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Agricultural markets are characterised by poor competitiveness, fragmentation, inefficiency, presence of excessive middlemen, and frequent price manipulations. The electronic trading portal for national agricultural market is an attempt to use modern technology for transforming the system of agricultural marketing.

Inclusive developmental efforts with measures for raising productivity, providing remunerative prices to farmers and addressing agrarian distress suitably supported by reforms related to market and lands are essential to promote agricultural efficiency and occupational diversification. Special focus is also needed to build institutions and delivery systems in eastern states to develop them as an alternate food grain bowl along with supporting the adaptation and income enhancement through diversified activities.

Effective regulation of agricultural produce markets has been increasingly recognised as an important institution for agricultural sector development. This article provides the construction of a composite time-varying de jure quantitative index measuring a specific legislative institution of colonial lineage—the Agricultural Produce Markets Committee Act & Rules across 14 Indian states for the period 1970-2008. Rankings of states in terms of the APMC index show varying time trends: Maharashtra and Punjab witness a stable and high ranking historically. The top gainers in terms of ranking are Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. The top losers in terms of ranking are Bihar, Gujarat and Odisha. Gujarat and Bihar ranked at 6th and 12th position respectively in 1970 but their ranks deteriorated to 11th and 14th position in 2008. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam show relative improvement in terms of magnitude of the APMC index but continue to rank poorly. Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan maintained ranks at the higher side most of the time period.
CASTS AND CASTISM

4 Pal, Gobinda C

*Caste and access to public services.*
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(31), 2016(30 July): 102-107

There are specific norms and guidelines for the delivery of public services, of which certain are made available specifically for the socially excluded groups; others under different flagship schemes are universal in nature. This paper looks at the issue of caste and access to these services in the context of the Integrated Child Development Services. It draws evidence from a sample of nearly 5,000 households and more than 200 institutional service delivery points in the mixed-caste villages spread across three states. The findings suggest that the implementation gap coupled with exclusionary biases not only affect the access of lower caste groups to public services but also often intensify their disadvantages.

ECONOMICS

5 Barman, R B

*Rethinking economics, statistical system and welfare.*
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(28), 2016(9 July): 46-56

The paper picks up what can be called as a thread of discontentment in conventional macroeconomics through a brief review of literature, carefully chosen to bring importance of micro, to justify that it can give a realistic framework of analysis of the economy. To support research for validation of alternative theories challenging the rational approach, deeply rooted in the general equilibrium theory, we need empirical evidence linking the micro with the macro. The idea is to seek conformance of these theories based on ground realities and to consider institutions and governance as important components of this analysis. The existing statistical system in India needs to be reoriented following the System of National Accounts 2008 on microdata to capture distributional characteristics of macroaggregates. There is a new direction in applied econometrics based on the stochastic equilibrium which is testable using microdata. The paper touches upon this idea citing a

**ECONOMICS**

6 Chakrabarti, Anjan

*Indian economy in transition: The new order of things.*
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(29), 2016(16 July): 61-66

Taking cognisance of India's long-run economic transition in the post-planning era, it is argued that the triad of neo-liberal globalisation, global capitalism and inclusive development has come to constitute the new order of things in the Indian economy. This article explores the appearance of each, and the roles they played in reshaping the Indian economic map, and in
displacing the rationale and practice of Indian state. This triad in turn has become the site of reference and departure for a novel set of contradictions-crises-resistance in contemporary India.

**ECONOMICS**

7 Patnaik, Prabhat

**Economic liberalisation and the working poor.**
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(29), 2016(16 July): 47-50

Economic liberalisation is usually taken to mean a general "retreat of the state." This is erroneous. The state in a "liberalised regime" acts almost exclusively in the interests of globalised capital and the domestic corporate-financial oligarchy that gets integrated with it, which means inter alia a withdrawal of state support from traditional petty production, including peasant agriculture. This is what underlies the phenomenon of absolute impoverishment of the working people, notably in the form of growing nutritional deprivation, which "liberalisation" has unleashed in India over the last 25 years, and which, notwithstanding assiduous denials by its votaries, is quite indubitable.

** ECONOMICS

8 Sood, Atul

**Politics of growth: Script and postscript**
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(29), 2016(16 July): 56-60

Challenging the notion that economic reforms have resulted in a non-interventionist neo-liberal state, the relationship between economic and social outcomes is examined. These outcomes result from the interconnections between economic reforms, the responses of the Indian state and the nature of Indian politics. Understanding and evaluating this relationship will contribute to further strengthening the Indian people's engagement with policy choices that the ruling classes make and their contestations and struggles to improve their lives.

** ECONOMICS

ENVIRONMENT

9 Chowdhury, Nupur

**Sustainable development as environmental justice: Exploring judicial discourse in India**
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(26-27), 2016(25 June): 84-92

The principle of sustainable development has evolved to occupy centrality in environmental jurisprudence in India. The Supreme Court has reiterated its importance in the country's environmental legal regime. However, the jurisprudence has been criticised for framing it as a
zero sum game where economic development has been repeatedly used as a justification to
trump environmental violations, and therefore, rendering it as only declaratory and lacking in
content and sufficient teeth to shape public action. But this has compelled policy and
statutory recognition of the principle of sustainable development. The National Green Tribunal
Act of 2010 recognises it too. This statutory recognition has paved the way for a robust
jurisprudence spearheaded by the NGT that has actively sought to evolve a standard of review
for public actions in effectuating the principle of sustainable development and in doing so has
departed from the reductionist utilitarianism that had characterised the jurisprudence of
Supreme Court.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**FOREIGN RELATIONS**

10 Khan, Danish
Political economy of US-Pakistan relations: reformulating the patron – client model
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(30), 2016(23rd July): 73-77

Hamza Alavi, in this journal, offered the most pronounced presentation of US-Pakistan relations
in terms of a patron-client model. In an attempt to further the understanding, it is noted that
Alavi discounted the role of the internal political economy of Pakistan. The canonical
patron-client formulation is scrutinised to reformulate the role of Pakistan as an "estranged
client." The attempt is to internalise the interplay of the geostrategic and political-economy
interests of the Pakistani military in US-Pakistan relations.

**FOREIGN RELATIONS**

**MIGRATION**

11 Fitzpatrick, Molly and Rutten, Mario
Contextualising transnationalism: Local embedment and global engagement amongst
Gujarati Indians in cape Town.
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(30), 2016(23 July): 57-64

Scholars following the transnational turn in migration studies have stressed the way in which
connections that migrants maintain across nation state boundaries affect their daily lives and
subjectivities in the place of settlement. By doing so, the influence of the local context on
transnational ties is sometimes overlooked. Based on five months of fieldwork amongst the
Gujarati Hindu community of Cape Town, the cases presented in this paper show that local
particularities inherently affect global processes. It suggests a reconceptualisation of
transnational connections that emphasises the influence of the local and historical context of
migration and argues that the regionalised migration trajectories and the manifestation of the
history of apartheid in the local context have significantly affected the way in which transnational ties with India are maintained by this community.

**MIGRATION**

NATIONAL SECURITY

12 Navlakha, Gautam

*A hard look at national security.*

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(29), 2016(16 July): 32-37

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government have sought to convey the message that they have strengthened national security by taking a realist strategic position and introducing a policy of defence production indigenisation through the "Make in India" initiative. This article takes a close look at these claims and findsthat behind the bluster lies strategic confusion and ill-thought-out decisions.

**NATIONAL SECURITY**

POLITICAL HISTORY

13 Singh, Ravinder

*Of Gandhi, Godse and the missing files: Nine Hours to Rama (1963)*

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(30), 2016(23 July): 65-72

This paper revisits Indian history when a Hollywood movie, Nine Hours to Rama (1963), claiming to be "a film on Gandhi" turned out to be--much to the Indian government's embarrassment--a biopic on Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse. The film, which had been provided sufficient facilities for its making by the government, triggered off a huge uproar in the public sphere and a subsequent ban on the film. It is argued that a peculiar desecration anxiety and the conjoined traumas of patricide and partition linked to the totemic figure of Gandhi engendered such an outcry in India. Similarly, apart from other political contingencies, the film and the evidence of the government's collusion in its making threatened to undermine the Nehruvian government's sovereignty by questioning the legitimacy of its claim to Gandhi's legacy and ultimately resulted in the files related to the film being untraceable in the government archival vaults.

**POLITICAL HISTORY**
14  Mani, Sunil  

**Is the government justified in reducing R&D tax incentives?**  
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(30), 2016(23rd July): 22-25  

A vast majority of studies assessing the impact of R&D tax incentives provided across the world conclude that such tax incentives spur investments. However, in India only a limited number of firms, especially small and medium ones, have actually been taking advantage of the state's fiscal generosity.

**TAXATION**

15  Singh, Jagpal  

**Communal violence in Muzaffarnagar: Agrarian transformation and politics**  
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 51(31), 2016(30 July): 94-101  

The scale of communal violence in Muzaffarnagar in August-September 2013 was unprecedented in the villages of western Uttar Pradesh after partition. It happened due to what Paul R Brass conceptualised as the institutional riot system, which until the Muzaffarnagar riot was understood to be primarily an urban phenomenon. The growth of the IRS, a post-green revolution phenomenon, that is, since the 1980s in western UP, was on account of the emergence of new classes in the villages, and changes in the nature of rural-urban relations. The LokSabha elections of 2014 provided a suitable context for the rural IRS to operate.

**VIOLENCE-UTTAR PRADESH**