



नीति आयोग

NITI AAYOG



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AGRICULTURE

1. Surya Bhushan and Arvind Kumar Jha

[Sources of Agricultural Productivity Growth: A District-level Study from Eastern India](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 45, 08 Nov, 2025](#)

Investigating the drivers of agricultural total factor productivity growth at the district level within the seven eastern Indian states—eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and West Bengal—for 2000–21, the paper employs multiple methods—the stochastic frontier model, the Törnqvist-Theil index, and the Malmquist productivity index—to ensure the robustness of its TFP estimates, all of which yield consistent trends. The Kernel density estimation reveals a divergence in output per worker, evidenced by a shift from a unimodal to a bimodal distribution.

2. Sourindra Mohan Ghosh and Nivedita Sharma

[Caste and Agricultural Income Disparity in India](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 47, 22 Nov, 2025](#)

Data from the 77th round of the National Sample Survey highlights the plight of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers, who experience lower agricultural returns due to limited irrigation, institutional inputs, and economic constraints. SC farmers face even lower net returns than the ST farmers due to higher production costs, driven by systemic caste-based discrimination and economic marginalisation.

3. Azad P and Fahmida M V

[The Paradox of Agricultural Land Allocation: Impact on Household Expenditure and Economic Vulnerability in India](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 47, 22 Nov, 2025](#)

Employing instrumental variable regression models, the study uncovers a striking paradox: households with agricultural land allocation show a significant decrease in monthly per capita expenditure compared to those without land, indicating that greater agricultural involvement may actually lead to lower consumption and increased economic vulnerability. We conceptualise this outcome as the farming-led vulnerability hypothesis—the idea that, under prevailing structural and institutional constraints, agricultural engagement may heighten rather than reduce economic

insecurity. These findings challenge the conventional view that increased agricultural involvement inherently enhances household welfare, and call for a critical rethinking of agrarian development strategies in India.

4. Praveen Jha and Manish Kumar

[Agricultural Diversification in India: Some Reflections and Current Discourse](#)

EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 48, 29 Nov, 2025

Most studies on agricultural diversification are bound to create the very problems they aim to address. The claim that diversification, whether within or beyond agriculture, is an economic panacea in itself is seriously flawed. Furthermore, many conceptual constructs, such as value or high value, that dominate mainstream economic discourse are based on shaky foundations. Ultimately, any serious policymaking on appropriate strategies for structural and sustainable economic transformation cannot be a piecemeal exercise. Therefore, lessons related to economic–structural and agroecological contextualisation must be at the forefront, drawing our attention to the centrality of the overall macroeconomic policy regime.

ECONOMICS

5. Ramgopal Kundurthi and Siva Reddy Kalluru

[Climate Change, Agriculture and Monetary Policy Design in India](#)

EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 47, 22 Nov, 2025

Existing research on climate change and monetary policy spans over two strands—regulator-driven green monetary/credit policy and the constraints on the conduct of conventional monetary policy. In view of the dominance of food inflation on the consumer price index in India, the need for food security, and the structural rigidities in the agriculture sector, the linkages between climate change and the agriculture sector assume critical importance. The paper models agricultural production upon the important climate variables and observes statistically significant results. Given the vulnerability of agriculture, monetary policy in India needs to be redesigned in favour of incomes as the first priority, as against inflation targeting. This implies a nuanced handling of an integrated macro framework with green credit policy, long-term agricultural reform, and welfare economics.

6. Divya Choudhary and Renjith Ramachandran

[Nature of Operation and Access to Finance: Evidence from Indian Agricultural Enterprises](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 47, 22 Nov, 2025](#)

Existing literature highlights various firm-level characteristics as the plausible determinants of access to finance; however, they are confined to the experience of the manufacturing sector. Given this backdrop, we explore and analyse the nexus between the nature of operation and access to finance of agricultural enterprises. Using the Sixth Economic Census of India, and applying a probit model, our findings suggest that seasonal agricultural enterprises have a significantly greater likelihood of obtaining finance than perennial ones. The findings highlight the significance of access to finance in strengthening financial infrastructure and addressing inequalities within the agricultural sector in India.

7. Sebastian Blesse, Florian Buhlmann and Philipp Doerrenberg

[I'm a taxpayer get me out of here? Evidence on attitudes towards simplifying the tax jungle](#)

[ECONOMICA, 08 November 2025](#)

Why are tax systems complex despite a conventional wisdom that simplification is desirable? We study attitudes towards tax simplification using new survey and experimental data. We first document that most respondents generally desire tax simplification. Using various survey techniques (including survey experiments and open-ended questions), we show that people are not fully aware of the objectives, implications and trade-offs involved in tax simplification. Overall, our findings suggest that people generally support tax simplification, but have preferences to keep certain complexity-adding elements of the tax system, particularly those that compensate for circumstances (rather than choices). Our results imply that tax complexity is generally not desired *per se*, but potentially arises as an unintended consequence of many individually demanded tax expenditures.

EDUCATION

8. Richa Govil

[Higher Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 45, 08 Nov, 2025](#)

Drawing on recent surveys, institutional responses, and emerging evidence from neuroscience, it is clear that the impact of artificial intelligence on learning depends less on the technology itself than on how it is used. Judicious engagement with AI can scaffold learning, enhance accessibility, and cultivate new literacies, while indiscriminate reliance risks cognitive offloading, demotivation, and a loss of critical thinking. Similar risks exist for faculty, for whom over-reliance on AI may lead to deskilling and reduced pedagogical depth.

9. H S Shylendra

[A Specialized University for the Cooperative Sector: Can It Make a Difference?](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 47, 22 Nov, 2025](#)

As a special purpose university, the Tribhuvan Sahkari University can succeed by comprehensively and innovatively matching its activities with the needs of cooperatives and engaging with them actively to realise common goals.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

10. Vaibhav Anand

[Does Getting Forecasts Earlier Matter? Evidence from Winter Advisories and Vehicle Crashes](#)

[American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 17, No. 4, November 2025.](#)

Significant investments are directed toward improving the accuracy and early availability of forecasts. However, the value of longer lead times on forecasts is unclear. Using data on winter weather advisories and vehicle crashes in the United States, I show that advisories with longer lead times reduce crashes, even when they are less accurate than advisories with shorter lead times. Further, marginal benefits do not decrease with lead time. The benefits come from individual and institutional responses. When advisories arrive earlier, people visit fewer places, and snowplow crews intensify the road maintenance operations. These results have policy implications for providing effective forecasts.

11. Phulmoni Das and Robin Hazarika

[Kaziranga National Park and Kajir Ronghangpi: Reclaiming Karbi Narratives](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 48, 29 Nov, 2025](#)

While Kaziranga is globally celebrated as a symbol of successful wildlife conservation, particularly for the endangered one-horned rhinoceros, its history is also marked by the marginalisation and dispossession of local indigenous communities. Among them, the Karbis of Assam claim ancestral ties to the land, asserting that the park derives its name from Kajir Ronghangpi, a Karbi woman whose story has been preserved through oral traditions but excluded from mainstream conservation discourse and official historiography. The article argues that people mobilise the cultural myths to resist dispossession and reassert indigenous identity in the face of narrowly defined development projects.

12. Monica Jaison and Althaf Shajahan

[Beyond Human-made Boundaries: Towards Airshed-level Pollution Mitigation Strategies for India](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 45, 08 Nov, 2025](#)

Strategies for mitigating air pollution in India primarily operate at the national, state, or municipal levels. Citing the inefficacy of such policies that presume air pollution adheres to administrative boundaries, this paper advocates airshed-level pollution mitigation measures and defines airsheds following the Köppen–Geiger climate classification. It is found that these airsheds exhibit significant heterogeneity in pollution levels and have different physical geography-pollution causal mechanisms. Given the heterogeneity in the climatic pollution causal mechanisms among the airsheds, it would be advisable to develop pollution mitigation plans and establish autonomous authorities specific to each airshed, rather than adopting a uniform policy for the entire state.

FINANCE/BANKING

13. Jósef Sigurdsson

[Labor Supply Responses and Adjustment Frictions: A Tax-Free Year in Iceland](#)

[American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol.17, No.4, November 2025](#)

Labor income earned in Iceland in 1987 went untaxed. I use this episode to study labor supply responses to temporary wage changes. Using a population-wide dataset of earnings and working time and two identification strategies, I estimate intensive and extensive margin Frisch

elasticities of 0.4 and 0.09, respectively. Workers with the ability to adjust drive these average responses: extensive margin by young and close-to-retirement cohorts and intensive margin responses by workers in temporally flexible jobs, though secondary jobs contribute to one-tenth of the response. The results suggest that adjustment frictions may similarly explain differences in elasticities within and across countries.

14. Surbhi Kesar

[The Politics of Data](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 48, 29 Nov, 2025](#)

The politics of data operates not only in the misuse of numbers but also in the categories through which information is organised and the analytical frameworks through which it is interpreted. Even when measured “correctly”—or at least seemingly well—data categories are not neutral. Each category carries normative judgments and opens up debates about what it captures and what it excludes. Recent approaches to empirics in economics, which are institutionally incentivised, reshape the public function of data in developing economies.

15. Tian Qiu

[Public Financing and Racial Disparities: Does a Rising Tide Always Lift All Boats?](#)

[American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 17, No. 4, November 2025](#)

This paper studies the heterogeneous impact of local government spending across racial groups. An exogenous increase in spending results in significant improvement in White, but not Black or Hispanic, labor market outcomes such as employment rate, weekly hours worked, and labor income. These effects on adults translate into their children's academic performance. White students show significant improvement in test scores, but Black or Hispanic students do not. Consequently, the achievement racial gap widens following an increase in local government spending. These results highlight the possibility that an increase in local government spending could unexpectedly increase intergenerational racial disparity.

HEALTH

16. Sundeep Sahay, Amit Mishra, Paul Kattuman, Ole Hanseth and Vidya Sanap

[Complex Systems and Public Health Information Systems: Insights from India's National Health Information Architecture](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 47, 22 Nov, 2025](#)

Many low- and middle-income countries are actively strengthening their National Health Information Architectures to keep pace with ever-evolving health data and integration needs. As these systems are large and complex, embedded in diverse socio-technical and political contexts, their evolution often comes with emergent properties and unintended consequences. Through a complex-systems lens, this article examines the Indian NHIA as it evolved over the past 15 years. While the information infrastructure has expanded explosively, persistent and growing fragmentation has hindered the use of data to generate actionable insights on health outcomes.

17. Eric Chyn and Na'ama Shenhav

[Place Effects and Geographic Inequality in Health at Birth](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol.17, No.4, November 2025

This paper uses birth records and mothers who move to quantify the absolute and relative importance of birth location for early-life health. Using a model that includes mother and location fixed effects, we find that moving from a below- to an above-median-birth-weight location leads to important improvements in child birth weight, with comparable magnitudes to policies targeting maternal health. Place effects are larger for longer-distance moves and more influential for children of non-college-educated mothers. We find that pollution is the strongest predictor of place effects on infant health.

18. Pablo Muñoz and Cristóbal Otero

[Managers and Public Hospital Performance](#)

American Economic Review, Vol.115, No.11, November 2025

We study whether the quality of managers can affect public service provision in the context of public health. Using novel data from public hospitals in Chile, we show how the introduction of a competitive recruitment system and better pay for public hospital CEOs reduced hospital mortality by 8 percent. The effect is not explained by a change in patient composition. We find that the policy changed the pool of CEOs by displacing doctors with no management training in favor of CEOs who had studied management. Productivity improvements were driven by hospitals that recruited higher quality CEOs.

LAW AND SOCIETY

19. Meha Dixit

[The Abrogation of Article 370 and Its Aftermath in Ladakh's Border Regions](#)

EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 46, 15 Nov, 2025

After the abrogation of Article 370 and the subsequent bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into the union territories of J&K and Ladakh, only the former was provided with limited legislative powers. For over four years, Ladakh has witnessed protests demanding statehood and constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule. Based on field research, this paper attempts to offer insights into how residents of Ladakh view issues of autonomy and revocation of special status for the region.

20. Durga P Chhetri and Mary Bal

[A Constituency without a Map: The Sangha and the Politics of Contemporary Sikkim](#)

EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 47, 22 Nov, 2025

The participation of Buddhist monks in electoral politics in Sikkim—through Article 371F of the Constitution, which allows one seat in the 32-member Sikkim assembly to be reserved only for members of the sangha—is analysed. Buddhist monks have actively participated in the electoral politics of the state, and this unique constitutional arrangement indicates that the boundaries between secular and religious are not clearly demarcated.

21. Angad Singh Ahuja

[Beyond Heteronormativity in Indian Family Law](#)

EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 47, 22 Nov, 2025

The constitutional potential for recognising queer chosen families in India has had a complex trajectory. Tracing the evolution of jurisprudence from *Naz Foundation v Govt of NCT of Delhi* (2009) to the Madras High Court decision in 2025, it argues that the rights to dignity, equality, and association under Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21 provide a legal basis for protecting

non-normative kinship. Drawing on feminist and queer theory, the article critiques the law's continued attachment to heteronormative family forms and calls for a shift from individual rights to relational recognition.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

22. Octavio Martínez-Baltodano, Ranjeeva Ranjan, and Kumar Sudheer Raj

[Thresholds of Exclusion: How Restrictions on AI Capital Perpetuate Global Productivity Gaps and Asymmetric Innovation](#)

[Foreign Trade Review November 18, 2025](#)

This article examines the long-run economic implications of export restrictions on advanced AI hardware, focusing on their role in reinforcing global inequality and technological divergence. While such restrictions are implemented to protect national security and sustain domestic technological leadership, our analysis demonstrates that they inadvertently hinder the diffusion of critical AI inputs in foreign economies. Using a dynamic two-country model, we capture the interplay between domestic supply constraints, technology transfer and market price dynamics. Our findings reveal that stringent export controls not only slow down the rate of technology accumulation in recipient countries but also elevate input prices, further suppressing productivity and deepening output disparities. The model identifies a threshold level of export openness necessary for foreign economies to catch up with advanced nations. These results contribute to the existing literature and provide important policy insights regarding the trade-offs between national security objectives and the promotion of global economic convergence.

RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

23. R V Ramanamurthy

[Village Transformation in Tamil Nadu](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 48, 29 Nov, 2025](#)

The book, *Economic Change in the Lower Cauvery Delta: A Study of Palakurichi and Venmani*, edited by Madhura Swaminathan, V Surjit and V K Ramachandran, is the third in the series of comprehensive village studies by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS). This time, the studies are on two villages of Tamil Nadu, namely, Palakurichi and Venmani, in

Nagapattinam district. The advantage of studying one of these villages, namely Palakurichi, is that it belongs to the group known as the “Slater studies,” visited first by Gilbert Slater, of Madras University, in 1916. This village is subsequently resurveyed by some of his students, such as Thomas and Ramakrishnan in 1938, Rajulu in 1948, Margaret Haswell in 1964, and by others, such as S Guhan in 1983, V Surjit in 2014 and FAS team in 2019. In total, six studies are available that track the development in this village and the agrarian change. The second village of Venmani is also important for the infamous massacre of Dalits by the upper caste landlords in 1968. The survey is useful to see the socio-economic change in the village.

24. R S Ganapathy

[From 50 Years Ago: Design and Implementation of Urban Information Systems](#)

[EPW, Vol. 60, Issue No. 45, 08 Nov, 2025](#)

In 1885, Lord Ripon, Viceroy of India, introduced local self-government for Indian municipalities. We have come a long way from that time. However, the democratisation of local government has received a serious setback in recent times. The elected body of councillors or sometimes even the municipal corporation itself has been superseded in most of the major Indian cities. Many of these cities are run by civil servants appointed as administrators. While the functions and responsibilities have increased manifold, the city government’s ability to raise funds has been severely crippled. Artificially low property taxes, restrictive rent acts, inability to attract the right type of personnel, inefficiency and corruption have resulted in making municipal administrations sickly. The state governments, to increase then their own control over influential and wealthy cities, have actively encouraged this trend. The apathy of the urban citizens has