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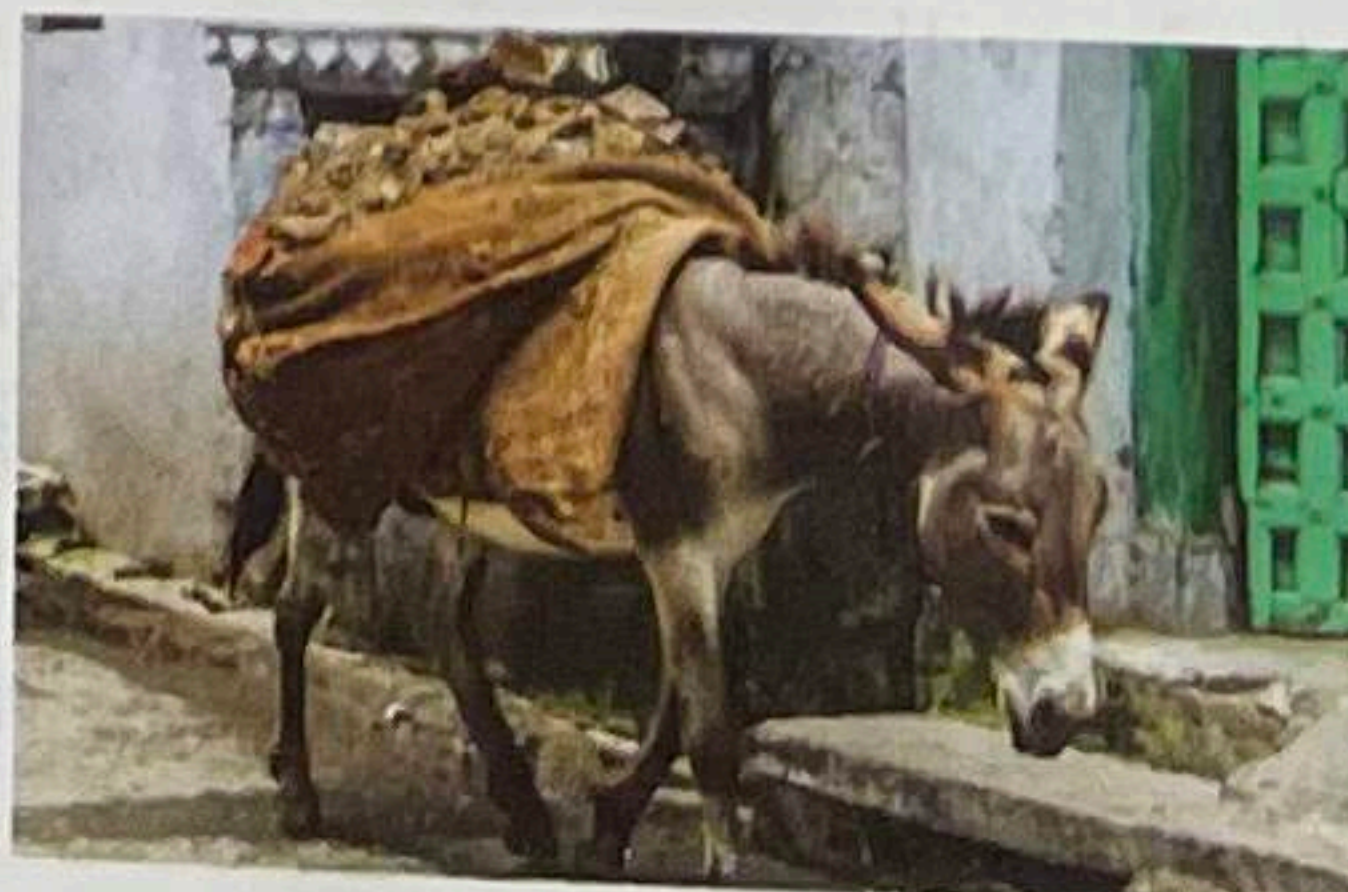
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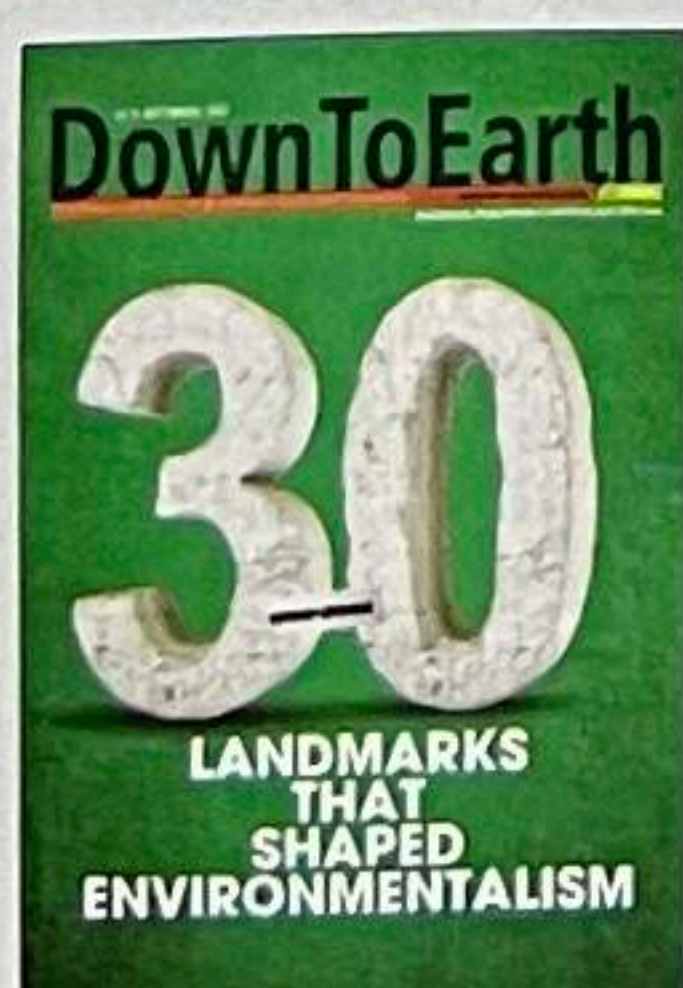
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German Strategic Autonomy and American Primacy

10 In the coming decades, Germany is not likely to sacrifice its economic interests at the altar of the liberal international order and this is likely to pose a bigger challenge to German–American ties in the long run.
— *Atul Bhardwaj*

Is Extreme Poverty Declining?

13 Though the so-called “Great Indian Poverty Debate 2.0,” with statistical assumptions on consumption distribution or relative prices, may provide certain estimates of poverty, those seem to be disproportionate to the actualities of the extremely poor in recent times. — *Soham Bhattacharya*

Central Grants for Local Bodies

16 This article analyses the conditions imposed by the central finance commissions on the release of grants to local bodies in the past and assesses the difficulties that they will face to draw the entire grants recommended to them during the Fifteenth Finance Commission period. — *Hari Krishna Dwivedi, Achin Chakraborty & Sudip Kumar Sinha*

Cuba Family Code

20 The latest family code in Cuba, with its progressive provisions regarding LGBT+ rights, recognition of women’s household work, and strong measures against gender violence and child protection, has the potential to usher in democracy within Cuban families. — *Jos Chathukulam, Manasi Joseph*

Locating Gender in the Adivasi Movements in Assam

32 Adivasi *mahasabhas* are organised across Assam to politically mobilise the Adivasi communities. The paper argues that in contemporary Assam, Adivasi struggles are not limited to the issues of identity but through the *mahasabhas*, the student associations are claiming citizenship, economic and constitutional rights. — *Prithiraj Borah, Rowena Robinson*

Key Findings of the Longitudinal Ageing Study

39 In this paper, key findings from the baseline survey of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India on a range of indicators that cover chronic health conditions, biomarkers (based on direct health examinations), healthcare utilisation, social and economic well-being of older adults in India and its states and union territories are presented. — *Perinayagam Arokiasamy, Sanjay K Mohanty, T V Sekher, Aparajita Chattopadhyay, Dipti Govil, Sarang Pedgaonkar, Sangeeta Gupta & Supriya Salvi*

Exchange Rate Pass-through in India

51 Exchange rate pass-through measures the responsiveness of prices to exchange rate changes. In this paper, it is estimated with respect to different price indices, namely the import price index, core inflation index, wholesale price index, and consumer price index. This paper uses structural vector autoregressive and autoregressive distributed lag models for analysis.
— *Swapnil Suryavanshi*

Ethics and Empathy within Power Structures

63 A response to “Ethics and Empathy: Doing Ethnography in Conflict Zones” (*EPW*, 16 April 2022) highlights how ethical considerations are inseparable from any research, especially so in the context of a conflict zone.
— *Smriti Singh*

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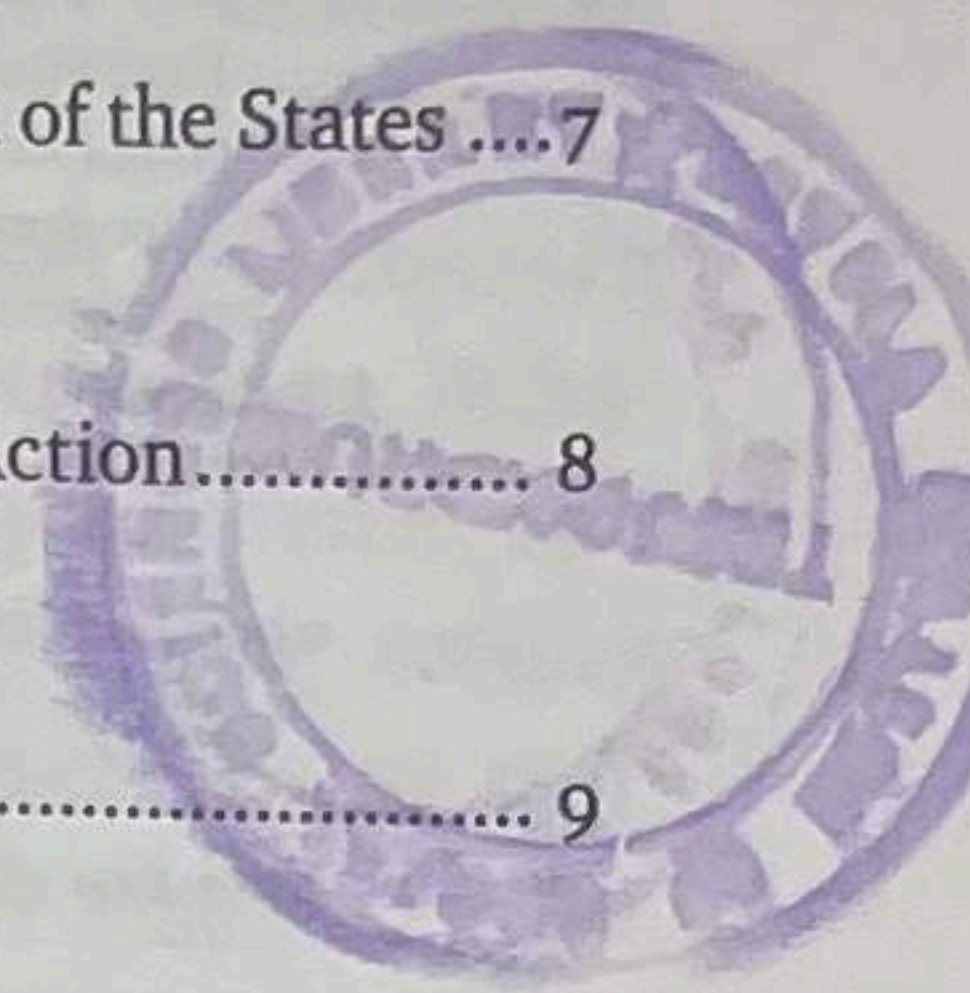
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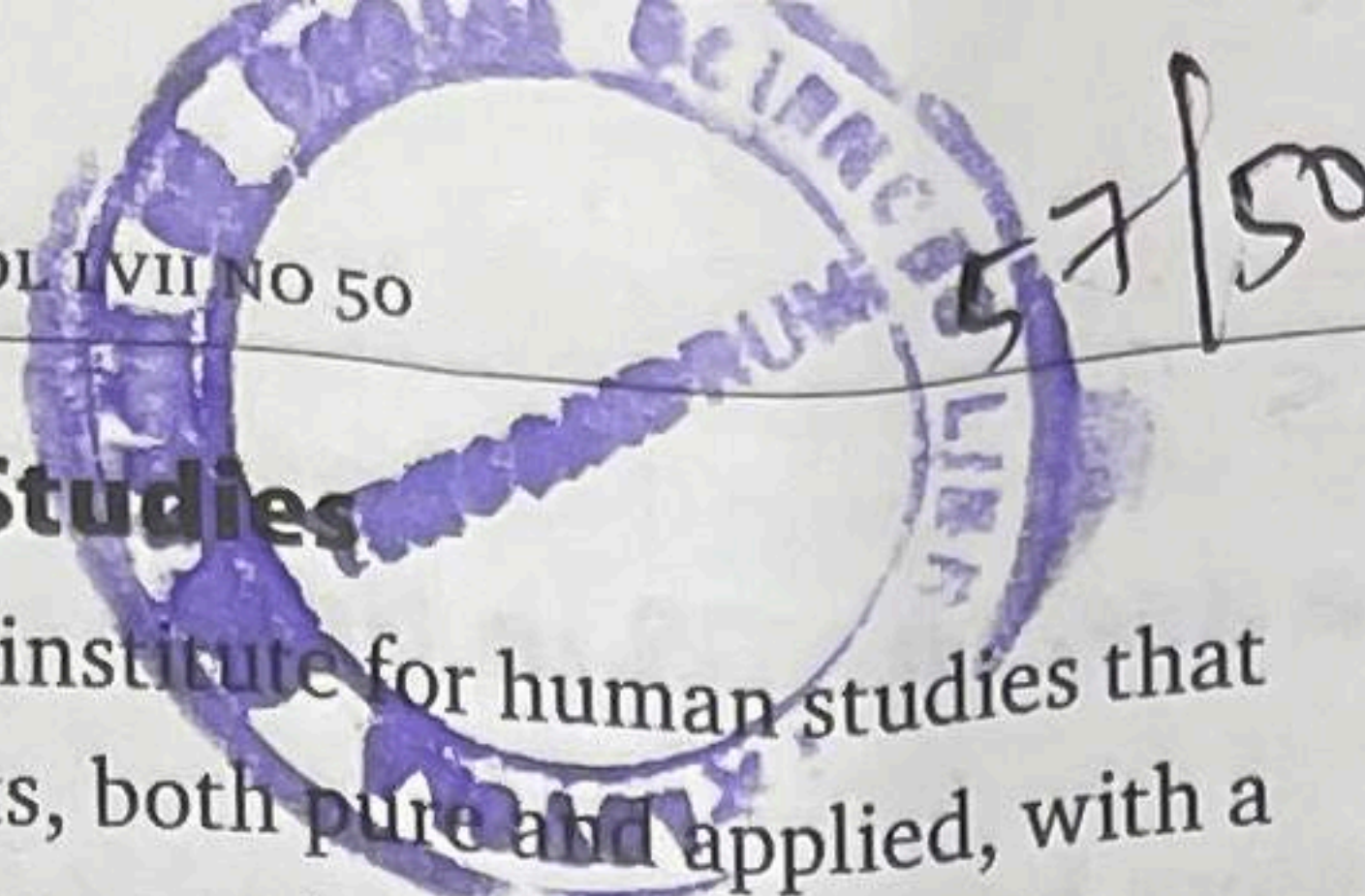
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Advocacy for an Institute of Human Studies

10 There is a need for setting up a world-class institute for human studies that integrates scientific and humanistic pursuits, both pure and applied, with a focus on holistic development, rooted in human values. — *Tara Mohanan, Vigneshwar Ramakrishnan, K P Mohanan & Bhushan Patwardhan*

Global Hunger Index 2022

14 At first, the arguments put forward by the government to question India's GHI 2022 ranking appear technically valid. However, being founded on narrow conceptual considerations, they are insufficient to defend India's position. — *Neetu Choudhary*

Drug Price Control in India

17 Price control of life-saving essential medicines is the need of the hour, but the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has allowed a hike of 10% in nearly 800 drugs and devices listed under the National List of Essential Medicines from 1 April 2022 because of the rising input costs. — *Krithiga Narayanan*

Food Insecurity among Students in India

21 The scale and depth of the problem of student food insecurity is examined and four key considerations are outlined that will need to be borne in mind in policy efforts to address the issue. — *Manisha Priyam, Craig Jeffrey & Jane Dyson*

Sharing in Cities, and Stacked Streets

31 How should we distribute land areas between amenities—schools, hospitals, parks—and private plots for homes and jobs? What is the ideal proportion for each? This study attempts to extract the guiding principles and concludes with a detailed study of the redevelopment of BDD Chawls at Worli, Mumbai. — *Shirish B Patel*

Monetary Policy and the Role of Information Shock

38 Inflation-targeting central banks supplement their monetary policy announcements with communication in the form of speeches and publication of text documents. The present paper attempts to identify and examine the efficacy of an information shock in influencing the inflation expectations of households, interest rate expectations of agents, output and inflation. — *Anuradha Patnaik*

Corporate Irresponsibility and Smokescreen of the Corporate Veil

47 The accepted notion in business and economics, which has seeped deeply in popular imagination too, that corporations exist primarily for benefiting their shareholders and hence their "accountability" is restricted to their shareholders only, is critically examined. — *Rahul Varman*

Coordination Failure in Local Government Networks

55 Using a decentred approach, we examine the implementation network for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 in the panchayats of West Bengal. The study shows that the inability to address a hidden agenda often makes bureaucratic leadership ineffective, whereas control over public discourse makes political executives better suited to manage networks. — *Joydeep Guha, Bhaskar Chakrabarti*

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Brexit and the Rise of Rishi Sunak

- 10 The British political establishment shows no signs of the profound political rethinking required in the aftermath of the damaging effects of Brexit.
— Amir Ali

Pakistan in the Aftermath of Floods

- 14 As Pakistan's worst affected recover from the recent floods, the province of Sindh and Balochistan will need serious reparatory action from both local and international actors. — Abira Ashfaq

Food Security for Interstate Migrants

- 18 This article uses a newly compiled transaction-level data set on 2 million-plus ration purchases made by interstate migrants to study the One Nation, One Ration Card scheme. — Sarthak Agrawal, Archana Agnihotri

Rising Inequalities in Income in India

- 29 In India, the prevailing inequitable socio-economic structure and the influence exerted by the socio-economically privileged sections on economic policymaking and implementation are responsible for the rise in income inequalities. The experience of the countries that pursued globalisation alongside policies to reduce inequalities shows that the rise in income inequalities is avoidable. — C H Hanumantha Rao

Soil Nutrition and Fertiliser Use

- 37 This paper explores the determinants of fertiliser application in Punjab through an analysis of both secondary data and a primary survey-based case study. An analysis of primary data indicates that the fertiliser policy favouring urea has encouraged its overuse, which is incongruent with the soil nutrient level, and this might be one of the possible contributing factors to the soil nutrient imbalance in the study location. — Partha Saha, Krishanu Karmakar

Dalit Hindus in Bangladesh

- 45 By using both qualitative and interpretative methods complemented by field visits, this paper attempts to trace Dalit Hindus' movement from forced migration into ascribed untouchability. Their present socio-economic status and living conditions in Dhaka are explored as also the recent spotlighting of their underdevelopment by civil society and government action.
— Anindita Ghoshal, Fairouz Jahan & Shah Md Azimul Ehsan

Urban Cooperative Banks in Crisis?

- 53 The collapse of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank in 2019 raised questions about the dependability of the urban cooperative banking system in India. This paper examines the problems faced by urban cooperative banks and analyses their future potential against the backdrop of their historical performance with regard to financial inclusion.
— Awantika Rajauria

Postscript

- 63 Mohammad Kamran Ahsan on Urdu writer Joginder Paul's writing; Srijana Siri Murthy on the song *Jingostan's* use of sarcasm as a tool for critical inquiry; Michelle D'costa's poem "Miracles Are Mirages in the Middle East;" and Last Lines by Ponnappa.

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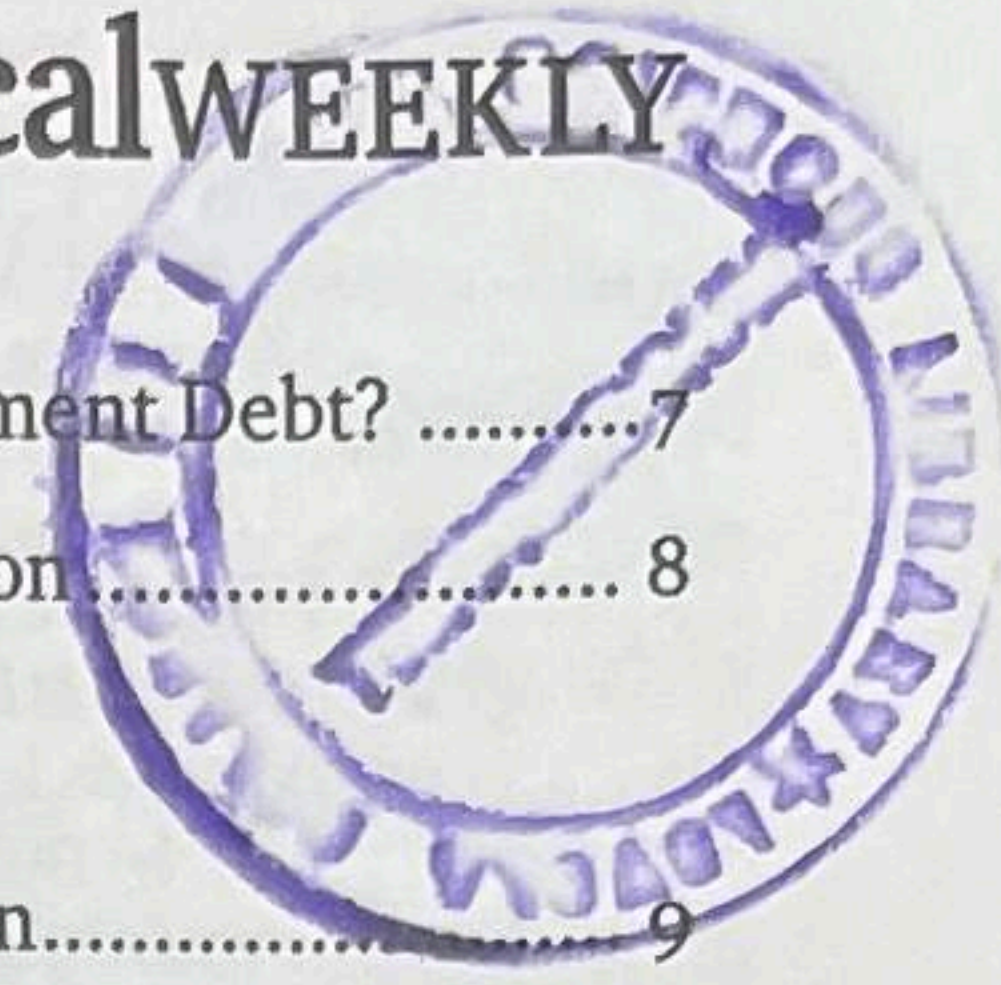
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A Defective Data Protection Board

10 The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 is notably silent on the key agency that it proposed to enforce the law—the Data Protection Board. — *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

They Who Not Know What the Media Is

12 The takeover of NDTV signals that the future of the media may not be in large enterprises that get taken down rather easily. — *Jagdish Rattanani*

Booming Foreign Direct Investment in R&D

14 India witnessed a massive sixfold jump in foreign direct investment in research and development in 2021. — *Renjith Ramachandran*

Brazil Elections

17 While the election of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is a necessary step towards saving the Brazilian political democracy, its social fabric has been severely weakened by the far right. — *Kathryn Lum*

The Growth of Unicorns

20 Using a novel database, the article examines the characteristics of Indian unicorns in a global perspective. — *Saibal Ghosh*

The Aragalaya versus Struggles

24 The impact and relevance of protests demanding President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation, referred to as the *aragalaya*, need to be scrutinised. — *Ambika Satkunanathan*

Mahua Wine

26 Mahua-based alcoholic beverages, indigenous to India, lack the intellectual property protection under the ambit of geographical indication. — *Mayuree Sengupta*

Political Aspects of 'Freebies'

33 The use of terms like "freebies" and "revadi culture" is an assault by the state-capital nexus on the lives of millions of working people, by keeping them vulnerable in order to discipline them, as an integral part of the neo-liberal agenda. — *Avinash Kumar, Manish Kumar*

Intergenerational Effects of Educating Girls

40 While it is well-established that maternal education positively impacts infant and child outcomes, less is known about its influence on adolescents. We explore how maternal education affects learning outcomes, agency (self-esteem and mobility), and gender role attitudes of adolescents aged 15–21 from a 2018 survey in Jharkhand. — *Mukesh Ravi Raushan, Shireen J Jejeebhoy*

DCR33: From Development Control to Promotion

48 In 2018, almost 10 years after the process was initiated in 2009, the development plan of Mumbai was sanctioned. Through an analysis of Mumbai's development plan process, this paper offers a glimpse into the divergent values and interests of powerful groups, and how these interests are coordinated and reconciled in the city. — *Hussain Indorewala*

Import Surge and Domestic Competitiveness

56 The recent import surge of raw agarbatti in India presumes to have a detrimental impact on the employment and profitability of the domestic firms. A deep dive indicates that imports of bamboo sticks from China and raw incense sticks from Vietnam have adversely affected the domestic incense stick units. — *Tamanna Chaturvedi, O P Wali*

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Thought for the month "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water."

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Benjamin Franklin

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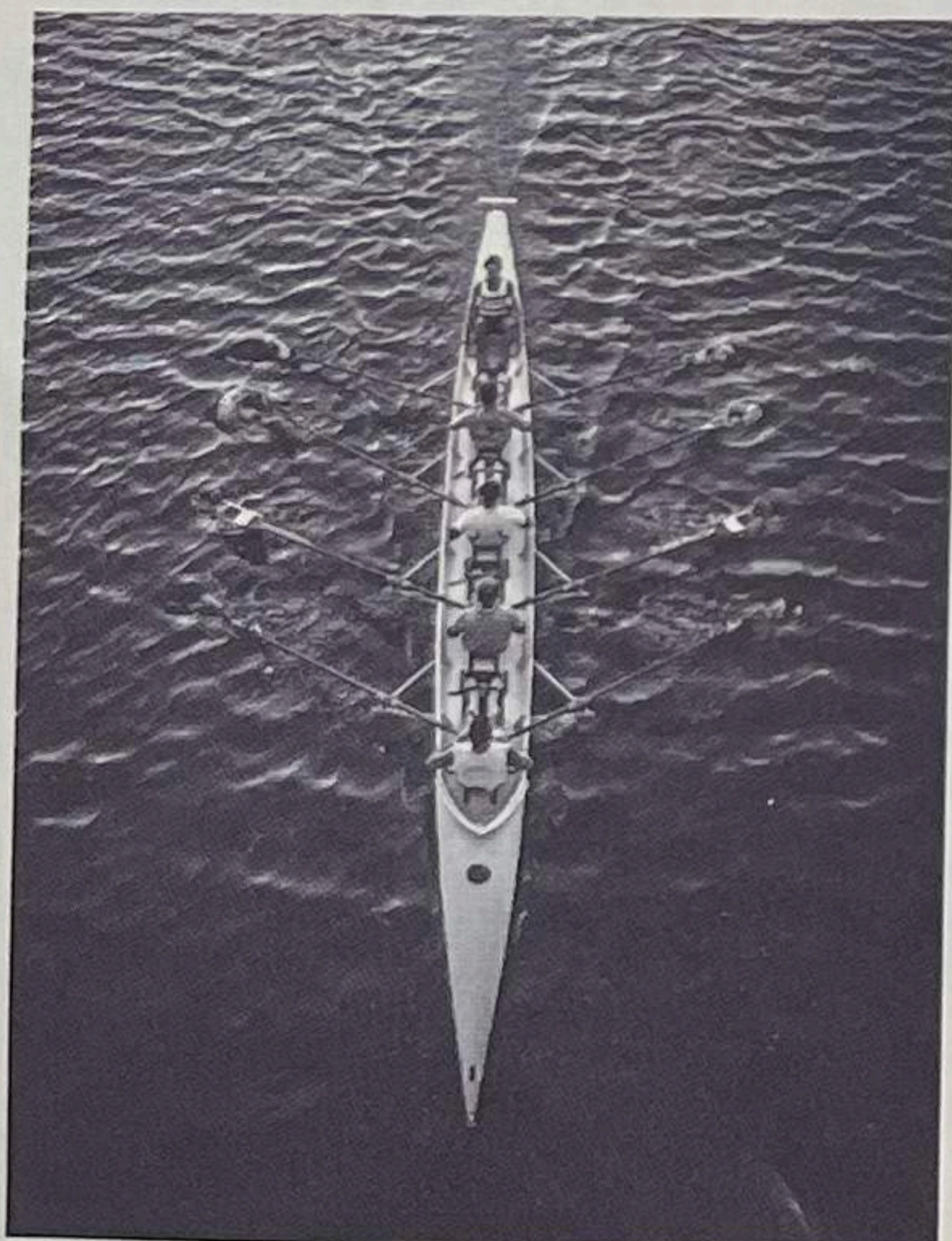
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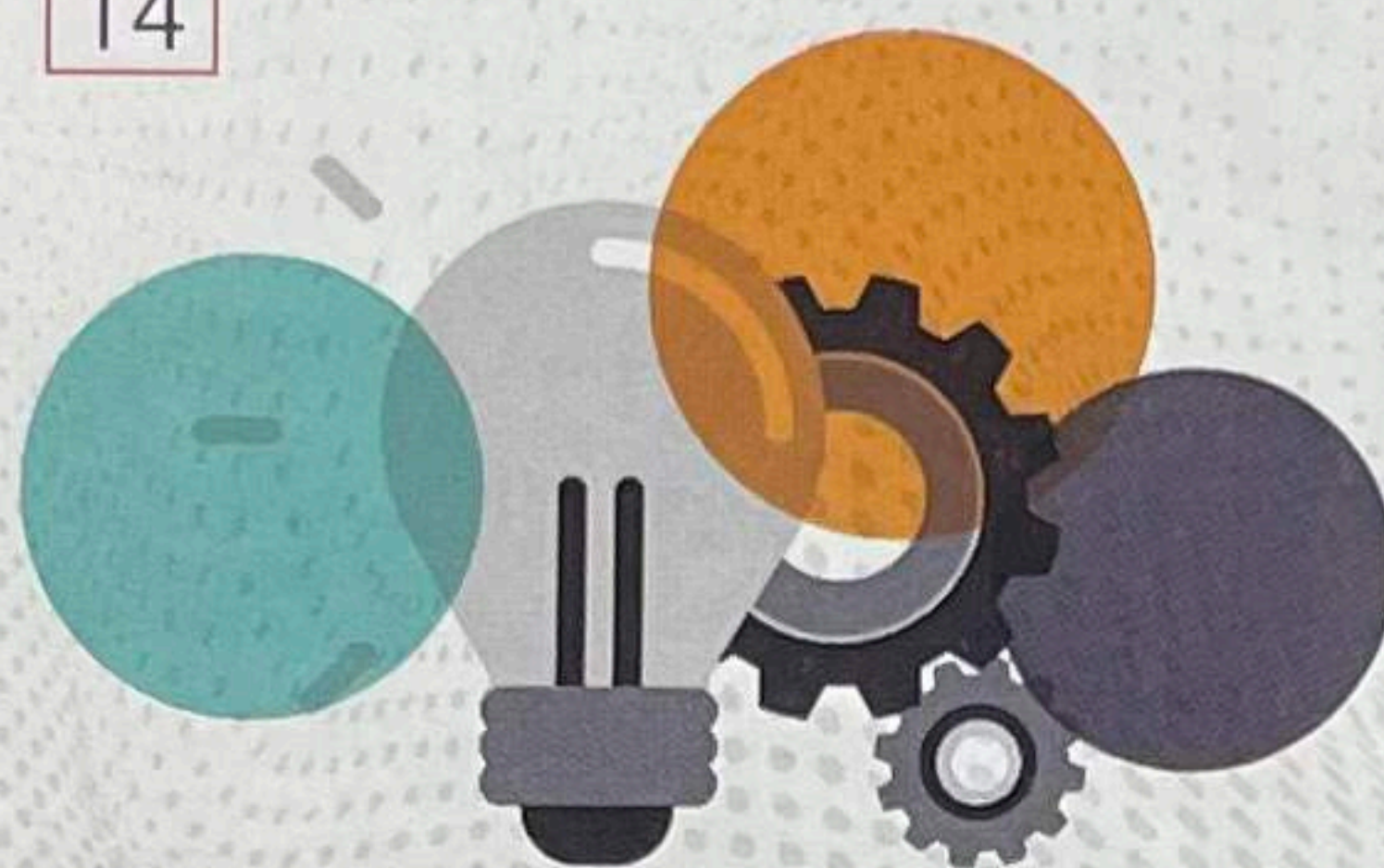
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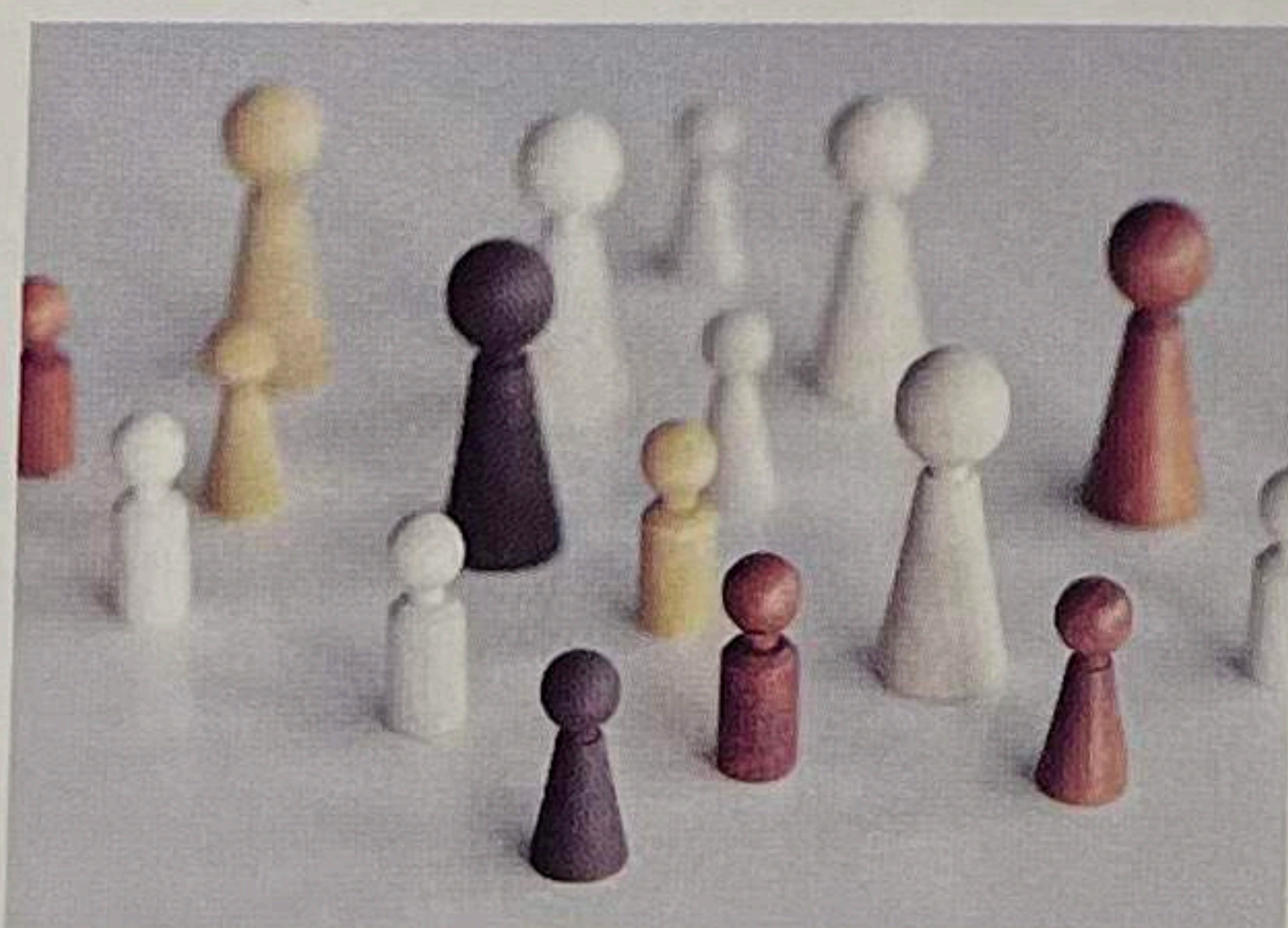
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