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**Current Awareness Service**

**Current Contents**

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# 30 years DownToEarth

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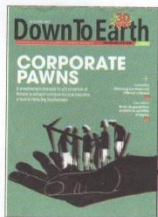
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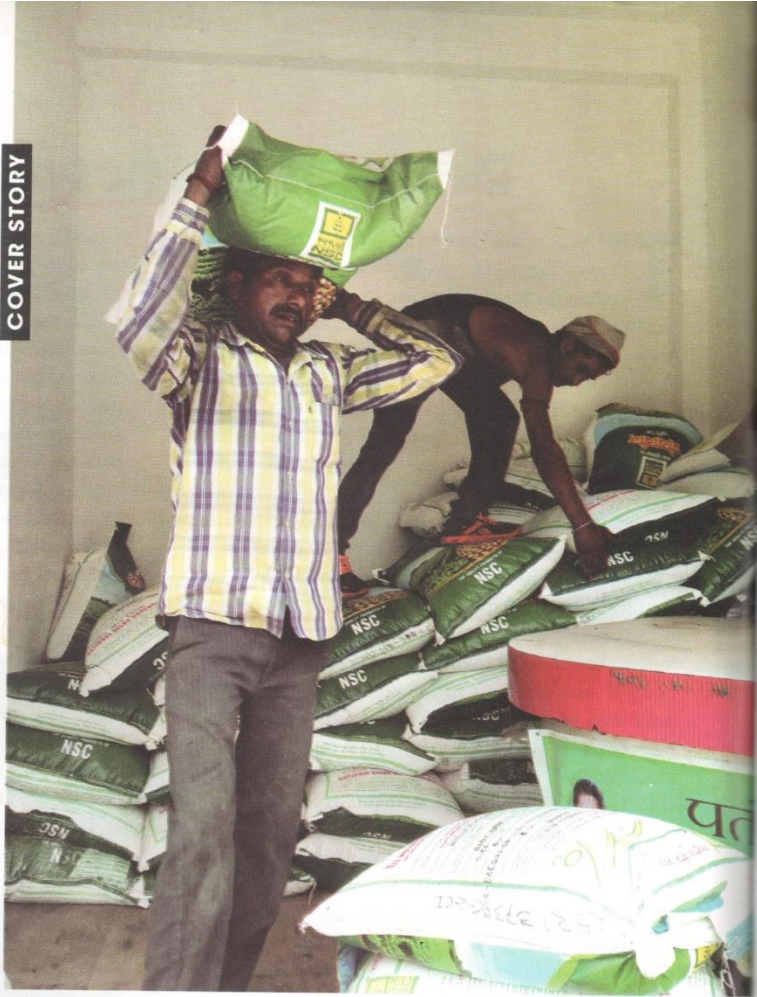
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**years**

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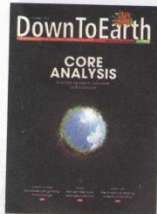
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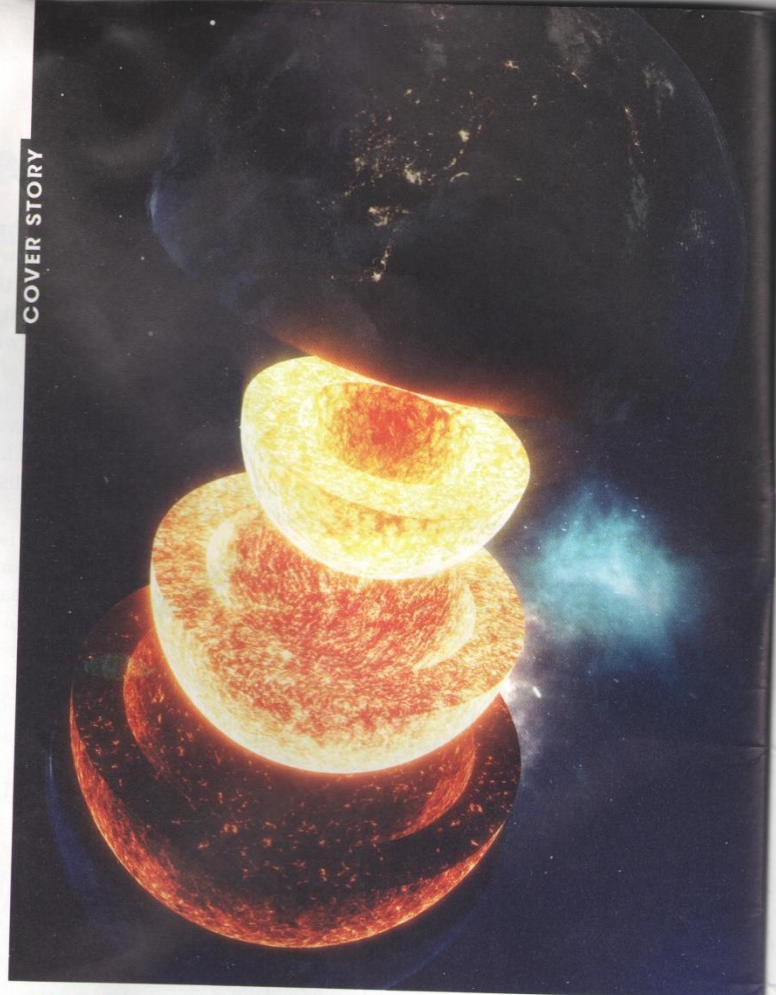
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10 The criminal–legal framework of wildlife conservation established by the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is rooted in Brahminical environmentalism. — *Sanjana Meshram, Aditya Rawat*

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19 Union Budget 2023–24 reaffirms India’s commitment to promote and achieve a financially inclusive economy. — *Pami Dua, Deepika Goel & Neeraj Kumar*

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27 The public dissent and opinion that was witnessed against the Iraq war appear to have shaped the responses of neutrality on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. — *Anuradha Chenoy*

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29 The federal implications of Tamil Nadu’s anti-National Eligibility cum Entrance Test bill are evaluated in this article. — *Rashika Bodh*

**Blended Learning in Indian Higher Education**

33 Serious introspection is required on the preparedness of the country to adopt a technology-driven learning approach. — *Aswathy Rachel Varughese, Ashok Alex Luke*

**Colonial Goa and the ‘Asprushya Question’**

45 The history of the so-called *asprushya* (untouchable), and what exactly this entailed, were actively debated in the Marathi press since the second decade of the 20th century. The *asprushya* question is analysed in this article within the context of Portuguese colonialism and how the Hindu liberals in turn saw it, from the 1920s to 1950s. — *Parag D Parobo*

**Imagining a New Ethic of Sociality**

51 The works of three non-Brahmin educated women from 19th-century western India are read against dominant historiographies of womanhood. Their works are read as intellectual resources that imagined a new ethic of sociality, using an embodied reason to alter the imagination of the “inner spiritual.” — *Anagha Ingole*

**Monetary Aggregates**

58 Despite the theoretical inconsistency inherent within a simple sum monetary aggregate, money supply (M3) has been a consistent leading indicator of the general slowdown in economic activities in India since March 2010. An exogenous influence of the central bank balance sheet over M3 through a statistically stable money multiplier is established in this paper. — *Manu Sharma, Akash Poojari*

**Groundwater Irrigation and Agricultural Output**

67 While the impact of groundwater irrigation on the productivity of crops and other parameters has been well-documented in India, not many studies are available highlighting its role in the value of agricultural output using district-level data. This paper attempts to find out the impact of groundwater irrigation on VAO using cross-sectional data for 189 Indian districts covering three time points: 1990–93, 2003–06, and 2017–20. — *A Narayanamoorthy, K S Sujitha & G Karthiga Devi*

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**Impact of Bancassurance**

14 Bancassurance is an agreement between banks and insurance companies to sell insurance products to bank customers. — *Rashmi, Garima Bhardwaj & Arvind Kumar Bhatt*

**Ecological Fiscal Transfers and Budgetary Spending**

19 The empirical evidence of flypaper effects in the ecological fiscal spending in India is examined. — *Amandeep Kaur, Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Divy Rangan & Lekha Chakraborty*

**Economic Dependency among the Elderly**

23 In India, declining fertility, increasing longevity, and better control of chronic diseases have risen dramatically in adults aged 60 and above. — *Devi Nair*

**Altruistic and Monadic Liberalism**

31 There are two kinds of liberal democracies today. "Monadic democracy" prevails in those polities that came into being after overthrowing monarchy and subsequently instituting republicanism. "Altruistic democracy" is the other kind of liberal democracy that emerged after overthrowing a foreign power. — *Dipankar Gupta*

**Sustainability and Threshold Value of Public Debt**

38 The sustainability and the threshold level of public debt in Tamil Nadu is examined using the modern time series methods and threshold regression method. The current level of debt in the state is unsustainable, and the debt sustainability threshold is about 18.5%, slightly lower than the 20% norm set by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management review committee for states. — *K R Shanmugam, K Shanmugam*

**Bailout for Britain**

46 Having been an importer of gold through the 19th and early 20th centuries, India witnessed massive gold exports to the tune of over ₹3.5 billion in the latter half of the inter-war years. Gaps in the recording of trade statistics during the period coupled with an inadequate understanding of the colonial economy have led to wrongly accounting for these exports as commodity gold exports. — *Vibha Iyer*

**Platformisation, Infrastructuring, and Datafication**

53 The existing research on smart cities in India is situated either in the Indian idea of what is "smart" or an analysis of selected cities' experiments. The rolling out of smart cities should be read along a longer history of neo-liberal municipal reforms, which has led to institutional rescaling through an entrenched network of consultants who drive contemporary urban interventions. — *Khaliq Parkar, Marie-Hélène Zérah & Gaurav Mittal*

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63 *Shubha Ranganathan and S V Chetan* on the importance of simple and evocative portrayals of disability; *Anu Kuriakose* on marital rape in *Kettyolaanu Ente Malakha*; *Sayant Vijay, Anupama Nayar C V and Anandhu S* on Kunde Habba and the indigenous Kodava community; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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10 Lax regulation and supervision of banks in the West impose heavy costs on emerging and developing economies. — *T T Ram Mohan*

**Demonetisation and Deployment of Credit**

12 The organisation- and occupation-wise trends in the deployment of total outstanding credit during March 2014–March 2020 are analysed in this article. — *Isha Gupta*

**Tripura Assembly Election 2023**

16 The verdict of the Tripura assembly election 2023 gave a renewed mandate for the Bharatiya Janata Party government with a thin majority. — *V Bijukumar*

**HDI Convergence across Countries**

20 The human development index convergence across nations during 1990–2018 is examined, using the bootstrapped simultaneous quantile regression approach in a dynamic panel framework and robustly tested via pooled-OLS model. — *Anju Goswami, Hiranmoy Roy*

**A Failed Economy Saved by Geography**

25 Despite experiencing multiple political and economic crises in recent times, Pakistan's economy has so far avoided a collapse similar to Sri Lanka's. — *Biju Paul Abraham, Partha Ray*

**Identifying Zombie Banks**

36 A measure of zombieness for state-owned Indian banks is computed. Using data for 2011–20, the evidence shows that these banks account for 16% of state-owned banks' equity, 23% of non-performing loans, and 18% of their lending portfolio within the country. Multivariate regressions highlight the differential lending behaviour of zombies, after accounting for bank-specific controls and year effects. — *Saibal Ghosh*

**Trade Reforms, Technology Import, and Firm Productivity**

42 The impact of technology import on the productivity of Indian manufacturing firms during 1995–2016 is examined. The empirics are based on an unbalanced sample of 4,616 firms, which is further segregated into four use-based categories of production. This analysis tends to support the predictions of new trade and growth theories that international trade provides opportunities for dynamic productivity gains. — *R Rijesh*

**Faith-based Financial Exclusion in India**

51 One of the key determinants of access to financial services is branch density as loan-making depends on information that necessitates local presence. This paper hypothesises that the proportion of Muslim population has an inverse relationship with branch density in India. The hypothesis is tested using data on commercial bank branches from the Reserve Bank of India and census data. — *Shagishna K, D Narayana*

**Migration and Politics**

58 The early 20th-century nationalist discourse in India held the colonial state and the middlemen (*maistry*) responsible for the exploitation of the migrant labourers. The issue of their miserable condition eventually merged within the nationalist movement. The experiences and perspectives of Dalit migrants in Burma and their role in the social and political movements in that period are studied in this paper. — *Chandra Bhanu Nalamala*

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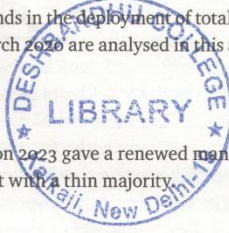
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**Social Welfare Laws and Federalism**

10 Rights-based welfare legislation, even if passed by the union government, needs implementation at the state level. — *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

**How Gendered Is the Gender Budget**

13 The gender budget aims to close the gender gaps and empower women by recognising their capacity to overcome obstacles. — *Roli Misra, Vishnu Kumar*

**Indian Public Schools and the RTE Act**

17 While there has been some progress, such as construction of toilets and ramps in schools, for many indicators little or no progress was seen in more than a decade since the enactment of the RTE Act in 2009. — *Ishita Chatterjee, Marie-Claire Robitaille*

**Emerging Fault Lines in Rural West Bengal**

25 Some key changes in the economic structure of rural West Bengal over the last decade are identified, focusing in particular on changes in the relative importance of various sectors and classes. — *Soham Bhattacharya, Indraneel Dasgupta*

**Dehing Patkai National Park**

34 Assam witnessed an unprecedented social media protest in the mid-2020 for the protection of the Dehing Patkai rainforest located in the eastern part of the state. This green movement was centred on the issue of legitimising illegal coal mining in the rainforest by the National Board for Wildlife during the nationwide lockdown. — *Pankaj Jyoti Gogoi, Trishna Rani Borah*

**'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'**

40 Over the last two decades, India's participation in global value chains and international production networks has improved, but the domestic value added content embodied in exports has displayed a declining trend. India has decided to launch the "Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) Bharat Abhiyan," which in principle aims to increase the dva content of exports. — *Sakshi Aggarwal, Debashis Chakraborty & Ranajoy Bhattacharyya*

**Rising Prices of Petroleum Products**

47 The hike in the prices of petroleum products in India post 2014, primarily due to higher petroleum taxes, is examined. Household consumption expenditure data collected from the India Human Development Survey (2011-12) is analysed using the input-output framework to understand both the direct and indirect effects of rising prices of petroleum products. — *Rajesh H Acharya, Anver C Sadath*

**Cross-border Trade and Economic Development**

56 Border states that are actively engaging in cross-border trade have received better funding from the union and have also recorded a higher growth rate of state gross domestic product. Although the cross-border trade with countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan is flourishing, there is a huge scope for expanding it with Myanmar and Pakistan. — *Durairaj Kumarasamy, Manisha Nayyar & Payal Adlakha*

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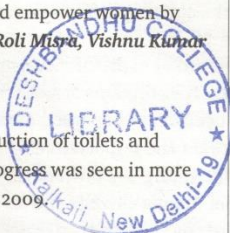
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36 The inherent contradictions and premises of internationalising higher education by opening foreign universities in India are under severe scrutiny by educationists, policy analysts and other stakeholders. — *Ravi Ranjan, Abdul Hameed*

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47 Following the standard precepts for dealing with supply shocks, monetary policy continued to be easy for an extended period, while simultaneously huge fiscal stimuli were applied. Even when a more restrictive monetary stance was taken, the measures were not strong enough to restrain inflationary expectations. A soft monetary policy with a sizeable fiscal deficit can harden inflationary expectations and a perpetuation of a new higher normal for inflation. — *D M Nachane*

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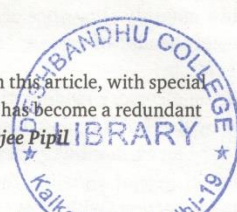
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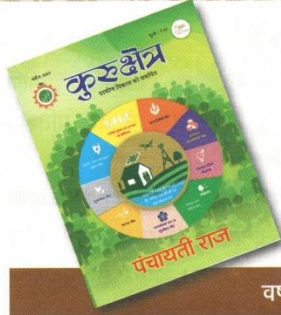
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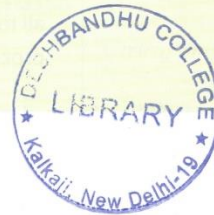
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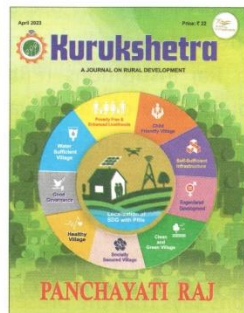
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a symposium on

an interdisciplinary and

metaphorical exploration

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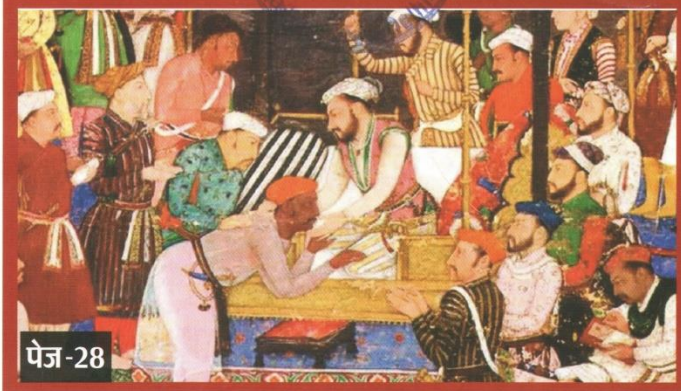
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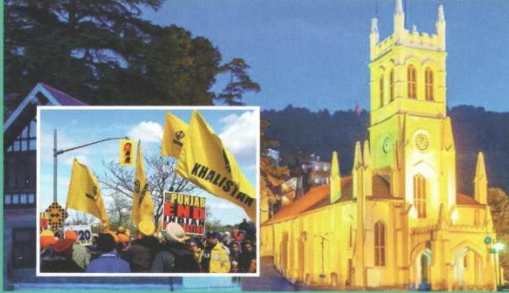
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**हंगामा करने वाले कुछ अराजक तत्व**

पाठ्यक्रम में बदलाव पर उठ रहे सवालों पर चर्चा से पहले जान लेते हैं कि एनसीईआरटी ने क्या-क्या बदलाव किए हैं? बदले गए पाठ्यक्रम के अनुसार भारतीय इतिहास की थीम्स के दूसरे हिस्से से 16वीं और 17वीं सदी के मुगल दरबार और उस दौर के शासकों के साथ ही उनसे जुड़े इतिहास से संबंधित अध्यायों को हटा दिया गया है। इसी तरह नागरिक शास्त्र की किताब से 'यूएस हेजेमनी इन वर्ल्ड पॉलिटिक्स' और 'द कोल्ड वॉर एरा' जैसे पाठ हटाए गए हैं।



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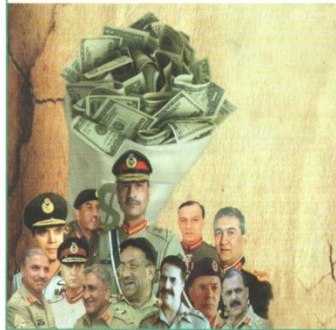
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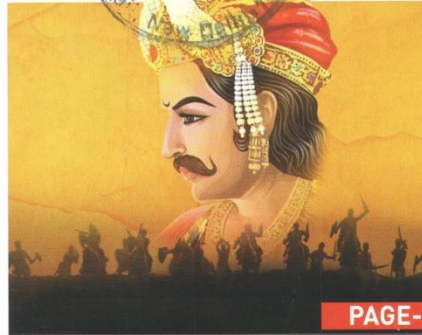




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**IT'S HISTORY, RESPECT IT**

History is built by a historian, brick-by-brick, from collection of source materials, including literary and oral, with the help of artifacts, and then piecing together all these materials – apparently disjointed – yet carved out in a befitting manner to create a piece of narration which ‘attempts’ to reach the truth, yet fails to exactly replicate it due to the brush of a perspective that is so inherent in the basic structure of the subject.



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**Atiq Ahmed Was A Jihadi**

It was not just the judiciary which was terrorized. Mr S P Pandey, the ex-superintendent of Naini Jail, where Atiq was lodged for a considerable period, in a recent interview to the media exposed the nexus between politicians, government functionaries and Atiq. He mentions that most high-ups in the administration relented to his hospitality at his home.

**PAKISTAN ARMY'S GENERALS ARE NOT 'GENERAL'**

A research report by Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) Forum, which gathers and analyses publicly available data for intelligence purposes, reveals the names of 12 Generals who have been involved in corrupt deeds and minted money.



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**GAME CHANGERS IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE**

**WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO REWRITE HISTORY?**



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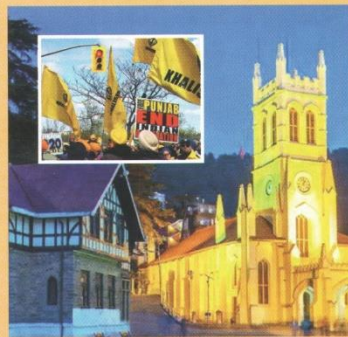
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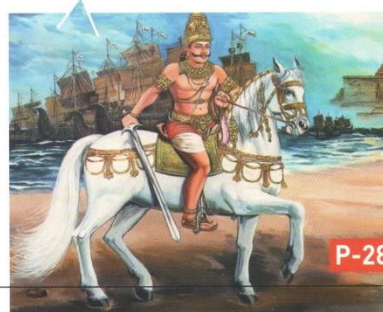
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**Church & Khalistan**



All these years, the church remained steadfast in its mission of converting Hindus to Christianity. It did not dare to penetrate the Muslims. Sanatanis, specially the tribal sanatanis, because of their accommodative propensities were considered soft targets.

**HOW MUCH WE KNOW ABOUT CHOLA DYNASTY ?**



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YOJANA

Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides.  
Rig Veda

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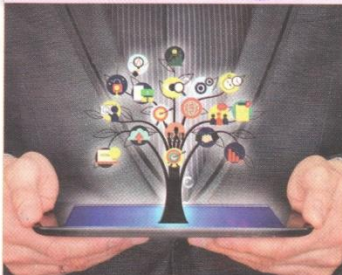
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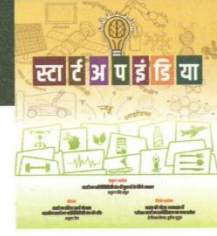


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योजना का लक्ष्य देश के आर्थिक विकास से सम्बन्धित मुद्दों का सरकारी नीतियों के व्यापक संदर्भ में गहराई से विश्लेषण कर इन पर विमर्श के लिए एक जीवंत मंच उपलब्ध कराना है।

योजना में प्रकाशित लेखों में व्यक्त विचार लेखकों के व्यक्तिगत हैं। ज़रूरी नहीं कि ये लेखक भारत सरकार के जिन मंत्रालयों, विभागों अथवा संगठनों से संबद्ध हैं, उनका भी यही दृष्टिकोण हो।

योजना में प्रकाशित विज्ञापनों की विषयवस्तु के लिए योजना उत्तरदायी नहीं है।

योजना में प्रकाशित आलेखों में प्रयुक्त मानचित्र व प्रतीक आधिकारिक नहीं हैं, बल्कि सांकेतिक हैं। ये मानचित्र या प्रतीक किसी भी देश का आधिकारिक प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं करते हैं।

योजना लेखकों द्वारा आलेखों के साथ अपने विश्वसनीय स्रोतों से एकत्र कर उपलब्ध कराए गए आंकड़ों/तालिकाओं/इन्फोग्राफिक्स के सम्बन्ध में उत्तरदायी नहीं है। योजना किसी भी लेख में केस स्टडी के रूप में प्रस्तुत किसी भी ब्रांड या निजी संस्थाओं का समर्थन या प्रचार नहीं करती है।

योजना घर मंगाने, शुल्क में छूट के साथ दरों व प्लान की विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए पृष्ठ-27 पर देखें।

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**Prepared and Compiled by**

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