

Ever since the first issue in 1966, EPW has been India's premier journal for comment on current affairs and research in the social sciences. It succeeded *Economic Weekly* (1949-1965), which was launched and shepherded by SACHIN CHAUDHURI, who was also the founder-editor of EPW. As editor for thirty-five years (1969-2004) KRISHNA RAJ gave EPW the reputation it now enjoys.

EDITOR

**C RAMMANOHAR REDDY**

DEPUTY EDITOR

**BERNARD D'MELLO**

WEB EDITOR

**SUBHASH RAI**

SENIOR ASSISTANT EDITORS

**LINA MATHIAS****ANIKET ALAM****SRINIVASAN RAMANI****ASHIMA SOOD****BHARATI BHARGAVA**

COPY EDITORS

**PRABHA PILLAI****JYOTI SHETTY**

ASSISTANT EDITOR

**P S LEELA**

PRODUCTION

**U RAGHUNATHAN****S LESLINE CORERA****SUNEETHI NAIR**

CIRCULATION

**GAURAANG PRADHAN** MANAGER**B S SHARMA**

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

**KAMAL G FANIBANDA**

GENERAL MANAGER &amp; PUBLISHER

**K VIJAYAKUMAR**

EDITORIAL

edit@epw.in

CIRCULATION

circulation@epw.in

ADVERTISING

advt@epw.in

**ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY**

320-321, A TO Z INDUSTRIAL ESTATE  
GANPATRAO KADAM MARG, LOWER PAREL  
MUMBAI 400 013  
PHONE: (022) 4063 8282  
FAX: (022) 2493 4515

**EPW RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

EPW Research Foundation, established in 1993, conducts research on financial and macro-economic issues in India.

DIRECTOR

**K KANAGASABAPATHY**

C 212, AKURLI INDUSTRIAL ESTATE  
KANDIVALI (EAST), MUMBAI 400 101

PHONES: (022) 2887 3038/41

FAX: (022) 2887 3038

epwrf@vsnl.com

Printed by K Vijayakumar at Modern Arts and Industries, 151, A-Z Industrial Estate, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400 013 and published by him on behalf of Sameeksha Trust from 320-321, A-Z Industrial Estate, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400 013.  
Editor: C Rammanohar Reddy.

**Partition and the Mentally Ill**

This is in response to the letter by P R Chari entitled "Siachen in the Time of Manto" (EPW, 9 June 2012) on the continuing relevance of Manto and the use of the story "Toba Tek Singh" wherein the protagonist's madness is taken as a metaphor for contemporary geopolitics. However, the reality behind the metaphor is equally, if not more tragic.

On 31 July 1947, Earl Mountbatten notes in his daily diary (Mountbatten India Office Records L/PO/6/123 part 3/p 222, Para 56):

One of the few institutions that will not be partitioned immediately is the Punjab Mental Hospital. It will continue to be shared for some years. Some Hindu inmates of the asylum have protested against being left in Pakistan. They have been assured that their fears are *imaginary* (italics added).

This process of Partition of the mental hospital was dragged over several years, as the interprovincial hospital in Ranchi (which erstwhile undivided Punjab contributed to) was too far, the one at Agra was under the United Provinces, and there were no other asylums in the (Indian) Punjab as Delhi and Amritsar mental hospitals did not exist. The asylum at Amritsar was thus hastily constructed in 1949, but was essentially inadequate and patients and families were accommodated in tents and looked after by the staff. This incongruous but apparently successful arrangement and the personal charisma of Dr Vidyasagar eventually provided a model for greater family engagement for the care of the mentally ill in India.

However, the process of Partition remorselessly ground ahead, and patients from the mental hospital at Lahore, and various hospitals in India, were eventually exchanged. As the doctors in Amritsar noted, 450 non-Muslim mental patients were received in 1950, of which 282 Punjabis were retained at Amritsar, and the rest sent on to Ranchi (the erstwhile mental hospital for Europeans and Anglo-Indians). As many as 233 Muslim patients from various mental hospitals in India, from as far away as Ranchi, were sent in the opposite direction to Lahore. The reason for these hospitals being chosen was probably administrative convenience,

rather than an effort to unite patients with their families.

As the Director of Health Services, Punjab notes in 1950 (Annual report of Punjab Mental Hospital, Amritsar, 1950):

[O]f the 600-700 non-Muslim patients in Lahore asylum at partition, only 317 were exchanged, is a tragic fact which sadly betrays the treatment meted out to those unfortunate victims who could not be retrieved earlier from the Lahore Hospital.

Although some of the patients were transferred to Ranchi, contributions from the Punjab government became erratic and the central government had to step in and make good the shortage, till it became designated as a central institute and not an interprovincial one.

In all this, the fates of the families and the patients, who were transported across hundreds of miles, often deluded or confused, remain one of the unspoken tragedies of the Partition, used as metaphor and farce, but hiding a very disturbing reality of unwillingness to care for "the other", even when "the other" is unwell and incapable of articulating distress. These hundreds of real life "Toba Tek Singhs", like the original protagonist in Manto's story, lost their very real identities and were now classified as Hindu and Muslim, Punjabi and non-Punjabi, and other categories, probably on the basis of who would pay the bills rather than any other humanitarian, clinical or medical concern.

The mentally ill continue to be the classic apocryphal "other", and both politicians and society continue to use the terms "mad" and "insane" to disparage and insult, and almost never express the honest concern and graciousness, which may have helped provide balm to the horrors of the Partition then, and to the care of the mentally ill now. In this the centenary year of Manto's birth, we may want to commemorate that acerbic and insightful author by reflecting on this.

Sanjeev Jain, Alok Sarin

**Kitchen 'Sati'**

I read with interest "Anti-Dowry Law Viewed from the Prison Cell" (EPW, 28 January 2012). One cannot factually and emotively disagree with many of the concerns that need to be addressed. Much is

said about the misuse of the section on marital harassment – 498A of the Indian Penal Code. On the other hand, there exist many cases deserving registration as dowry deaths or suicides due to harassment in marriage (Sections 304B and 498A/306). But they do not see the light of day. No breath is wasted on discussing these.

The National Crime Records Bureau notes that in 2010, there were 8,391 cases of dowry deaths in the country. But behind every reported or written statistic is a world of lost, disempowered and silent, suppressed and manipulated statistics. Many do not have a voice, let alone raise it. Other voices dry up before gaining recognition as formal figures.

Many young girls, recently married, die of *ulti-dast* (a euphemism for poisoning), as in Bihar, and “kitchen accidents”, as in Madhya Pradesh. A lot of these incidents do not have their tryst with justice. When such a burns case gets initially reported, it is largely a medico-legal case report from the hospital. Police intervention stays confined to recording the girl’s statement. At this stage, no emphasis is laid on visiting the crime scene. Often, the girl is referred to a higher medical centre. Hence, there is a greater lapse of time in recording her statement and visiting the crime scene. Usually the visit to the crime scene takes place when the “unnatural death” case is registered. By this time the crime scene is a well-swept, cleaned area with scant evidence.

The statement of the girl itself can be a separate scholarship in gender discourse. Here is a woman dying, writhing in pain, finding it difficult to speak, maybe regretful of the rash step she took. To the recorder of the statement, she is a disfigured, offensively smelling (of burnt skin, pus, sweat) figure telling you the same story through different mouths over and over again. That it was an accident. So the kerosene stove burst (while a gas cylinder may be used for cooking, or as if food is cooked in the bedroom) or a *dibbi* (little kerosene lamp) fell on her when in the event of power cut it was lighted. And the recorder of the statement records these white lies.

“Truth sits upon the lips of dying men” (Mathew Arnold), but not women, in these cases. Surrounded by in-laws and begged

by them and her husband to forgive them before the statement is recorded, she takes the soft course. If children are involved in the situation, then thinking about their future and the future caretakers, she forgives all. With limited options in case she survives, she “un-words” her plight. Burns, it may be noted, are not cases of gradual recovery but sharp deterioration. Initially the girl and her family may be deceived into believing that the girl will survive. In the light of future options, the statement is engineered.

Moreover, the relationships she has been involved in are complex. Also a girl, who would have hid her predicament from family and friends, would scarcely elaborate it before a stranger who comes hurrying to get over with another routine chore of recording a statement.

The attitude of the girl’s family varies from case to case. Many wait to see what the daughter will say and usually echo the same. In most cases the girl does not say anything so the family sews its lips. If the girl dies and the grandchildren are involved, who will, in most cases, stay with the in-laws, the parents do not pursue the case. In some, it so happens that the parents may bargain for the items of dowry to be returned. Once this “blood money” is received in part, or in full, the issue stands amicably resolved between the two families.

Deepika Suri

BHOPAL

## Bhagana Dalits

Fifty dalit men have been sitting on dharna in New Delhi’s Jantar Mantar from 2 July. They are here for an indefinite period till they get justice. They have marched to Delhi on foot in the hot summer, having left Hisar town in Haryana on 27 June. These men are part of the same 70 dalit families whose exodus from

village Bhagana had been reported by the national media in the last week of May and who have camped outside the mini-Secretariat in Hisar since 23 May. They have been protesting against their vicious social boycott by the Jats in their village as well as the unauthorised takeover of common lands in the village by the Jats, and the non-implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi Basti Vikas Yojana. The refusal of Bhagana’s dalit and backward communities to passively accept the takeover of their use and ownership land rights resulted in their social boycott. When a team of the People’s Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) and the Association for Democratic Rights met them in Hisar on 21 June, they were concentrating their energies on resisting the pressure being brought to bear on them to end their protest.

PUDR is shocked and angered to find they have now been forced to resort to undertaking the *padyatra* as a heightened form of protest and the dharna at Delhi as no action against the guilty Jats has been undertaken either by the state administration, the Haryana government or the local police. On the contrary, the protesting dalits have been charged under Sections 332, 353, 186, 506 and 124A of the Indian Penal Code. All attempts at mediation have also failed as it has now become a matter of *izzat* for the Jats. No case has been registered against them under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act that the dalits have been demanding from the beginning. The protest in Hisar is still continuing.

The protest of the dalits of Bhagana village provides yet another example of the caste oppression of dalits in Haryana and the biased nature of the state administration working in alliance with the upper castes to maintain the same.

Paramjeet Singh, Preeti Chauhan  
Secretaries, PUDR,

DELHI

### Web Exclusives

The following articles have been uploaded in the past week in the Web Exclusives section of the EPW website. These articles have not been published in the print edition. Read them at <http://epw.in>

- 1) “Laxmipeta: Deadly Combination of Caste and Political Power” – *Bojja Tharakam*
- 2) “Unstable Rupee, Floundering Economy” – *Surajit Mazumdar*

Articles posted before 29 June remain available in the Web Exclusives section

# Subscription Rates

## Print Edition – For India

### Rates for Six Months (in Rs)

Category	Print (Plus free web access to issues of previous two years)	Print + Digital Archives
Individuals	800	1,100

### Rates for One Year (in Rs)

Category	Print (Plus free web access to issues of previous two years)	Print + Digital Archives (According to Number of Concurrent Users)			
		Up to 5	6 to 10	More than 10	Single User
Institutions	3,000	5,000	6,000	7,500	
Individuals	1,500				1,800
Teachers/Researchers	1,200				1,400
Students	750				900

### Rates for Three Years (in Rs)

Category	Print (Plus free web access to issues of previous two years)	Print + Digital Archives Single User
Individuals	4,200	5,100
Teachers/Researchers	3,300	4,000

Concessional rates are restricted to students, teachers and researchers in India. To subscribe at concessional rates, please submit proof of eligibility from an institution.

**Print Edition:** All subscribers to the print edition can download from the web, without making any extra payment, articles published in the previous two calendar years.

**Print plus Digital Archives:** Subscriber receives the print copy and has access to the entire archives on the EPW web site.

## Print Edition — For SAARC and Rest of the World (Air Mail)

### Airmail Subscription for One Year (in US \$)

Category	Print (Plus free web access to issues of previous two years)	Print + Digital Archives (According to Number of Concurrent Users)			
		Up to 5	6 to 10	More than 10	Single User
<b>Institutions</b>					
SAARC	130			150	
Rest of the World	250	300	400	500	
<b>Individuals</b>					
SAARC	100				110
Rest of the World	170				200

## Web Edition/Digital Archives

The full content of the EPW and the entire archives are also available to those who do not wish to subscribe to the print edition.

Category	India (in Rs)		SAARC (in US \$)		Rest of the World (in US \$)	
	Number of Concurrent Users		Number of Concurrent Users		Number of Concurrent Users	
Institutions	Up to Five	2,500			Up to Five	200
	Six to 10	4,000			Six to 10	320
	More than 10	6,000	More than 10	50	More than 10	410
Individuals	Single User	1,000	Single User	20	Single User	40

## Types of Web Access to the Digital Archives

Individual subscribers can access the site by a username and a password, while institutional subscribers get access by specifying IP ranges.

To know more about online access to the archives and how to access the archives send us an email at [circulation@epw.in](mailto:circulation@epw.in) and we will be pleased to explain the process.

## How to Subscribe:

Payment can be made by either sending a demand draft/cheque in favour of **Economic and Political Weekly** or by making online payment with a credit card/net banking on our secure site at [www.epw.in](http://www.epw.in). (For Inland subscriptions if making payment by cheque, please add Rs 35 to cheques drawn on banks outside Mumbai, when collection is not at par).

Address for communication:

### Economic & Political Weekly

320-321, A to Z Industrial Estate  
Ganpatrao Kadam Marg,  
Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013, India

# Notes for Contributors

Contributors are requested to follow EPW's style sheet while preparing their articles. The style sheet is posted on EPW's website at <http://epw.in/epw/user/styletocontributors.jsp>. It will help immensely for faster processing and error-free editing if writers follow the recommended style sheet, especially with regard to citation and preparation of the bibliography.

## Special Articles

EPW welcomes original research papers in any of the social sciences.

- Articles must be no more than 8,000 words, including notes and references. Longer articles will not be processed.
- Contributions should be sent preferably by email.
- Special articles should be accompanied by an abstract of a maximum of 150-200 words.
- Papers should not have been simultaneously submitted for publication to another journal or newspaper. If the paper has appeared earlier in a different version, we would appreciate a copy of this along with the submitted paper.
- Graphs and charts need to be prepared in MS Office (Word/Excel) and not in jpeg or other formats.**
- Receipt of articles will be immediately acknowledged by email.
- Every effort is taken to complete early processing of the papers we receive. However, we receive 70 articles every week and adequate time has to be provided for internal reading and external refereeing. It can therefore take up to four months for a final

decision on whether the paper for the Special Article section is accepted for publication.

- Articles accepted for publication can take up to six to eight months from date of acceptance to appear in the EPW. Papers with immediate relevance for policy would be considered for early publication. Please note that this is a matter of editorial judgment.

## Commentary

EPW invites short contributions to the 'Commentary' section on topical social, economic and political developments. These should ideally be between 1,000 and 2,500 words.

A decision on Commentary-length articles will be communicated within 6-8 weeks, or earlier.

## Keywords

Authors are requested to list six to eight keywords for their articles.

## Book Reviews

EPW sends out books for review. It does not normally accept unsolicited reviews. However, all reviews that are received are read with interest and unsolicited review on occasion is considered for publication.

## Discussion

EPW encourages researchers to comment on articles published in EPW. Submissions should be 800 to 1,600 words.

## Letters

Readers of EPW are encouraged to comment (300 words) on published articles.

**All letters should have the writer's full name and postal address.**

## General Guidelines

- Writers are requested to provide full details for correspondence: postal address, day-time phone numbers and email address.
- EPW requests writers not to send revised versions based on stylistic changes/additions, deletions of references, minor changes, etc, as this poses challenges in processing. Revised versions will not be processed. When there are major developments in the field of study after the first submission, authors can send a revised version.

## Copyright

- EPW posts all published articles on its website and may reproduce them on CDs.
- EPW also posts all published articles on select databases.
- Copyright of all articles published in the Journal belongs to the author or to the organisation where the author is employed as determined by the author's terms of employment.

## Permission for Reproduction

- No published article or part thereof should be reproduced in any form without prior permission of the author(s).
- A soft/hard copy of the author(s)'s approval should be sent to EPW.

Address for communication:

### Economic & Political Weekly

320-321, A to Z Industrial Estate  
Ganpatrao Kadam Marg,  
Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013, India  
Email: [edit@epw.in](mailto:edit@epw.in), [epw.mumbai@gmail.com](mailto:epw.mumbai@gmail.com)