



## Editorial

*Artha - Journal of Social Sciences*, an international peer reviewed journal of the Deanery of Humanities and Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, is pleased to carry five research articles, a book review and a special article from the archives. The articles look at various aspects of current developments in India and abroad with special emphasis on COVID-19.

Federalism is taken as a domestic theme that has received much traction in recent years. 'Who Manages What? - Covid-19 and the Centre-State Division of Responsibilities in Indian Democracy' by Dr Vineeth Thomas analyses the assertive involvement of the Indian federal government in COVID-19 management, although health is a state subject. In the process, he highlights the various provisions of the Indian Constitution that provides for 'separation of powers' in order to facilitate the smooth functioning of the federal structure. The author argues that due to the inherent characteristics of unpredictability, unprecedented impact and pervasiveness of COVID 19, national-level strategies are necessitated in order to check the spread of the pandemic.

Dr Ambika Vishwanath, Co-Founder & Director, Kubernein Initiative, in her crisply written piece on 'State of Federalism in India's Water Management: A Commentary' postulates that India's unique federalist structure has impacted the effective governance of water resources across the country. The author argues that though the Ministry of Water Resources was set up for the development and regulation of the country's water resources, some of the underlying issues, like the lack of coordination and bulbous bureaucracy, over emphasis on the supply and exploitation of water resources, and inadequate attention to the water resource persist. Better understanding of existing water resources, long-term needs and a more integrated approach of water management across the country, taking into account the country's development and human needs, are advocated.

In the international section of the issue, COVID management by some countries and the Sino-Indian competition in Nepal are covered. Dr Saurabh and Ms Dakshina Sudhir in 'Covid-19: International Responses & Strategies: A Comparative Study of Japan, Sweden, Brazil, and Vietnam', explore and analyse the responses, strategies, and policies implemented by the countries of specific regions: Japan from Northeast Asia, Vietnam from Southeast Asia, Sweden from Scandinavia, and Brazil from Latin America.

'China's Pivot to Kenya: Challenges for Kenya Behind COVID and BRI for its Vision 2030' co-authored by Dr Anurag Tripathi, Ms Harsimran Singh Sondhi, Mr Saurabh Dube and Ms B. Zomuanpuui examines whether Kenya is benefiting from China's partnership and how effectively it helps to expand Kenya's economy. The paper also looks at China-Kenya relations along the lines of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and all the infrastructural projects in Kenya. They pertinently observe that the pandemic has accelerated Kenya's fall into China's debt-trap diplomacy.

'The India-China Competition in Nepal in Recent Years' by Dr Amit Ranjan and Ms Wini Fred Gurung (from the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore) discusses the competition between India and China to occupy political and strategic space in Nepal. It also examines the contemporary political developments in Nepal, and how India and China reacted to them with their respective national interests in mind. The authors argue that although Nepal says that it maintains or tries to make a balance between India and China, it is really a tough task for any government in power in Kathmandu.

The issue also carries a review of a recent book, *India: The Last Super Power* by Ambassador Hiroshi Hirabayashi, a veteran Japanese diplomat. It is one of the few works by a foreigner that places India at the centre of global politics. Hiroshi Hirabayashi is highly hopeful of India joining the existing list of leading world powers: US, Russia and China. Once it joins, India "will remain [in the list] as the last superpower for many generations". Written in Japanese for the Japanese audience (translated in English by Prem Motwani), the book gives a holistic view of India and the India-

Japan relations. Yet, it is an interesting read for the Indian audience as well.

The issue would not have been possible without immense support from Dr Fr Jose CC, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr Fr Joseph Varghese, Director, Centre for Research, Dr Madhavi Rangaswamy, Dr Anuradha Sathiyaseelan, Mr Joel M Jacob, and Mr Mohan Kumar. Special thanks to all the authors for their valuable contribution despite their busy schedules. Any omissions or oversights in this issue are solely my own. Wish you all a Happy New Year.

**Manoharan N**  
**Issue Editor**