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**DECENTRALISATION FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE
DELIVERY IN INDIA : THEORY AND PRACTICE**

Satyanarayana Sangita

Democratic decentralisation tends strongly to enhance speed, quantity and quality of responses from government institutions. But in some countries, it even likely to result in increased costs, lessened efficiency and probably greater inequality. From this perspective the paper examines the implications of the decentralisation on quality of governance and service delivery in theory and practice in India. These issues have been analyzed through conceptual and analytical framework. For this purpose, the study has been conducted on local governance in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

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**FUKUYAMA'S END OF HISTORY :
TRIUMPH OF THE LIBERAL STATE**

K.P. Mishra

This research paper aims to examine the claim and interpretations of Fukuyama's thesis of the end of history. The problem of universal history, Hegelian idea of historical progress and Fukuyama's conclusions drawn from Alexandar Kojeve's interpretation of Hegelian philosophy have been evaluated in this paper. Fukuyama's claim that liberal political systems are embodiment of Hegelian universal homogeneous state, the consummating point of human progress seems to be a 'meta narrative'. The paper concludes that triumph of liberal state is more an event of history rather than the end of history itself.

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RURAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH BASIC TECHNOLOGIES

Aureliano Fernandes

Though India tried to adapt the project of 'Modern Science' from a colonial to a nation building project, it has essentially been perceived as anti fragment for its failure to find cheap technology alternatives to people's problems. Industrialisation perpetrated by science and technology and limited largely to cities, has lead to the prosperity of cities and impoverishment of villages by way of stagnation, poverty, disease and farmers suicides, due to multiple failures not only of science but also due to lack of political will and pandemic corruption in implementation of government schemes. In this dismal scenario, two villages, Kuttumbakkam, in Tamil Nadu and Hiware Bazar, in Maharashtra among others provide outstanding examples of how basic technology, mobilization of limited village resources, galvanizing people's cynicism into voluntary action and tremendous personal sacrifice on the part of panchayat leaders has the key to transforming rural India and the lives of the poor.

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**POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF HEGEL AND SRI AUROBINDO :
A COMPARISON**

Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra

The paper makes an attempt to study the political philosophy of Hegel and Sri Aurobindo in a comparative framework. Some aspects of the political ideas of Hegel, deeply influenced by the Greek tradition and contemporary developments such as German enlightenment and French Revolution, find similarity with that of Sri Aurobindo, who derived richly from Indian tradition. The theory of evolution highly influenced the ideas of both the thinkers, though both used the theory to different ends. While Hegel believed that the development of human society culminates with the arrival of state on the scene, Sri Aurobindo further extended the theory and argued that only with the achievement of ideal human unity the problems confronting human society can be resolved.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT :
A STUDY OF THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN REHABILITATION OF PERSONS
AFFECTED BY SARDAR SAROVAR DAM IN INDIA**

Rashmi Shrivastava

The benefits that are to result from the completion of the Sardar Sarovar Project make it suitable for sustainable development, but the issue of resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected people is a huge hindrance. In spite of the multiple benefits accruing from the project the problems of the people displaced by it cannot be overlooked, therefore a rehabilitation policy has been charted out by the Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat Governments. This paper seeks to analyze the steps taken by the government to rehabilitate the people affected by the construction of the Sardar Sarovar dam. Until and unless these people are suitably resettled the development caused by this project cannot be termed sustainable.

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**URBAN GOVERNANCE AND POLITICS :
A CASE STUDY OF TIRUPATI**

M.A. Hussain

The paper falls under the genre of Urban Local Government/Urban politics studies and is reflective of the growing concern with Local Government after the implementation of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act 1992, as representing the cutting edge of administration and also the recent paradigm shift in Political Science with focus on institutional entities. The case study reported here focuses upon recent efforts by Tirupati Municipality and Tirupati Urban Development Authority to bring about Urban Development Schemes in Tirupati town.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY FOR CONSUMER'S INTEREST :
AN ANALYTICAL STUDY**

Sansar Singh Janjua

Consumer is the focal point of all the activities. In fact, he is the very basis which supports superstructure of all operations in the society. Consumer interest, therefore, should receive first priority of all. As a citizen, as a taxpayer and as a buyer, the consumer should have the right to expect that he will get the right type of goods and right quality at the right time and at the right price. In practice, it is well known that the consumer is not only the most ignored, the most harassed, the most suffered but also most docile citizen. The consumer's plight with regard to availability of items like kerosene, sugar and cooking gas is so pitiable that he has resigned himself to his "fate and classified himself as the unimportant person." On the one hand, there is often repeated statement that "customer is always right" and the customer is the "KING". On the other hand, the legal position of a buyer has been expressed in the famous expression "caveat emptor" or "Let the buyer beware." Consumer protection may be viewed from three angles. One is the physical protection of the consumer... measures to protect consumers against products that are unsafe and endanger health. A second aspect is the protection of the consumers economic interest... measures to protect him against deceptive and other unfair trade practices and to provide adequate rights and means of redress. A third and equally important aspect is the protection of public interest against the abuse, the monopoly position and restrictive trade practices. Consumer protection is nothing but with providing safeguard for the basic rights of consumers. However, consumer protection is essential for a healthy economy because this protection alone can give necessary strength to him in the market and restore the balance in the buyer-seller relationship.

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**ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
FOR TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

Jayanta Krishna Sarmah

The role of voluntary agencies in tribal development is assuming importance because of their special qualities like innovativeness, committed agency workers for effective implementation, flexibility in approach to suit local conditions, close contact with local people, high level of motivation and minimum procedural practices. The present study focuses on efficiency and effectiveness of the voluntary agencies in the state of Assam. It reveals the involvement of various types of voluntary action towards empowerment of women, issues of livelihood, health, legal aid credit facilities, vocational trainings etc.

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**THE DOHA ROUND OF WORLD TRADE NEGOTIATIONS :
A PREVIEW AND PERSPECTIVE
(A developing country analysis)**

Jagdish K. Patnaik

The object of the essay is to examine the present status of the trading arrangement vis-a-vis the developing countries. This essay will focus on the background of the present trade talks, which will provide the context for a perspective of the trade negotiations. In the second section, we will attempt to briefly highlight the salient points of the previous rounds of negotiations in the context of the developing countries. In the third section, we will discuss the eighth round, the Uruguay Round, which preceded the present round. The fourth section will analyze the Doha round negotiations for understanding the present position of the trade regime. Finally, in conclusion we will observe the need for greater flexibility on the part of the member countries of the world trade system to facilitate the globalization process with greater rigour.

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**ELECTION TREND IN BAY ISLANDS'
PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY : A STUDY**

S.K. Biswas

Democracy is the voice of people or mass. The Indian democracy is the largest and richest in the sense that more than 50 crores of voters are participating in parliamentary democratic process by electing their representatives. The political activities in the Islands and voters perception started with the introduction of parliamentary election in late sixties. The national political atmosphere has always impressed the Islands' politics and its results have been affecting the politics and political milieu of these Islands. Though religions and castes have no traces on the process of election campaign in these Islands, languages or community has succeeded to have its traces or election of different political parties.

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**TRIBAL POLITICS OF TRIPURA :
A STUDY IN ELECTORAL BEHAVIOUR**

Alak Bhattacharya

Political perception is one of the indicating factors in order to identify any caste or tribes or nation. It is an essential precondition of socio-political development of a community. The main objective of the study is to show the motives of political participation of tribal people of Tripura in electoral politics since 1972 - 2003 .This period has taken for study because since 1972 Tripura was granted the status of a full- fledged state and the analysis has been made in respect of general elections of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections of Tribal Areas of Tripura. The paper deals with the mass movement of the tribal people of Tripura, which made them politically conscious and relevantly it will also be discussed why the Left Front is so popular in the hill areas of Tripura

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STATUS OF WOMEN IN POLITICS

A. Thanikodi M.Sugirtha

Women around the world at every socio-political level find themselves under-represented in parliament and far removed from decision-making levels. While the political playing-field in each country has its own particular characteristics, one feature remains common to all: it is uneven and not conducive to women's participation. Throughout the world women face obstacles to their participation in politics. These barriers are to be found in prevailing social and economic regimes, as well as in existing political structures. In the Indian context, and particularly for women, the public career of a person depends a great deal on her family background. Most women themselves are also unwilling to engage in the type of activities which seem necessary for election to public office. Their proportion in the Parliament as well as State Legislatures and other top political hierarchies is not very significant. Their participation in politics as voters, candidates, campaigners and office-holders in political parties, on an equal footing with men, still remains a dream. They have yet to realize the value of their political role. In this context, this paper makes an attempt to study status of women in politics at international level, regional level and national level.

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SECULARISM RE-EXAMINED

Naidu Ashok

Secularism, the much talked about thing in our country, appears to be the last thing on politicians mind in India. We have continued to witness incidents of communalism and fragmentation on that basis even after more than half-century into Independent India. It is more a campaign ideology than a practising one. India as a state is secular to much extent, but India as a society is still running the contagious fever of communalism. The paper is an effort towards re-examination of the status of secularism and its possibility in the country.

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THE WEST ASIAN OIL AND THE GREAT POWERS

Shabana Sultan

Oil is not only the most important item of the world commerce, it is a strategic commodity. The economic and military machines of the developed countries run on oil which, in most cases, is imported from the Gulf. In the past decades there was an intense struggle between the great powers of the world to grab the oil concessions of the West Asian region, the Palestinian question is the fundamental cause of the oil being used as a political instrument. Today it's America, the super power of the world, which is revolving and revolving around West Asia; it already destructed the whole country like Iraq, killed millions of innocent people, just to have a hold on Iraq's oil only. But it never showed oil as a reason behind the attack on Iraq. Now America is making strategy to attack Iran, the second largest pool of

untapped petroleum in the world, here too President Bush is not mentioning oil as a reason for war with Iran.

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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE : A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Karuna Singh

This essay is an attempt to examine the emergence and growth of the Prime Minister's Office in India. The article will reflect upon how this office originated and expanded in terms of staff as well as functioning and how this office was used by each Prime Minister right from Jawaharlal Nehru to Atal Behari Vajpayee. This will further explain that although this office is extra-constitutional yet it holds prime position in our political set up. This will also provide us with the insight that in the Indian Political System, the Prime Minister occupies a pivotal position thus any office attached to it automatically increases in its power and stature. This office has a proper structure and every department / ministry is closely scrutinised here, so to say a parallel government can be seen. It will further explain the role of the Principal Secretary, which makes one's understanding clear about how the Prime Minister's Office plays the role and how with every Prime Minister importance of the Prime Minister's Office changes.