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- Political Aspects of Cash Transfers

HT PAREKH FINANCE COLUMN

- The Money-In-Advance Constraint

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- The Contours of Caste in the Criminal Legal System
- Inclusive Blended Learning Practices
- The Passing of a Scholar Statesman

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- *Beyond Binaries: The World of India and China*

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- A Road to Coastal Deregulation
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- Pathway to a Renewable Energy-centric Energy Transition
- Domesticating Climate Change: The Evolution of Indian Climate Politics and Policy
- Luxury Consumption in India

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Review of Environment & Development

Notwithstanding the booming renewable energy sector and the rising tiger population, the country's ecological integrity and the livelihoods of the most marginalised are being compromised. The exclusive focus on economic growth, while enabling luxury consumption, is leading to a dilution of regulatory capacities, openly partisan easing of laws, the bypassing of rights, and the bolstering of exclusionary conservation. [pages 31–92](#)

Indian Railways' Performance

Despite substantial budget allocations and ambitious goals, the Indian Railways faces a serious lack of delivery, systemic issues, and low morale of its officers, which hinder the realisation of its modernisation and performance objectives. [page 25](#)

Caste in Prisons

The apex court's directions denote a long overdue step in recognising the contours of caste and criminality in the criminal legal system. [page 13](#)

Manmohan Singh (1932–2024)

Manmohan Singh always regarded growth and equity as the two legs with which a nation must walk. [page 19](#)

The Money-In-Advance Constraint

10 A framework for the direct intervention of the government to pull economies out of a state of hysteresis is constructed. — *Romar Correa*

The Contours of Caste

13 The Supreme Court recently struck down several provisions of prison manuals as unconstitutional in *Sukanya Shantha v Union of India and Others* (2024). — *Mrinalini Ravindranath, Maheshwari Mawase, Harsh Kinger & Nikita Sonavane*

Inclusive Blended Learning Practices

16 Based on evidence from a longitudinal study, this article suggests six empirically backed principles for a more equitable future of blended higher education. — *Sayantan Mandal, Sheriya Sareen*

A Scholar Statesman

19 The passing away of Manmohan Singh has left a big void in India's political and economic scene. — *C Rangarajan*

Indian Railways: A Critical Review

25 The article critically evaluates the performance of the Indian Railways, including its track record on finances, rail safety and execution of big-ticket projects like Vande Bharat and high-speed rail. — *Sudhanshu Mani*

Review of Environment and Development

31 A set of eight papers explore the social, biophysical, technological, and political dimensions of various environmental issues. — *Sharachchandra Lele, Geetanjoy Sahu*

Saving Wildlife in a Changing India

33 This paper unpacks systemic threats to wildlife conservation, including weakened laws, a governance favouring economics over ecology, and a growing disconnect between policy and action. — *M D Madhusudan, Anindya Sinha*

Democratising Forest Governance

40 Only three states have recognised a significant number of community forest resource rights, and only one of them has enabled their operationalisation. — *Sharachchandra Lele, Geetanjoy Sahu*

From Integration to Fragmentation

48 Maharashtra has shifted to technocratic, quick fix, and fragmented approaches to address water scarcity. Ignoring past policy experiences, these approaches neglect associated social processes and basic hydrological principles. — *Sachin Tiwale, Vinay Sankar*

The Worli Fishing Zone Dispute

56 Discussing the opposition to Mumbai's Coastal Road megaproject as a political and legal dispute over the Worli Fishing Zone, this paper delineates the struggle of the Worli fishers over their fishing commons. — *Shweta Wagh, Hussain Indorewala*

Pollution Regulation in India

63 Recent amendments to the three central environmental laws introduce monetary penalties, reduce scope for criminal prosecution, and make key changes to the regulatory framework. — *Shibani Ghosh*

Pathway to a Renewable Energy-centric Energy Transition

70 Low-cost renewable energy available at scale has the potential to address the tension between development and environment. India has an opportunity to reimagine the electricity policy-regulatory landscape. — *Ashwin Gambhir, Shantanu Dixit*

Domesticating Climate Change

78 This paper examines how political narratives linking climate change and development have emerged over the past decade, and discusses what mainstreaming climate change means for India. — *Navroz K Dubash*

Luxury Consumption in India

86 The paper explores the complex dynamics of luxury consumption, including definitions, drivers, impacts and responses, and calls for a new definition of the "good life." — *Soumyajit Bhar, Sharachchandra Lele*

Postscript

95 *Afeef Ahmed* on M T Vasudevan Nair, Mammooty and Malayalam modernity; *Amol Ranjan* on "poor images" and film restoration; *Jacob Joshy* on *Happy as Lazzaro* as a Marxist allegory; Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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