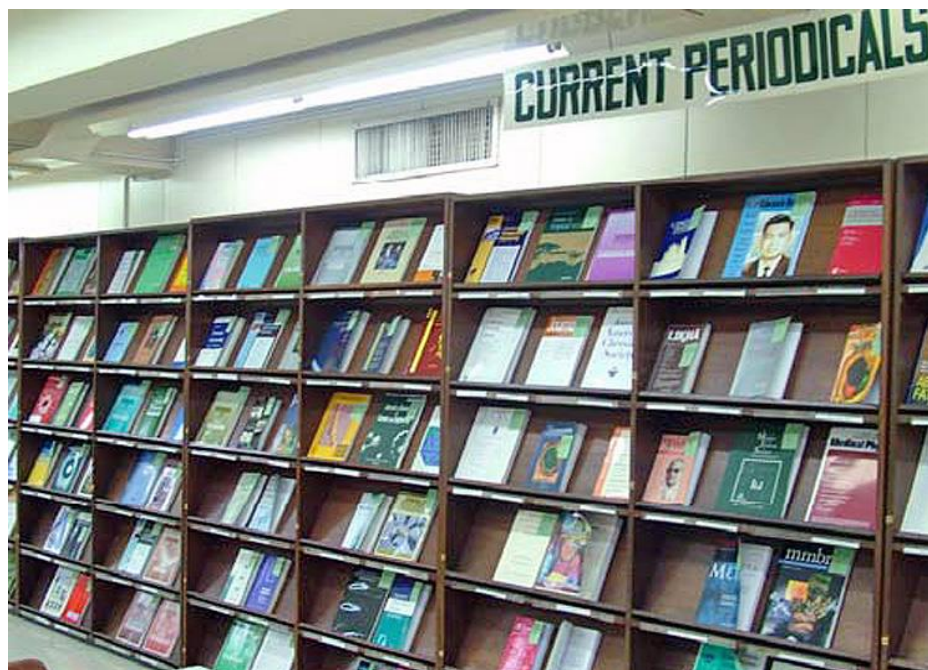




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AGRICULTURE

1. Patel, Neelam, Gupta, Sakshi and Nagaich Ranveer

Accelerating investment, job, creation and income growth

Kurukhetra: March 2021

Neelam Patel is Senior Adviser (Agriculture), Sakshi Gupta & Ranveer Nagaich are Young Professional in NITI Aayog

This paper focuses on farmer's income. The budget 2021-22 has reiterated the government's commitment to the agriculture sector. This was a budget intended to revive and stimulate investment, growth and generate employment. It sent a strong signal to the nation on its commitment towards the upliftment of rural India. The budget reflected the government's enthusiasm investment, diversification, leading to higher incomes for farmers.

2. Saxena, Jagdeep

Strengthening the agriculture sector

Yojana: March 2021

The budget provisions for agriculture and allied sector are set to energise the sector with substantial investments in building agriculture infrastructure. In addition to this, the money in the hands of farmers through the MSP regime will keep the momentum seen during the Covid times. Through this budget, the Government is also eyeing a paradigm shift in agriculture, from a rural livelihood sector to a modern business enterprise.

3. Mishra, Srijit

Green, but Not So Green - Agriculture and Sustainability

EPW: Vol. 56, Issue No. 9, 27 Feb., 2021

The pandemic, the climate crisis, and crisis in agriculture call for sustainable solutions, which are acknowledged by NITI Aayog, but did not find a thrust in the budget. A positive growth in agriculture during the pandemic shows its resilience, but it is intriguing that food inflation remained high and its possible link with the three farm produce laws should not be overlooked. It is worrying that crop loans for input-intensive production are non-serviceable.

ECONOMICS

4. Chinoy, Sajjid and Jain, Toshi

Fiscal Policy and Growth in a Post-COVID-19 World

EPW: Vol. 56, Issue No. 9, 27 Feb., 2021

Why was India's growth slowing in the run-up to COVID-19 and how much fiscal space was used to stem the slowdown? What is the nature of India's economic recovery from COVID-19? How does the budget seek to balance fiscal support while reducing the deficit? What was the underlying fiscal impulse in the COVID-19 year and what is it budgeted to be next year? What are the implications for debt sustainability and fiscal-monetary coordination? Finally, what are some paradigm changes the budget seeks to embark on and why is execution so crucial this time? This essay seeks to answer these questions to make sense of growth and fiscal dynamics in a post-COVID-19 world.

EDUCATION

5. Sharma, Rashi

Boosting the education sector

Kurukhetra: March 2021

There is a need to reinforce the belief that Education is crucial for building character and values; it enables learners to be ethical, rational, compassionate, and prepares them to become responsible global citizens, also at the same time increases the chance of meaningful employment. The budget 2021 touches upon the core foundation of school education and paves way to achieve the objectives of NEP 2020. The budget announcements for school education can be categorised in core themes of Access to quality education, Teacher, Technology, Innovative Pedagogies, Equity and Inclusivity, Transformation of Assessment and reinforcement to Adult Education.

6. Prasad, K D and Kant, Nikhil

Maintaining momentum: Education sector

Yojana: March 2021

This article discusses the governmental adherence towards educational reforms demonstrated in the Union Budget 2021-22 amidst the unprecedented challenges posed by Covid 19 pandemic. When the higher priorities are being set on making all possible efforts to overcome the fallouts of Covid 19 which can significantly affect budgetary outlay to different sectors and cause derailment of many human developmental gains, maintaining the momentum of educational reforms initiated in preceding years is critical. Union Budget 2021, against this backdrop, has lived up to this expectation despite minor reduction in allocation to education sector.

7. Yemuna Sunny

[National Education Policy 2020 - Realigning the Bhadrak](#)

EPW: Vol. 56, Issue No. 10, 6 Mar, 2021

Even as the National Education Policy, 2020 talks of accessibility, there are too many visions in the document that would not allow that. It seeks to build skills for traditional vocations and for the global market. This is structured with a vision that deepens the inequalities of caste, class and gender by focusing on two types of citizens. With no vision to sustain the environment, tribal education is also weakened. Accessibility is deeply associated with nature of knowledge. With the pre-dominance of skills, the heavy base on Hindutva, and a lightness of curriculum that is yet to be defined, the NEP cannot enhance the right of citizens to know, to critically reflect and to shape the world.

ENERGY

8. Sahasranaman, Meera M and others

[Managing Groundwater–Energy Nexus in India - What Will Solar Pumps Achieve?](#)

EPW: Vol. 56, Issue No. 11, 13 Mar, 2021

The fresh arguments made by Shilp Verma and others in support of the “SpaRC” model, as a solution for India’s multiple problems of groundwater depletion, farmer distress, poor financial working of the power sector and growing carbon footprint in agriculture are misleading, and the analyses presented to back them are flawed.

HEALTH

9. Prasad, Urvashi

Healthy people healthy nation

Kurukhetra: March 2021

Urvashi Prasad is Public Policy Specialist in NITI Aayog

The allocation for health and well-being in Union Budget 2021-22 has been enhanced from Rs. 94,452 Crore (2020-21BE) to Rs. 2,23,846 Crore, an increase of 137 percent. It is well known that investing in health makes sound economic sense. It saves lives, enhances wellness and happiness, raises productivity and generates jobs. The health sector has found a prominent place in the Indian Government's agenda over the last few years, leading to the implementation of a series of reforms and initiatives. It is important to note that while the Union Budget is an important instrument; a large part of the action, both in terms of increased spending on the health sector as well as quality implementation at scale, lies in States.

WAGE POLICY

10. Satpathy, Anoop Xavier Estupiñan and Bikash K Malick

Wage Code and Rules - Impact on the Effectiveness of Minimum Wage Policy

EPW: Vol. 56, Issue No. 9, 27 Feb., 2021

The minimum wage policy is regarded as an essential tool for improving the welfare of low-paid workers, reducing inequality and poverty within the labour market. The Government of India recently reformed the country's wage policy and enacted the Code on Wages in August 2019. To give effect to the code, the government has now outlined the implementation mechanism by notifying the draft Code on Wages (Central) Rules in July 2020. This paper examines some of the key reform measures undertaken in the wage code and the implementation mechanism, as provided in the draft wage rules, identifies shortcomings therein, and provides suggestions for improvement.