

Review of  
**Development & Change**  
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**Growth, employment, poverty and human development: an evaluation of change in India since Independence with emphasis on rural areas**

*S. Mahendra Dev*

**Abstract**

The objective of this paper is to evaluate broadly the changes relating to growth, employment, poverty and human development since Independence. The questions it examines are: What are the results of the efforts of economic planning in India? How did the country perform in terms of economic growth after Independence? How far has poverty been removed? Are these significant changes in the conditions of agricultural labourers who are the poorest strata of society? What is the performance of the country in terms of human development?

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**Politics and political theory**

*Manoranjan Mohanty*

**Abstract**

This paper attempts to trace the interaction between political processes and political theory in the country since Independence. The democratic experience of the past decades has centered around activation of social forces struggling for justice and equality. How the different manifestations of this process are to be captured and interpreted became the problematic of political theory. Starting with close adherence to behaviouralism and subsequently turning into a criticism of it, political theory in India soon entered into a phase of the search for alternatives prompted by the specificities of the complex Indian reality. The concept of politics itself has acquired an expansive meaning in India. In the early years politics practically meant constitutional activity and, the art of government. But after the crisis in the system in the 1960s, politics has come to include revolutionary activity on the one hand and grassroot movements on the other. The conceptualisation of these aspects has added an interesting dimension to political discourse with problems of equality, freedom and justice becoming the themes of that discourse.

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**Institutions of self-government in India: towards multi-level federalism**

*George Mathew*

**Abstract**

Ancient India had a pattern of governance at the village level through panchayats and the call to re-establish Gram Swaraj was strongly articulated during the freedom movement. But the panchayats did not find a place in the structure of governance in the Indian Constitution initially. Since then several attempts were made to activate the panchayati raj institutions leading on to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution which gave the panchayats Constitutional status. This paper argues that this amendment has converted the states in India into federating units and has, thus, initiated

the era of multi-level federalism. It also considers the steps to be taken to make the constitutional provision of multi-level federalism a functioning reality.

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### **From development to adjustment: economic ideologies, the middle class and 50 years of Independence**

*Satish Deshpande*

#### **Abstract**

This speculative paper outlines a research agenda focussing on two important but under-researched themes in the history of our present: the shift in the dominant economic ideology from development to adjustment, and the growth and differentiation of the Indian middle class. In the post-Independence years, the ideology of development helped to create and sustain a strongly synergistic relationship between the developmental state, a relatively small but significant middle class, and the nation. Over time, as development-ideology declined (because of the effects of development, and because dominant factions of the middle class drifted away from it), this relationship broke down. The emergence of new middle class audiences with different interests and desires, and transnationally dominant ideologies of globalisation and structural adjustment results in a new conjuncture. Investigating this conjuncture may help us understand not only our recent past, but perhaps also our immediate future.

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### **Caste after fifty years of Independence**

*G K Karanth*

#### **Abstract**

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Indian Independence, the attainment of a casteless society seems still to be a distant dream. A majority of Indians today have a tendency to alternate between at least three sets of attitudes: casteist, anti-casteist and ambivalent. The caste system, as we understood it in the past, is no more, but caste has persisted to mould our thinking and actions. Most core features of caste system have either disappeared or undergone a change, with the exception of the practice of caste endogamy. The hereditary nature of association between caste and occupation has given way to more free occupations, but it is unlikely that the very 'low' castes have gained from such a process of transformation. While at the turn of the 1950s, Indian society was seen as composed of Brahmans and non-Brahmans, we now witness a division into 'forward', 'backward' and 'Dalit' castes and different coalitions among them. Even as we march towards the twenty-first century, caste seems to be keeping pace with us.

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## **Financial development**

*G. Omkamath*

### **Abstract**

Although analysis of India's financial sector has belonged, at least until recently, to the realm of the specialist, the comprehensive nature of the ongoing reforms in the sector forces general attention to it. The paper reviews the development of India's financial system over the past five decades. It goes into how financial institutions, instruments, markets and the role of the state have shaped the indicators of financial development, and thus provides a perspective to the reforms.

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## **Doctoral Work**

### **Irrigation institutions under two major system tanks in Tamil Nadu**

*K. Sivasubramaniyan*

### **Abstract**

Successful irrigation management, a precondition for 'efficient' functioning of irrigation institutions, is contingent on several factors. These include the physical design of the irrigation system, cropping pattern, technology used for crop production, land tenure system, land holding pattern, yield variations due to differential sources of irrigation (surface and sub-surface), and adequacy/assurance of water supply across reaches and throughout the season. This paper seeks to understand the interrelations between physical, socio-economic, technological and institutional factors and their impact on irrigated land from a historical perspective in the context of two major system tanks in Tamil Nadu.

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