Editorial

The Journal of Centre for Promotion of Arts and Science is a semi-annual journal comprising two issues published in January-June and of July–December. The current issue comprises five article four of which are on economic history. The first two articles are, in a way, related, which becomes clearer when read sequentially. Both the articles, moreover, throw light on preconditions that led to the transformation of these two countries namely the USA and the Philippines from the early stages of colonization to high- and middle- income economies respectively. Ironically, while the USA itself was originally a colony, it had colonised the Philippines in the later part of the 19th century.

The first article titled '*From a Colony to the Gilded Age America: A Brief History of the USA' by* Sharat Kumar provides a brief economic history of the USA. It is pointed out that the last quarter of the nineteenth century was a very eventful period in the history of the United States of America (USA). According to the author it laid the foundations of the future pattern of growth in the USA. In his article '*From Colonialism to Economic Transformation: Philippines' Journey and Its Place in the Emerging Asian Order'*, Nirmal Ganguly provides both the economic history of the Philippines and examines its contemporary role as a member of the Association of South Asian Nation (ASEAN*)* free trade area.

The article on '*Coromandel cotton textiles and French trading in India during the 17th and 18th century'* by Arvind Sinha makes a fascinating reading. The article highlights the superiority of cotton textiles manufactured around the Coromandel coast. The author informs that Indian textiles were famous for their vibrant colours, visual charm and printed motifs. Until the arrival of the European traders, it was primarily intra-trade in cotton textiles within the Indian sub-continent. While expanding this 'country trade in cotton textiles' outside, the European traders banished the Indian traders and carried the Indian textiles to Europe and to the far-flung regions, reaping huge profits.

The article by Rajesh Verma titled *'Legacy of India's Freedom Movement: Sacrifice of lesser-known sons and daughters',* on the other hand, brings to light the sacrifices of unsung heroes of India 's freedom struggle. The paper foregrounds especially the lesser-known men, women, students, workers, peasants, and revolutionary activists whose sacrifices gave the struggle its broad social base. It traces the movement from early tribal uprisings against colonial land-revenue systems, forest laws, and zamindari exploitation to the struggle for full Independence.

The article by Raj Vikas Verma titled *'Housing for Slums, the case of India: Some Thoughts'* draws attention to the inhuman conditions in the slums of Indian cities. As he observes, out of the 450 million people living in urban areas today, nearly 68 million people live in the slums. In his view, the current situation is the result of social apathy, lack of political will and of policy failures. He points out that with the urban share of the

population estimated to rise to 50 per cent by 2050, any effective strategy to ensure dignified housing to people in urban settlements in the future will require close coordination among the Union Government, the State Governments and the urban local bodies. As a former chairman of the National Housing Bank, he saw possibilities of feasible solutions to this huge problem. Unfortunately, he passed away in the early morning of 17th October 2026 in New Delhi leaving behind with us his last essay.

The Book Review is of a book more than a century old titled *'The Life and Letters of Lord McCauley'* by his nephew G Otto Trevelyn. The book was published in the year 1901 by Harper and Brothers Publications. Macaulay is a controversial figure of Modern Indian History. The author makes yet another assessment of Macaulay in the light of the information provided in the book.

Executive Editor