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Current Contents

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Editorial, subscriptions and advertisements:
Society for Environmental Communications
41, Tagore Road, Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 062.
Phone: 91-11-46616000, 29951124,
29956110, 29956294, 29956399 | Fax: 91-11-29955879
Email: editor@downtoearth.org.in

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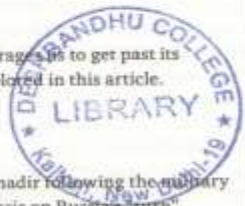
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10 How the Madras High Court's dominant imaginaries of the contested space as a "public road" and the fish vendors as "encroachers" overlook the complexities and alternative imaginaries of space as Nochikuppam and the fishing community as "original inhabitants" who have the rightful claim to indigeneity is explored in this article. — *Indhumathi G, Catherine Elisa John*

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Crop Insurance and Rice Productivity

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— *Anjani Kumar, Sunil Saroj & Ashok K Mishra*

Evaluating Direct Benefit Transfers for Agricultural Households

- 13 With the introduction of the Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme by the union government, and more comprehensive schemes such as Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation of the Government of Odisha, there is an emergence of various direct benefit transfer schemes for agricultural households. Political expediency aside, these schemes offer an opportunity to think about challenges and opportunities in evaluating causal impacts of large-scale public programmes. Using the case of the KALIA scheme in Odisha, the challenges arising out of multiple objectives, unintended consequences, and lack of appropriate counterfactuals in evaluating DBTs are demonstrated in this paper. — *Sarthak Gaurav*

Political Economy of Climate Change

- 22 Climate change is more than a science concern; it is as much a social science problem and more a consequence of anthropogenic rather than natural factors. Human interests and activities, particularly patterns of production and consumption, myopic domestic interests, and flawed development policies play a key role in it. Even the scientists have, over the years, come around the view that it is human activities over the past 50 years that have warmed our planet. Not all the countries are, however, equally responsible for climate change; those largely responsible are the developed countries of Europe and the United States. The major causes of climate change, a comparative appraisal of the two perspectives emerging from the global North and South, and a third perspective beyond them are advanced in this paper that traces the causes of climate change to a flawed vision of development.
— *S I Sharma*

Rural and Agricultural Mechanisation in the Himalayan Rural Economy

- 29 Over the past 10 years, the Nepal mid-hills experienced rapid agricultural and other types of rural mechanisation, especially through the spread of small-scale equipment. Using case studies, published and grey documents, key informant interviews, and participatory observation to examine the extent and history of this mechanisation and the factors influencing the increased use of small-scale equipment, this paper finds that these changes were influenced by government and donor policies and projects, Nepal's migrant economy, the economic shocks of the 2015 earthquake and the 2015 Indian border blockade, the growth of a responsive local import and agricultural machinery industry, and the increased demand for rural goods and services.
— *Scott E Justice, Stephen Biggs & Robin L Heath*

Distributional Dynamics of Income in Indian States

- 37 The distribution of income across Indian states for 2014–19 is examined in this paper. Particularly concerning in terms of high inequality are Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana—both income shares and real income growth in the bottom decile have declined from 2014 to 2019 in almost all these states. Across states, while Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe populations and small/marginal farmers and labourers are disproportionately represented at the bottom of income distributions, these groups are the most economically impoverished and increasingly vulnerable (due to declining real incomes) in the high inequality states. Using a stochastic model of income growth, this paper finds that states with high inequality are characterised by a negative redistribution of resources from poor to rich, raising concerns about the future of low incomes in these states. — *Anand Sahasranaman, Nishanth Kumar*



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D.K.C. Hrudhainath

COVER DESIGN
Rajender Kumar

EDITORIAL OFFICE
Room No. 653,
Publications Division,
Soochna Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Phone: 011-24362859
Email: kurukshetrajournal@gmail.com

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