

CURRENT HISTORY

April 2020

Vol. 119, No. 816

CONTENTS

- 123 Is Empowered Hindu Nationalism Transforming India?**.....*Sumit Ganguly*
The prime minister's party is systematically dismantling the secular foundations of the state, little challenged by opposition parties and the judiciary. Ominous outbreaks of violence have occurred.
- 128 Testing Citizenship in the Bengal Borderlands**.....*Haimanti Roy*
Since Partition, the porous frontier between eastern India and Bangladesh has been a hotbed of conflict over ethnicity, religion, and the question of who belongs where.
- 134 India's Welfare State: A Halting Shift from Benevolence to Rights**.....*Reetika Khera*
The gradual emergence of rights-based social programs has prompted a series of debates over how aid is best delivered. *Seventh in a series on ways of governing.*
- 141 The Changing Face of Nepal**.....*Michael Hutt*
The Himalayan nation survived a Maoist insurgency and made an abrupt transition from Hindu monarchy to secular democracy, but still struggles with deeply rooted inequality.
- 146 Pakistan's Closing Civic Space**.....*Shandana Khan Mohmand*
Even though elections are more democratic than ever, the government has taken cues from the Saudis and the Chinese in cracking down on civil society.

PERSPECTIVE

- 152 Selling Out the Afghans**.....*C. Christine Fair*
The US–Taliban agreement to finally end a two-decade conflict does not include the Afghan government and offers little to reassure war-weary civilians.

BOOKS

- 156 Can Myanmar Save Itself?**.....*Ardeth Maung Thawngmung*
A prominent native son seeks to explain the country's dramatic changes and crises, but says little about unsung activists who are working on practical reforms.

THE MONTH IN REVIEW

- 160 February 2020**

An international chronology of events in February, country by country, day by day.