



नीति आयोग
NITI AAYOG



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AGRICULTURE

1. Saxena Jagdeep

Agri-Startups: Challenges and Opportunities

Yojana: April 2023

Agri-startups shall play a critical role in making India knowledge based and technology driven economy. With the advent of the modern era, agriculture can no longer afford to remain in the throes of the past. Due to a very unique agricultural ecosystem, there is vast potential and ample opportunities for the development of agri- startups.

2. Ram Singh, Dhriti Mukherjee Pipil

['Minimum Export Price' Caps on Agricultural Exports - A Redundant Policy Instrument?](#)

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 17, 29 Apr, 2023

The policymakers in India have constantly endeavoured to promote agricultural exports; however, certain agricultural products have been subject to extensive use of export restrictions as well. In this context, the article attempts to appraise the various trade policy instruments with special reference to “minimum export price” and examine how it has become a redundant trade policy tool. The case of onions is used to elucidate the exorbitant misuse of MEP by unscrupulous business firms and suggests a road map for policy reforms. Agriculture has been an integral part of the Indian economy for centuries. Despite the rapid growth of other sectors, it continues to be the primary source of livelihood for a majority of the country’s population (Mathur et al 2006). India is the world’s second largest producer and 10th largest exporter of agricultural products.

3. A Narayanamoorthy, K S Sujitha, G Karthiga Devi

[Groundwater Irrigation and Agricultural Output Nexus - An Analysis of Indian Districts](#)

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 13, 01 Apr, 2023

While the impact of groundwater irrigation on the productivity of crops and other parameters has been well-documented in India, not many studies are available highlighting its role in the value of agricultural output using district-level data. This paper attempts to find out the impact of groundwater irrigation on VAO using cross-sectional data for 189 Indian districts covering three time points: 1990–93, 2003–06, and 2017–20. Both descriptive and regression analyses have been used in this paper. The descriptive analysis shows that VAO per hectare is significantly higher for those districts having a high level of groundwater coverage (>50%) than the districts having less (<30%) groundwater irrigation. The multivariate regression analysis carried out by using yield augmenting and infrastructure variables shows that the role of groundwater irrigation in impacting VAO has significantly and consistently increased over time.

ECONOMICS

4. D M Nachane

[Current Inflation in India - Dangers of a Misdiagnosis](#)

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 17, 29 Apr, 2023

Following the standard precepts for dealing with supply shocks, monetary policy continued to be easy for an extended period, while simultaneously huge fiscal stimuli were applied. Even when a more restrictive monetary stance was taken, the measures were not strong enough to restrain inflationary expectations. A soft monetary policy with a sizeable fiscal deficit can harden inflationary expectations and a perpetuation of a new higher normal for inflation.

5. Aggarwal, Sakshi, Chakraborty, Debashis and Bhattacharyya, Ranajoy

[‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan’ - A Smooth Drive to Self-reliance?](#)

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 16, 22 Apr, 2023

Over the last two decades, India’s participation in global value chains and international production networks has improved, but the domestic value added content embodied in exports has displayed a declining trend. India has decided to launch the “Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) Bharat Abhiyan,” which in principle aims to increase the DVA content of exports. This paper attempts to analyse the drivers of

India's DVA in exports for select manufacturing industries by using the data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development trade in value added database for 2000–15. The empirical results indicate that the focus on export promotion policies alone will not be able to resolve the goal of self-reliance and employment worries in India. A concerted effort towards labour skill enhancement as well as technology transfer is necessary for exports to play a more positive role towards that end.

6. Prottoy Akbar, Victor Couture, Gilles Duranton and Adam Storeygard

[Mobility and Congestion in Urban India](#)

American Economic Review: Vol. 113, No. 4, April 2023

We develop a methodology to estimate robust city-level vehicular speed indices, exactly decomposable into uncongested speed and congestion. We apply it to 180 Indian cities using 57 million simulated trips measured by a web mapping service. We verify the reliability of our simulated trips using a number of alternative data sources, including data on actual trips. We find wide variation in speed across cities that is driven more by differences in uncongested speed than congestion. Denser and more populated cities are slower, only in part because of congestion. Urban economic development is correlated with faster speed despite worse congestion.

7. Nicole Maestas, Kathleen J. Mullen and David Powell

[The Effect of Population Aging on Economic Growth, the Labor Force, and Productivity](#)

American economic journal: Macroeconomics: Vol. 15, No 2, April 2023

Population aging is expected to slow US economic growth. We use variation in the predetermined component of population aging across states to estimate the impact of aging on growth in GDP per capita for 1980–2010. We find that each 10 percent increase in the fraction of the population age 60+ decreased per capita GDP by 5.5 percent. One-third of the reduction arose from slower employment growth; two-thirds due to slower labor productivity growth. Labor compensation and wages also declined in response. Our estimate implies population aging reduced the growth rate in GDP per capita by 0.3 percentage points per year during 1980–2010.

EDUCATION

8. Ishita Chatterjee and Marie-Claire Robitaille

[State of Indian Public Schools since the Right to Education Act](#)

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 16, 22 Apr, 2023

Despite decades of promise for reforms by the government, India's education system still remains in a poor state. Using District Primary Education Programme data, the progress, or lack thereof, in achieving the targets of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act is assessed. While there has been some progress, such as construction of toilets and ramps in schools, for many indicators, little or no progress was seen in more than a decade since the enactment of the RTE Act in 2009. While the data analysed here precede the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no doubt that improving the delivery of education has become even more urgent after months of school closure.

9. Aswathy Rachel Varughese, Ashok Alex Luke

[Blended Learning in Indian Higher Education - Are We Prepared to Set the Ball Rolling?](#)

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 13, 01 Apr, 2023

The University Grants Commission had proposed up to 40% of online teaching mode for any course in higher education in India, in the concept note on "Blended Mode of Teaching and Learning," in May 2021. While the unprecedented pandemic situation recognised the urgency of implementing the online mode of teaching, with already persisting structural bottlenecks in the system, serious introspection is required on the preparedness of the country to adopt such a technology-driven learning approach.

10. Alina Kovalenko

[Natural Resource Booms, Human Capital, and Earnings: Evidence from Linked Education and Employment Records](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics: Vol. 15, No. 2, April 2023

Using administrative panel data on the universe of Texas public school students, I analyze how shocks to local economic conditions affect education and employment decisions. I find that high school students at the bottom of the academic ability distribution worked and earned more in response to the fracking boom and that these earnings gains persisted through ages 24–25 despite the fact that the same students also became less likely to attend classes and graduate from high school. My results suggest that the opportunity cost of education is large for these students.

FINANCE

11. Shagishna K, D Narayana

[Faith-based Financial Exclusion in India - Impact on Branch Density and Access to Loans](#)

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 15, 15 Apr, 2023

One of the key determinants of access to financial services is branch density as loan-making depends on information that necessitates local presence. This paper hypothesises that the proportion of Muslim population has an inverse relationship with branch density in India. The hypothesis is tested using data on commercial bank branches from the Reserve Bank of India and census data. The ordinary least squares estimation shows the expected negative sign for the coefficient of Muslims and the positive sign for the level of urbanisation, both being statistically significant. Commercial bank loan rates are related to the proximity to branch offices, wherein lower branch density not only affects the Muslims (who voluntarily do not participate) but also the general population with serious implications for financial deepening and welfare.

HEALTH

12. Mukhopadhyay. Simantini and Chakraborty, Achin

[The Politics of Child Undernutrition Data in India](#)

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 17, 29 Apr, 2023

“Hunger” is indeed a sensational term. It causes a stir among politicians, policymakers, journalists and all concerned. Unsurprisingly, India’s poor rank in terms of the Global Hunger Index (GHI) becomes a major talking point with the release of the country report cards every year. The opposition parties and a section

of the media clamour against the lacunae in public policy that seem to have left India's high burden of hunger and malnutrition largely unaddressed.

13. Verma, Manisha
Universal health coverage with Ayushman Bharat health and wellness centres
Kurukshetra: April 2023

Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers are envisaged to deliver an expanded range of services to address the primary health care needs of beneficiaries thereby expanding access and universality of healthcare services being provided close to the community. Such care will be provided/complemented through outreach services, mobile units, camps, home and community-based care.

14. Krishna Reddy Nallamalla, Anuradha Katyal, Prashanthi Krishna Kumar, Girish Bommakanti and Anju Aggarwal
[Extending Health Financial Coverage to the Informal Non-poor and Near Poor in India - An Exploratory Study](#)
EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 14, 08 Apr, 2023

Several countries are rolling out and scaling healthcare financial coverage for the informal non-poor or the informal near poor through publicly sponsored health insurance programmes. As Indian policymakers are planning to extend the coverage of the National Health Insurance Programme (Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana) to the missing middle, insights from international experience are explored.

INDUSTRY

15. Chintsn Vaishnav and Sumaiya Yousuf
A new dawn for the global startup ecosystem under India's G20 presidency
Yojana: April 2023
Chintsn Vaishnav is Mission Director for AIM and Sumaiya Yousuf is Innovation Lead for Media and Communications, NITI Aayog

Today, any challenge that matters to the Global Twenty is complex and necessitates the collaboration of innovative businesses from all nations. Arguably, the forum is

by birth, the world's highest policy platform for startups. This forum shall also comprise a litany of important Task Forces. The goal of startup 20 is to create an environment that amplifies all such startups, in keeping with India's G20 theme of One Earth, One Family, One Future.

16. R Rijesh

[Trade Reforms, Technology Import, and Firm Productivity in the Indian Manufacturing Sector](#)

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 15, 15 Apr, 2023

The paper is an attempt to examine the impact of technology import on the productivity of Indian manufacturing firms during 1995–2016. The empirics are based on an unbalanced sample of 4,616 firms, which is further segregated into four use-based categories of production. This analysis tends to support the predictions of new trade and growth theories that international trade provides opportunities for dynamic productivity gains.

POLICY

17. Harald Badinger and Stefan Schiman

[Measuring Monetary Policy in the Euro Area Using SVARs with Residual Restrictions](#)

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics: Vol. 15, No. 2, April 2023

This study measures the effects of monetary policy in the euro area using a small number of sign and magnitude restrictions on the residuals of a structural vector autoregression. We derive the dates and directions of these shocks from high-frequency financial market data around official European Central Bank policy announcements. Based on an in-depth narrative analysis and a comparison of the results with those of a standard high-frequency approach, we argue that our approach is purged from central bank information effects. Despite our rather agnostic identification strategy, we find clear and conclusive effects of monetary policy shocks on a wide range of macroeconomic variables.

18. Alessandro Barattieri and Matteo Cacciatore

[Self-Harming Trade Policy? Protectionism and Production Networks](#)

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics: Vol. 15, No. 2, April 2023

Using monthly data on temporary trade barriers (TTBs), we estimate the dynamic employment effects of protectionism through vertical production linkages. First, exploiting high-frequency data and TTB procedural details, we identify trade policy shocks exogenous to economic fundamentals. We then use input-output tables to construct measures of protectionism affecting downstream producers. Finally, we estimate panel local projections using the identified trade policy shocks. Protectionism has small and insignificant beneficial effects in protected industries. The effects in downstream industries are negative, sizable, and significant. The employment decline follows an increase in intermediate input and final goods prices and a decline in stock market returns.