

Economic & Political WEEKLY

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EDITORIALS

- Diluting Academic Excellence and Autonomy
- Bearing Witness to Genocide

ALTERNATIVE STANDPOINT

- The Crisis of Dalit Politics in Southern Tamil Nadu

STRATEGIC AFFAIRS

- From McKinley to Musk:
The Evolution of American Imperial Power

COMMENTARY

- Institutionalised Nobel:
A Journey from Lewis to AJR
- Politics of Emotions and Parliamentary
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- Supreme Court's Missteps and
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BOOK REVIEWS

- *Patriotism, Partition and the Persecuted:
Social Biography of Victims of Partition*
- *Waste and the City: The Crisis of Sanitation and
the Right to Citylife*

SPECIAL ARTICLES

- Parliamentary Representation, Resource
Sharing, and the Provision of Responsive
Public Services post 2026
- Tribal Urbanism in North East India
- Politics of Environmental Governance
- Social Class Matters for Household Water
Well-being in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal

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- Normalising the False Binary of Hill–Valley
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CURRENT STATISTICS

From Wall Street to Silicon Valley

While Wall Street leaders and Rust Belt industrialists operated with limited global competition, today's Silicon Valley tech giants navigate a multipolar world where Chinese innovations pose a constant competitive threat. **page 13**

Incremental State GST

Lower base rates of the goods and services tax may be levied uniformly nationwide which may be shared equally between the union and the states, and on this base rate, the states could be allowed to levy an additional rate. **page 29**

The Places of Worship Act

The judicial misdirection has effectively hollowed out the Places of Worship Act, a process further exacerbated by the Supreme Court's delay in hearing the long-pending challenge to the law. **page 20**

Tribal Urbanism

Tribal urbanism in North East India can be conceptualised around the notions of the tribal communities asserting control over their urban spaces and wielding political influence over their economic life and sociocultural processes. **page 36**

Dalit Politics in Tamil Nadu

After their alliance with the BJP, Dalit leaders from southern Tamil Nadu have remained silent on everyday caste violence and the community's core issues. **page 10**

The Crisis of Dalit Politics

- 10 In southern Tamil Nadu, prominent leaders among the Devendra Kula Vellalars have adopted a new political rhetoric after their alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party. — *P Vellaisamy*

From McKinley to Musk

- 13 Tech giants with their control over digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and global communication networks are reshaping both American domestic policy and international relations. — *Atul Bhardwaj*

A Journey from Lewis to AJR

- 15 The institutional set-up that is implicit in Arthur Lewis's model was made explicit by Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A Robinson in their Nobel-winning research. — *Atanu Sengupta, Sanjoy De*

Politics of Emotions in Punjab

- 18 In the parliamentary elections in Punjab, the political leadership across parties employed populist schemes and emotional issues to shape the political perceptions and voting behaviour of the people. — *Surinder Singh*

The Places of Worship Act

- 20 What was once perceived as political exclusion is now being ratified through court decisions, highlighting a disturbing intersection of law and ideology that worsens the marginalisation of Muslims. — *Burhan Majid*

Parliamentary Representation post 2026

- 29 Concerns exist that the post-2026 delimitation might adversely affect the representation and resource-sharing of southern Indian states. This apprehension may be unfounded as in-migration would counteract the declining fertility rates in the south. The reduced share in tax assignment stems from the finance commissions' focus on income distance and their refusal to incorporate migration in computations. — *D Narayana*

Governing Tribal Towns

- 36 Contrary to the assumption that tribes predominately dwell in rural areas, there is a significant proportion of the tribal population in small towns of North East India. The paper conceptualises tribal urbanism around the notions of the community asserting control over their urban spaces and wielding political influence over economic life and sociocultural processes. — *Raile Rocky Ziipao*

Politics of Environmental Governance

- 43 This study employs historical institutionalism to explain China's relative success in managing air pollution, conceptualising three modes of institutionalisation—top-down, bottom-up and lateral. While top-down and bottom-up modes in Beijing created positive governance and political feedback, the lateral mode in Delhi generated friction. — *Dwarkeshwar Dutt*

Household Water Well-being

- 51 The complex links between the dynamics of water well-being for sustainable development across different social groups are examined to explain the underlying reasons for inequalities in water accessibility and availability in the sub-Himalayan Dooars region. It is found that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities encounter significant obstacles in accessing sustainable water resources. — *Suranjan Majumder, Indrajit Roy Chowdhury*

Normalising the False Binary of Hill-Valley

- 60 Representing prolonged conflicts faithfully is never easy. This is true for both the actual subjects of the conflicts and outside observers. — *Pradip Phanjoubam*

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