

Economic & Political WEEKLY

A SAMEEKSHA TRUST PUBLICATION

www.epw.in

EDITORIALS

- Human Development Is Stuck in a Rut
- Delimitation and Deepening Federalism

LAW & SOCIETY

- CJI Khanna's Tenure

COMMENTARY

- Creating a Database: Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025
- Rethinking Marriage: The Case against Marital Rape
- Identity versus Identification: Surveillance through Family ID
- UGC's Proposed Grading Metrics and Faculty Norms: Strategic Enforcement of NEP 2020
- Shyam Benegal (1934–2024): A Tribute

BOOK REVIEWS

- *Improvised Futures: Encountering the Body in Performance*
- *Unequal: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours*

PERSPECTIVES

- Visualising the Invisible: Re-examining Women's Labour Force Participation in India

SPECIAL ARTICLES

- Poverty and Inequality in India: Before and after COVID-19
- Why Should I Get Paid? Unpaid Labour among Women Weavers in Varanasi
- Are Infant Mortality Rates Converging across Indian States? A Club Convergence Analysis
- Political Imaginaries of Peasants and Workers in Kashmir

CURRENT STATISTICS

POSTSCRIPT

Measurement of Women's Work

The underestimation of the headcount of women in the labour market could be improved via detailed records of the production of goods on farms and within households, both as principal and subsidiary activities. [page 33](#)

Reimagining Marriage

Getting rid of the exception to marital rape requires a social and legal reimagination of marriage as an institution based on a contract of enduring and continuing mutual consent. [page 16](#)

Kisan Mazdoor Conference

The production of historical narratives in J&K has perpetuated the triumph of the National Conference and the Naya Kashmir manifesto, which precludes the possibility of studying the competing ideas and texts such as the KMC resolutions. [page 62](#)

COVID-19 and Inequality

In rural areas, a fall in inequality was the result of the poor seeing greater improvement in their incomes than the richer classes, presumably due to agricultural growth and anti-poverty programmes. [page 39](#)

Disaster Database

The database should be developed keeping in view the requirement of a long-term system that provides the scope for a range of disaster risk management functions and is not limited to a set of impact-related data sets. [page 13](#)

CJI Khanna's Tenure

- 10 Chief Justice of India Justice Sanjiv Khanna's tenure at the Supreme Court saw increased transparency on the part of the Court and re-established its role in protecting constitutional values. — *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025

- 13 The Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025 contains a provision for creating a disaster database at the national and state levels. — *Biswanath Dash*

The Case against Marital Rape

- 16 A recent judgment of the High Court of Chhattisgarh has exposed the absurdity of mindless law reform and the need to reimagine the institution of marriage. — *Indira Jaising*

Surveillance through Family ID

- 19 The news about some states and union territories contemplating the issuance of family ID cards raises concerns about surveillance and greater social control. — *Akshra Mehla, Lakshay Mehla*

UGC's Proposed Grading Metrics

- 22 Examining the implications of the 2025 Draft UGC Regulations, the article explores how these measures are indirect tools to implement the National Education Policy 2020. — *Sony Kuriakose, N K Nikhil*

Shyam Benegal (1934–2024): A Tribute

- 27 As a teacher and philosopher, he was matchless. — *Atul Tiwari*

Visualising the Invisible

- 33 The categorisation used by India's labour force surveys has failed to capture three evolving dynamics of the labour market. The gender difference in the amount of work provided towards economic activities is overstated. The sharing of decision-making within small firms has been underemphasised. And the gig economy and cottage industries have not been kept distinct from casual hourly labour. — *Sarika Chaudhary, Amaresh Dubey, Surbhi Malhotra & Wendy Olsen*

Poverty and Inequality in India

- 39 Rural poverty saw a modest decline despite the onset of COVID-19 in 2019–20 and fell as sharply in 2020–21 as it had in 2018–19. Urban poverty rose modestly in 2020–21, with the declining trend restored by the April–June 2021 quarter. — *Arvind Panagariya, Vishal More*

Women Weavers in Varanasi

- 47 There is a prevalence and persistence of unpaid labour in the production realm of the weaving industry among two generations of women in the same household. Women's empowerment, the study argues, is closely tied to financial independence. — *Laeek Ahemad Siddiqui, Namrata Shokeen*

Infant Mortality Rates Converging across Indian States

- 54 The findings show an absence of overall convergence of IMR across Indian states. Instead, we identify club convergence, where states with similar IMR levels cluster together, leading to widening regional disparities. — *Jeet Saha, Zafar Iqbal*

Kisan Mazdoor Conference in Kashmir

- 62 The intellectual narratives of Jammu and Kashmir in the 1940s and 1950s are largely associated with the National Conference, neglecting alternatives like the Kisan Mazdoor Conference. This paper seeks to position the KMC into this intellectual discourse. — *Shiraz Ahmad Dar, Rouf Ahmad Dar & Javid Ahmad Dar*

Postscript

- 71 *Smitha Mary Sebastian* and *Santosh Kumar* on the non-enforcement of the legal rights of a person with disabilities; *Aniket Nandan* and *Swarupa Deb* on erasing of indigenous history in contemporary Agartala; *V K Karthika* on inclusivity in Arnos Pathiri's *Puthen Pana*; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

EDITORIALS

- Human Development Is Stuck in a Rut 7
Delimitation and Deepening Federalism 8

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

- CJI Khanna's Tenure
— *Alok Prasanna Kumar* 10

COMMENTARY

- Creating a Database: Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025
— *Biswanath Dash* 13
Rethinking Marriage: The Case against Marital Rape—*Indira Jaising* 16
Identity versus Identification: Surveillance through Family ID
— *Akshra Mehla, Lakshay Mehla* 19
UGC's Proposed Grading Metrics and Faculty Norms: Strategic Enforcement of NEP 2020
— *Sony Kuriakose, N K Nikhil* 22
Shyam Benegal (1934–2024): A Tribute
— *Atul Tiwari* 27

BOOK REVIEWS

- Improvised Futures: Encountering the Body in Performance*—Body as an Epistemic Reality
— *Richa Shukla* 29
Unequal: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours—The Centrality of Inequality
— *Pulin B Nayak* 31

PERSPECTIVES

- Visualising the Invisible: Re-examining Women's Labour Force Participation in India
— *Sarika Chaudhary, Amaresh Dubey, Surbhi Malhotra, Wendy Olsen* 33

SPECIAL ARTICLES

- Poverty and Inequality in India: Before and after COVID-19
— *Arvind Panagariya, Vishal More* 39
Why Should I Get Paid? Unpaid Labour among Women Weavers in Varanasi
— *Laeek Ahemad Siddiqui, Namrata Shokeen* 47
Are Infant Mortality Rates Converging across Indian States? A Club Convergence Analysis
— *Jeet Saha, Zafar Iqbal* 54
Political Imaginaries of Peasants and Workers in Kashmir: A Study of the Kisan Mazdoor Conference—*Shiraz Ahmad Dar, Rouf Ahmad Dar, Javid Ahmad Dar* 62

CURRENT STATISTICS 69**POSTSCRIPT**

- I Refuse to Die: Remembering G N Saibaba's Rhetoric of Resistance*
— *Smitha Mary Sebastian, Santosh Kumar* (71),
Erased Pasts and the Politics of Space in Agartala
— *Aniket Nandan, Swarupa Deb* (72),
Interfaith Dialogue and Cultural Syncretism in Arnos Pathiri's *Puthen Pana*—*V K Karthika* (73),
Last Lines (74)

LETTERS 4