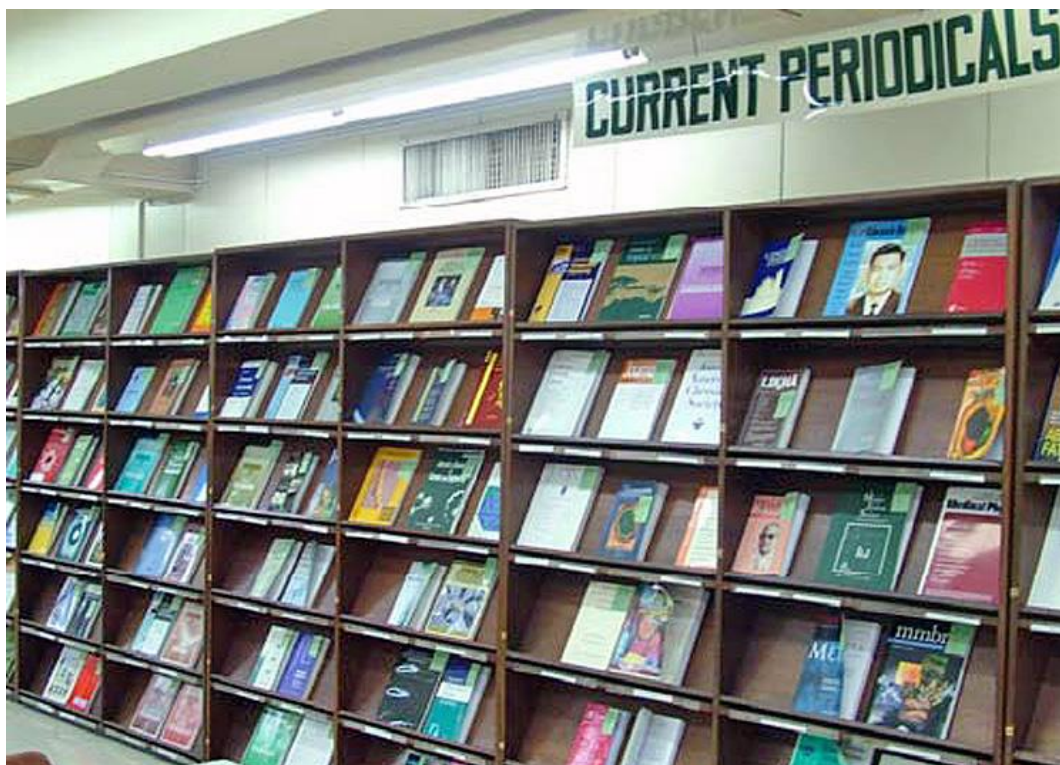




नीति आयोग
NITI AAYOG



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Compiled By:

Mr. Kumar Sanjay, Director (Library)

Mrs. Indira Rani, ALIO

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AGRICULTURE

1. Nair, Sthanu R Reddy Sai Shiva Jayanth, Deva Prasad M

[India's Contract Farming Act](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 40, 01 Oct, 2022

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 is an important legislative landmark in the context of Indian agricultural policy. The major concerns relating to the adoption of the contract farming system in the Indian context are proposed to be resolved through the enabling legislative measures proposed in the act. This paper critically examines the various provisions contained in the act to assess its potential in mitigating the key concerns of adopting the CF practice in India.

2. Victoria Masterson

[What is regenerative agriculture?](#)

World Economic Forum: 11 Oct. 2022

Regenerative agriculture focuses on improving the health of soil, which has been degraded by the use of heavy machinery, fertilizers and pesticides in intensive farming.

There may not be enough soil left to grow food to feed the world within 50 years.

Regenerative agriculture and other farming methods that don't harm the climate can improve farmers' incomes, as well as cutting emissions and boosting soil health.

3. Suri, Shoba

[Sustainable food value chains for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

ORF: 17. Oct. 2022

'The full range of farms and firms and their successive coordinated value-adding activities that produce particular raw agricultural materials and transform them into particular food products that are sold to final consumers and disposed of after use, in a manner that is profitable throughout, has broad-based benefits for society, and does not permanently deplete natural resources'.....Sustainable Food Value Chain as defined by the Food and Agricultural Organization.

As per the 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, “the world is moving in the wrong direction on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets to end hunger, food insecurity, and all forms of malnutrition”. The pandemic saw a rise in hunger with 828 million affected, 46 million more than 2020 and 150 million more than 2019. Food insecurity impacted nearly 924 million people in 2021, a nearly 207 million increase from 2019.

4. Ghosh, Souvik and Das, Usha

[Skills for Agri-Entrepreneurship](#)

Kurukshetra: October 2022

Agriculture offers several opportunities for entrepreneurship. There are many new prospects in the agribusiness sector, including packaging, the provision of raw materials, processed agri-food manufacturing, export of agricultural products, and other related industries. High skilled workers perspectives are changing as a result of increased micro financing, lax government regulations, access to cutting-edge technology, guidance, and workshops on agri and related fields. As a result they are choosing to work for themselves in agriculture and allied sectors.

5. Irtif Lone

[Artificial Intelligence in Agripreneurship](#)

Kurukshetra: October 2022

The need to increase the agricultural production has become immense as the population is rising at a fast pace globally. Today while the technology plays an important role in all the aspects of life, it has made significant inroads into the field of agriculture. We have seen the growth of start-ups particularly in this field, which is not only helping to increase the production but also the efficiency of even the small land holding farmers. Artificial intelligence as a technology is still developing and a great future can be seen ahead, if the utilisation of this technology and many related technologies is put to use. The use of pesticides and fertilisers can also decrease with the help of this technology. Therefore, the need to strengthen the technology and make it affordable for the farmers, even with small land holdings will be a game changer and ultimately lead to sustainability.

ECONOMICS

6. Eduardo Montero and Dean Yang

[Religious Festivals and Economic Development: Evidence from the Timing of Mexican Saint Day Festivals](#)

American Economic Review: Vol. 112, No. 10, October 2022

Does variation in how religious festivals are celebrated have economic consequences? We study the economic impacts of the timing of Catholic patron saint day festivals in Mexico. For causal identification, we exploit cross-locality variation in festival dates and in the timing of agricultural seasons. We estimate the impact of "agriculturally coinciding" festivals (those coinciding with peak planting or harvest months) on long-run economic development of localities. Agriculturally coinciding festivals lead to lower household income and worse development outcomes overall. These negative effects are likely due to lower agricultural productivity, which inhibits structural transformation out of agriculture. Agriculturally coinciding festivals may nonetheless persist because they also lead to higher religiosity and social capital.

7. Gautam Chikermane

[Amid geopolitical disruptions and economic slowdowns, India leads global growth](#)

ORF: 13th October 2022

Since 2022 has become a year of narratives rather than facts, and we can see the best minds swaying to the tune of great power politics, it is necessary to lean on a thus-far neutral data supplier, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to read the story in numbers. In its 12 October 2022 World Economic Outlook, IMF says prospects for the global economy are dimming. From 6.0 percent in 2021, global GDP growth projections fell to 3.2 percent for 2022, and 2.7 percent for 2023. At a time when there is a bevy of black swans gliding on the cold waters of international economic engagements—the Russia-Ukraine conflict, energy disruptions, food supply chains creating shortages, the long tail of the made-in-China COVID-19—white swans seem to be going extinct.

8. Ahluwalia, Sanjeev

[Monetary policy must be complemented by fiscal policy](#)

ORF: 3rd October 2022

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has an impossible task. It must contain inflation without compromising growth, using four arrows in its quiver: Setting domestic interest rates; managing liquidity; using its foreign exchange war chest to fight exchange rate volatility, and the mandate to regulate banking operations—the last being an atypical central bank function. It can only hope for a supportive fiscal policy.

9. Wadhwa, Manjula

[Economic Development](#)

Kurukshetra: October 2022

The agriculture sector has a large potential to add to the national income while simultaneously ensuring direct employment and income to the numerically larger and susceptible sections of the society. In fact, Agripreneurship is not only a prospect but also a prerequisite for improving the creation and profitability in agriculture. Changing the way a local farmer thinks to increase production is not difficult, what is difficult is to adapt to the mindset of an agripreneur.

ENERGY

10. [Will India become a green superpower?](#)

The Economist: 22 Oct. 2022

It gets almost three-quarters of its electricity from coal, and has 39 new coal-fired power plants under construction. It digs up and burns more of the stuff than any other country except China. And it is coal's loudest advocate internationally: at last year's climate conference in Glasgow, it was the skunk at the garden party, blocking efforts to phase out the fuel most responsible for global warming.

This soot-smeared intransigence, however, distracts from a dramatic countervailing trend. While his underlings defended coal, Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, made a series of pledges in Glasgow that, if kept, will make his country a green-energy powerhouse. The most eye-catching was the promise that India would achieve

“net-zero” emissions of greenhouse gases (ghgs) by 2070—meaning that any emissions that had not been eliminated by then would be offset in some way.

11. Ghosh, Nilanjan and Sridharan, Srinath

[How to get green financing to take off](#)

ORF: 28.10.2022

Climate finance, or Green Money, remains a critical bottleneck for India in its journey towards the Net Zero 2070 objective and to create a resilient system through climate adaptation and mitigation. The challenge is daunting—to make a climate transition for a nation of 1.4 billion people with increasing aggregate national income and individual wealth inequality. Finances for climate change were to be channelised through multi-tiered systems in the form of national, regional, and international bodies. It has been estimated that India will need \$15 trillion to finance its Net Zero journey.

12. Lydia Powell, Akhilesh Sati and Tomar, Vinod Kumar

[Electrifying Mobility in India: The Challenge of Petroleum Tax Revenue](#)

ORF: 11 Oct. 2022

If momentum in the shift to low-carbon energy sources is measured in terms of the volume of media coverage, [electrifying mobility](#) will clearly take the top spot. Each day, energy sector news across all media platforms is dominated by [sales growth figures](#) for electric vehicles (EVs), long lists of [new entrants](#) in each segment of the EV value chain, plans of [traditional vehicle manufacturers](#) from within and outside India to enter the Indian EV sector, the list of companies setting up [charging stations](#) across the country and most importantly, [policy pronouncements from central and state governments](#) that promote adoption of EVs, through subsidies, tax breaks and other incentives. The message conveyed is that once issues such as the availability of charging infrastructure, range anxiety of EV adopters, and the initial high price of EVs are addressed there would be a [Cambrian explosion](#) in EV adoption in India.

13. Banzal, Sanjeev
[Green Telecom](#)
Yojana: October 2022

With the advent of 5g technology, it is expected that there will be a significant rise in the towers, small cell and BTS (or equivalent electronics) resulting in accelerating GHS and carbon emissions, and the resultant contribution in the overall global warming. To reduce the adverse effect on the overall ecosystem by the telecom sector, steps must be taken to lessen the energy consumption and migration toward the renewable sources of energy to migrate the effect of global warming.

FINANCE

14. Elayaraja M S, Suresh Babu M, Arun Kumar G
[Outreach of Formal Banking Services and Financial Inclusion - Evidence from Indian States](#)
EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 43, 22 Oct, 2022

This paper attempts to examine financial inclusiveness in major states of India. Using banking outreach services data from 1981 to 2018, we construct an index of financial inclusion. Although the outreach of formal banking services is well-dispersed across the states, there is a large variation among the states in terms of its access and usage. The evidence suggest that there exists a need to focus more on spreading financial literacy and create awareness about banking services in the poorer states to achieve a higher degree of financial inclusion.

HEALTH

15. Yadav, Deepika and Singh, Sukhpal
[Understanding Menstrual Hygiene Management - A Case Study of Adolescent Girls in Rural Gujarat](#)
EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 43, 22 Oct, 2022

Menstrual hygiene management plays a vital role in the physical, economic, and psychological development of adolescent girls. Traditionally, women in rural societies relied on used clothes for menstrual management, but more recently, their preferences have shifted towards market-based formal products. This paper examines

the usage of different types of menstrual absorbent material among rural adolescent girls. It analyses their purchase and use behaviour, factors that affect the choice of these products, and ways to make them more accessible and affordable.

16. Toshiaki Iizuka and Hitoshi Shigeoka

[Is Zero a Special Price? Evidence from Child Health Care](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics: Vol. 14, No. 4, October 2022

Do consumers react differently to zero prices? We test the presence of a zero-price effect in child health care and find that a zero price is special as it boosts demand discontinuously. A zero price affects resource allocations by encouraging healthier children to use more services and exacerbates behavioral hazard by increasing inappropriate use of antibiotics. A co-payment, of as small as US\$2 per visit, alleviates these problems without substantially increasing financial risk. However, a zero price may be used to boost demand for highly cost-effective treatments. Zero and non-zero prices should be strategically chosen to achieve specific goals.

17. Pamod Amarakoon and Kristin Braa

[Digital Public Goods in times of crises: The COVID-19 pandemic and digital sovereignty](#)

ORF: 26.10.2022

The DHIS2 is a web-based open-source platform that is most used as a health management information system (HMIS). DHIS2 is currently the world's largest HMIS platform, in use in 73 low- and middle-income countries and covering approximately 2.4 billion people. The core development of the platform is coordinated by the University of Oslo (UiO), Norway, and is globally implemented by numerous partners and the HISP network. HISP is a global movement that promotes DHIS2 as a global public good by assisting with implementation, local customisation and configuration, and providing in-country and regional training. The platform has been widely used in the health domain over the last three decades, and is increasingly used in supporting information management in non-health sectors such as education.

18. Suri, Shoba

[Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on mental health](#)

ORF: 11 Oct. 2022

According to a World Health Organization (WHO) survey in 2020, the pandemic has disrupted mental [health services in over 90 percent of countries globally](#). More than 60 percent of countries also reported disruptions to mental health services for vulnerable people, including children, adolescents, older adults, and women requiring antenatal or postnatal services. Estimates (2020) by the Lancet on the impact of the pandemic on global health suggest a rise in [major depressive disorders by 28 percent and anxiety disorders by 26 percent](#). Mental health is estimated [to cost the world economy US\\$6 trillion by 2030](#). Every dollar invested in evidence-based care for depression and anxiety [returns US\\$5 in better health and productivity](#). Also, mental health is integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly goal 3 (good health and well-being). Therefore, mental health needs to be prioritised from human rights and economic perspectives.

19. Sunny Pokala,

[How Technology Is Helping Solve Healthcare Challenges](#)

Forbes: 27.October 2022

With the growing needs of the healthcare industry, it's no wonder that hospitals are facing challenges. Health institutions are taking action to solve challenges and deliver high-quality services, from analyzing health issues to safeguarding patient privacy. This has been enabled by the introduction of cutting-edge new technologies that have made it possible to overcome some of these difficulties.

Healthcare technology can fundamentally alter how the industry operates for both patients and healthcare professionals. Artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML) and data science in healthcare systems across the globe are being used to enhance outcomes. The U.S. healthcare market is growing, with national health expenditures expected to exceed \$6.2 trillion by 2028. Although there are still significant obstacles to overcome, there's optimism that technology will be able to help.

20. Gupta, Sahil

[How AI Is Making Healthcare More Affordable and Accessible](#)

Forbes: 12 Oct. 2022

Artificial intelligence is transforming how we practice medicine in a wide range of domains, including radiology, pathology, dermatology, surgery and infertility. AI algorithms are rapidly advancing to optimize processes such as image analysis, pattern recognition and data-based assessments, improving clinical workflows and the early detection and treatment of diseases. AI is still an emerging technology in healthcare, but it shows incredible potential to make care more affordable and accessible for all patients.

INDUSTRY

21. Agrawal, Swati Singh, Poonam Mazumdar Mainak and K V Ramaswamy,

[Firm Transitions in Indian Formal MSMEs - The Role of Age and Size](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 43, 22 Oct, 2022

Using a panel of formal manufacturing and service sector firms incorporated during 2000–08, and by following each firm for a period of five years (2007–15) after incubation, we analyse the relationship between firm transition, firm age, and firm size. The results show an inverted U-shaped relationship between firm transition and age consistent with the non-linear relationship between age and performance suggested in the literature. However, our interpretation suggests a different possibility. We also show that the choice of definition of firm size has a distinct impact on the transition patterns and size structures of firms in the manufacturing and service sectors.

22. Shukla Abhay

[Pharma Freebies, Free from Regulation](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 40, 01 Oct, 2022

Large-scale freebies are provided by pharmaceutical companies to doctors in the absence of a legally enforced regulation of unethical promotion. The current regulation of the pharma industry facilitates multiple escape routes, exemplifying

accumulation by institutional adaptation with interlocking of corporate and state actors.

23. Verma, Shilpy and Kakkar, Bhawna

[How FPIS and MITRA Scheme Will Be a Game Changer for India's Textile Sector](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 41, 08 Oct, 2022

Despite showing promising prospects, India's share in global textile exports is sliding consistently. This paper highlights the current global exports scenario and the key challenges in the Indian textile industry with an emphasis on changing global fibre consumption trends towards man-made fabrics. Global trends in overall textile exports indicate a shift towards apparel made of MMF (50%), while the share of the same in India's textile exports is very low at around 20%. Currently, MMF dominates global textile fibre consumption with a 72:28 ratio, whereas India's domestic fibre consumption ratio is presently 40:60—40% MMF and 60% natural fibre. Taking the global fibre consumption of MMF and natural fibre as a base, this paper analyses how the production-linked incentive scheme for MMF and technical textiles can contribute in increasing India's share in global textile and apparel exports. Further, the role of the Mega Investment Textiles Parks scheme in positioning India as a fully integrated, globally competitive manufacturing and exports hub is analysed.

24. [Gigafactories are recycling old EV batteries into new ones](#)

The Economist: 29 October 2022

Though dark satanic mills are long gone from industry, the start of the lithium-ion-battery production line in a factory in Vasteras, west of Stockholm, is particularly squeaky clean. Air-lock doors, a filtered atmosphere and workers dressed head-to-toe in sterile white suits make it look more like a pharma lab than a plant for assembling the single most-expensive component in an electric vehicle (ev).

So important are batteries to the future of carmaking that every country with an auto industry is rushing to attract plants to make them—"gigafactories", as they are known in the business. The term was originally coined by Tesla, an American producer of evs, for a battery factory in Nevada, which it began building in 2014 in collaboration with Panasonic, a Japanese firm. The name relates to an annual production measured in gigawatt-hours (gwh) of storage capacity.

25. [The American chip industry's \\$1.5trn meltdown](#)

The Economist: 22 Oct. 2022

In licking county, Ohio, fleets of dump trucks and bulldozers are shifting earth on the future site of chip factories. Intel is building two “fabs” there at a cost of around \$20bn. In March President Joe Biden called this expanse of dirt a “field of dreams” in his state-of-the-union message. It was “the ground on which America’s future will be built”, he intoned.

In the spring it was easy to be dreamy about America’s chipmakers. A global supply crunch had proved how key chips were to modern life. Demand was still rising for chip-powered technology, which nowadays is most of it. Investors were less gloomy about chips than other tech, which was taking a stockmarket beating. The chips act was moving through Congress, promising subsidies worth \$52bn for projects like Intel’s in Ohio, in order to reduce America’s reliance on foreign fabs.

26. [“Chip War” traces the evolution of the semiconductor industry](#)

The Economist: 15 October 2022

Semiconductors are the cornerstone of the modern economy. Everything from emails to guided missiles relies on them. Yet parts of the supply chain, particularly for cutting-edge chips, depend on choke-points dominated by a small number of firms. For decades few people worried much about this—until covid-19 and rising tensions between China and America highlighted the sector’s fragility. In “Chip War”, his elegant new book, Chris Miller of Tufts University shows how economic, geopolitical and technological forces shaped this essential industry.

POLICY

27. Taisuke Nakata and Sebastian Schmidt

[Expectations-Driven Liquidity Traps: Implications for Monetary and Fiscal Policy](#)

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics: Vol. 14 No. 4 October 2022

We study optimal time-consistent monetary and fiscal policy in a New Keynesian model where occasional declines in agents' confidence give rise to persistent liquidity trap episodes. Insights from widely studied fundamental-driven liquidity traps are not a useful guide for enhancing welfare in this model. Raising the inflation target, appointing an inflation-conservative central banker, or allowing for the use of

government spending as an additional stabilization tool can exacerbate deflationary pressures and demand deficiencies during the liquidity trap episodes. However, appointing a policy-maker who is sufficiently less concerned with government spending stabilization than society eliminates expectations-driven liquidity traps.

28. Mattias Almgren, José-Elías Gallegos, John Kramer and Ricardo Lima
[Monetary Policy and Liquidity Constraints: Evidence from the Euro Area](#)
American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics: Vol. 14 No. 4 October 2022

We quantify the relationship between the response of output to monetary policy shocks and the share of liquidity-constrained households. We do so in the context of the euro area, using Local Projections Instrumental Variables estimation. We construct an instrument for changes in interest rates from changes in overnight indexed swap rates in a narrow time window around ECB announcements. Monetary policy shocks have heterogeneous effects on output across countries. Using micro data, we show that the elasticity of output to monetary policy shocks is larger in countries that have a larger fraction of households that are liquidity constrained.

29. Bharrat Lal
[Water Governance](#)
Yojana: October 2022

It is fascinating to observe how Gujarat and the Indian water journey have been invaluable in showing the world how water management can be re-invented to make it sustainable and re-store our environment. These initiatives, centred on people partnering technology aiming at sustainability pave the way for affordable, scalable and reliable model for the entire world.