

EDITORIALS

- Maharashtra: A Trend Reversed and Moment That Never Arrived
- Ethnic Cleansing in Gaza

STRATEGIC AFFAIRS

- The BRICS Plan for a New Financial Architecture

COMMENTARY

- Punjab's Draft Farm Policy Missing Markets for Cooperative Model
- MGNREGA's Attendance App: A Tool for Transparency or Exclusion?
- Catalyst of a New Global System: Geopolitical Implications of the Russia-Ukraine War

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- *Kaṭṭaikkūttu: A Rural Theatre Tradition in South India*
- *Children's Books: An Indian Story*

INSIGHT

- Is Indian Food Import Safety Regulation Opaque?

GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024

- India's 2024 General Election
- INDIA and the 2024 Elections: A New Chapter in Pre-electoral Coalition Politics
- Do the Policy Proposals of the BJP and Congress Differ from Each Other?
- The Place of History in Narendra Modi's Election Speeches
- 'Nationising' India: Electoral Democracy and the BJP's Riddle of Nation-building
- Technology for Votes: Techno-patrimonialism and the Rise of Competitive Welfarism in India
- Gendering Loyalty in Indian Electoral Democracy And more ...

CURRENT STATISTICS

General Elections 2024

Nine papers undertaking a thematic analysis of the campaign and outcomes of the 2024 general elections focus on the effectivity of the INDIA bloc, election manifestos, the invocation of history in campaign speeches, the implications of the results for nation-building, competitive welfarism, the oligarchisation of democracy, the construction of a female constituency and the performance of the Congress party. [pages 35–112](#)

New Global System

The world is moving from a bipolar heterogeneous system, through the unipolar "moment" that existed between the disintegration of the Soviet Union and 2016, to a multipolar homogeneous system. [page 17](#)

App-based Attendance in MGNREGA

With the lack of accessibility and usability, mandating the NMMS application to record worksite attendance is an exclusionary practice that has also severely reduced workers' ability to hold the state accountable. [page 21](#)

Food Import Safety Regulation

The FSSAI has either explicitly thrust aside the legal provisions or failed to integrate the attribute of transparency while implementing them. [page 30](#)

A New Financial Architecture

10 The 16th summit of BRICS took significant steps in developing a financial architecture that is distinct from the Bretton Woods institutions. — *Anuradha Chenoy*

Punjab's Draft Farm Policy

14 An agricultural policy for Punjab has been long overdue given that it has been facing an agrarian crisis for the last 30 years. — *Sukhpal Singh*

A Tool for Transparency or Exclusion?

17 The impact of the NREGA Mobile Monitoring (NMMS) is examined two years after its deployment. — *Chakradhar Buddha, Laavanya Tamang*

Catalyst of a New Global System

21 While Russia is contributing to the erosion of a Western order and a return to the rules in the United Nations charter, it is ironically doing so by violating the same charter. — *Branko Milanovic*

Is Indian Food Import Safety Regulation Opaque?

30 Opacity in the working of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, regulatory gaps, and irregularities pose obstacles to India's food import safety. — *Surbhi Kapur*

General Elections 2024

Nine papers undertaking a thematic analysis of the 2024 general elections, highlight campaign trends, dynamics of alliances, electoral competition, and implications for political processes.

Continuity and Change

35 The results of the 2024 general elections have restored the parliamentary process and changed the country's political atmosphere. However, they were more a product of tactical alliance-building than any major shift in the social base of coalitions. — *K C Suri, Subrata Mitra & Rahul Verma*

A New Chapter in Pre-electoral Coalition Politics

45 The formation of the INDIA bloc, the dynamics of pre-electoral coalitions in India and their significance for electoral results are analysed. — *Adnan Farooqui, E Sridharan*

An Analysis of Election Manifestos

53 The analysis combines insights from spatial theory and salience theory to investigate where parties differ in their positions (spatial) or emphasis (salient) placed on issues. — *Ajit Phadnis, Abhishek Priyadarshi*

The Place of History in Election Speeches

64 Campaign speeches given by the Prime Minister routinely included references to the past. Given that elections are understood in transactional or material ways, references to abstract historical topics require interpretation. — *Andrew Wyatt*

'Nationising' India

71 Moulding India's diversity into a cohesive nation based on Hindu nationalism is the main ideological plank of the BJP. However, this strategy fell short of the expected electoral dividend in 2024. — *Subrata Mitra*

Technology for Votes

79 Technology disintermediates traditional political structures and centralises political attribution into the personal authority of party leaders. The paper calls this phenomenon "techno-patrimonialism" and examines its implications. — *Yamini Aiyar, Neelanjana Sircar*

Gendering Loyalty

87 Through a constructivist approach to populist political representation, this paper studies the conceptual terrain of the relationship between voter loyalty and populist democracy in the context of female voting in West Bengal. — *Proma Raychaudhury*

The Oligarchisation of Democracy

96 Employing data on the wealth and background of politicians, it is shown that over the last 20 years, India's politicians have not only become much wealthier but also more commonly have a business background. — *Ward Berenschot, Leiden Sarthak Bagchi & Vignesh Karthik K R*

Signalling Revival?

103 The Congress continues to lag behind in a head-to-head contest against the BJP, and its improved performance is largely in states where it was a junior partner in the alliance. — *Rahul Verma, Pawas Pratikshit*

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