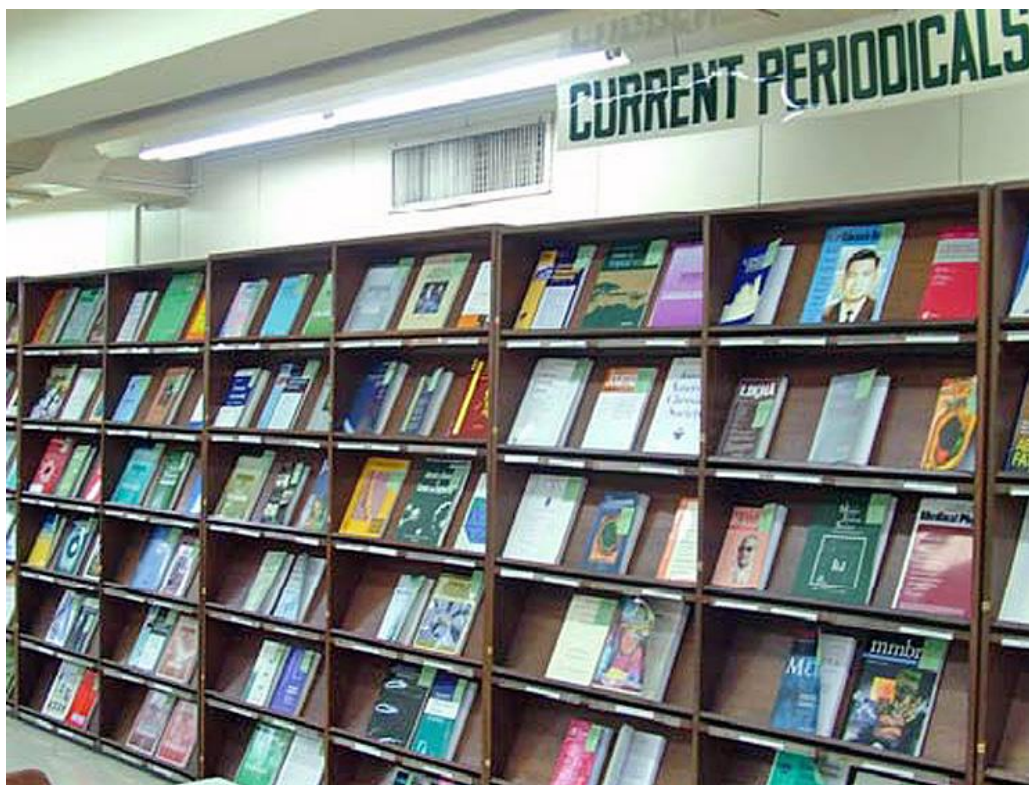




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AGRICULTURE

1. Christopher B. Barrett, Thomas Reardon, Johan Swinnen and David Zilberman
[Agri-food Value Chain Revolutions in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)
Journal of Economic Literature: Vol. 60, No. 4, December 2022

Agri-food value chains (AVCs) intermediate the flow of products between largely rural farmers, fisherfolk, or herders and increasingly urban consumers. The theoretical models that historically structured research on the economic development process assumed away AVC functions, however, and AVC firms and workers were necessarily omitted from the household data that generated most empirical findings in the agricultural and development economics literatures. As a result, the discipline has somewhat overlooked the rapid growth and structural change in AVCs over the past few decades that turned AVCs into major employers and sources of value addition, as well as key loci for technology transfer and foreign investment. This paper offers an integrated, structured, empirical narrative of how and why AVC revolutions occur in developing countries, the impacts of those changes, and the abundant economic research opportunities these structural changes afford economists.

ECONOMICS

2. Niklas Engbom and Christian Moser
[Earnings Inequality and the Minimum Wage: Evidence from Brazil](#)
American Economic Review: Vol. 112, No. 12, December 2022

Increases in the minimum wage can substantially reduce earnings inequality. To demonstrate this, we combine administrative and survey data with an equilibrium model of the Brazilian labor market. We find that a 128 percent increase in the real minimum wage in Brazil between 1996 and 2018 had far-reaching spillover effects on wages higher up in the distribution. The increased minimum wage accounts for 45 percent of a large fall in earnings inequality over this period. At the same time, the effects of the minimum wage on employment and output are muted by reallocation of workers toward more productive firms.

EDUCATION

3. Sharma, Rashi and Pattanayak, Purabi
Technology integration for quality education
Kurukshetra: December 2022

As per the National Education Policy 2020, “Given the explosive pace of technological development allied with the sheer creativity of tech savvy teachers and entrepreneurs including student entrepreneurs, it is certain that technology will impact education in multiple ways, only some of which can be foreseen at the present time. New technologies involving artificial intelligence, machine learning, block chains, smart boards, handheld computing devices, adaptive computer testing for student development, and other forms of educational software and hardware will not just change what students learn in the classroom but how they learn, and thus these areas and beyond will require extensive research both on the technological as well as educational fronts.” Therefore, the future of the educational system will be determined by the expansion and integration of technology which will serve the purpose of bringing efficiency in educational system and transformative reforms in the academic sphere.

FINANCE

4. Awantika Rajauria
[Urban Cooperative Banks in Crisis? - Financial Inclusion in the Aftermath of the PMC Bank Collapse](#)
EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 51, 17 Dec, 2022

The collapse of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank in 2019 raised questions about the dependability of the urban cooperative banking system in India. Started as a movement to address issues of rural credit, cooperative banks have witnessed a substantial increase in their scope of operations and have played a significant role in increasing liquidity in the hands of lower- and middle-class people. However, the misconduct of a few banks has maligned the entire urban cooperative banking system, leading to decreasing depositor trust. These instances cannot be allowed to demean the efforts put in by these banks in attaining the aims of financial inclusion, specifically with respect to the role played by them in the priority sector

advances. This paper examines the problems faced by urban cooperative banks and analyses their future potential against the backdrop of their historical performance in financial inclusion. Also, it examines the various reform measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India in tandem with government efforts to keep the dependability and viability of the sector intact.

5. Dholakia, Ravindra H

[An Estimate of Evasion of Personal Income Tax in India, 2011–12 to 2017–18](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 53, 31 Dec, 2022

An estimate of the personal income tax evasion is attempted by considering total personal income, gross income of return filers, mixed incomes of agricultural landowners, income of below the poverty line population and income of above the poverty line population but below minimum tax exempt income. Tax evasion most conservatively is around 40% of personal income by about 16% of population in 2017–18.

HEALTH

6. Prasad, Uravashi

e-Governance in Health Services Delivery

Kurukshetra: December 2022

Uravashi Prasad is Director, DMEO

Over the last few years, India has announced several policy measures to usher in a new era of technology-enabled healthcare delivery. It is noteworthy that India's health sector is characterised by a multiplicity of providers. In fact it is estimated that nearly 98 percent of the country's health facilities employ 10 people or less. Technology can be a game changer for governance and research. For instance, clean, structured and annotated data made available to AI researchers at the aggregate level can accelerate research efforts and catalyse breakthroughs in the treatment of diseases like tuberculosis and cancer.

7. Krithiga Narayanan

[Drug Price Control in India - An Ongoing Debate](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 50, 10 Dec, 2022

Price control of life-saving essential medicines is the need of the hour, but the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has allowed a hike of 10% in nearly 800 drugs and devices listed under the National List of Essential Medicines from 1 April 2022 because of the rising input costs. Prices of scheduled drugs are allowed an increase each year according to the wholesale price index. Input costs are rising primarily because India is heavily dependent on China for drug imports.

8. Andrew Barr and Chloe R. Gibbs

[Breaking the Cycle? Intergenerational Effects of an Antipoverty Program in Early Childhood](#)

Journal of Political Economy: Volume 130, Number 12, December 2022

Despite substantial evidence that resources and outcomes are transmitted across generations, there has been limited inquiry into the extent to which antipoverty programs actually disrupt the cycle of bad outcomes. We leverage the rollout of the United States's largest early-childhood program, Head Start, to estimate the effect of early-childhood exposure among mothers on their children's long-term outcomes. We find evidence of intergenerational transmission of effects in the form of increased educational attainment, reduced teen pregnancy, and reduced criminal engagement in the second generation. These effects correspond to an estimated increase in discounted second-generation wages of 6%–11%, depending on specification. Exploration of earlier outcomes suggests an important role for changes in parenting behavior and potential noncognitive channels.

9. Valentin Bolotnyy, Matthew Basilico and Paul Barreira

[Graduate Student Mental Health: Lessons from American Economics Departments](#)

Journal of Economic Literature: Vol. 60, No. 4, December 2022

We study the mental health of graduate students at eight top-ranked economics PhD programs in the United States using clinically validated surveys. We find that 24.8 percent experience moderate or severe symptoms of depression or anxiety—more

than two times the population average. Though our response rate was 45.1 percent and sample selection concerns exist, conservative lower bounds nonetheless suggest higher prevalence rates of such symptoms than in the general population. Mental health issues are especially prevalent at the end of the PhD program: 36.7 percent of students in years 6+ of their program experience moderate or severe symptoms of depression or anxiety, versus 21.2 percent of first-year students. Of economics students with these symptoms, 25.2 percent are in treatment, compared to 41.4 percent of graduate students in other programs. A similar percentage of economics students (40–50 percent) say they cannot honestly discuss mental health with advisers as say they cannot easily discuss nonacademic career options with them. Only 26 percent find their work to be useful always or most of the time, compared to 70 percent of economics faculty and 63 percent of the working age population. We provide recommendations for students, faculty, and administrators on ways to improve graduate student mental health.

10. Bhat, Rashmi

[Time Is Ripe for a One Health Law in India](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 53, 31 Dec, 2022

The One Health framework that espouses an integrated approach for protecting the health of humans, animals and the environment is the need of the hour. The legally binding International Health Regulations (2005) is an existing powerful legislation that can bridge the gap between and among sectors for the realisation of the One Health approach in India.

INDUSTRY

11. [Can the French nuclear industry avoid meltdown?](#)

The Economist: 17.12.2022

Nuclear power seems tailor-made for this [day and age](#). It emits next to [no carbon](#). It provides reliable baseload electricity, vital when sun isn't drenching solar panels or wind isn't wafting through turbine blades. And it does not leave its operators hostage to dictators like Vladimir Putin, who has throttled the supply of Russian natural gas to Europe in response to Western sanctions over his war in Ukraine. With memories of the Fukushima meltdown in Japan 11 years ago fading, [countries](#) from Britain to

India view fission as a critical part of their future energy mix. Even in nuclear-sceptical Germany, which vowed to shut its nuclear reactors in that disaster's wake, the government has extended the lifetime of the three remaining ones until April 2023.

12. Chaturvedi, Tamanna and Wali, O P

[Import Surge and Domestic Competitiveness - The Case of Indian Incense Sticks Industry](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 52, 24 Dec, 2022

The recent import surge of raw agarbatti in India presumes to have a detrimental impact on the employment and profitability of the domestic firms. A deep dive indicates that imports of bamboo sticks from China and raw incense sticks from Vietnam have adversely affected the domestic incense stick units. The import surge is partly associated with positive trends in firms' productivity, mainly through the import of intermediate inputs indicating significant heterogeneity of these effects in terms of firms' proximity to the ports and the initial productivity level.

POLICY

13. Saha, Partha and Karmakar, Krishanu

[Soil Nutrition and Fertiliser Use in Crop Production - Future Policy Imperatives](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 51, 17 December, 2022

This paper explores the determinants of fertiliser application in Punjab through an analysis of both secondary data and a primary survey-based case study. Analysis of primary data indicates that the fertiliser policy favouring urea has encouraged its overuse, which is incongruent with the soil nutrient level, and this might be one of the possible contributing factors to the soil nutrient imbalance in the study location.

14. Patnaik, Anuradha

[Monetary Policy Announcements of the Reserve Bank of India and the Role of Information Shock](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 50, 10 Dec, 2022

Inflation-targeting central banks supplement their monetary policy announcements with communication in the form of speeches and publication of text documents. The markets react to the surprise component of the rate action and the communication by the central bank. Thus, the monetary surprise derived from the reaction of markets, following a policy announcement, is agglutinated with the central bank information. The present paper attempts to identify and examine the efficacy of such an information shock in influencing the inflation expectations of households, interest rate expectations of agents, output and inflation.

15. Manisha Priyam, Jeffrey, Craig and Dyson, Jane

[Food Insecurity among Students in India](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 50, 10 Dec, 2022

There has been increased attention to food insecurity in India and globally since the 1990s. However, the food insecurity experienced by university students has not been widely discussed. We examine the scale and depth of the problem of student food insecurity and outline four key considerations that will need to be borne in mind in policy efforts to address the issue. Future work on this problem should be comparative, engaged with policy, informed by its complexity, and attuned to the significance of young people's agency.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

16. Bhattacharya, Soham

[Is Extreme Poverty Declining? - Findings from Agricultural Households in India](#)

EPW: Vol. 57, Issue No. 49, 03 Dec, 2022

The latest round of the Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households is used to calculate income poverty instead of commenting on consumption poverty across non-comparable data sets. Using three different poverty lines, it is demonstrated that at least 21.1% of agricultural households are extremely income poor. Though the so-called "Great Indian Poverty Debate 2.0," with statistical assumptions on consumption distribution or relative prices, may provide certain estimates of poverty, those seem to be disproportionate to the actualities of the extremely poor in recent times.

17. Mishra Avinash and Dutta, Madhubanti

Bridging the digital divide

Kurukshetra: December 2022

Avinash Mishra is Adviser and Madhubanti Dutta is Young Professional, NITI Aayog

Technology is one of the principal factors and the most effective tool for social change and advancement in today's world. The term "digital gap" has received significant attention in the last ten years, and a wide range of public discussion over its potential economic, social, and political implication has been generated. The most effective forces that may propel any developing country towards development and prosperity are information and communication technologies. The young workforce can acquire the upgraded skill necessary to engage in more meaningful work. In so doing, we can bridge the digital divide, prepare the under-skilled for the workforce of the future, and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to prosper. India essentially required a public institution structure that makes use of the advantages offered by digital technology. India needs a system of digital education that integrates the use of technology into all facts of daily life and is contextually appropriate. Last mile connectivity is crucial for schooling in rural India, where 2G speed is still a problem. So a Paradigm shift in strategic thinking, law, and regulation is necessary to bring the digital revolution which will create a digital integrated ecosystem in rural area with a community wireless network, with facts the leapfrogging for economic development.