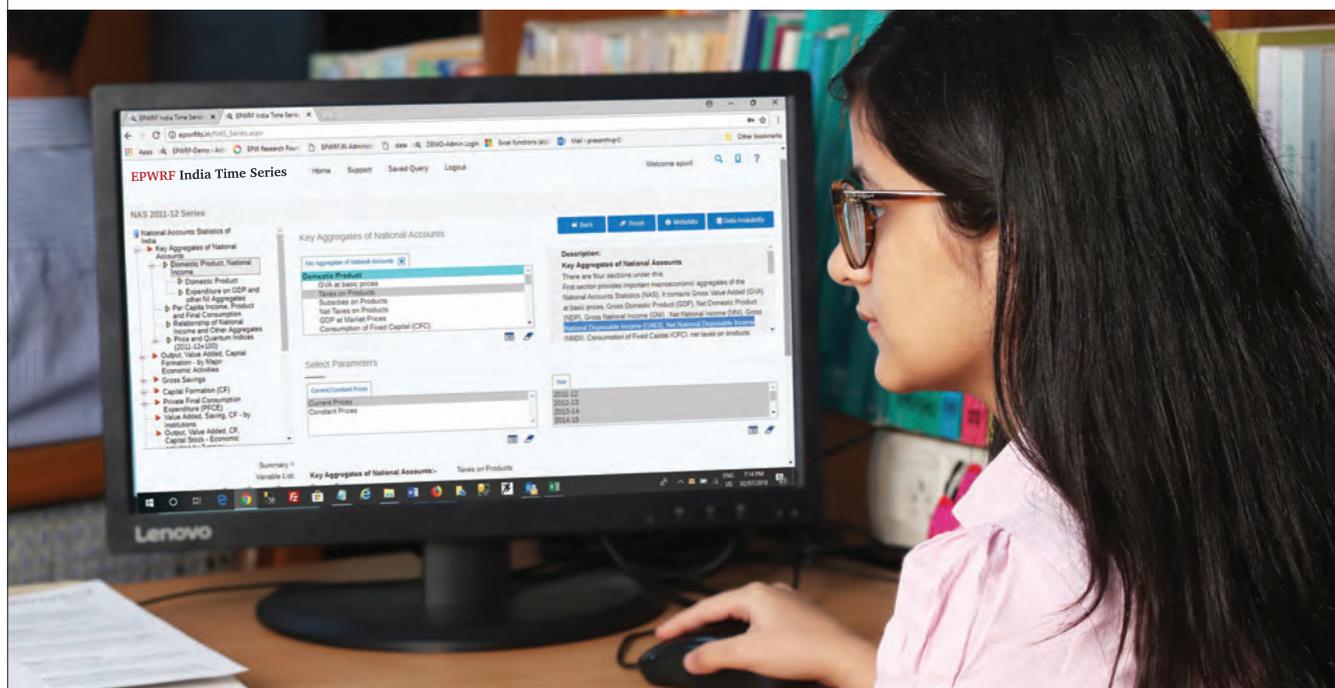


EPWRF India Time Series

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KEY FEATURES

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Sameeksha Trust

A Special Appeal

For more than half a century, the **Economic & Political Weekly (EPW)** has been a major presence in India's intellectual space. It has been a crucible for ideas and a forum for debate, which has created a journal of international repute that has become a virtual institution. *EPW* provides a multidisciplinary platform for academics and practitioners, researchers and students, as well as concerned citizens, for critical engagement with economy, polity and society in contemporary India.

It has always been a struggle to ensure *EPW's* financial viability and sustainability. The resource constraint has been exacerbated by our conscious decision to abstain from receiving grants from governments and donations from abroad, to preserve the autonomy and independence of the journal.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent nationwide lockdown, *EPW* is now experiencing an unexpected and drastic drop in revenue from retail sales (as there has been no print edition for three months) and advertisement income (as advertising has contracted sharply with the crisis in the economy), resulting in an acute financial crisis. This is not unique for *EPW* alone. However, while other print media organisations have resorted to closures, large-scale retrenchment of staff, and salary cuts, it has been our endeavour not to undertake such drastic measures in *EPW*. In the first two months of the lockdown, full salaries were paid to all *EPW* staff. The Editor and his team adopted drastic austerity measures and cut expenditure to the bone. In spite of this, there was a large operational deficit every month, which could aggravate further if the problems associated with and following the lockdown, persist. If this excess of expenditure over income goes unchecked, a stage would come when we would no longer be able to keep *EPW* alive.

The situation became so critical in the month of June that there was no other choice but to implement a temporary measure of reducing staff salaries. This is being done for the months of June and July 2020 in a graduated progressive manner ranging from 0% to 40%. The situation, however, continues to remain extremely uncertain. The financial situation of *EPW* will be reviewed again in August 2020.

In these difficult and troubled times, an institution of *EPW's* stature and credibility is needed more than ever before. Well-wishers of *EPW* have been reaching out and urging us to do whatever necessary to ensure *EPW's* sustainability.

We therefore appeal to the community of readers, contributors, subscribers and well-wishers of *EPW* to come forward and make donations to the extent each one can, so as to ensure that *EPW* continues to perform its historic role. This is urgent. And it is of utmost importance. We hope you will join us in supporting *EPW*.

Trustees, Sameeksha Trust and Editor, EPW
9 July 2020

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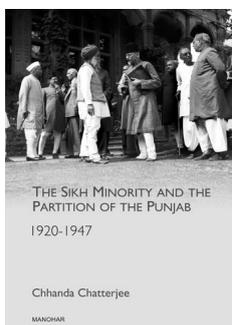
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SIKH STUDIES

THE SIKH MINORITY AND THE PARTITION OF PUNJAB, 1920-1947

CHHANDA CHATTERJEE



The unexpected Congress concession of weightage to the Muslims in the Lucknow Pact of 1916 awakened the Sikhs to the necessity of the defense of *Khalsa* interests. Sikhs continued to wrench concessions both from the British and the Congress as long as the *Pax Britannica* had any chance of survival. While British statesmen from Cripps to Attlee all burnt gallons of midnight oil thinking of an acceptable settle-

ment of the Hindu-Muslim impasse, no one paid much attention to the pathetic quest of Sikh leaders since 1940 to work out an acceptable formula for readjusting the borders of the Punjab to accommodate the birthplace of the Gurus or the canal colonies, worked through long years of Sikh toil.

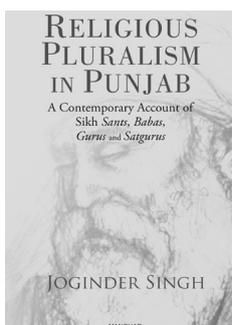
Chhanda Chatterjee retired as Professor of History and Director, Centre for Guru Nanak Dev Studies in Visva Bharati.

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RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN PUNJAB

A Contemporary Account of Sikh Sants, Babas, Gurus and Satgurus

JOGINDER SINGH



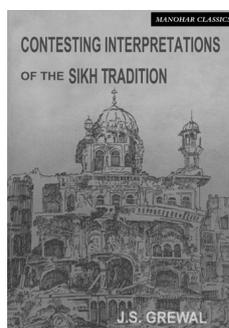
This book analyses the heterogeneous modes of meditation, prayer, initiation, beliefs and practices, codes of conduct, ethics and life-style of the contemporary Sikh Sants, Babas, Gurus and Satgurus in Punjab. They belong to Udasi, Seva Panthi, Nirankari, Namdhari, Neeldhari, Hoti Mardan, Akhand Kirtani Jatha, Damdami Taksal and Nanaksari establishments. Founders of these establishments were inspired and guided by their personal spiritual experiences and doctrines of *Adi-Granth* as well as Sikh traditions. Their religious discourses, however, have enriched pluralism in the Sikh faith.

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Joginder Singh holds the Namdhari Guru Ram Singh Chair, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

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J.S. GREWAL



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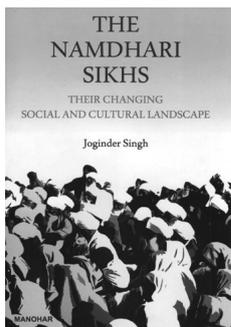
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