# Economic&PoliticalWEEKLY

#### **EDITORIAL**

Civilisation-mongers and Perpetuation of War

### COMMENT

 Budget 2024–25 Leaves Public Healthcare in the Lurch

### HT PAREKH FINANCE COLUMN

Doubling Investment in Renewable Energy in One Step, and Then Again and Again

### **COMMENTARY**

- The Far-right Riots in Britain in the Summer of 2024
- A Decade of Declining Rural Wage Growth In India: Trends and Implications
- NIA and Constant Price Sectoral GDP
- Gender-neutral Policies for Eldercare

#### **BOOK REVIEWS**

- Misreading the Bengal Delta: Climate Change, Development and Livelihoods in Coastal Bangladesh
- Public Expenditure in India: Policies and Development Outcomes

#### INSIGHT

Myth and Reality of the Caste-based Survey in Bihar

#### **SPECIAL ARTICLES**

- Revisiting Feminist Methods of Organising since the 1980s
- Notes on the Muslim Occupational Castes in Late Colonial India
- The Dawn of TV in the Bombay—Poona Region, 1972-82

#### **CURRENT STATISTICS**

# **Muslim Occupational Castes**

The affiliations and alignments of political associations led by peshewar birādarīs are influenced by their local configuration of power in which they are embedded and their immediate economic interests, rather than solely by religious or ethnic identities. page 48

# **Declining Rural Wage Growth**

The emphasis on bringing down prices through distortionary and restrictive trade and domestic policies during the NDA regime could have contributed to lower growth in agricultural wages. page 17

# **Anti-immigrant Riots in Britain**

The reluctance to call out the Islamophobia in these riots contrasts with the alacrity and readiness to accuse the pro-Palestine protests of "antisemitism." page 12

# **Autonomous Feminist Organising**

The value and principle of feminist autonomy has found newer meanings with the launch of different feminist and gueer collectivities in interaction with anti-caste, new left and people's movements. page 40

# **Investment in Renewable Energy**

Initially, through heavy subsidies and a reformed regulatory environment, private investment in renewable energies in India is now recognised as increasing rapidly. page 10

### **Investment in Renewable Energy**

While billions of dollars of investment commitments have been made, announced and promised, precious little money has flowed into India. — *Avinash Persaud* 

### The Far-right Riots in Britain in the Summer of 2024

The number of right-wing media commentators who have recently rediscovered the English working class to supposedly explain the far-right rioting is truly astounding to say the least and an instance of the disingenuous lengths that the right-wing British commentariat will go to excuse racism and become apologists for it. —\*Amir Ali

### A Decade of Declining Rural Wage Growth in India

17 The negative growth in real wages and stagnation in poverty reduction during the last five years of the NDA government period demand urgent attention. If the government wants to achieve its goal of doubling farmers' income, it needs to shift the excess labour force from agriculture to the non-farm sector through self-employment and job creation. — Shyma Jose

### **NIA and Constant Price Sectoral GDP**

The article argues that constant price sectoral GDP does not measure what it is widely thought to measure, and so should be avoided. — Adam Fforde

### **Gender-neutral Policies for Eldercare**

26 In the context of the phenomenon of demographic ageing, the article emphasises the significance of fostering a supportive and inclusive work environment that accommodates the diverse caregiving needs of employees, regardless of their gender. — Richa Mishra

### Myth and Reality of the Caste-based Survey in Bihar

34 The release of the caste-wise survey data in Bihar has reignited the debate on the caste-based census and increased government job quotas, particularly for non-General categories through reservations. This resurgence has raised concerns regarding the inequitable distribution of resources, promoting political parties to advocate for proportional representation based on the population size of different castes/social categories. — Aviral Pandey, Richa Gautam

### **Revisiting Feminist Methods of Organising since the 1980s**

40 The development of feminist autonomy from the 1980s onwards necessitated a departure from traditional organisational structures. This paper traces how feminist autonomy survived the NGOisation and the institutionalisation of the 1990s and argues that it has reconstituted itself leading to the formation of newer student and identity-based feminist collectives and organising. — Poushali Basak

### Towards a History of Non-ashrāf Muslims

The paper seeks to provide an outline for a history of non-ashrāf Muslims that is grounded in an analytical framework weaved out of the narratives of the peshewar aqwām or the occupational castes among Muslims. Moreover, the paper underscores the significance of contextualising social hierarchy in order to gain a deeper understanding of the social organisation of Muslims during colonial India. — Soheb Niazi

### The Dawn of Television in the Bombay-Poona Region, 1972-82

As television completes 50 years of existence in the Bombay–Poona region of India, the paper seeks to revisit some of the early circumstances of its introduction and the debates about its necessity and affordability. The state narrative on television centred on the indigenisation and technological progress embedded in television. — V Kalyan Shankar, Rohini Sahni

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