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# Economic&Politicalweekly

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### **EDITORIALS**

- Measuring Domestic Migration with High-frequency Data
- A Gauze of a Ceasefire

### **COMMENTARY**

- Addressing the Challenges of Death Registration in India: A Path Forward
- Academic Conferences: A Need for Critical Self-reflection
- The 2024 Jharkhand Assembly Elections
- Identifying the Risks of Çoal Phase Down

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### **BOOK REVIEWS**

- A Plain, Blunt Man: The Essential Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Mapping Sustainable Development Goals for Children in India: Progress and Present Challenges

### INSIGHT

 Palm Oil and the Politics of Deforestation in Tripura

#### **SPECIAL ARTICLES**

- Recasting Mumbai's Slum Act
- Rating Systems: A Drivers' Perspective
- B R Ambedkar and the Evolution of Pragmatism in India
- Fertility in the Business Cycle

#### NOTES

 Gender Neutrality in Sexual Harassment Laws in India

### **CURRENT STATISTICS**

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### **Slum Rehabilitation in Mumbai**

The government should give up the idea of making money out of slum lands and declare the slum land to not be on the market and instead be owned by a community land reserve. page 33

# **Gender Neutrality and the POSH Act**

Judicial decisions on questions of gender neutrality in laws against sexual harassment tend to decontextualise and selectively draw upon feminist and queer debates on the subject. page 62

### **Palm Oil Plantations**

Monoculture plantations promoted by the state and its private partners in Tripura offer minimal economic benefits to marginalised tribal communities and perpetuate state control primarily to serve external trade and resource extraction interests. page 28

### **Navayana Pragmatism**

Fraternity was only one part of Ambedkar's complex body of work, but it is a concept that points to a constantly resonant theme in his novel form of pragmatism. page 47

## **Mortality Data**

To enhance the effectiveness of digital death registration, the Government of India should develop and implement a composite metric, the Vital Statistics Performance Index. page 10

### **Death Registration in India**

India's death registration system faces significant challenges, including regional disparities, gender inequities, and incomplete data capture.
 — Md Azharuddin Akhtar, Malik Altaf Hussain

#### **Academic Conferences**

Due to their perceived lack of integrity, academic conferences worldwide face scrutiny. Scholars face challenges from the "publish-or-perish" culture and the commercialisation of academic recognition. — *Disha* 

### Adivasi Consolidation, Politics of Symbolism, and Identity

The outcome of the 2024 Jharkhand assembly elections is marked by a consolidation of Adivasi consciousness and identity, the will to reject "fear-based rhetorics," and a rebuff to "Operation Lotus." — Bipasha Lakra

### **Identifying the Risks of Coal Phase Down**

21 This article highlights the challenges associated with increasing the share of renewables and identifies the risks of phasing down coal in the near to midterm future. — Jay Ganesh Pandey

### **Palm Oil and Deforestation in Tripura**

28 The primary reason compelling tribals to embrace new emerging monocropping plantations of palm oil is centred around tribal land relations, while the political implications of deforestation remain overlooked. — Thomas Malsom

### **Recasting Mumbai's Slum Act**

33 The Slum Rehabilitation Authority in Mumbai is doing more harm than good, yet there is talk of adopting the "sra model" in other states. An alternative is to take slum lands off the market and dedicate them to low- and lower-middle-income housing. — Shirish B Patel

### **Rating Systems: A Drivers' Perspective**

40 Rating systems used by ride-hailing companies, such as Uber and Ola, are studied. An analysis into what the companies have to say about the use of rating systems is juxtaposed with narratives of drivers' perceptions of the same.

— Devasmita Jha, Shishir Kumar Jha & Anupam Guha

### Ambedkar and the Evolution of Pragmatism

This paper surveys the relationship between Ambedkar and Dewey and argues that there are clear and evidenced points of engagement between their forms of philosophy. In showing this complex reception of Dewey's pragmatism, a new way of talking about Ambedkar is revealed. — Scott R Stroud

### **Fertility in the Business Cycle**

Through a non-linear auto regressive distributed lag model, we find that although fertility is affected when the unemployment rate rises, a fall in the unemployment rate does not affect it. Thus, our finding reveals that the effect of unemployment on fertility in India is permanent. — Jeet Saha, Zafar Iqubal

### **Gender Neutrality in Sexual Harassment Laws**

62 This article argues that judicial decisions on questions of gender neutrality in laws against sexual harassment tend to decontextualise and selectively draw upon feminist and queer debates on the subject in India. — Atreyee Sengupta

### **Postscript**

71 Renu Susan Jacob on the titular refrain and lyrical subtext in Jaya Jaya Jaya Jaya Hey; Kaaren Mathias on Neeche Jana; Tahseen Fatima on capitalist alienation in Pyaasa; Last Lines by Ponnappa.

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