

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Department of African Studies has always strived to undertake multi-disciplinary research on Africa and areas related to India-Africa relations. The different courses taught at the Department of African Studies always had multidisciplinary orientation. The scholars are encouraged to investigate the African and Indian issues from several different facets that helps them to have well-rounded and holistic understanding of the African affairs and African issues. The persistent effort of the editorial team of the *IJAS* has been to bring the collection of articles dealing with wide variety of issues maintaining the scientific temper and academic credibility. The present *Special Centenary* issue of the *Indian Journal of African Studies*, Vol. XXIV, No. 1&2 2022 has collection of eight articles.

The article *Impact of Military Strategies on Non-Combatants in Maji Maji War: Women and Children in Songea District* examines the military strategies designed during the Maji Maji War and how they impacted especially women and children in Songeadistrict. It also analyses the survival strategies adopted by the Non-Combatants during and soon after the war. Songeadistrict was chosen as it had a long history of violent conflict. The findings exposed a number of problems with both German and Ngoni military tactics.

The article *What ails Africa? Re-Investigation of Colonial Legacies* outlines and contextualizes the theoretical construct of the evolution of the African states. An attempt is made to unveil the protracted spatial, socio-cultural and economic disparities that still persist across the continent among the various demographic groupings. The authors try to identify the hinderances faced in the building of state in Africa. The paper also highlights the colonial policy directives and other factors that hindered the African statefrom achieving its developmental goals.

The article *Role and Challenges of Primary Sector in the Structural Transformation in Africa* attempts to examine the primary sector's performance, preferment, and challenges in structural transformation in the African economy. The authors discuss in detail the complex

mix of multifaceted developmental problems within the primary sector in Africa. A few of the challenges that are discussed in detail include crawling technological adaptations and dependency on traditional harvesting & irrigation methods; less cost-effective agricultural techniques of the contemporary era with respect to inexpensive & unskilled farmers; etc. The authors address the challenges and their concomitant trade-offs to improve the prospects for sustained growth and development.

The article *Cooperation and Challenges in the comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Ethiopia* attempts to analyze Ethiopia's commitment in creating local community awareness and raising ownership towards alleviating the refugee's livelihood, providing education, job, and free movement. The study has been guided by the conceptual and practical framework of community-based cross-sectional assessment design. The present study concludes that although refugees' protection is under-resourced and faces crucial challenges, but the intention of the Ethiopia and the cooperation among the stakeholder to mitigate the challenges is strong and sustaining.

The article *India-Nigeria Oil Partnership* deals with the India-Nigeria partnership in recent years and articulates how Nigeria has become one of the main and reliable sources of crude for India. Nigeria is also the largest market in Africa for Indian exports. The author also highlights that a large number of Indian companies have footprints in Nigeria, which have made substantial investments in Nigeria. He argues that the economic complementarity and mutuality of interests have consequently created immense scope for the India and African countries to build upon their historic friendships for undertaking a holistic partnership on the oil sector.

The article *Poor Leadership and Underdevelopment in the African Subcontinent: An Evaluation of Selected Factors* discusses the reasons behind faulty leadership based on the available literature. According to the authors the consequence of the faulty leadership is poverty and economic backwardness in Africa. The article not only evaluated the factors responsible for poor leadership but the challenges related to it. The study deliberates on the importance of democracy and attempts to find a linkage between healthy democracies, strong leadership and African development crises. The study is qualitatively oriented and primarily based on the secondary data for analysis.

The article *Civil Society in Egypt: A critical analysis* critically analyses the role of civil society in the post-colonial Egypt. The authors find that despite being a Republic, President of Egypt has absolute power to take decisions with regards to administering and running the state. This extends to undermine the provisions created by the constitution for citizens' rights. Accordingly, the authors argue that there is little room for any public discourse and civil society activities. After in-depth analysis of the growth of civil society and their prospects under successive regimes in post-colonial Egypt and conclude that Egyptian society is largely shaped by the state centric political culture.

The article *Siddis of Patthar Kuan (Ahmedabad): a diasporic connect from Africa* deals with how Siddis attained numerous roles in society and polity including rulers, generals, administrators, soldiers and architects. They are now living in many different parts of India. Siddis are the progeny of Africans who migrated to India and have been living here for several centuries. They have now become integral part of the Indian cultural mosaic. The author discusses the society, polity and culture of those who are living as a small minority in Patthar Kuan, Gujarat. The history of migration traditions, rituals, cultural practices and economic goals of Siddis have been elaborated upon. The author argues that Indian culture has been enriched by the African diaspora and they are playing a pivotal role in India.

**Rashmi Kapoor
Sandipani Dash**
Editors