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Working Conditions in IT Sector

Highlighting the problematic practices that the IT industry in India promotes in the name of work culture and environment, the vulnerabilities faced by employees and the precarity of organised permanent employment in the sector are examined. [page 43](#)

Nuclear Posture Review

India's nuclear doctrine needs to be modified after a Nuclear Posture Review as the concept of recessed deterrence constrains the readiness of India's nuclear forces. [page 10](#)

Manipur and the ADCs Bill

The conflict over the Manipur (Hill Areas) Autonomous District Councils Bill points to the need of a consociational compromise and political decentralisation for the resolution of conflicts between the hills and the valley. [page 25](#)

Language and Democracy

The Westphalian-style sanctification of the primordial religious and linguistic affiliations becomes pathological in a society that worships purity and hierarchy. [page 38](#)

OBC Reservation in LSGIs

With the Supreme Court striking down the Maharashtra government's reservation for OBCs in the local self-government institutions, the responses of the state government and the opposition and the impact on OBC politics are analysed. [page 28](#)

India's Nuclear Doctrine

- 10 It is essential for India to examine the robustness of its nuclear strategy and, particularly, the no-first-use policy. — *Jawahar Bhagwat*

A Methodological Rectification in the Global Hunger Index

- 14 This article proposes a methodological correction to the original Global Hunger Index to improve its validity as a tool to measure hunger in a country. — *Hariprasad T, Dennis Robert & Anish T S*

The NITI Aayog Multidimensional Poverty Index

- 17 The explicit limitation of the multidimensional poverty index curated by the NITI Aayog is its lack of comparability across the spectrum of human development within India. — *Sanjay K Mohanty, U S Mishra & K D Maiti*

Regional Lockdown Policies and COVID-19 Transmission in India

- 21 Do lockdowns and mobility restrictions contain the spread of COVID-19? Findings from this article suggest that lockdown policies slowed COVID-19 death rates in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. — *Aarushi Kalra, Paul Novosad*

Manipur and the ADCs Bill, 2021

- 25 The conflict about the proposed Manipur (Hill Areas) Autonomous District Councils Bill is a manifestation of the deep divide between the hills and the valley. — *Thongkhohal Haokip*

Political Reservation for OBCs

- 28 The responses of the ruling state government and the opposition in Maharashtra to the retention of the OBC reservation in the local self-governments are explored and analysed in this article. — *Yashwant Zagade*

Language, Purity, and the Logic of Democracy

- 38 Working towards building a chauvinism-free model of democracy that is equally available to all its citizens involves ensuring the freedom of critical discourse to question the proto-hegemonic narrative associated with every primordial (religious or linguistic) affiliation. — *Probal Dasgupta*

COVID-19 and the Formal Sector Crisis in IT and ITes

- 43 This paper draws upon media reports, a short online survey, and telephonic interviews to highlight the working conditions in the information technology and information technology-enabled services sector. — *Smriti Singh*

Supply-side Problems in Food Loss and Waste

- 51 The food systems approach proposes reducing food loss and waste as a potential solution to achieve food and nutritional security. One-sixth of the agricultural production, accounting for one-tenth of the gross value added in agriculture, is lost. An efficient cold chain can reduce these losses substantially. — *Chandra S R Nuthalapati, S Mahendra Dev & Rajeev Sharma*

Climate Change and the Miyawaki Forests

- 62 The Miyawaki method is a path-breaking initiative in the recreation of forests in India, particularly in the context of climate change and environment conservation. A judicious conservation policy is the need of the hour as conservation initiatives are affecting people's lives and livelihoods. — *Anju Lis Kurian, C Vinodan*

Postscript

- 71 *Partha S Ghosh* on Bani Singh's documentary film *Taangh*; *Mrinmoy Pramanick* on the cultural narratives of Calcutta as codified through cinema and literature; *Anirudh Raghavan's* poem "Two Glasses"; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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Climate Change and the Miyawaki Forests

A Promising Conservation Policy for India

ANJU LIS KURIAN, C VINODAN

The Miyawaki method is a path-breaking initiative in the recreation of forests in India, particularly, in the context of climate change and environment conservation. A judicious conservation policy is the need of the hour as conservation initiatives are affecting people's lives and livelihoods. Thus, this method offers an opportunity to everyone to be associated with environment conservation by growing a forest in their backyard.

Climate change is one of the cardinal new security challenges in the 21st-century world; thus, its mitigation as well as adaptation requires concerted efforts from the international community comprising nation states (Singh 2017: 5). Nations across the world showed their strong commitment to address the issue of climate change through the Paris Agreement of 2015 for the post-2020 period. It has been a well-framed international legal framework under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Lakshmanan et al 2017). The Paris Agreement adopted a bottom-up structure known as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to address the tragedy of climate change (Stern 2018). The NDCs are, thus, the crux of the Paris Agreement and for the achievement of long-term climate goals. They embody efforts by each party to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change (ITF 2018: 7). Further, the agreement aimed to balance anthropogenic climate emission sources and sinks. In particular, Article 5 of the agreement highlights the role of forests in combating climate change (United Nations 2015: 4; Graham 2016: 21).

The UNFCCC has recognised the significant role played by forests, providing global carbon sequestration in climate change mitigation. Parties to the UNFCCC have acknowledged global anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to deforestation plus forest degradation and affirmed to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), identifying the role of conservation and sustainable management of forests, along with enhancing forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-plus) (CBD et al 2012: 8). According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the conservation as well as restoration of forests can substantially reduce emissions at a low cost and with potential co-benefits for adaptation plus sustainable development (Nabuurs et al 2007: 544). Afforestation, reforestation, and restoration of forests contribute to the mitigation of climate change as these endeavours increase the rate and quantity of carbon sequestration in biomass with huge holding capacity, which highlights the predominance of conserving natural forests (Karsenty et al 2003: 7).

India's ongoing mitigation and adaptation strategies plus actions along with the expected direction of activities in the near future include planned afforestation. With its focus on sustainable forest management, afforestation, and regulating the diversion of forestland for non-forest purposes, India has been successful in improving carbon stock in its forests by about 5%, from 6,621.5 million tonnes in 2005 to 6,941 million tonnes in 2013, and is expected to enhance carbon sequestration by

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