

*Contemporary Issues and Ideas in Social Sciences*

*July 2005*

We are putting up five items this time around. It has taken us some time to get the papers together; refereeing of papers and their subsequent revisions taking longer than we had anticipated. From now onwards, we hope to put up papers more regularly. We are now in a better position than we were three months ago largely because of colleagues who have begun refereeing and writing for the journal; many have helped us in other ways. We thank all of them for their support. Without continued support, sustaining a venture of this type would be difficult.

The paper by Sumit Sarkar is concerned with consumption externalities of the type known as network externalities and the special problems that they throw up. The paper by Satish Jain argues that forces of globalization in the contemporary context are inimical to human rights. There is a piece from Anjan Mukherji which provides a personal evaluation of the lives and works of two stalwarts who passed away during 2004: Michio Morishima and Gerard Debreu. With this issue, we are starting a new section called '**Comments and Opinions**'; this section will contain articles dealing with important political and social developments. In this section, Ram Narayan Kumar surveys the recent political developments in Nepal and provides an analysis and evaluation of the 'constitutional monarchy'. We have a book review from Tapas Majumdar which looks at the question of the challenges facing the world of education today and should be of general interest.