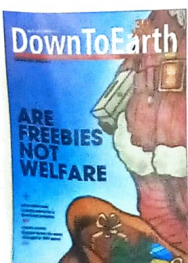
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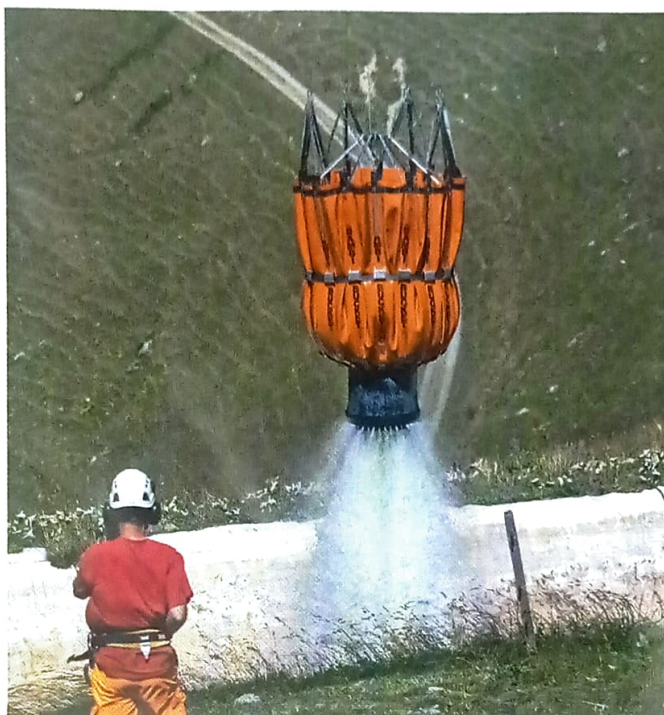
30

The "freebie" debate has reached India's highest court. But who will tackle the fundamental question of defining the very term?

- 10 Digest
A non-profit in Uttar Pradesh helps poor children go to school
- 14 Kisan credit card
Farmers forced to pay a fee for the Centre's "free" loan scheme
- 44 Patently Absurd
Moderna's bid to monopolise mRNA drug development
- 48 Ozone day special
Rising forest fires are the new threat to this atmospheric layer
- 50 Opinion
Without proper regulation, medical crowdfunding is subject to fraud risks
- 58 Civil Lines
Hit by one of its worst droughts, Jharkhand faces a cropless year



Contents



22

Europe's current drought may only be the beginning of many others



52

A caste analysis of partition, without the voices of Dalit scholars

A

Odisha Millet Mission is showing shoots of growth, but can only move forward with better marketing

54



EDITORIALS

Investigative Agencies and Their Hyperactivism.....7
 An Assault on Democracy 8

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Making Sense of 'Freebies' 9
FROM 50 YEARS AGO 9

ALTERNATIVE STANDPOINT

From *Sairat to Jhund* via *Jai Bhim*: Caste and the Culture Industry of Hindi Cinema —*Sai Thakur, Byasa Moharana, Rimal Bobonga*..... 10

COMMENTARY

FDI, GDP and Regional Disparity: An Empirical Study to Cross-check the Myth and Reality —*Dipen Roy* 16

India's Turn to Save the World from the Next Crisis —*Avinash Persaud* 22

Reading Ecology, Reinventing Democracy: The Gadgil Report on the Western Ghats —*Shiv Visvanathan, Chandrika Parmar* 24

Bhairabi Prasad Sahu (1957–2022) —*Yogender Dayma* 30

BOOK REVIEWS

Tribe and State in Asia through Twenty-Five Centuries—Tribes: The Other View —*Surinder S Jodhka* 33

The Idea of New India: Essays in Defence of Critical Thought—How to Dismantle a Republic Understanding the Idea of New India —*Anshul Trivedi*..... 35

Alt-Right Movement: Dissecting Racism, Patriarchy and Anti-immigrant Xenophobia—Anatomy of 'Alt-Right' Politics —*S Irfan Habib* 37

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Agricultural Federalism: New Facts, Constitutional Vision —*Shoumitro Chatterjee, Devesh Kapur, Pradyut Sekhsaria, Arvind Subramanian*..... 39

Federal Transfers and States' Own Spending on Development Activities in Fiscal Federalism in India —*J S Darshini, K Gayithri*..... 49

Fiscal Decentralisation and Finances of Gram Panchayats and Municipalities: A Kerala Experience —*B A Prakash* 57

CURRENT STATISTICS..... 65

LETTERS 4

Investigative Agencies and Their Hyperactivism

7 The independence of institutions is being subordinated to the political calculations of the ruling regime.

An Assault on Democracy

8 The onslaught against freebies is yet another attempt to disempower the poor and hustle the electorate.

From *Sairat* to *Jhund* via *Jai Bhim*

10 Mainstream Indian cinema has rarely depicted the complexities of caste and its associated social problems. — *Sai Thakur, Byasa Moharana & Rimal Bobonga*

FDI, GDP, and Regional Disparity

16 This article reveals that foreign direct investment has limited and unexpectedly negative effects on the Indian gross domestic product. — *Dipen Roy*

India's Turn to Save the World from the Next Crisis

22 India, the incoming G20 President, must provide the leadership necessary to save us from an emerging market debt crisis. — *Avinash Persaud*

Reading Ecology, Reinventing Democracy

24 The Gadgil report on the Western Ghats is a major ecological tract and a significant reflection on the politics of ecology. It illustrates how a theory of nature, lives, livelihood combined with local knowledge, decentralisation, and diversity add to the dynamism of democracy. — *Shiv Visvanathan, Chandrika Parmar*

Bhairabi Prasad Sahu (1957–2022)

30 Bhairabi Prasad Sahu made path-breaking contributions to the study of the issues ranging from the history of regions, cultural aspects of the state, and legitimation strategies in premodern India to technology and social change. — *Yogender Dayma*

Agricultural Federalism

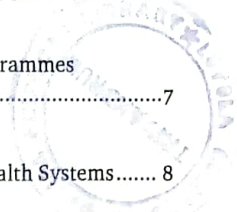
39 This paper argues for a reassessment of the distinct and complementary roles of the union and states in the agriculture sector in accord with the spirit of the Constitution. Achieving this vision would require the states and the union to embrace the kind of cooperative federalism that led to the realisation of the goods and services tax. — *Shoumitro Chatterjee, Devesh Kapur, Pradyut Sekhsaria & Arvind Subramanian*

Fiscal Federalism in India

49 Intergovernmental transfers play an instrumental role in shaping fiscal adjustments and performance at the subnational level in a federal system like India. Taking into account the conditional and unconditional transfers, this paper empirically verifies the presence of substitution or stimulation effects on the state-level development spending for 14 major states. — *J S Darshini, K Gayithri*

Fiscal Decentralisation: A Kerala Experience

57 In the case of intergovernmental fiscal transfers through State Finance Commissions, there has been delayed implementation of SFC reports, rejection of devolution recommendations, implementation of very few recommendations and non-implementation of accepted recommendations, indicating a distorted implementation of fiscal decentralisation in Kerala. — *B A Prakash*



Another Global Debt Crisis

10 When multiple crises confront global leaders, some yet-brewing ones tend to be ignored. — *C P Chandrasekhar*

Needles, Blood, and Data

13 Through abandonment by the state, reluctance towards women’s health and an epistemological gap at the heart of modern medicine, it is ensured that the effects of vaccines on women’s menstrual cycles remain ignored. — *Meghna Roy*

Regulating Creditors

17 For balancing the interests of bankruptcy governance, this article suggests structural reforms to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code that aims to foster an expedient resolution process and reduce losses to creditors. — *Urmil Shah*

Monetary Policy and Stagflation

21 This article argues that the view of neutrality of the supply side to monetary policies may change if we pay more attention to the role of money supply on the working capital requirements of firms. — *Sugata Marjit, Ranajoy Bhattacharyya*

Sri Lanka–China Relations

31 The Sri Lankan, Indian, and Chinese perspectives on the growing strategic partnership between Sri Lanka and China are analysed. The motivations and objectives of India and China in strengthening their partnership with Sri Lanka are examined. — *Rajiv Ranjan, Asantha Senevirathna*

Dynamics of Government Budgets, Growth, and Welfare

37 What hinders the effort of the poorer states in accessing resources from the centre and in reaching out to the poor? This paper demonstrates that poorer states in India lag behind the less poor states in the implementation of development programmes despite the fact that such programmes are conceived to offer opportunities to the poorer states. — *Niten Chandra, Himanshu Sekhar Rout & Padmaja Mishra*

The Indian Time Use Survey 2019

46 This paper examines the concepts, methods, and quality of data used in the TUS 2019, the results of which throw light on the workforce, health, and educational status of the population, and other dimensions of life. Its status in the global South and the challenges faced by the countries therein are also discussed. — *Indira Hirway*

COVID-19 and Indian Growth Drivers

52 In India’s battle with COVID-19, recovery was largely under-predicted and financial sector distress over-predicted based on the view that more structural reforms were a prerequisite for growth. Sustaining Indian growth requires continued fiscal supply-side action that reduces costs of doing business and inflation, allowing monetary policy to keep real interest rates below growth rates. — *Ashima Goyal*

Postscript

63 *Ganesh Gaigouria* on the exhibition “Passage to Asylum” and the lived experience of refugees; *Anupama Kumar* on P G Wodehouse and his appeal among Indian readers; *Anannya Dasgupta*’s poem “How we remember the hands;” and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

EDITORIAL

Expansive Social Security Programmes
a Top Priority 7

COMMENT

Social Sensitivity of Mental Health Systems 8

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

In Search of New Norms of Politics 9

FROM 50 YEARS AGO 9

HT PAREKH FINANCE COLUMN

Another Global Debt Crisis
— *C P Chandrasekhar* 10

COMMENTARY

Needles, Blood, and Data: The Case of COVID-19
Vaccine Side Effects
— *Meghna Roy* 13

Regulating Creditors Addressing the Next
Frontier of Corporate Bankruptcy Governance
— *Urmil Shah* 17

Monetary Policy and Stagflation:
Keynes Meets Classics
— *Sugata Marjit, Ranajoy Bhattacharyya* 21

BOOK REVIEWS

*Smaller Citizens: Writings on the Making
of Indian Citizens—Children as Citizens*
— *Amman Madan* 23

Pedagogy of Dissent—Learning to Dissent
— *Rajarshi Dasgupta* 26

*Decline and Prosper! Changing Global Birth Rates
and the Advantages of Fewer Children—Do Fewer
Births Bring More Prosperity? Learnings from
Global Experiences*

— *Milan Das, Srinivas Goli* 27

INSIGHT

Sri Lanka–China Relations: Analysing Sri
Lankan, Chinese, and Indian Perspectives
— *Rajiv Ranjan, Asantha Senevirathna* 31

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Dynamics of Government Budgets,
Growth, and Welfare
— *Niten Chandra, Himanshu Sekhar Rout,
Padmaja Mishra* 37

The Indian Time Use Survey 2019: A Critique
— *Indira Hirway* 46

What Does the COVID-19 Experience Tell Us
about Indian Growth Drivers?
— *Ashima Goyal* 52

CURRENT STATISTICS 60

POSTSCRIPT

From Home to Asylum (or Deportation?):
The Refugee Journey—*Ganesh Gaigouria* (63),
On P G Wodehouse, Or How an English
Literary Chappie Became My Favourite Author

— *Anupama Kumar* (65),
How we remember the hands

— *Anannya Dasgupta* (66), Last Lines (66)

LETTERS 4

Towards the Instrumentality of Inequality

10 The Dadabhai Naoroji conference at the National Institute of Advanced Studies on the instrumentality of inequality raised conceptual, ethical, and practical dimensions of inequality. — *Anant Kamath, Debosree Banerjee & Chetan Choithani*

Policy Changes in R&D Tax Incentives

14 India has seen relatively low investment in research and development, which calls for policy changes. — *Aakanksha Kaushik*

Need for Credit Resilience Score in India

17 Paired with the borrower score/rating, a credit resilience score would better equip the financial institutions to account for borrower resilience and make credit decisions accordingly. — *Chetana Asbe*

Dietary Diversity during COVID-19 in India

21 The article reports the findings on the changing dietary patterns of Indian households during COVID-19 based on an analysis of the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey. — *Aashi Gupta, Nidhi Kaicker*

S Parasuraman (1952–2022)

25 S Parasuraman, with his interdisciplinary educational background and vast experience in the development sector, contributed to institution building. — *Lakshmi Lingam*

Is the Employment Situation Improving?

34 Within regular protected employment, there can be a greater degree of regularity and deeper protection than the minimum definition offers. This very idea is explored to take a view on the evolution of the internal structure of this employment form. — *Nomaan Majid*

Leveraging Trade in High Technology for Emergence

39 The emerging strength of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa in high-technology trade is examined. Trends in high-technology trade in BRICS are reviewed, highlighting the hugely disproportionate contribution from China in trade in high-technology products. — *Sachin Chaturvedi, Sabyasachi Saha & Prativa Shaw*

The Role of Industrial Policy in Market-friendly Economies

47 Given the public good characteristics of new technologies and especially those contributing to improved health, there is a strong case for state support for research and development and indeed for converting those research results to commercialise products and processes. — *Sunil Mani*

The Electricity–Water Nexus in Indian Agriculture

54 This study summarises all the electricity consumption methods and numbers in the major agricultural states by state electricity regulatory commissions and researchers. Clear disparities in electricity consumption can be seen for some states and crops in the numbers summarised. — *Namita Sawant, Ganesh Hegde*

Nature of Health Insurance Demand in India

61 In this paper, an attempt is made to explore the elasticity of health insurance demand in India. We evaluate whether people have appropriate information about these governmental schemes and the influence of other socio-economic factors on individual household choices. — *Brijesh C Purohit*

Postscript

72 *Embassy Lawbei* on how the South Korean boy band BR549 brings people together; *Andleeb Shadani* on the spirit of the mango orchard; *Rohini Kejriwal*'s poem "Stop the press"; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

EDITORIAL

National Health Accounts, 2018–19 7

COMMENT

The Growing Significance of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation..... 8

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Use and Abuse of Oath-taking..... 9

FROM 50 YEARS AGO 9

COMMENTARY

Towards the Instrumentality of Inequality — *Anant Kamath, Debosree Banerjee, Chetan Choithani* 10

The Misdirected Policy Changes in R&D Tax Incentives — *Aakanksha Kaushik* 14

Need for Credit Resilience Score in India — *Chetana Asbe* 17

Dietary Diversity during COVID-19 in India — *Aashi Gupta, Nidhi Kaicker* 21

S Parasuraman (1952–2022): Reimagined the Relevance of Social Sciences — *Lakshmi Lingam* 25

REVIEW ARTICLE

Privileged Minorities: Syrian Christianity, Gender, and Minority Rights in Postcolonial India; Persisting Patriarchy: Intersectionalities, Negotiations, Subversions—Dissecting 'Modern' Syrian Christianity — *Nidhin Donald* 28

PERSPECTIVES

Is the Employment Situation Improving? On Regular Protected Employment in India — *Nomaan Majid* 34

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Leveraging Trade in High Technology for Emergence: The BRICS Experience — *Sachin Chaturvedi, Sabyasachi Saha, Prativa Shaw* 39

The Role of Industrial Policy in Market-friendly Economies: Case of COVID-19 Vaccine R&D and Its Manufacturing in India and the US—I — *Sunil Mani* 47

Missing Linkages in the Electricity–Water Nexus in Indian Agriculture — *Namita Sawant, Ganesh Hegde* 54

Nature of Health Insurance Demand in India — *Brijesh C Purohit* 61

CURRENT STATISTICS 69

POSTSCRIPT

BTS: Belonging and Becoming — *Embassy Lawbei* (72), The Spirit of the Mango Orchard — *Andleeb Shadani* (73), Stop the press—*Rohini Kejriwal* (74) Last Lines (74)

LETTERS 4

Human Development Index 2021–22 and India

7 The slowdown in the growth of life expectancy, schooling, and income has become a major challenge.

The Use and Misuse of Central Investigative Agencies

8 The central investigative agencies must catch the bigger cause and not just the effect.

Mandatory Reporting under POCSO

10 The obligation on every person to report any knowledge they may have of an offence thought to have been committed in violation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act raises serious questions related to medical ethics and the privacy of the victim. — *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

The Draft National Youth Policy 2021

13 In the absence of a robust strategy and timely and targeted intervention plan, the policy vision of “unlocking the potential of the youth” in the draft National Youth Policy 2021 will remain on paper only. — *Kuldeepsingh Rajput, Manoj Jatav*

Focus on Agriculture in the National Water Policy

17 The National Water Policy, last revised in 2012, is a guiding principle for Indian states, and it is expected that the states take cognisance of the NWP while formulating their policies and laws. In 2019, the Ministry of Jal Shakti formed a committee to revise the NWP. Focusing on “water in agriculture,” this article recommends changes in the NWP. — *Eshwer Kale, Marcella D’Souza & Crispino Lobo*

Is India Ready for Tariff Reforms?

21 Recent trade models with firm heterogeneity predict that trade liberalisation reduces the number of firms and the firms’ markups, while it increases their average size. The present study attempts to test these predictions in the context of trade reforms in India with the Annual Survey of Industries data over two decades (1987–88 to 2017–18). — *Aaheli Ahmed, Debashis Chakraborty*

Overindulgence in the Facile

30 This article will directly delve into the question of: Have pedagogy-related variables been considered for measurement in national educational surveys? This query will be contextualised with reference to a list of five nationwide metrics or surveys in India and their subjective ideas of the principal attributes of quality education. — *Charusheel Tripathi*

Inter-industry Wage Differentials in India

39 This paper notes persistent regularity in industry-level wage rates confirming the absence of a convergence behaviour. The stability of industry-level wage rates brings industrial reforms under the scanner for their implications on worker welfare. Wage convergence could be inhibited by the inter-industry movement of workers. — *Anjali Tandon*

The National e-Commerce Policy, 2019

47 The draft National e-Commerce Policy, 2019 states that the e-commerce platforms use network effects and mining of unstructured data to create entry barriers. We argue that network effects alone do not create a sustainable competitive advantage for the platforms. The added effect of the high customer switching costs creates a dominant position for the big firms. — *Shyam Sreekumaran Nair, Santhi Perumal & M H Bala Subrahmanya*

EDITORIAL

Human Development Index 2021–22 and India7

COMMENT

The Use and Misuse of Central Investigative Agencies.....8

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Limits of Indexing Human Values 9

FROM 50 YEARS AGO 9

LAW & SOCIETY

Mandatory Reporting under POCSO —*Alok Prasanna Kumar*..... 10

COMMENTARY

Migrant Urban Youth in the Draft National Youth Policy 2021 —*Kuldeepsingh Rajput, Manoj Jatav*..... 13

Focus on Agriculture in the National Water Policy —*Eshwer Kale, Marcella D’Souza, Crispino Lobo* 17

Is India Ready for Tariff Reforms? Lessons from Difference-in-difference Results —*Aaheli Ahmed, Debashis Chakraborty* 21

BOOK REVIEWS

Gujarat, Cradle and Harbinger of Identity Politics: India’s Injurious Frame of Communalism—Theorising Hindutva: Insights from Gujarat —*Hilal Ahmed*.....26

Making Refugees in India—What Can the Shifting Meaning of Refugees Tell Us about Nationhood, Belonging and Citizenship in India? —*Noel George*.....28

PERSPECTIVES

Overindulgence in the Facile: What the Present Nationwide Surveys Are Missing —*Charusheel Tripathi* 30

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Inter-industry Wage Differentials in Indian Manufacturing: Convergence or Persistence? —*Anjali Tandon*39

The National e-Commerce Policy, 2019: How Adequate Is It to Achieve Its Objectives? —*Shyam Sreekumaran Nair, Santhi Perumal, M H Bala Subrahmanya*..... 47

CURRENT STATISTICS..... 161

LETTERS 4

"Removing unauthorized sellers or counterfeit brands from Amazon...can feel like a whack-a-mole game."

"SHOULD YOUR COMPANY SELL ON AMAZON?" PAGE 38

Contents

September–
October 2022

37 Spotlight

Choosing the
Right Platform
for Your Brand

38
Should Your
Company Sell
on Amazon?

Reach comes at a price.
Ayelet Israeli et al.

47
Building Your Own
Brand Platform

To sidestep the big online
marketplaces, consider
these four approaches.
*Julian R.K. Wichmann,
Nico Wiegand, and
Werner J. Reinartz*

54
Selling on TikTok
and Taobao

The growing power of
online video platforms
Thomas S. Robertson

COVER PHOTOGRAPH
Dan Saelinger



9

60 Features

60 STRATEGY

Strategy-Making in Turbulent Times

A dynamic new model
*Michael Mankins and
Mark Gottfredson*

70 ORGANIZATIONAL
CULTURE

Don't Let Cynicism Undermine Your Workplace

How to restore trust
and confidence
in your leaders—and
your organization
Jamil Zaki

80 DIVERSITY
& INCLUSION

Dig, Bridge, Collectively Act

A proven approach to
dismantling systemic
inequities via authentic
personal relationships
*Tina Opie and
Beth A. Livingston*

88 TEAMS

A New Social Contract for Teams

Members must commit
to new behaviors to
accelerate innovation
and growth.
Keith Ferrazzi

98 WORK/LIFE
BALANCE

The Surprising Benefits of Work/Life Support

It's a secret weapon for
achieving organizational
diversity.
*Alexandra Kalev and
Frank Dobbin*

108 SALES

How to Digitalize Your Sales Organization

Use technology, data, and
analytics to do it right.
Prabhakant Sinha et al.

118 EMPLOYEE
PERFORMANCE
MANAGEMENT

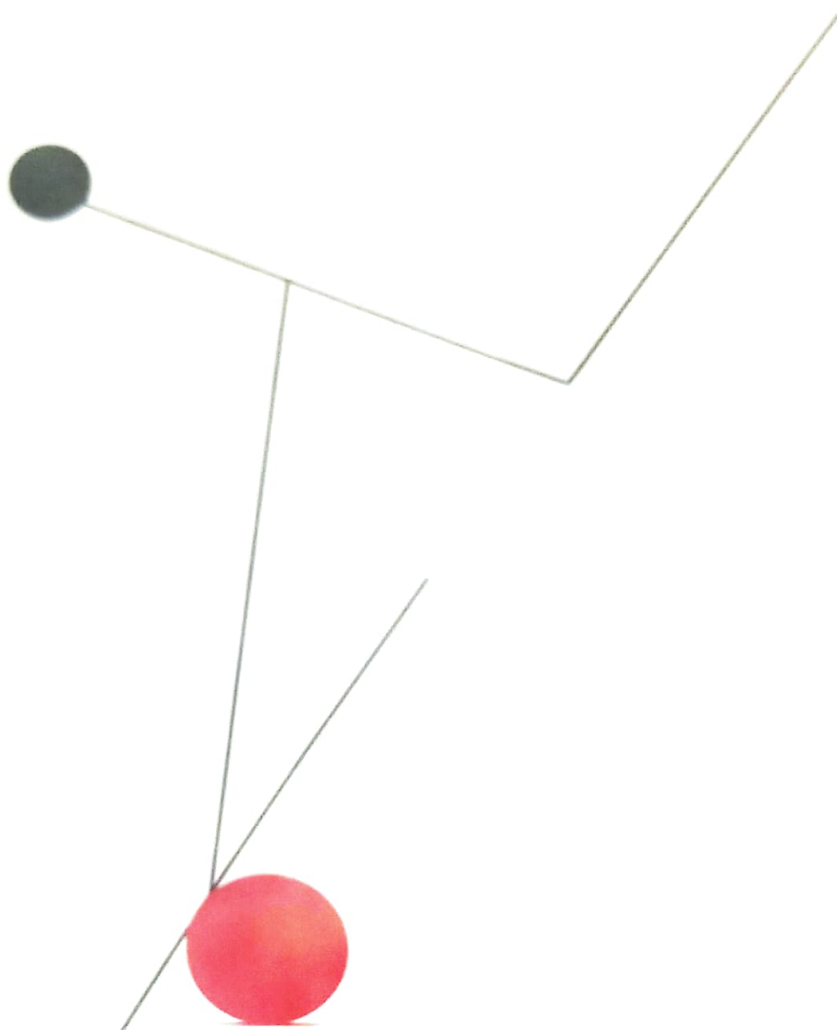
Performance Management Shouldn't Kill Collaboration

How to align goals
across functions
*Heidi K. Gardner and
Ivan Matviak*

128 SUSTAINABLE
BUSINESS PRACTICES

The Essential Link Between ESG Targets and Financial Performance

It's key to building a sus-
tainable business model.
*Mark R. Kramer and
Marc W. Pfitzer*



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VOLUME 58

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JULY 2022

Contents

Articles

- Work from Home & Remote Work – Panacea to All Ills of Unionization?** *Santanu Sarkar* 1
- Trade Unions & Effectiveness of Collective Action: Lessons from Minimum Wage Revision in Delhi** *Biju Varkkey, Sunny Wadhwanja & Rupa Korde* 11
- Job-individual Interaction: The Preceding Role of Personality Dynamism** *Naman Dubey, Ashutosh Bishnu Murti & Basav Roychoudhury* 34
- Human Resource Practices & Work Engagement: A Micro-level Study** *Pragati Swaroop & Varsha Dixit* 48
- Evolving Expectations of HR Professionals Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic in Sri Lanka** *Ranitha Weeraratna, Nilmini Rathnayake, Heyli Perera, Dewmini Wickramasena, Vinuri Arambawatta & Rumali Kaluarachchi* 68
- Effect of COVID-19 on the Financial Performance of Indian Public Family Firms** *Juili Ballal & Varadraj Bapat* 83
- Impact of Vipassana Mindfulness Meditation on Well-being During the Pandemic** *Nikhil Mahindroo & Manjari Srivastava* 99
- Does Technical Complexity Moderate the Relationship between Organization Structure & Firm-level Innovation?** *Yamini Prakash Sahay* 119

A Scientometric & Bibliographic Review of Organizational Mindfulness	<i>Rashmi Jha, Manish Kumar & Shailendra Singh</i>	133
Culture & Servant Leadership: The Impact of Situational Strength	<i>Shayani Sengupta</i>	154
Intellectual Capital Efficiency & Financial Brand Value Linkage: The Role of Relational Capital	<i>Niyas N & V Kavida</i>	168
Communication		
Response-Stimulus Concept of Motivation & the Bhagavad Gita	<i>Subba Rao Pulapa</i>	184

12

The logo for SRC (Society for Research in Human Resource Management) consists of the letters 'S', 'R', and 'C' in a bold, sans-serif font, each enclosed in a white square with a dark border. The squares are arranged horizontally and slightly overlap.**Important Announcement**

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April 2022

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EDITORIAL

Editorial	Ketki Ranade	133
-----------	--------------	-----

ARTICLES

Taboo, Rehabilitation or Affirmation?: Arguing for Shifts in the Emerging Discourse on Queer Mental Health in India	Ketki Ranade	143
Queering Cognitive Behaviour Therapy: A Review of Queer Affirmative CBT and Reflections on its Indian Adaptation	Jagruti Wandrekar and Advaita Nigudkar	165
Reflective Practice in Trans Affirmative Care	Mohan S. Raju	193
Mapping Queerlands: Meeting Children in Queerlands Using Narrative Practices	Raviraj Shetty	213
Trans-cending Traditional Ideas of Therapy: Working with Trans Clients in Urban India	Sadaf Vidha and Aryan Somaiya	229
Exploring the Experience of Microaggression Faced by Queer Individuals in Psychotherapeutic Settings in India	Deepapriya Vishwanathan	251
Unique Couple Stressors among Same-sex Couples in Therapy: Perspectives from Counsellors	Nikita Gagneja	271
Happily Ever After: Implications for Therapeutic Work with Queer Intimacies	Deepak Dhananjaya	291
For Two Hours, I Can Be Myself: Peer Support Groups and Mental Health among LGBT+	Vinay Chandran	309

KERALA SOCIOLOGIST

Journal of the Kerala Sociological Society (Peer reviewed)

Volume 49

Number 2

December 2021

Contents

- Sociological Insights on the New Normal during COVID-19 119
Dr. Sobha B Nair
- Influence of Mother's Employment Status on the Health Status of Young Adults in Kerala- A Sociological Study 126
Deepa N & Shinju V
- An Analysis of Gender Gap in the Labour Market of Kerala 137
Dr Kumar S P
- Identity Formation and Transformation of Indian Diaspora 152
Rakhi N
- Pseudo-Feminism, Media Construction of Reality and Judicial Interventions Against Misuse of Legal Provisions-The New Indian Social Milieu 164
Dr Uthara Soman
- A Socio-Historical Analysis of Challenges Faced by Female Domestic Workers from Kerala to GCC Countries 180
Santhini Paul
- Netnography: Researching in Online Spaces 198
Lijolal W & Dr. M S Jayakumar
- Re-intensifying the Social Exclusion: A Study on Elderly Abuse 214
Subalekshmi G S

Older Women as Care Givers – A question of Space and Identity	227
<i>Dr Chitra S Nair</i>	
Challenges to India's Unity	246
<i>Anirban Banerjee</i>	
Mysticism and the State: Relationship of Chishti Sufis with Rulers of Early India	268
<i>Shilujas. M & Dr Saji P Jacob</i>	

Contents

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Topics for the Next Two Issues

October 2022 :

Youth: Social Media and
Social Issues

November 2022 :

Indian Constitution - A Blessing

Rallying Point	03
AICUF In Solidarity	04
Reflections and Points to Ponder on AICUF	05
Shattering the Dreams of Women's Empowerment	08
Thankful Hope	10
Andhra Pradesh - Report	11
Gujarat AICUF Report 2022	12
Jharkhand Report 2021-2022	13
St. Xavier's College, Jaipur - Report	15
AICUF Karnataka - Report	16
AICUF - Maharashtra Report	23
AICUF Manipur Report - 2021-22	28
Tamil Nadu AICUF Report - 2021 - 2022	30
AICUF National Women Commission Report 2021-22	34
AYCM Report	36
Reflection	38

16

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757

WITHERING HIMALAYA

a symposium on

addressing the challenges facing

the mountains and its people

symposium participants

- 10 THE PROBLEM**
Posted by Pandurang Hegde, activist, Chipko/Apiko movement, organic farmer and freelance journalist, Utiara Kamarda
- 14 CENTRALITY OF HIMALAYA TO SOUTH ASIAN LIVES**
Shekhar Pathak, historian and writer; Editor, 'Paah', Namital
- 20 THE NORTHERN YARDSSTICK**
Kanak Mani Dixit, publisher, editor and writer, founder 'Himal', Kathmandu
- 26 MY HIMALAYAN JOURNEY**
Vandana Shiva, scholar, environmental activist, food sovereignty advocate, Dehradun
- 31 SHRINKING PASTORAL SPACES**
Hermann Kreutzmann, Professor Emeritus, Geographer, Institute of Geographic Sciences, Freie Universitaet Berlin
- 37 TRASHING THE HIMALAYA**
Ravi Chopra, Former Director, People's Science Institute, Dehradun
- 43 CASE FOR A FRESH DIALOGUE WITH THE MOUNTAINS**
Sudhrendar Sharma, environment writer and development critic, Delhi
- 47 UNDERSTANDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSITIONS IN THE MOUNTAINS**
Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, retired Professor, IIM Calcutta
- 51 GLOBALIZATION AND FOOD FUTURES IN LADAKH**
Helena Norberg-Hodge, Founder Director, Local Futures, UK/Australia; Co-founder, Ladakh Ecological Development Group and Women's Alliance of Ladakh, Leh
- 54 PROBLEMS OF A MODEL STATE**
Kulbushan Upmanyu, activist of the Chipko movement; Founder, Himalaya Bachao Samiti, Chamba
- 58 A HIMALAYAN CONUNDRUM IN ARUNACHAL**
Mibi Ete, Junior Researcher, Centre for Development Research, University of Bonn; and Tongnam Rina, journalist, 'Arumachal Times', Itanagar
- 64 IS THE HIMALAYA IN DEEP CRISIS?**
Prem Das Rai, Former Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (2009-2019); President, Integrated Mouamni Initiative (IMI), SIRKam
- 69 DALIT PUSHBACK IN UTTARAKHAND**
Rajesh Joshi, Delhi-based independent journalist and former editor, BBC radio (Hindi)
- 76 BOOKS**
Reviewed by Ajaya Dixit and Debarati Banerjee
- COVER**
Designed by www.designosis.in

**Special Issue: Navigating Hyper- Precarity: Im(mobilities) during the Covid
Pandemic in India**

Guest Editor: Priya Deshingkar

CONTENTS

Introduction

PRIVA DESHINGKAR **Navigating Hyper-Precarity: Im(mobilities) during the
Covid Pandemic in India**

175

Articles

- SNEHA ANNAMARAPU **The Weight of Waiting: Suspended Mobility and
Deferred Aspirations Amongst Cab Drivers in Hyderabad** 187
- SURAVEE NAVAK **Migrant Workers in the Coal Mines of India: Precarity,
Resilience and the Pandemic** 203
- TANYA CHAUDHARY **Mobility, Translocality and Social Reproduction during
COVID-19: Migrant Workers in Narela Industrial Estate, Delhi** 223
- PANKHURI AGARWAL **State-Migrant Relations in India: Internal Migration,
Welfare Rights and COVID-19** 239
- MUKTA NAIK **Testing the Waters: Young Women's Work and Mobile
Aspirations in India's Small Cities** 257
- PRIVA DESHINGKAR AND JYOTI TRIPATHI **Married Women Migrating from
Rural Uttar Pradesh and Bihar: Juggling Family Duty and Aspirations** 276
- KALPANA KANNABIRAN AND RANYA K. TELLA **Migration and 'Intimate
Citizenship': The 'Small Voice' of Ansari Begum** 291

Review Essay

- AMIT MITRA **Resisting Exclusion Through Poetry** 308

Book Reviews

VINOD KAPRI, <i>1232 km: The Long Journey Home</i> By Ashwani Kumar	317
ABHISHEK SAHA, <i>No Land's People: The Untold Story of Assam's NRC Crisis</i> By Parvin Sultana	319
ARVIND MOHAN, <i>Bihari Mazdooron ki Peeda</i> By Sushil Kumar	322
PRAVEEN KUMAR JHA, <i>Coolie Lines</i> By Saloni	324

VAIHARAI

(The Dawn)

A Theological Half-Yearly

Vol. 27, No.1

Jan.-Jun. 2022

Contents

From Editor's Desk	i
1. Synodality: The Beauty of Our Time <i>Rev. Dr Xavier Terrence</i>	01
2. Shared Responsibility as a Pathway to Synodality: A Canonical Study <i>Rev. Dr Xavier Benedict</i>	16
3. Speaking through Silence in the Synodal Process. Lessons from Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Rev. Dr Yesu Karunanidhi</i>	31
4. The Influence of the Theology of the People of God in the Synodal Church <i>Bro. Bosco</i>	37
5. Synodality at Grassroot Levels <i>Rev. Dr Mary John</i>	52

20

The main scope of VAIHARAI published by THEDAL VELIYEEDUGAL is to foster reflection on theological issues in India and elsewhere in the light of the Christian faith and other religions. The opinions expressed in the Journal are those of the author and not necessarily those of the editorial board or of the publisher.