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AGRICULTURE

1. Das, Sandip

Science and Technology in Agriculture

Kurukshetra: November 2022

The governments thrust on new digital technologies innovations and focus on

research and development in the agricultural sector, has helped not only boost farmers

income but also ensure that the country remains self-sufficient in most of the

agricultural commodities.

2. Shoba Suri

Climate Smart Agriculture for sustainability and food security

ORF: 24th Nov. 2022

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that helps guide actions to transform

agri-food systems towards green and climate-resilient practices to achieve the

Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. As per the special report of

the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate change has affected

food security due to global warming, changing precipitation patterns and greater

frequency of extreme events thus affecting crop yields and lowering animal growth

rates and livestock productivity in developing nations.

ECONOMICS

3. Sushanta Kumar Mahapatra, Purna Chandra Padhan, Pareswar Sahu

Is Public Expenditure Management Sufficient for Sustainable Fiscal Discipline?

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 48, 26 Nov, 2022

In Odisha, the government has made continuous efforts to achieve the objectives of

public expenditure management in view of the inherent deficiency of tax capacity to

meet the rising public expenditure. Given the necessity of such expenditure for

ensuring the provision of basic facilities for citizens, it needs to be managed well to

ensure efficiency, stability and development. Analysing fiscal discipline and strategic

prioritisation of public expenditure using secondary data from 1980-81 to 2018-19,

and the operational efficiency of public expenditure using primary data about the

construction of check dams, it is found that fiscal discipline in Odisha is

unsustainable due to lack of strategic prioritisation and operational inefficiency.

4. David Newhouse, Pallavi Vyas

Estimating Poverty in India without Expenditure Data - A Survey-to-survey

Imputation Approach

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 48, 26 Nov, 2022

This paper utilises the expenditure data from 2004-05, 2009-10, and 2011-12 to

impute household expenditure into a survey of durable goods expenditure conducted

in 2014-15. The model's predictions are comparable to the World Bank's current

adjustment method for the rural areas but imply a slower rate of poverty reduction for

urban areas. In two validation tests, using past data, three alternative model

specifications perform worse than the preferred model. The analysis indicates that

survey-to-survey imputation, when feasible, is a preferable alternative to the current

method of adjusting survey-based poverty estimates to later years.

5. Singh, Mahabir

Blue Economy

Yojana: November 2022

With its geographic and geostrategic position in a critical dependence on the Indian

Ocean India has been leading the Blue Economy discourse at the highest level of

government with the great focus on Indian Ocean region the Indian oceans blue

economy has become a global economic corridor it is the world third largest body of

water covering 68.5 million square kilometre and reaching oil and mineral resources

and countries around the ocean periphery are home to about one third of humanity.

ENERGY

6. Harris Amjad

Blackouts in South Asia: Revisiting Power Policy Debates in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

ORF:10th November

In recent months Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka have faced power outages which at times have lasted 10-14 hours a day. In the face of energy shortages, the cost of electricity generation in these countries has also spiked dramatically. Such "load-shedding" and rising costs have adversely impacted the economies of these three nations which have all witnessed a drop in their forex reserves to record lows. This article analyses the widespread energy insecurity in these South Asian nations and argues that while unforeseen global factors have a major hand to play, domestic power generation policies are also to blame for their predicament.

7. Pinosh Kumar Hajoary, Tanuj Negi & K B Akhilesh

Electric Vehicle Mobility in India - Challenges and Opportunities

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 47, 19 Nov, 2022

Considering the challenges emerging from extreme levels of urban pollution, high population density, and economic growth rates, the Indian government has shown keen interest in launching multiple initiatives to achieve 100% electric mobility by 2030. This article analyses the opportunities and challenges in their adoption.

8. Reshma Rajeevan and Mukherjee, Abhishek

Non-conventional Energy Sources

Kurukshetra: November 2022

India is gradually transitioning from conventional sources to non-conventional sources of energy, for its needs. This is particularly significant as being one of the fastest growing countries in the world and fifth largest economy, as on date, India holds a strategically important position in the global arena and India's efforts in climate change will pave a direction for the future generation.

FINANCE

9. Stephen Williamson

Central Bank Digital Currency: Welfare and Policy Implications

Journal of Political Economy: Volume 130, No. 11 November 2022

A model of banking and means of payment is constructed to analyze the effects of the introduction of central bank digital currency (CBDC). That CBDC is interest bearing is not an advantage, as replacement of physical currency with CBDC does not expand the attainable set of equilibrium allocations. CBDC can increase welfare by competing with private means of payment and shifting safe assets from the private banking sector to what is effectively a narrow banking facility. This uses the aggregate stock of safe collateral more efficiently, given incentive problems in private banking.

10. Chenzi Xu

Reshaping Global Trade: The Immediate and Long-Run Effects of Bank Failures

The Quarterly Journal of Economics: Volume 137, Issue 4, November 2022

I show that a disruption to the financial sector can reshape the patterns of global trade for decades. I study the first modern global banking crisis originating in London in 1866 and collect archival loan records that link multinational banks headquartered there to their lending abroad. Countries exposed to bank failures in London immediately exported significantly less and did not recover their lost growth relative to unexposed places. Their market shares within each destination also remained significantly lower for four decades. Decomposing the persistent market-share losses shows that they primarily stem from lack of extensive-margin growth, as the financing shock caused importers to source more from new trade partnerships. Exporters producing more substitutable goods, those with little access to alternative forms of credit, and those trading with more distant partners experienced more persistent losses, consistent with the existence of sunk costs and the importance of finance for intermediating trade.

HEALTH

11. Luca Braghieri, Ro'ee Levy and Alexey Makarin

Social Media and Mental Health

American Economic Review: Vol. 112 No. 11 November 2022

We provide quasi-experimental estimates of the impact of social media on mental

health by leveraging a unique natural experiment: the staggered introduction of

Facebook across US colleges. Our analysis couples data on student mental health

around the years of Facebook's expansion with a generalized difference-in-differences

empirical strategy. We find that the rollout of Facebook at a college had a negative

impact on student mental health. It also increased the likelihood with which students

reported experiencing impairments to academic performance due to poor mental

health. Additional evidence on mechanisms suggests the results are due to Facebook

fostering unfavorable social comparisons.

12. Swati Dutta

Fulfilling the Sustainable Development Nutrition Targets - The Case of Bihar

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 46, 12 Nov, 2022

The study reveals that Bihar will miss the nutrition-related target of SDG-2 by 2030

based on the NFHS-3, NFHS-4, and NFHS-5 data. District-level planning is needed

to design nutrition-specifi c programmes and control malnutrition at an early stage,

according to the fi ndings.

13. Sinha, Neeraj Agarwal, Naman and Naba Suroor

Technology and Innovation in Healthcare

Kurukshetra: November 2022

Neeraj Sinha is Senior Advisor, Naman Agarwal is Specialist and Naba Suroor is

Associate in NITI Aayog

An effective healthcare system of a nation is determined by its ability to deliver high

quality and efficient care that is affordable and accessible for all. Access to quality

healthcare is a problem in the country especially in the hinterland. However

government- lead innovations are taking place within rural communities. It is critical

that existence and new resources be deployed strategically, recognising the need to

improve both the quality of individual level care the health of the rural populace.

Adopting an integrated approach for addressing both the public's health needs and

investing in robust information and communications technology infrastructure is the

way forward.

14. Shoba Suri

Malnutrition challenges in India's Northeast

ORF: 10th November 2022

For India, the Intergenerational Cycle of Undernutrition has been a cause for

concern. High incidence of child marriage and teenage pregnancies have been the

major reasons for child undernutrition, with long term impact on health, education,

and employment. Investment in maternal and child health and adolescent well-

being yields a high cost to benefit ratio, with a triple dividend in both low- and

upper-middle income countries.

Looking at the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5 data, there is a stagnation

in early marriage but a rise in teenage pregnancies, leading to complications at

birth, including low birth weight and higher mortality rates. The North Eastern

states of Tripura and Assam show alarmingly high prevalence of teenage

pregnancies and child marriage, more than the national average (fig 1). Data

indicates a rise in prevalence of teenage pregnancies and child marriage

since NFHS-4 (2015-16).

15. Oommen C. Kurian,

Climate and human health: Need to turn promises into actions

ORF: 18th Nov. 2022

For the first time in history, there are three Public Health Emergencies of

International Concern (PHEIC) ongoing in parallel: Monkeypox, COVID-19 and

polio. Polio was declared a PHEIC way back in 2014. The United Nations

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) sixth assessment report

(2022) observed that in Asia, climate change is worsening communicable diseases,

undernutrition, mental illness, and allergies by increasing risk factors such as

heatwaves, floods, drought, and air pollution. In addition to the direct impact on

overall mortality, the risk of death related to a range of other conditions, especially among children, is impacted by high temperatures.

INDUSTRY

16. Who wins from the unravelling of Sino-American trade?

The Economist: 12th November 2022

From disease and downturn to the deterioration in Chinese-American relations, there has been no let-up to the blows battering the world's trading system. The latest threat stems from the possibility of another global recession. Only two years after the world sank into a covid-induced slump, shipping bosses are again warning of grim prospects for international trade.

Even beyond the ups and downs of the economic cycle, deeper shifts in global trade are taking place. Firms are reconsidering their production decisions, and governments are pushing the process along.

17. Sunil Mani,

The Role of Industrial Policy in Market-friendly Economies - Case of COVID-19

Vaccine R&D and Its Manufacturing in India and Its Contrast with the US—II

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 48, 26 Nov, 2022

The paper surveys the status of vaccine research and development and its manufacture in India and discusses the fact that the country has used industrial policy instruments rather sparingly in jump-starting R&D and manufacturing of vaccines for COVID-19 vaccines. This is despite India's acknowledged innovation capability. The paper also contrasts the Indian case with that of the United States case discussed in Part 1 of this two-part paper.

18. Beena P L

Outward FDI and Cross-border M&As - Evidence from Indian Corporate Sector EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 47, 19 Nov, 2022

Although the new foreign direct investment policy and other policy packages, including "Make in India," is expected to tap more foreign savings and better technology and transform the Indian economy into a manufacturing hub, most

successful firms are investing abroad. Given this context, this paper makes an effort to understand the trends and nature of outward foreign direct Investment by Indian firms and their implications. The paper argues that though the Indian overseas acquiring manufacturing firms perform relatively better than their counterparts, its adverse impact on the trade deficit and balance of payments need to be tackled.

RURAL DEVELOMENT

19. Wadhwa, Manjula

Technology and Innovation in Rural Economy

Kurukshetra: November 2022

Science and technology can develop in rural communities, a learning and innovation capacity that increase the effectiveness of their efforts to solve problems and improve their lives. The technological advancements empower these communities and increase the effectiveness of their development efforts through informed decision making to achieve the objectives of poverty eradication food security and sustainable development in rural areas. To effectively realise the positive impact of fourth industrial revolution (a fusion of advance in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), genetic engineering quantum computing and more), it is essential to use technology to bridge the gap between skilled and unskilled labour.