NOVEMBER 23, 2024

Vol I IX No 47

Economic&PoliticalweekLY

A SAMEEKSHA TRUST PUBLICATION

www.epw.in

EDITORIAL

The Bugbear of Food Inflation

COMMENT

Bulldozer Justice?

HT PAREKH FINANCE COLUMN

 COP29: Choosing Low-hanging Fruits Unfit for Purpose

LAW & SOCIETY

 Excavating the 'Minority Character' of an Institution

COMMENTARY

- The 2024 Assembly Elections in J&K
- The Macho and the Malayalam Film Industry
- Beyond the Medal: Paralympic Athletes and the Ableist Gaze
- Disparity in Asset Holdings of the HH Sector

BOOK REVIEWS

- Changing Affinities: Ecologies of Human— Mithun Relationships in Northeast India
- Provincializing Bollywood: Bhojpuri Cinema in the Comparative Media Crucible

PERSPECTIVES

 Women in Cinema and the Patriarchal Deep State

SPECIAL ARTICLES

- The Scholarship of K N Raj: Humanist Vision, Grounded Theorising, and Focus on Institutional Context
- Caste and Socio-economic Inequality in Bihar:
 A Disaggregated Analysis of the 2023 Census
- Why Do Indian Farmers Leave the Cultivation of Nutri-cereal Crops?

CURRENT STATISTICS

POSTSCRIPT

Patriarchy in the Film Industry

In the context of the Hema Committee report, two articles look at the cultures of silence prevailing in the industry, the normalisation of gendered violence, women's disadvantages with regard to labour, and institutionalised networks of male dominance. pages 20 and 35

KN Raj's Contributions

An appreciation of Raj's humanist vision, approach to theory, empirics, and policy, and focus on institutional contexts can contribute to recovering these aspects that have lost their salience in contemporary mainstream economics. page 40

The Caste Census in Bihar

While the 2023 caste census data confirms the presence of significant inequalities across castes within any social category, it also suggests that religion plays an important part in contributing to the inequality within administrative categories. page 48

Assembly Elections in J&K

What has added to the weight of JKNC is that it has emerged as the only party which has an effective presence in both Jammu and Kashmir regions. page 16

Climate Negotiations

The finance that carbon credits are expected to generate for developing countries to pursue their mitigation and adaptation agendas, as incorporated in their NDCs, may not materialise. page 10

COP29: Choosing Low-hanging Fruits Unfit for Purpose

In a surprise first-day declaration at COP29, a "deal" on the institution of carbon markets with clear rules for ensuring the assessment of claims and integrity of data was announced. — *C P Chandrasekhar*

Excavating the 'Minority Character' of an Institution

13 The Supreme Court in Aligarh Muslim University v Naresh Agarwal (2024) has not yet decisively affirmed the status of Aligarh Muslim University.
— Alok Prasanna Kumar

The 2024 Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir

Besides providing an opportunity for different political parties to test their ground, the assembly elections held after a gap of 10 years were important for the people of the state. — Rekha Chowdhary

The Macho and the Malayalam Film Industry

20 Ideas of normalisation and practices of power sabotage the democratic requirements of the Malayalam film industry that even the Hema Committee report as a social document is not free from. — Lakshmi Priya N

Beyond the Medal

23 The article explores the challenges faced by disability researchers in India, where issues of survival and poverty overshadow debates about identity and inclusion, as seen in Western contexts. — Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi

Disparity in Asset Holdings of the Household Sector

26 The definition of household adopted by the National Sample Survey does not always serve the intended purpose, prompting an examination of its suitability for estimating the distribution of rural and urban household assets.
— Dipankar Mitra, Aloke Kar

Women in Cinema and the Patriarchal Deep State

35 In light of the recent release of the Hema Committee report, this article analyses women's continuous disadvantages with regard to labour, sexploitation, and workplace conditions within the cinema industry and its institutionalised networks of male dominance. — *Meena T Pillai*

The Scholarship of KN Raj

This paper revisits Raj's approach to scholarship. The primary focus is not to address the content of his key arguments and findings or to evaluate whether they have stood the test of time. Rather, the purpose is to revisit Raj's approach to learn what it might offer us today. — *Suraj Jacob*

Caste and Socio-economic Inequality in Bihar

48 The absence of caste-level data has been a pressing issue in India, with the long-standing demand for a caste census emerging as a major political point in the 2024 general elections. This paper aims to provide an overview of the insights gained from the Bihar caste census and its implications for understanding caste and tribe inequality. — *Christophe Z Guilmoto, Himanshu*

Why Do Farmers Leave Nutri-cereal Crops?

60 In recent years, the government has been trying to popularise nutri-cereal crops through various policy measures. However, data reveals that farmers have not reaped any appreciable profit in terms of cost c2 in any of these crops.

— A Narayanamoorthy, K S Sujitha & R Suresh

Postscript

70 Geethu Thomas on elderly intimacy in Malayalam cinema; Shashank Pandey on deconstructing benevolent ableism though Srikanth; Anannya Dasgupta's poem "Daughters like me"; and Last Lines by Ponnappa.

Economic&PoliticalWEEKLY

DITORIAL
The Bugbear of Food Inflation7
COMMENT
Bulldozer Justice?8
FROM 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO9
HT PAREKH FINANCE COLUMN
COP29: Choosing Low-hanging Fruits Unfit
for Purpose —C P Chandrasekhar
AW & SOCIETY
Excavating the 'Minority Character' of an Institution—Alok Prasanna Kumar13
COMMENTARY
The 2024 Assembly Elections in
Jammu and Kashmir
—Rekha Chowdhary16
The Macho and the Malayalam Film Industry: A Response to the Hema Committee Report
—Lakshmi Priya N20
Beyond the Medal: Paralympic Athletes and the Ableist Gaze
—Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi23
Disparity in Asset Holdings of the Household Sector: AIDIS and NSS Definitions
—Dipankar Mitra, Aloke Kar26
BOOK REVIEWS
Changing Affinities: Ecologies of Human–Mithun Relationships in Northeast India—Environment and Human–Animal Interactions
—Thomas Malsom 30
Provincializing Bollywood: Bhojpuri Cinema in the Comparative Media Crucible—Province and Its Inexact Calculi: A Study in Media and Infrastructure
—Shriya Raina32
PERSPECTIVES
Women in Cinema and the Patriarchal Deep State —Meena T Pillai35
SPECIAL ARTICLES
The Scholarship of K N Raj: Humanist Vision, Grounded Theorising, and Focus on Institutional Context
—Suraj Jacob 40
Caste and Socio-economic Inequality in Bihar: A Disaggregated Analysis of the 2023 Census
—Christophe Z Guilmoto, Himanshu48
Why Do Indian Farmers Leave the Cultivation of Nutri-cereal Crops? A Temporal Analysis of Selected States
—A Narayanamoorthy, K S Sujitha, R Suresh 60
CURRENT STATISTICS68

POSTSCRIPT

Denial of Desire: Depictions of Elderly Intimacy in Malayalam Cinema—Geethu Thomas (70), Deconstructing Benevolent Ableism through Srikanth—Shashank Pandey (71), Daughters like me (Poem)
—Anannya Dasgupta (73), Last Lines (73)

LETTERS......4