OCTOBER 17, 2026

Vol LXI No 42

Economic & Political WEEKLY

₹170

A SAMEEKSHA TRUST PUBLICATION

www.epw.in

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Surveillance over Protests

As Delhi Police use anticipation of future protests to restrict movement and assembly, decisions about who may exercise a democratic right increasingly take shape through surveillance and police preparations before protesters have even reached the street. page 35

Immunity for the CEC

The legal immunity that has been granted, even if upheld and enforced, will, in the long run, be a sorry recompense for being blamed for damaging India's electoral democracy. page 10

Social Diversity in Manufacturing

A diversity index quantifying industry-specific social diversity in Indian manufacturing shows that general category workers' dominance in high-ranking roles has expanded, while SC and ST workers remain concentrated in low-prestige industries. page 55

A Split Millet Economy

The political economy of the millet resurgence continues to reflect India's broader agri-food framework—urban demand and private investment at the top, with small farmers limited to low-value primary output. page 17

Kanpur's Industrial Decline

The deindustrialisation entailed the weakening of occupational identities, household security, working-class institutions, and labour's place in the city's imagined future. page 21

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Immunity for the CEC

10 The immunity from civil and criminal consequences granted to the chief election commissioner and election commissioners in Section 16 of the CEC Act is of dubious constitutional validity, potentially violating Article 14. *— Alok Prasanna Kumar*

Rethinking Sub-national Fiscal Health

13 Higher fiscal and revenue deficits significantly reduce scores on the NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index, potentially penalising states with greater social and developmental spending. *— Abhijit Chakraborty*

Millets and Policy Symbolism

17 While the International Year of Millets succeeded in placing millets on the policy and media agenda, the rebranding has primarily been a rhetorical endeavour. *— Lipsa Moharana, P Alli*

The Slow Death of Industrial Kanpur

21 Deindustrialisation weakened collective identities and removed labour from Kanpur's development priorities, public memory, and imagined future, despite workers' enduring contribution to the city's industrial and social life across the 20th century. *— Rahul Verma*

TOT and InvIT Models

26 The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways should retain both toll-operate-transfer and Infrastructure Investment Trust models for the asset monetisation of the National Highways Authority of India. *— Kumar V Pratap*

The Next Crackdown Begins with the Last Protest's Footage

35 Protest policing in Delhi is shifting from dispersal during assembly to technologically informed pre-emption before it. The digital footage of the July crackdown exposed police violence against students to public scrutiny, while facial-recognition records and surveillance material from the mobilisation informed police preparations for the next. *— Nidah Kaiser, Soma Basu*

Price Volatility in Tomato, Onion, and Potato

45 An examination of the time-varying volatility and spillover effects among the most widely consumed vegetables—tomatoes, onions, and potatoes—shows that their volatilities are inversely related. Tomato prices rise when onion and potato prices decline and vice versa. This dynamic relationship affects their consumption pattern. Factors such as harvest period, seasonality, place of cultivation, perishability, and storage capacity influence volatility patterns. *— Suresh G, Viswanatha T & Sowmiya R*

Assessing Social Diversity Progress in India's Manufacturing

55 The dominance of general category workers in high-ranking roles has expanded, while Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe workers remain concentrated in low-prestige industries, restricting upward mobility. Although some industries demonstrate improved diversity, caste-based stratification persists, reaffirming the necessity for affirmative action in leadership, and stronger anti-discrimination frameworks. *— Arun Kumar Bairwa, Jadhav Chakradhar*

Ethnic Group Formation amid the Demand for Recognition

64 The formation of ethnic groups such as the Tai-Ahom, Moran, Matak, and Chutia in Assam, and their pursuit of Scheduled Tribes status are examined. Ethnic identity consciousness was augmented following the introduction of postcolonial affirmative action policies. Representation politics shapes Assam's ethnopolitics within the competing claims for recognition and inclusion. *— Hare Krishna Doley*

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