

Economic & Political WEEKLY

A SAMEEKSHA TRUST PUBLICATION

www.epw.in

EDITORIALS

- Has Post-pandemic Recovery Fizzled Out?
- A Rural Rigmarole

LAW & SOCIETY

- Banning Children from Social Media

COMMENTARY

- Vertical Fiscal Imbalances and Their Amelioration: A Discussion in the Indian Context
- Urgent Actions to Prevent BEST's Decline from Bad to Worse
- In Defence of Ordinary Criticism
- A Half Victory for the Global South? WIPO Treaty
- Amiya Kumar Bagchi (1936–2024)

BOOK REVIEWS

- *The Nilgiri Hills: A Kaleidoscope of People, Culture, and Nature*
- *A Thousand Tiny Cuts: Mobility and Security across the Bangladesh-India Borderlands*

PERSPECTIVES

- Economic Surplus for Buyers in the Day-ahead Electricity Market

SPECIAL ARTICLES

- Social Mobility and Opportunity in India
- 'Legislative Lethargy' in Protecting Informal Women Workers
- Interrogating Temporal and Spatial Demarcations in History Writing
- The Significance of Community Engagement in Achieving India's Carbon Sink Target

CURRENT STATISTICS

Vertical Fiscal Imbalances

Increasing the share of net proceeds devolved to states from 41% to 48.4% would place more untied resources in the hands of the states to spend on subjects constitutionally assigned to them. [page 13](#)

The Relevance of Santal Rebellion

The essence of the demands made by Hul rebels did not lie in a mere "fixed physical space," as they claimed a "shared space"—a non-hierarchical world based on communal ownership and control over resources. [page 58](#)

BEST's Decline

Policies such as the deployment of electric buses and wet-leased buses from private contractors on a per-kilometre basis have worsened the quality of bus service in Mumbai. [page 16](#)

Legislating Domestic Work

Despite the expansion of the domestic workers' movement and its contributions to legal discourse, their labour continues to be undervalued as reflected in the legislative lethargy over the issue. [page 50](#)

Amiya Kumar Bagchi (1936–2024)

Ideas conveyed in simple language with a mastery of history, data, and inference and the ability to weave in the big picture with the ebb and flow of life's daily chores were hallmarks of Bagchi's scholarship. [page 28](#)

Banning Children from Social Media

- 10 Australia's new legislation banning social media access to children below the age of 16 is the first legislative attempt in the world to do so.
— *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

Vertical Fiscal Imbalances and Their Amelioration

- 13 The vertical fiscal imbalance in India arises out of the expenditure obligations of the states being more than their revenue-raising powers.
— *R Mohan, R Ramakumar*

Urgent Actions to Prevent BEST's Decline

- 16 City bus services in Mumbai are deteriorating as the BEST undertaking is facing financial hardships, a declining fleet strength, and a poor modal share.
— *Suvedh Jaywant, Madhav Badami*

In Defence of Ordinary Criticism

- 21 It is possible to distinguish between two modes of social criticism: the one exemplified in our intellectual and political-ideological statements about society and the other in our everyday goings about the world.
— *A P Ashwin Kumar*

A Half Victory for the Global South?

- 25 The recently adopted World Intellectual Property Organization Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge has been hailed for achieving the best possible compromise between the interests of the global South and North. — *Indrani Barpujari*

Amiya Kumar Bagchi (1936–2024)

- 28 For those who knew him well, Amiya Kumar Bagchi's compassion for common humanity, belief in rationality and his faith in a less oppressive future remains very much alive. — *Satish Chandra Mishra*

Economic Surplus for Buyers in the Electricity Market

- 35 During October 2021 and February–March 2022, Indian power exchanges experienced a significant gap between buy and sell bids. This raises questions about the algorithm's impact on individual surpluses of buyers and sellers.
— *Atul Agrawal*

Social Mobility and Opportunity in India

- 42 A total of 161 academic publications on the subjects of social mobility and opportunity in India that have appeared since the early 1960s and are concerned with one or more of educational, occupational, and income mobility, social status, and opportunity provision are reviewed. — *Anirudh Krishna, Sujeet Kumar*

'Legislative Lethargy' in Protecting Informal Women Workers

- 50 Despite strong mobilisation efforts since 1953 and numerous private member bills, domestic workers in India remain unrecognised. This paper examines the legislature's historical approach to domestic workers, arguing that legislative lethargy perpetuates durable inequality. — *Sophy K J*

Temporal and Spatial Demarcations in History Writing

- 58 Conventional history writing identifies historically "significant" events and weaves them into a coherent chronology. This process lends a sense of fixity to the events. This conventional rendering of the past is interrogated by looking at the everyday "micro-realities" of the Santal past. — *Amita Kumari*

Community Engagement in Achieving India's Carbon Sink Target

- 65 By fostering local ownership, facilitating knowledge sharing, and promoting collective action, community engagement plays a vital role in carbon sequestration and ecosystem restoration. — *Prasanta Moharaj*

EDITORIALS

- Has Post-pandemic Recovery Fizzled Out? 7
A Rural Rigmarole 8

FROM 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO..... 9**LAW & SOCIETY**

- Banning Children from Social Media
— *Alok Prasanna Kumar* 10

COMMENTARY

- Vertical Fiscal Imbalances and Their Amelioration: A Discussion in the Indian Context
— *R Mohan, R Ramakumar* 13
Urgent Actions to Prevent BEST's Decline from Bad to Worse
— *Suvedh Jaywant, Madhav Badami* 16
In Defence of Ordinary Criticism
— *A P Ashwin Kumar* 21
A Half Victory for the Global South? WIPO Treaty
— *Indrani Barpujari* 25
Amiya Kumar Bagchi (1936–2024): In Memoriam
— *Satish Chandra Mishra* 28

BOOK REVIEWS

- The Nilgiri Hills: A Kaleidoscope of People, Culture, and Nature*—A Montage of the Hills
— *Manish Chandi* 31
A Thousand Tiny Cuts: Mobility and Security across the Bangladesh-India Borderlands—Experiencing Value, Nation, and Scale in the Borderlands
— *Manhar Bansal* 33

PERSPECTIVES

- Economic Surplus for Buyers in the Day-ahead Electricity Market
— *Atul Agrawal* 35

SPECIAL ARTICLES

- Social Mobility and Opportunity in India: A Review of the Academic Literature
— *Anirudh Krishna, Sujeet Kumar* 42
'Legislative Lethargy' in Protecting Informal Women Workers: Understanding the Legal Discourse on 'Paid Domestic Work' in India
— *Sophy K J* 50
Interrogating Temporal and Spatial Demarcations in History Writing: Understanding Adivasi Pasts and Conceptualisation of Land
— *Amita Kumari* 58
The Significance of Community Engagement in Achieving India's Carbon Sink Target
— *Prasanta Moharaj* 65

CURRENT STATISTICS..... 73**LETTERS..... 4**