



नीति आयोग
NITI AAYOG



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AGRICULTURE

1. Y.S Shivay and Kadapa Sreenivasa Reddy
Green Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture
Kurukshetra: May 2024

Agriculture plays a vital role in providing food affordably to present and future generations. Overtime, agricultural research and development have driven the adoption of new technologies, leading to substantial increase in productivity and output. However, our current methods of measuring productivity overlook the environmental services and natural resources utilised. To ensure sustainable development, future agricultural technologies must prioritise both profitability and environmental impact, acknowledging the importance of natural resources and ecosystem services. Thus, green technologies aim to enhance production sustainably, bridging the gap between productivity and ecological balance.

ECONOMICS

2. Manisha Devi and Amiya Sarma
[Is India's Inflation a Fiscal Phenomenon?](#)
EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 19, 11 May, 2024

An attempt has been made to substantiate whether India's persistently higher general prices could be considered an outcome of its perennial fiscal retrogression. Applying the vector error correction model to the secondary data compiled from 1971 to 2019, the study found the provisions undertaken to finance India's prolonged fiscal distress as a prime mover of its inflationary experiences. In addition to the discordant effect of the monetary seigniorage on the country's general price level, excessive reliance of the fiscal authority on the government-dated securities to balance its continuous fiscal apprehension has also been found to supplement the problem significantly.

3. Raj Chetty, John N Friedman, Michael Stepner, Opportunity Insights Team
[The Economic Impacts of COVID-19: Evidence from a New Public Database Built Using Private Sector Data](#)
The Quarterly Journal of Economics: Volume 139, Issue 2, May 2024

We build a publicly available database that tracks economic activity in the United States at a granular level in real time using anonymized data from private companies. We report weekly statistics on consumer spending, business revenues, job postings, and employment rates disaggregated by county, sector, and income group. Using the publicly available data, we show how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the economy by analyzing heterogeneity in its effects across subgroups. High-income individuals reduced spending sharply in March 2020, particularly in sectors that require in-person interaction. This reduction in spending greatly reduced the revenues of small businesses in affluent, dense areas. Those businesses laid off many of their employees, leading to widespread job losses, especially among low-wage workers in such areas. High-wage workers experienced a V-shaped recession that lasted a few weeks, whereas low-wage workers experienced much larger, more persistent job losses. Even though consumer spending and job postings had recovered fully by December 2021, employment rates in low-wage jobs remained depressed in areas that were initially hard hit, indicating that the temporary fall in labor demand led to a persistent reduction in labor supply. Building on this diagnostic analysis, we evaluate the effects of fiscal stimulus policies designed to stem the downward spiral in economic activity. Cash stimulus payments led to sharp increases in spending early in the pandemic, but much smaller responses later in the pandemic, especially for high-income households. Real-time estimates of marginal propensities to consume provided better forecasts of the impacts of subsequent rounds of stimulus payments than historical estimates. Overall, our findings suggest that fiscal policies can stem secondary declines in consumer spending and job losses, but cannot restore full employment when the initial shock to consumer spending arises from health concerns. More broadly, our analysis demonstrates how public statistics constructed from private sector data can support many research and real-time policy analyses, providing a new tool for empirical macroeconomics.

4. Swati Dutta

[Unveiling the Shifting Dimensions of Deprivations - Exploring Multidimensional Poverty and Sustainable Development Goals in India](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 18, 04 May, 2024

Poverty, an enduring societal challenge, necessitates a comprehensive understanding that surpasses traditional measures. This paper explores the intricacies of multidimensional poverty in India by assessing alignment with Sustainable Development Goals. Using the National Family and Health Survey data (NFHS-4 and NFHS-5), the study scrutinises changes in multidimensional poverty, severely multidimensional poor, and vulnerability to multidimensional poverty. A noteworthy national reduction in MPI signals progress in poverty reduction and SDG attainment. Nonetheless, disparities persist among states and social groups, with elevated poverty in marginalised communities and rural areas. Alarming, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal see a rise in the population vulnerable to multidimensional poverty.

EDUCATION

5. Gregory Gilpin, Ezra Karger, and Peter Nencka

[The Returns to Public Library Investment](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy: Vol. 16 No. 2 May 2024

Local governments spend over \$12 billion annually funding the operation of 15,427 public libraries in the United States, yet we know little about their effects. We use data describing the near universe of public libraries to show that public library capital investment increases library visits, children's attendance at library events, and children's circulation by an average of 5–15 percent in the years following investment. Increases in library use translate into improved test scores in nearby school districts: a \$200 or greater per student capital investment in local public libraries increases reading test scores by 0.01–0.04 standard deviations in subsequent years.

ENERGY

6. Harveen Kaur and Yugal Joshi

Empowering Rural Communities Embracing Green Waste Tech in India

Kurukshetra: May 2024

Dr. Harveen Kaur is Environment & Sustainability Expert & Sh. Yugal Joshi is Programme Director, NITI Aayog

Rural India faces significant challenges in waste management, leading to environmental degradation and socio-economic disparities. This article explores the potential of embracing green waste technologies to empower rural communities and mitigate environmental impacts. It evaluates the current state of waste management, analyses the impact of green waste technologies, identifies barriers to adoption, and proposes potential solutions and innovations. Bridging urban-rural socio-economic gaps and ensuring equitable resource distribution are imperative for a circular economy transition and achieving Net Zero Targets of 2070.

7. Harender Raj Gautam

Green Technologies for Clean and Renewable Energy

Kurukshetra: May 2024

Current reliance on fossil fuels for energy production is exacerbating climate change, making it imperative to make a rapid transition to renewable and clean energy sources. Renewables, including solar, wind, hydroelectric, nuclear, and emerging technologies like green hydrogen, offer sustainable alternatives. Green technology advances in solar power, wind energy, hydroelectricity, nuclear power, energy storage, bioenergy, geothermal heat, and smart grids are reshaping the energy landscape, making clean energy more efficient, cost-effective, and scalable. Clean energy investment increased nearly 50% between 2019-2023, reaching USD 1.8 trillion in 2023. The transition to renewable energy is projected to boost global GDP and employment. India has a target to achieve 50 percent cumulative electric power installed by 2030 from renewables and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. Clean energy will be key to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius or as close to that as possible compared with the preindustrial era.

FINANCE/BANKING

8. Soumya Kanti Ghosh and Tapas Kumar Parida

[Impact of Decadal Reforms on Efficiency and Productivity of Indian Banking Sector - A DEA Approach](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 21, 25 May, 2024

In the last decade, the Indian banking system has exhibited resilience and surpassed many challenges arising from both domestic and global economic environment. The improvement in asset quality was primarily led by strong macroeconomic fundamentals and effective regulatory and supervisory oversight, mainly focusing on creating a level playing field, creation of strong banks through mergers and capital infusion, improving governance practices expanding the reach and quality of financial services, and enhancing the adoption of digital banking while ensuring customer interests were protected and most importantly ensuring that financial sector was well-cushioned with capital and liquidity buffers during the pandemic. In this context, the paper aims to find the impact of the decadal regulatory measures on efficiency and productivity of banks in India by employing the non-parametric approach of data envelopment analysis for 2005–06 to 2022–23. To isolate the productivity change over the years, the Malmquist Productivity Index is further decomposed into technological change and efficiency change to see the overall productivity over the years. The results show that contrary to popular perceptions, the performance of PSBs are much better compared to private and foreign banks.

9. Preeta George and Chinmay Joshi

[Implications of Monetary Policy on Public Debt Servicing in India](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 19, 11 May, 2024

The impact of the monetary policy rate, inflation, and government loan maturity on the cost of financing public debt from 1991–92 to 2022–23 is examined. It is seen that the MPR has a significant impact on the CFPD during this period. There is evidence of two structural breaks in the CFPD series. These breakpoints are identified in 1995–96 and 2002–03, which relate to liberalisation and market determination of interest rates on government borrowings and the implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act of 2003, respectively.

HEALTH

10. Divya Bharti and Satya Narayan Misra

[Anaemia in Women of Reproductive Age in Odisha](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 19, 11 May, 2024

The prevalence of anaemia is examined focusing on different demographic patterns, particularly for Odisha. Various national- and state-level programmes are examined to recommend the improvement of supply-chain management of supplementation, technology use for information flow among stakeholders, and community counselling to motivate and educate women to adopt healthier dietary practices.

11. Hannah Klauber, Felix Holub, Nicolas Koch, Nico Pestel, Nolan Ritter, and Alexander Rohlf

[Killing Prescriptions Softly: Low Emission Zones and Child Health from Birth to School](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy: Vol. 16 No. 2 May 2024

We examine the persistence of the impact of early-life exposure to air pollution on children's health from birth to school enrollment using administrative public health insurance records covering one-third of all children in Germany. For identification, we exploit air quality improvements caused by Low Emission Zones, a policy imposing driving restrictions on emission-intensive vehicles. Our results indicate that children exposed to cleaner air in utero and their first year of life require less medication for at least five years. The initially latent health response materializes only gradually, leaving important but subtle health benefits undetected in common measures of infant health.