

Economic & Political WEEKLY

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EDITORIAL

- Falling behind the Curve

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- The Sino-Indian Thaw: Reading between the Lines

LAW & SOCIETY

- An Assault on Privacy and Dignity

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- Automating Domesticity: Indian Advertisements and the Reconfiguration of Masculinity
- The Gender and Social Equity Question in Low-carbon Transitions
- Shirish B Patel (1932–2024): An Urbanist

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- *Fifty Years of Bangladesh: Economy, Politics, Society and Culture*
- *Reading the Muslim on Celluloid: Bollywood, Representation and Politics*

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- Need for Deposit-accepting Licences

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- Raising the Stakes in Indian Fisheries Management
- Determinants of Wilful Default in Emerging Economies: Evidence from India
- Growth Divergence between Indian States
- Labour Productivity and Structural Transformation in Uttar Pradesh

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- Artistry of Resistance

CURRENT STATISTICS

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Infirmities of Uttarakhand UCC

When the Constitution framers hoped for a uniform civil code to emerge in India, they certainly did not intend for a uniformly oppressive code to be imposed on all Indians. [page 10](#)

Shirish B Patel (1932–2024)

Upholding value-based planning, Patel's arguments for inclusionary zoning or community land reserves were driven by the desire for a socially just city. [page 19](#)

Growth Divergence between States

The population growth rate, the bank credit to GSDP ratio, and the shares of agriculture and industry in GSDP contribute to the differences in steady states across states. [page 50](#)

Purse Seine Fishing in Tamil Nadu

The narratives underlying the cases related to conflicts among fisher groups over purse seine fishing contain a mix of environmental, developmental, and distributional arguments. [page 36](#)

Bihu and Assamese Nationalism

The multi-ethnic customs of Bihu have historical roots, but their formalisation and present forms of celebration are a recent "invention of tradition," designed to unify Assamese identity. [page 72](#)

An Assault on Privacy and Dignity

- 10 The Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code seems less about ensuring uniformity and more about controlling the choices and bodies of young people. This is a clear violation of constitutional guarantees. — **Alok Prasanna Kumar**

Automating Domesticity

- 13 Technology emerges as a seeming “equaliser” in media portrayals of the domestic. Do such portrayals challenge patriarchal gender norms or do they reinforce them in subtler ways? — **Sanya Darapuri**

The Gender and Equity Question

- 16 For a just energy transition, it is important to ask who benefits from such transitions and how, taking into account the social positioning and power dynamics between various social actors. — **Divya Pradeep**

Shirish B Patel (1932–2024)

- 19 Urbanist Shirish B Patel’s interests went far beyond the conventional boundaries of engineering and urban planning. He was a humanist committed to a “just and fair” city for all. — **Vidyardhar K Phatak**

Need for Deposit-accepting Licences

- 29 To strengthen the process of financial intermediation and reduce the systemic risk, there is a need to allow a few upper-layered non-banking finance corporations to raise public deposits. — **Rupa Rege Nitsure, Pretimaya Samanta**

Purse Seine Fishing

- 36 How Indian courts have handled disputes related to marine purse seine fishing since 2018 is examined. The narratives that underlie these cases contain a mix of environmental, developmental, and distributional arguments. The upcoming Supreme Court judgment will have major implications for the sustainability of marine fisheries. — **Maarten Bavinck**

Wilful Default in Emerging Economies

- 43 The role of related party transactions for wilful defaulters is examined. Logistic regression model results indicate that wilfully defaulting firms are likely to be financially constrained as they have lower cash flows from operations, lower interest coverage, and higher leverage compared to non-defaulter firms from the same industry. — **Dipali Krishnakumar, Madhvi Sethi**

Growth Divergence

- 50 There has been rising inequality among Indian states in terms of per capita gross domestic product. By examining the convergence or divergence between 20 major Indian states from 2000 to 2019, we find that the differences in productivity growth rates, as well as different steady states, are the drivers of the increasing interstate inequality. — **Taniya Ghosh, Kaustubh**

Labour Productivity and Structural Transformation

- 58 There are noticeable differences in labour productivity with respect to the ratios of manufacturing to agriculture, industry to agriculture, and services to agriculture in Uttar Pradesh. Dedicated policy efforts are required to revive the industry sector in the state to speed up the labour transformation from agriculture to non-agriculture sectors. — **Nagendra Kumar Maurya, Puneet Kumar Shrivastav**

Artistry of Resistance

- 66 Brahma Prakash’s *Body on the Barricades* metaphorically places resistance as an assertive art in a political backdrop where curtailment, oppression, and marginalisation continue to exist in the most unapologetic forms. — **Radhika Jagtap, Aparna Vyas**

Postscript

- 71 **Sreshtha Chakraborty** on Palestinian women’s resistance; **Saurabh Saikia** on the standardisation of Bihu; **Sonali Gupta** on the many definitions of adventure for women; and **Last Lines** by **Ponnappa**.

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