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AGRICULTURE

1. Jagdeep Saxena

A journey from shortage to surplus

Yojana: August 2023

Struggling with hunger and poverty, the nation drafted its first Five-Year plan

(1951-56) for development, with the highest priority being to increase agricultural

production and eliminate hunger. Consequently, agricultural production increased,

prompting the Government to shift its focus from agriculture to industrial growth

in the second Five -Year plan. Today, India stands tall in the global arena of

agriculture with many meritorious positions. It is noteworthy that India's foodgrain

production has outpaced its population growth. Rising from self -reliance, Indian

agriculture in now moving forward to become a global powerhouse of agriculture.

2. Y Sreenivasulu

Non-beneficiary Tenant Farming under the Rythu Bandhu Scheme - The Case of

Telangana

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 33, 19 August, 2023

The Rythu Bandhu scheme gives financial support to farmers towards meeting the

cost of inputs and other initial needs to support farming. Still, it cannot provide

sufficient support to tenant farmers who are fragile and in the worst situation to

pay rent and meet the cost of farming. Thus, the scheme should be extended to the

most deprived agrarian communities, who are landless, and face risks from

farming and employment uncertainties in agriculture.

3. Anjani Kumar, Seema Bathla, Smriti Verma

Revisiting the Relationship between Public and Private Capital Formation in

Indian Agriculture - A Disaggregated Analysis

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 32, 12 Aug, 2023

Using the decennial All-India Debt and Investment Survey, this paper examines

the spatial and temporal trends of private fixed capital expenditure among rural

households. It also examines the impact of public investment and input subsidy on

private agricultural investment. It notes that there has been a substantial increase in

the spending fixed capital with significant interstate variations. An econometric

analysis reveals significantly positive impact of public investment in agriculture

and irrigation on private agricultural investment.

ECONOMICS

4. V Anantha Nageswaran

Historical Perspective and the Way Forward

Yojana: August 2023

As nations progress and evolve, their economies play a crucial role in shaping their

trajectory. The journey of the Indian economy, as it commemorates 75 years of

independence, reflects the resilience, challenges, and opportunities that define

India's youthful, dynamic, and progressive nature. Over time, the Indian economy

has experienced various highs and lows, navigating through obstacles and

capitalising on opportunities to establish itself as the world's fifth-largest

economy.

5. Pramit Dash

Building a holistic innovation ecosystem

Yojana: August 2023

Innovation has been the cornerstone of human development since time

immemorial. Right from the discovery of fire to controlling it to the invention of

the wheel and its myriad uses, innovation has led to revolutionary transformations

since pre-historic times.

ENERGY

6. David Rapson and Erich Muehlegger

Global Transportation Decarbonization

Journal of Economic Perspectives: Vol. 37, No. 3, Summer 2023

Replacing fossil fuels in the name of decarbonization is necessary but will be

particularly difficult due to their as-yet unrivaled bundle of attributes: abundance,

ubiquity, energy density, transportability and cost. There is a growing commitment

to electrification as the dominant decarbonization pathway. While deep

electrification is promising for road transportation in wealthy countries, it will face

steep obstacles. In other sectors and in the developing world, it's not even in pole

position. Global transportation decarbonization will require decoupling emissions from economic growth, and decoupling emissions from growth will require not only

new technologies, but cooperation in governance. The menu of policy options is

replete with grim tradeoffs, particularly as the primacy of energy security and

reliability (over emissions abatement) has once again been demonstrated in Europe

and elsewhere.

7. Dipankar Chatterji

Political Economy of (De) Carbonisation

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 34, 26 Aug, 2023

There is a high correlation between wealth and greenhouse gas emissions. Changing

geopolitics over clean energy is replacing fossil fuel-based global power structures.

Climate change is the new colonialism. Fossil fuels remain the most strategic

commodity and are critical to national and international politics.

ECONOMICS

8. Clément Malgouyres, Thierry Mayer and Clément Mazet-Sonilhac

Who Benefits from State Corporate Tax Cuts? A Local Labor Markets Approach

with Heterogeneous Firms: Comment

American Economic Review: Vol. 113, No. 8, August 2023

Suarez Serrato and Zidar (2016) identify state corporate tax incidence in a spatial

equilibrium model with imperfectly mobile firms. Their identification argument

rests on comparative statics omitting a channel implied by their model: the link

between common determinants of a location's attractiveness and the average

idiosyncratic productivity of firms choosing that location. This compositional

margin causes the labour demand elasticity to be independent from the product

demand elasticity, impeding the identification of incidence from the four estimated

reduced-form effects. Assigning consensual values to the unidentified parameters,

we find that the incidence share borne by firm owners is closer to 25 percent than 40

percent.

HEALTH

9. Mansukh Mandaviya

Integrated approach for holistic well-being

Yojana: August 2023

Integrating traditional medicine and allopathy in India signifies a transformative step

towards holistic well -being. This synergistic approach combines the respective

strengths of both systems, providing patients with comprehensive care that

addresses their physical, mental, and spiritual needs. The healthcare system in India

is designed to maintain a continuum of care through the primary, secondary, and

tertiary levels of care. There is a significant functional relationship between all three

levels of care, and their interdependency is inevitable to ensure health for all.

10. Urvashi Prasad

Shree Anna for nutritional wellbeing

Kurukshetra: August 2023

Urvashi Prasad is Director, NITI Aayog

Widely recognised as 'smart food' or 'super food', millets play a crucial role in

transforming agri-food systems, across the globe. They play a pivotal role in

creating sustainable and nutrient sensitive food value chains, as they are rich in

nutrients, carbon neutral, and resource efficient.

Michael L. Barnett, Andrew Olenski and Adam Sacarny 11.

Common Practice: Spillovers from Medicare on Private Health Care

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy: Vol. 15, No. 3, August 2023

Efforts to raise US health-care productivity have proceeded slowly, potentially due

to the fragmentation of payment across insurers. Each insurer's efforts to improve

care could influence how doctors practice for other insurers, leading to unvalued

externalities. We study a randomized letter intervention by Medicare to curtail

overuse of antipsychotics. The letters did not mention private insurance but reduced

prescribing to these patients by 12 percent, much like the 17 percent effect in Medicare. We cannot reject one-for-one spillovers, suggesting that physicians use similar medical practice styles across insurers. Our findings establish that insurers can affect health care well outside their direct purview.

INDUSTRY

Anshuman Khanna

Vision for industry

Yojana: August 2023

Over the last decade, India has made significant progress in strengthening the competitiveness of its domestic manufacturing, especially under the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives. Manufacturing has the highest potential of all sectors to propel job growth, with the potential to create 60-70 million jobs by 2030. The future of manufacturing is sustainability. Through a number of initiatives, the Indian Government is enticing businesses to adopt sustainable manufacturing, including "Zero Defect-Zero Effect', Digital Indian,' and many others. Over the past seven years, India has made substantial improvements in its policy and regulatory environment, making it much easier for enterprises to establish themselves and

flourish.

Teresa C. Fort 13.

> The Changing Firm and Country Boundaries of US Manufacturers in Global Value Chains

Journal of Economic Perspectives: Vol. 37, No. 3, Summer 2023

This paper documents how US firms organize goods production across firm and country boundaries. Most US firms that perform physical transformation tasks inhouse using foreign manufacturing plants in 2007 also own US manufacturing plants; moreover, manufacturing comprises their main domestic activity. By contrast, "factoryless goods producers" outsource all physical transformation tasks to arm's-length contractors, focusing their in-house efforts on design and marketing. This distinct firm type is missing from standard analyses of manufacturing, growing in importance, and increasingly reliant on foreign suppliers. Physical transformation "within-the-firm" thus coincides with substantial physical transformation "within-

the-country," whereas its performance "outside-the-firm" often also implies

"outside-the-country." Despite these differences, factoryless goods producers and

firms with foreign and domestic manufacturing plants both employ relatively high

shares of US knowledge workers. These patterns call for new models and data to

capture the potential for foreign production to support domestic innovation, which

US firms leverage around the world.

14. Shardul Manurkar, Yugank Goyal

The Need for Developing a New Taxonomy for MSME - The Case for Nano-

enterprises

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 34, 26 Aug, 2023

This article looks at the asymmetry embedded within the classification of micro,

small and medium enter-prises that distorts equitable policy attention to the sector.

Around 99% of MSMEs are microenterprises, and within micro, almost 70%

consists of "tiny" units, often called nano-enterprises. It then examines the historical

evolution of these classifications and their numerical arbitrariness, and shows that

the taxonomy needs to be revised.

15. Shailender Kumar Hooda

State of Vaccine Manufacturing in India - Structure, Size, and Competitiveness

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 31, 05 Aug, 2023

Historically, vaccine manufacturing in India has centred around the production of a

wide variety of conventional vaccines that made the country self-sufficient as well

as a net exporter and global leader in supplying vaccines to low- and middle-income

countries. However, over the course of time, other safe and efficacious vaccines that

follow technologically more advanced manufacturing processes became available in

the market and their increased uptake made the country import dependent. In the

second half of the 2000s, when manufacturing capacity of the public sector was

being dismantled, India became a big market for imported vaccines and export was

affected adversely till recently.

POLICY

16. Amiya Kumar Mohapatra and Nandeesh V Hiremath

Nutritional management framework for rural India

Kurukshera: August 2023

The success of national nutritional initiatives /policies predominantly depends upon

food policy, agriculture policy and rural development programmes. Thus, the

collection of data from various sources on real -time and addressing the related

issues on a continuous basis with structured and streamlined institutional

mechanisms for deriving long-term benefits is essential.

17. Giovanni Maggi and Ralph Ossa

The Political Economy of International Regulatory Cooperation

American Economic Review: Vol. 113, No. 8, August 2023

We examine international regulatory agreements that are negotiated under lobbying

pressures from producer groups. The way in which lobbying influences the

cooperative setting of regulatory policies, as well as the welfare impacts of

international agreements, depend crucially on whether the interests of producers in

different countries are aligned or in conflict. The former situation tends to occur for

product standards, while the latter tends to occur for process standards. We find that,

if producer lobbies are strong enough, agreements on product standards lead to

excessive deregulation and decrease welfare, while agreements on process standards

tighten regulations and enhance welfare.

18. Chandra S Nuthalapati, Susanto K Beero, Anjani Kumar, Vinay Sonkar, Mulla

Areef

Skewed Food Policies, Distorted Inter-crop Parity, and Nutri-cereal Farmers - An

Empirical Analysis

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 34, 26 Aug, 2023

Farmer profitability, cost of food production, and associated issues of nutri-cereals

are analysed by leveraging a large database spanning a 35-year period. The skewed

food policies being followed in India are highlighted here. An unacceptably high

distortion in inter-crop parity was found, which led to loss of profitability, increased

costs, and lower prices for the nutri-cereals.

19. Amitabh Kundu & P C Mohanan

Multidimensional Poverty as an Instrument of Programmatic Intervention

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 33, 19 Aug, 2023

Conceptual and operational issues for constructing multidimensional poverty indices

in India are discussed and the possibilities of its application for strategic

interventions are examined in this article. It argues that questions concerning the

selection of indicators, data sources, weightages, threshold limits, etc, have to be

addressed through a consultative process, keeping it above the short-term politics of

the regime.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

20. Ashish Chopra, Parthasarathy Ramachandran

Mapping Water Scarcity across Major States of India

EPW: Vol. 58, Issue No. 32, 12 Aug, 2023

Water as a basic natural resource plays a critical role in any country's economic,

ecological, and human development. Water is a state subject in India, and the

provision of reliable, safe, and sustainable supply of water has emerged as a

challenge due to geographical and institutional constraints. The water scarcity in 11

major states is evaluated through 20 variables that capture the multidimensional

aspects of scarcity and the water poverty index. The results clearly indicate an

alarming situation as these states face medium to severe scarcity. A sensitivity

analysis indicates that the most critical variables impacting the water sector include

socio-economic and environmental factors.