



नीति आयोग
NITI AAYOG



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AGRICULTURE

1) [Structural Transformation in Agricultural Employment/Aamir Ahmad Teeli
Ch Sankar Rao](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 30, 25 July, 2026

After being relatively stable till the 1980s, India witnessed a significant structural shift during the post-reform period. Using annual time series data from 1991 to 2022, structural transformation in India is examined with a focus on gender disparities in employment transitions from the agriculture sector. The findings reveal that India witnessed a workforce movement—from agriculture to industry and services—a symbol of the country’s economic progress. However, the process of change was not equal for men and women. Women continued to be disproportionately concentrated in agriculture, even though male employment in agriculture fell rapidly. The paper highlights the need for specific policies to support more inclusive and gender-equitable labour market outcomes of economic growth.

2) [The Dynamic Effects of Cash Transfers to Agricultural Households/Shilpa
Aggarwal, Jenny C. Aker, Dahyeon Jeong, Naresh Kumar, David Sungho
Park, Jonathan Robinson, & Alan Spearot](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics vol. 18, no. 3, July 2026

Little is known about the evolution and persistence of the effects of one-time cash transfers, especially in rural agricultural settings with limited productive investment opportunities. We use bimonthly phone surveys to estimate dynamic impacts for cash transfer recipients in Liberia and Malawi. We find immediate increases in food security that attenuate over time but do not entirely dissipate even 1.5–2 years later, driven by increased farm investments and production. We find increases in farm profits, reductions in casual off-farm labor, improvements in psychological well-being, and, in Liberia, a reduction in intimate partner violence (IPV).

ECONOMICS

3) Demystifying Employment and Growth Patterns in India's Service Sector/Balakrushna Padhi & Suman Rani

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 28, 11 July, 2026

This paper examines the evolution of service-sector growth and employment across Indian states during three decades of economic reforms. Using data from the Employment–Unemployment Survey, Periodic Labour Force Surveys, and gross value added estimates, it analyses interstate variations in service-sector output and employment performance. The findings show that service-sector output has grown faster than employment, resulting in low employment elasticity. Growth has been driven largely by capital-intensive activities, limiting job creation. Significant interstate disparities persist in both output and employment outcomes. Fixed-effects estimates of labour productivity in the service-sector underscore the need for state-specific strategies to promote inclusive service-sector growth and employment generation.

4) Uttar Pradesh Economy: Slow Growth and Structural Retrogression Continues/Ajit Kumar Singh

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 26-27, Jun 27 & Jul 4, 2026

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Uttar Pradesh (UP) completed nine years in power in March 2026. While the government has been making tall claims about the economic performance of the state under the current regime, a closer scrutiny shows otherwise. Newspaper advertisements of the government claim—without citing any source—that the per capita income of the state increased from ₹46,000 to ₹1,24,000 between 2017 and 2025, that is, by 270%—a highly exaggerated figure. The actual figures at current prices, according to official estimates, were ₹52,671 in 2016–17 and ₹93,514 in 2023–24, giving an increase of only 77.5% (Economics and Statistics Division 2025). At 2011–12 constant prices, the increase in per capita income was from ₹40,847 in 2016–17 to ₹50,875 in 2023–24, a growth of 24.5% in seven years, giving an annual growth of only 3.2%.

5) [**Decentralizing Development: The Economic Impacts of Government Splits/Ricardo Dahis & Christiane Szerman**](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, vol. 18, no. 3, July 2026

Many countries have changed their political boundaries over the last 30 years to devolve power to local governments, and more countries are likely to follow suit (Grossman and Lewis 2014). A large theoretical literature has explored various implications of redistricting for economic development. Proponents argue that the creation of smaller government units encourages competition in the provision of public goods (Tiebout 1956), policies tailored to local preferences (Oates 1972), and better monitoring of local governments (Besley and Case 1995). Critics posit that this process leads to the proliferation of new government units that are susceptible to capture by special interests and may not be able to fund their operations (Boffa, Piolatto, and Ponzetto 2016). This trade-off could be exacerbated if these new government units are too small to self-finance and require subsidies from the rest of the country to cover their expenses (Alesina and Spolaore 1997). This paper examines this issue by assessing the long-run impacts of a large redistricting episode through the creation of new local governments.

6) [**Economic Theory after Garegnani/Alex M Thomas**](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 29, 18 Jul, 2026

Intellectual progress happens in economic theory due to debates, critiques, reformulations, and restatements both within and between paradigms. Such scholarly engagements may be theoretical and/or empirical in nature. Pierangelo Garegnani's (1930–2011) contributions lie in the realm of pure theory—a constructive critique of classical economics via the synthesis of Piero Sraffa's value theory and the Keynesian principle of effective demand and a destructive critique of marginalist economics via the logical exploration of the complications brought about by the measurement of capital in Léon Walras's general equilibrium, Paul Samuelson's aggregate production function, John Hicks's temporary equilibrium, and Frank Hahn's intertemporal equilibrium. Both these critiques entailed the clarification of the theoretical context, framework, and questions these economists were grappling with. His constructive critique of J M Keynes's principle of effective demand has been one of the main inspirations

behind the now popular demand-led growth theory research programme with a flourishing of empirical studies.

7) **Nobel Lecture: The Economics of Creative Destruction/Philippe Aghion**

American Economic Review, Vol. 116, No. 7, July 2026

The expression “creative destruction” was coined by Joseph Schumpeter to describe the process whereby new innovations displace old technologies. Schumpeter himself would acknowledge a filiation with Karl Marx, and more precisely with the third volume of *Das Kapital*. In this book Marx already introduced the notion of obsolescence, along with the idea that firms needed to innovate in order to overcome the “tendency of the profit rate to fall.”¹ Yet, Schumpeter (1942) made a big step forward by spelling out the concept of creative destruction and by positing creative destruction as the main driver of economic growth. However, in my student years, the dominant theory of economic growth taught in our graduate macro class was the neoclassical model, where growth was a process based on capital accumulation. The most elegant version of the neoclassical model was developed in 1956 by Robert Solow, whose work was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1987. The simplicity and the elegance of Solow’s model would make it the necessary starting point of any course on economic growth.

EDUCATION

8) **Dependent Federalism: Implementing National Education Policy 2020 in Meghalaya/ Batskhem Myrboh & Airpeace Well Rani**

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 26-27, Jun 27 & Jul 4, 2026

Education in India has undergone significant policy changes since independence, effected by national educational policies adopted by the union at different stages. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is the latest of such policies. It claims to structurally change education in India by aligning it with technological, economic, and ecological global realities with a firm footing on what has been described as “Indian values and heritage” (Ministry of Human Resource Development nd). However, the NEP 2020 has been embroiled in controversies. It was adopted when the nation was grappling with the COVID-19 lockdown. The most controversial

features are its scope for centralisation of power that affects the federal structure of the country and its pursuit of Hindutva ideology. While the states under governments in opposition, such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka,¹ largely rejected the policy, if not wholly, those under the rule of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), proclaimed it as a game changer.

9) [University Research and the Market for Higher Education/Titan Alon, Damien Capelle & Kazushige Matsuda](#)

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, vol. 18, no. 3, July 2026

The modern research university is a unique and complex institution. While primarily focused on higher education, universities also contribute to the advancement of knowledge through investment in research. Between 2000 and 2018, universities in the United States accounted for 13 percent of aggregate spending on research and development (R&D) and 53 percent of all spending on basic scientific research. Discoveries arising from university research contribute to innovation in nearly every field of science and have given rise to numerous general purpose technologies that drive long-run growth. The coincidence of education and research within the university has multiple historical and economic roots which have been analyzed in the literature. Early American universities—especially land grant colleges—were established explicitly to provide training and conduct research that would benefit their local economy. During World War II, the federal government drastically increased funding for university research to support the war effort. The success of these wartime partnerships gave rise to the modern system of publicly funded university research.

10) [Order Effects and Teacher Labor Supply: A Nationwide RCT in: Ecuador/Nicolás Ajzenman, Gregory Elacqua, Luana Marotta & Anne Sofie Olsen](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Vol. 18, No. 3, July 2026

Public education plays a crucial role in ensuring equal opportunities for students from different socioeconomic backgrounds. However, a widespread problem in many countries that often jeopardizes this goal is teacher sorting (Jackson 2009; Lankford, Loeb, and Wyckoff 2002;

Boyd, Lankford, Loeb, and Wyckoff 2013; Pop-Eleches and Urquiola 2013). This issue arises when low-income students are more likely to attend hard-to-staff schools with less qualified teachers. Teachers are a crucial input in the education production function (Rivkin, Hanushek, and Kain 2005), and their impact is typically larger for lower-income students (Araujo, Carneiro, Cruz-Aguayo, and Schady 2016). Consequently, the lack of high-quality instructors in more vulnerable areas has serious implications for equity, as teacher sorting exacerbates potential achievement gaps. In Ecuador, the context of this paper, only 4.1 percent of the schools in high-income districts are hard to staff, compared to 76.1 percent in the poorest districts. Consistent with this finding, the number of applications per vacancy is more than 30 percent higher in the richest schools than in the poorest schools.

11) [Elementary Education at the Margins/Poonam Batra](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 30, 25 Jul, 2026

Evidence from pay commission trends, teacher education capacity, and institutional arrangements demonstrates a persistent misalignment between the policy emphasis on foundational learning and the organisation of teacher education systems. Elementary teaching is systematically positioned as a low-status, transitional stage rather than a specialised professional domain within a hierarchical system that disprivileges primary teaching. Empirical analysis highlights skewed teacher education capacity towards secondary education, the proliferation of low-quality private institutions, and growing contractualisation, all of which undermine professional identity and stability at the primary level.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

12) [Climate change and migration/Tyler Smith](#)

American Economic Review, July 15, 2026

During the Great Recession, migration from Mexico to the United States began to fall, a pattern economists attributed to weaker job prospects and tightening immigration enforcement. Migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, however, did not follow suit. Even as the pull of the American economy faded, the flow from the Northern Triangle kept rising. For economist Andrea Velásquez that divergence presented a puzzle. "We see that the pull factors are

tightening, and we see a response in Mexico, but we don't see that response in the Northern Triangle," she said in an interview with the AEA. "What are the push factors?" In a paper in the American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Velásquez and coauthors Ana Maria Ibáñez, Juliana Quigua, and Maria Jimena Romero show that extreme heat damaged El Salvador's corn harvest, eliminating farm jobs, and prompting workers to migrate abroad with support from large migrant networks in the United States, where more than a quarter of Salvadorans now live.

13) [**Filling the Legislative Gaps: India's Preparedness to Implement the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies/Manish Gupta**](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 19, 09 May, 2026

The first part of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS), successfully negotiated at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in June 2022 (WTO 2022), entered into force on 15 September 2025 (WTO 2025). This is the WTO's first sustainability-focused agreement, incorporated under Annex 1A of the WTO framework (WTO 2025a). The AFS implements the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.6, which aims to prohibit harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and over-fishing, and to eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing. The AFS introduces three core disciplines: (i) prohibition of subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing; (ii) prohibition of subsidies for fishing overfished stocks; and (iii) prohibition of subsidies for fishing in the unregulated high seas. Negotiations to expand these rules to include disciplines on fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing are ongoing at the WTO under the "Fish 2" negotiations.

14) [**A Welfare Analysis of Policies Impacting Climate Change/Robert W. Hahn, Nathaniel Hendren, Robert D. Metcalfe & Ben Sprung-Keyser**](#)

American Economic Review, vol. 116, no. 7, July 2026

We study the welfare impacts of 96 climate-related tax and spending policies. We extend and apply the marginal value of public funds (MVPF) framework, most notably providing a new method for incorporating learning-by-doing spillovers. We find subsidies for the production of clean energy (such as wind production tax credits) have higher MVPFs than all other subsidies in

our sample, including EV subsidies. Conservation nudges have large MVPFs when targeting regions with dirty grids. Fuel taxes and cap-and-trade policies are highly efficient means of raising revenue. We also construct traditional cost-per-ton estimates and compare and contrast the lessons they provide. What are the best ways to address climate change? There is a robust and growing literature that helps shed light on this issue by examining the causal effects of climate-related policy changes. These papers often assess the effectiveness of policies by measuring the cost per ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) abated.

FINANCE/BANKING

15) **[Central Banks as Dollar Lenders of Last Resort: Implications for Regulation and Reserve Holdings/Mitali Das, Gita Gopinath, Helene Hall, Taehoon Kim & Jeremy C. Stein](#)**

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, Vol. 18, No. 3, July 2026

We explore how foreign central banks behave when firms engage in currency mismatch, borrowing heavily in dollars. A central bank can deal with risky private-sector mismatch in two ways: (i) with financial regulation or (ii) by accumulating reserves to better serve as a dollar lender of last resort. We highlight a novel externality: Individual central banks may overaccumulate dollar reserves, as this exacerbates a global scarcity of dollar-denominated assets, lowering dollar interest rates and encouraging firms to further increase their currency mismatch. Relative to the decentralized outcome, a global planner may prefer tighter financial regulation and reduced holdings of dollar reserves. Central banks around the world hold large balances of foreign currency reserves, with the US dollar accounting for the dominant share of these reserves at about 59 percent of the total. In the aggregate, foreign official accounts held \$6.2 trillion of dollar securities in April 2024, with \$3.78 trillion of this in the form of US Treasury securities.

16) **[Deciphering Federal Reserve Communication via: Text Analysis of Alternative FOMC Statements/Taeyoung Doh, Dongho Song, & Shu-Kuei Yang](#)**

American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, Vol. 18, No. 3, July 2026

Central banks increasingly turn to public communications as a tool for shaping policy actions. Public communication—particularly forward guidance—has gained prominence, especially

when interest rates are constrained by the effective lower bound (e.g., Woodford 2005; Blinder et al. 2008; elaborated upon by Bernanke 2010). In this context both the decisions central banks make—such as setting interest rates or adjusting asset purchases—and their explanations of these decisions are crucial to understanding how monetary policy operates. While recent work has made progress in treating central bank statements as data, challenges remain in interpreting their textual content. Policy statements are rich in both qualitative commentary and quantitative information, blending economic assessments with explicit actions. Subtle phrasing—such as how risks are characterized or rate guidance is expressed—can shift market expectations, and its effect often depends on context. For example, “gradual rate hikes” may appear hawkish when paired with a downgraded outlook, or dovish when the outlook is upgraded.

17) [**Informal Sector, Financial Inclusion, and Role of Digitalisation/ K Chandra Shekar & Shagishna K**](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 29, 18 Jul, 2026

The informal sector is central to developing economies but remains constrained by limited financial inclusion. This paper examines the determinants of digitalisation and its effects on financial inclusion among informal enterprises in Bangladesh, Ghana, and India. The findings show that digitalisation significantly improves access to credit, formal banking, and digital savings across all three countries. By expanding access to essential financial services, digitalisation strengthens the sustainability and growth prospects of informal enterprises, highlighting its potential to bridge the financial inclusion gap in the informal sector.

HEALTH

18) [**From 50 Years Ago: Health Care Delivery System: A Comment/ Roger Jefferey**](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 28, 11 Jul, 2026

However, to abandon the government sector is to abandon the mass of the rural population, for voluntary schemes and piecemeal programmes can never cover more than a fraction of the population. The involvement of the state seems to be unavoidable. Where, then, are the weak points in the system? Where can it be attacked? Obviously an appeal to the fate of the rural poor

has some effect: the embarrassment of the medical profession at its failure to deliver the goods has stimulated some willingness to accept regulation. But the fact is that although academics have suggested that there has been some shift of political power to rural areas, there is no interest group which articulates their demand for better protection and promotion of their health, nobody who can be relied upon to voice indignation when the wrong policies receive further support. Is there any place in the Indian political scene for concerned academics to fulfil this role? What I am suggesting, then, is a need for ‘middle-level’ analysis of what is feasible given the long-run goals which are widely understood.

19) [Public Health System Effectiveness and COVID-19 Fatality Rates/Hariprasad T & Anish T S](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 26-27, Jun 27 & Jul 4, 2026

The health and well-being of affected individuals are important host-related determinants of mortality in the epidemiological triangle model of infectious diseases. From a public health perspective, the age distribution of the population is an often-undercounted surrogate measure of many of these host factors, which can influence the mortality rate of these acute illnesses. Therefore, age standardisation of mortality statistics is used to make most of these territorial health indicators comparable and those comparisons more meaningful. Like many other infectious diseases, COVID-19 is fatal among older individuals (Verity et al 2020; Ferguson et al 2020; Oke and Heneghan 2020). The risk of hospitalisations, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions, and even mortality is shown to be higher among them. Hence, the COVID-19 fatality rate reported for any population is closely related to the proportion of older adults within that population.

20) [Health Vulnerabilities and Policy Invisibility of Older Adults in Rural India/Gautam Makwana & H Elizabeth](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 26-27, Jun 27 & Jul 4, 2026

India is undergoing a profound demographic transition, with projections indicating that by 2050, approximately 19% of the population will be aged 60 years and above (UNFPA 2021). This ageing trend coincides with the growing frequency and severity of climate-related hazards such

as extreme heatwaves, irregular monsoons, cyclones, and floods, many of which disproportionately affect rural regions. These overlapping phenomena—demographic ageing and environmental degradation—have created a convergence of vulnerabilities that remain inadequately addressed in the domains of public health and environmental policy. Older adults in rural India, in particular, are situated at the intersection of multiple systemic risks, including material deprivation, health service inaccessibility, and environmental exposure, which collectively exacerbate their marginalisation and precarity (HelpAge India 2020). Although the Government of India has initiated several programmes, such as the National Programme for the Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) and implemented disaster management protocols under the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), these policy instruments often overlook the specific needs of the ageing rural population.

21) Women's Health and the Silences of NFHS-6/Neha Tripathi & Aditi Nidhi

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 26-27, Jun 27 & Jul 4, 2026

The editorial, “Less Than Robust Family Health Report” (EPW, 13 June 2026), accurately identifies the significant omissions in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 factsheet. I wish to argue, however, that these silences are not random. Taken as a whole, these are an institutional pattern of invisibility of women's health that has direct implications for evidence-based policymaking. If indicators that disproportionately affect women disappear from the flagship national survey, it is women's bodies and health outcomes that bear the cost of that erasure. This is not incidental; this is “structural” invisibility. Women have been marginalised in Indian healthcare policy as reproductive subjects rather than rights holders as citizens of the Constitution. Public health discourse has been mostly preoccupied with maternal and child health, fertility control, and population stabilisation, thereby limiting women's health identity to a biological one. The discussion on women's health in India needs to move to the next level and acknowledge women as constitutional citizens whose health rights derive from fundamental rights read harmoniously with the directive principles of state policy, recognising women not merely as mothers or potential mothers, but as full constitutional subjects.

22) **Legislative Framework for Transparency in Monetary Policy: A Critical Study of India's Laws/ S Pramila Iyer & S Chandrachud**

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 28, 11 Jul, 2026

Transparency is a cornerstone of modern monetary governance. Central banks across the world are expected to conduct their policies in a manner that is open, predictable, and accountable. Transparency builds public trust and enhances policy credibility (Dincer and Eichengreen 2014). It ensures that markets and citizens understand the goals and reasoning behind monetary decisions, which in turn strengthens the link between policy intent and economic response (Geraats 2002). Over the past three decades, the global financial landscape has seen a deliberate shift towards transparent communication, following financial crises that revealed the risks of secrecy and the absence of public accountability. The demand for transparency grew after the Asian financial crisis of 1997 and the global financial crisis of 2008, when opacity in regulatory decisions and weak institutional accountability were identified as major contributors to instability (Blinder et al 2008).

23) **Faith, Privacy, and Abuse of Anti-conversion Laws/ Faizan Mustafa**

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 26-27, Jun 27 & Jul 4, 2026

On 17 October 2025, Justice J B Par-diwala (with Justice Manoj Misra) authored a historic 158-page judgment in *Rajendra Bihari Lal and Another v State of Uttar Pradesh and Another* (2025), quashing the first information reports (FIRs) in the most celebrated and much-hyped mass conversion of 90 people to Christianity in Uttar Pradesh (UP). These FIRs had been filed under the draconian Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021 against several people, including a vice chancellor, a Hindu musician who performed at the event, and two Hindu sweepers who were working in a Christian minority university, namely SHUATS University, Naini, UP. Interestingly, mass conversion was not a distinct offence under the UP Conversion Law of 2021.¹ The police diary of the completion of the investigation indicated that “none of the victims of the alleged conversion were traceable, and no incriminating documents were found from the Church in question” (Rajendra Bihari Lal [2025]: INSC, p 36).

24) **What Is a Family? / Alok Prasanna Kumar**

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 29, 18 Jul, 2026

Two recent petitions, one in the Bombay High Court (Statesman News Service 2026) and another in the Karnataka High Court,¹ have raised a very intriguing question of law—are same-sex partners, who have cohabited for a long period of time, “relatives” for the purposes of Section 56(2) of the Income Tax (IT) Act, 1961 (Gain 2026)? Under the IT Act, gifts from “relatives” are exempt from income tax in the hands of the person receiving this gift. For the purposes of Section 56(2), the term “relative” is specifically defined to include spouses, parents, siblings, grandparents, among others. This definition generally covers everyone who would otherwise be considered a “relative” in common parlance. However, it also excludes some who might be considered a “relative” in common parlance, namely cousins (children of aunts and uncles) or cousins of parents. The petitioners in both cases argue that they are being required to disclose and pay tax on a gift given by one to the other on the ground that they are not considered “spouses” by the IT Act (Plumber 2026). In the Bombay High Court, the IT department disputed the interpretation proposed by the same-sex couple in that case.

25) **Socio-economic Conditions, Mental Well-being and Work-related Challenges of Gig Workers/Amandeep Verma, Anupriya Yadav & Sandeep Kumar**

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 30, 25 Jul, 2026

The socio-economic conditions, mental well-being and work-related challenges of gig workers in Rewari and Mahendragarh, Haryana are examined. Based on primary data collected from 400 gig workers through face-to-face interviews, the paper employs the independent samples t-test, one-way analysis of variance, and principal component analysis. The findings reveal limited awareness of legal rights and social security, with migration patterns shaped by educational and employment opportunities. Gender, occupation, and work patterns significantly influence worker satisfaction. The paper highlights the need to strengthen education, social security, health insurance, and legal awareness to improve the welfare of gig workers. Today, the concept denotes a growing form of flexible work arrangement that has become an important feature of contemporary labour markets.

26) **Relationship between Rights and Duties: A New Juris(im)prudence/P Puneeth**

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 28, 11 Jul, 2026

It is apt to clarify at the outset that this piece is not about the Hohfeldian analysis of rights and their jural co-relatives. It is about the suggestion to make the performance of fundamental duties a necessary precondition for seeking the judicial enforcement of fundamental rights reserved by “We the people” in the Constitution. Making the fulfilment of fundamental duties a precondition for the exercise of fundamental rights may appear innocuous to one unfamiliar with constitutional law and jurisprudence. However, it actually requires a fundamental reconfiguration of the constitutional scheme, which is designed (like any other liberal constitution, or constitutions with certain liberal elements) to serve as an instrument in the hands of the people to control the government, and not vice versa. Those in support of granting fundamental rights only to those who have performed their fundamental duties, do not seem to have spared a moment on why the framers were particular about incorporating fundamental rights, but not fundamental duties into the Constitution at the time of its enactment; nor have they reflected on why most constitutions in the world have incorporated fundamental rights, but not fundamental duties. There are only a few constitutions in the world that have fundamental duties. The Constitution of the erstwhile USSR was the first one to do so as early as 1936.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

27) **Science, Power and the Future of Biotechnology/ Shyam Bhatia**

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 30, 25 July, 2026

From Innovation to Strategy: For much of the past half-century, biotechnology occupied a curious place in the public consciousness. It was at once immensely important and largely invisible. Patients might know the name of a medicine that saved their life, but few thought about the laboratories, supply chains, regulators, investors, and scientific institutions that made such treatments possible. Biotechnology remained largely the preserve of scientists, doctors, specialist investors, and policymakers. That changed dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic. Suddenly, vaccines, clinical trials, pharmaceutical manufacturing, supply chains, and regulatory approvals became matters of daily political debate. Governments competed for access

to medicines. Borders closed. Supply chains fractured. Public trust in science became a subject of fierce contention. Biotechnology moved from the margins of public policy to the centre of national strategy.

28) **From 50 Years Ago: Kerala: Science for Social Revolution/ K P Kannan**

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 26-27, Jun 27 & Jul 4, 2026

Science has seldom appeared in the agenda of any popular programme of action in our country. But a unique experiment in “taking science to the common man” has been going on in this part of the country for quite some time now. The most spectacular part of this experiment was the programme of organising of 3,000 science classes during January 1976 by the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad, “a forum for the development of science and scientific outlook and for social transformation”. At the end of the campaign, it was found that nearly 12,000 classes were conducted as against the 3,000 originally planned for. The themes of classes were (i) Nature, (ii) Society and (iii) Science. The first was intended to give a comprehensive idea about the interrelations of the various elements in nature, the relation between space, time and mass, and also the nature of the ‘dilemma’ prevailing on the frontiers of physics. The second theme dealt with historical development of social systems and the kind of problems in them which come in the way of fully harnessing the scientific and technological knowledge that mankind has accumulated over time.

RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

29) **Goan Modernity: Between Subalternity and Citizenship/Nawoo Varak**

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 26-27, Jun 27 & Jul 4, 2026

Jason Keith Fernandes’s book, *Citizenship in a Caste Polity: Religion, Language and Belonging in Goa*, is an important academic intervention that delineates the process of humiliation in the linguistic discourse of Goa. The conventional understanding of Nagari Konkani and Marathi as nationalist modernity and Romi Konkani as coloniality halts the process of civility in Goa. Modernity inherits a tendency to exclude more in favour of a few through the process of reduction, rejection, and exclusion (Guru 2009). Scribal elites shaped early modernity in India, contradicting regional histories of paradoxical continuities (O’Hanlon 2013). The book

constitutes an introduction and five chapters that explain the layers of hegemony and subalternity associated with languages in Goa through in-depth anthropological empiricism.

30) [**Structural Regression and Men's Labour Market Outcomes in India: Education Exit and the Rise of Unpaid Work/Rosa Abraham & Yasar Arafath**](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 26-27, June 27 & July 4, 2026

Recent scholarship has interpreted the increase in women's employment in India since 2017 as reflecting labour market distress and a reversal of structural transformation. While these studies have focused primarily on women, less attention has been paid to corresponding changes among men. Using unit-level data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey between 2017–18 and 2023–24, this paper documents two important shifts in the labour market participation of young men: a decline in educational participation and a rise in unpaid family work among graduates. The findings suggest that recent labour market changes among young men constitute another dimension of India's ongoing structural regression, reflecting a weakening of the transition from education into remunerative employment.

31) [**From 50 Years Ago: Population and Development/Jaganath Pathy**](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 30, 25 Jul, 2026

Malthus did not substantiate his argument, that the means of subsistence cannot grow as rapidly as the population, or that the latter has the tendency to outstrip the former. He considered mainly the limitation of land supply, and thought that this limitation is eternal and immutable. He failed to foresee the development of technology, extension of cultivable area, international trade, and potential of changing social organisations. In fact, he denied the human potential, and insisted that human intervention is powerless to withstand the inevitability of the nature. Thus, for him, the population problem is essentially one of balance between people and resources (mainly land). And, since population grows rapidly over the limited resources, poverty and underdevelopment would inevitably increase, corresponding to the demographic expansion. In this way, he not only

rationalised the existence of the poverty of the masses, but also urged that some (the poor) must perish when population presses beyond subsistence.

WATER RESOURCES

32) [Ghats or Riverfronts: Rethinking Nashik's Sinhashta Infrastructure along the Godavari/ Shilpa Dahake](#)

EPW, Vol. 61, Issue No. 29, 18 Jul, 2026

Historically, Nashik's river edge evolved as a fragmented network of kunds and localised access points shaped by the seasonal ecology of the Godavari and its basaltic terrain. The article examines how the vocabulary of the "ghat" is being invoked to frame the current projects as culturally continuous, even as their spatial and ecological logic mark a significant break from earlier relationships with the river. It argues that the ongoing transformation of the Godavari embodies a continuity and rupture, where sacred landscapes are retained symbolically while being materially reconfigured through contemporary infrastructural and political ambitions.