



नीति आयोग
NITI AAYOG



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Compiled By:

Mr. Kumar Sanjay, Director (Library)

Smt. Indira Rani, ALIO

Mr. Raj Kumar, LIA

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AGRICULTURE

1. Sachin Chaturvedi

[Agricultural Exports and Trade Policy Responses](#)

[EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 46, 16 Nov, 2024](#)

The global economy has been witnessing a continued rise in agricultural trade over the last two decades. There is a distinct shift towards demand for high-value processed agricultural products for consumption, with India's processed food imports rising more than 20 times between 2003 and 2023. The rise of intra-industry trade in processed agricultural products has been a central factor driving agricultural trade among countries of the global South, and particularly in India. Continued efforts are required for enhancing the share of processed food in the Indian export basket.

2. Bishwanath Goldar and Suresh Chand Aggarwal

[Women-owned Non-agricultural Enterprises Can Translate Recent Employment Surges into Faster Growth](#)

[EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 46, 16 Nov, 2024](#)

Employment increased by about 150 million between 2017–18 and 2023–24. About half of this increase in employment in six years is traceable to increased employment of rural female workers, most of whom are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Such workers also work in increasing numbers in manufacturing and other non-agricultural activities. Expanding non-agricultural enterprises in rural areas on a large scale, particularly women-owned ones, will go a long way in accelerating India's gross domestic product growth.

3. A Narayanamoorthy, K S Sujitha and R Suresh

[Why Do Indian Farmers Leave the Cultivation of Nutri-cereal Crops?](#)

[EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 47, 23 Nov, 2024](#)

In recent years, the Government of India has been trying to popularize Nutri-cereal crops through various policy measures such as increasing the minimum support price and changing the name of coarse cereals to Nutri-cereals. However, the analysis of data from the cost of cultivation survey

spanning 51 years (1971–72 to 2021–22), covering jowar, bajra, ragi and maize, reveals that farmers have not reaped any appreciable profit in terms of cost C2 in any of these crops. This is due to the increased cost of cultivation without a commensurate increase in the value of output.

CLIMATE

4. Pavittarbir Saggi

[Climate Change and Sustainable Development](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 46, 16 Nov, 2024

It was unclear what would happen in the ensuing United Nations (UN) climate summits when the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were approved in September 2015. The lack of a specific goal for reducing the rate of the global temperature rise is one of the reasons that SDG 13 calls for “urgent action to combat climate change and its consequences.”

There has never been any question about the enormity or urgency of the task. SDG 13 offers a fundamental blueprint for success: enact national climate policies, switch to renewable energy, boost resilience to climate-related risks and disasters, and direct international funding and assistance to the nations that need it the most. As the 2030 deadline draws near, each SDG is being assessed for progress. We are at the halfway point, and current talks emphasise that we need to move quickly to finish the job. It is possible that this year is the warmest on record, and scientists predict that next year could be much hotter.

ECONOMICS

5. Ashok Kumar Lahiri

[Economic Road Map for the North-eastern Region](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 44-45, 02 Nov, 2024

The north-eastern region of India has low per capita income despite a favourable land–man ratio, rich resource endowment, and a high potential for growth and development. The challenges are connectivity, location in a troubled neighborhood, and fractionalization and polarization of its population. An economic road map for the North East should include union government support in close partnership with the states to build physical infrastructure and upgrade connectivity, avoiding fiscal giveaways that fail to trigger self-sustained agglomeration economies, improving law and order, and governance, focusing on high-value, low-volume, local resource-based industries, promoting tourism, and harnessing the region’s hydropower potential.

6. Christophe Z Guilmoto and Himanshu

[Caste and Socio-economic Inequality in Bihar](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 47, 23 Nov, 2024

The absence of caste-level data has been a pressing issue in India, with the long-standing demand for a caste census emerging as a major political point in the 2024 general elections. This paper aims to provide an overview of the insights gained from the Bihar caste census and its implications for understanding caste and tribe inequality in the state. It will, in particular, show how broad administrative categories conceal the actual intensity of social disparities. The preliminary analysis confirms the presence of significant heterogeneities across individual communities as well as within the broad administrative categories. It also suggests that religion plays an important role in contributing to the inequality within administrative categories.

7. Sachin Chaturvedi

[Special Issue on Trade Policy, FTAs, and Value Chains](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 46, 16 Nov, 2024

In the recent past, two distinct trends have emerged in the global trade scenario. First, since the recession of 2008, technological disruption and value chains have been reshaping the global landscape of trade, providing a discernible impetus to global growth. Prior to that, trade grew at twice the rate of global gross domestic product (GDP), but since the financial crisis, that momentum has been stalled. In fact, in 2023, for the first time in history, merchandise trade contracted (-1.2%) despite global economic growth. Second, as reported by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2013), supply chains accounted for 80% of global trade. In the recent years, close to 70% of world trade has been in parts and components signifying intense interdependence at the sectoral level through production networks (World Bank 2017). Countries having free trade agreements (FTAs) emerged as great survivors with strong production networks.

8. Liang Guo

[Recovering the Anchoring of Economic Valuations](#)

[American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, Vol. 16, no. 4, November 2024](#)

We revisit the interpretation of the anchoring effect as evidence for nonexistent or arbitrary preferences. A theory of endogenous information acquisition (i.e., deliberation) is developed to rationalize the causal dependence of economic valuations on arbitrary anchor numbers. We identify theory-driven moderators to reconcile seemingly discrepant findings among original and follow-up anchoring experiments. We demonstrate in a meta-analysis that the anchoring effect may be systematically moderated by unintended experimental/individual differences. Moreover, apparent replication failure of the anchoring effect may be a false negative for self-countervailing treatment effects, because an anchoring treatment may cast opposite effects on different subjects within an experiment.

9. [B A Prakash](#)

[Persistent Backwardness of the Rural Economy](#)

[EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 46, 16 Nov, 2024](#)

The most serious development challenge facing the Indian economy has been the persistent backwardness of the rural economy, including poor living conditions, low-income earnings of workers, high incidence of poverty, and economic distress of marginal farmers, agricultural workers and the landless. According to the 2011 Census, 68.85% of India's population lived in rural areas. It is projected that even in 2045, the rural population will be more than half of the country's total population (UN 2012). Though the union and state governments have taken numerous steps to address the backwardness of the rural economy, they have not been of much success. In this context, the article examines the issues plaguing the rural economy and the measures required to address them.

EDUCATION

10. [Sidra Fariah](#)

[Growing Landscape of Children's Literature in India](#)

[EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 48, 30 Nov, 2024](#)

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous children's authors and illustrators in India wrote books focusing on promoting safety and providing guidance on protecting oneself from COVID-19. Titles such as *The Novel Coronavirus: We Can Stay Safe* (2020), *Kovynintee: Divya Gets Battle-ready* (2020), and *Farmer Falgu Stays at Home* (2020) come to mind. One remarkable picture book I read was *Jamlo Walks* (2021) by Samina Mishra and Tarique Aziz. This book reflects the life story of 12-year-old Jamlo Makdam, who comes from a disadvantaged rural background and labours on a chilli farm far from her home. Her story is interwoven with the experiences of other child characters Tara, Rahul, and Aamir, from middle-class urban families as they navigate life during the COVID-19 pandemic in India. *Jamlo Walks* validates the experiences of children who embarked on arduous journeys, braving hundreds of kilometers with their families or even alone, in their attempt to return home when faced with a sudden and severe nationwide lockdown.

11. Michael Amior

[Education and Geographical Mobility: The Role of the Job Surplus](#)

[American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 16, no. 4, November 2024](#)

Better educated workers accept many more long-distance job offers, and relocate quicker following local shocks. I attribute this to a fundamental feature of their labor market experience, unrelated to geography: large returns to job match quality. If a good offer happens to originate from far away, the match surplus is then more likely to justify the cost of moving. This "lubricates" labor markets spatially. Using wage transition data (and a jobs ladder model), I show this can explain the bulk of mobility differentials. These differentials can be closed by subsidizing long-distance matches, and I quantify the cost of doing so.

12. Rebecca Brough, David C. Phillips and Patrick S. Turner

[High Schools Tailored to Adults Can Help Them Complete a Traditional Diploma and Excel in the Labor Market](#)

[American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 16, no. 4, November 2024](#)

Over 18 million adults in the United States lack a high school credential. While some go on to attain the GED, diplomas are potentially more valuable. A network of high schools helps adults graduate by providing tailored curricula, nonacademic coaching, onsite child care, and

transportation. After five years, earnings increase by 38 percent more for graduates than nonenrolling applicants. We address selection by conditioning on preapplication earnings and comparing to students who exit after positive shocks. Much of the wage gains can be accounted for by sectoral switching and evidence on credential completions is consistent with a human capital mechanism.

FINANCE & BANKING

13. Chandra S Nuthalapati, Ashok K Mishra, Prabhu Pingali and Thomas Reardon

[Determinants and Income Effects of Small Farmers Selling to Supermarkets versus Traditional Market Channels in Four Regions of India](#)

[EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 44-45, 02 Nov, 2024](#)

Using endogenous switching regressions to calculate transitional heterogeneity, we built counterfactual scenarios to identify the treatment effects for sellers to supermarkets and sellers to traditional markets. The results support neither a story of strong inclusion of small farmers' participation in the supermarket channel nor a story of sharp exclusion. Rather, the results show weak inclusion conditioned on farm size, specialization in vegetables, and irrigation assets. Participation yields net income increases of 14% after controlling for self-selection bias. In the past three decades, there has been a rapid rise of supermarkets in Asia. The first wave of supermarket diffusion was in East Asia outside China; the second in China and Southeast Asia; and the third in South Asia (Reardon et al 2012). India has seen the emergence and rapid spread (by global historical standards) of supermarkets in the past two decades, although the majority of food retail tends to be still small-scale and fragmented (Reardon and Gulati 2008).

14. Sebastian Link, Manuel Menkhoff, Andreas Peichl and Paul Schüle

[Downward Revision of Investment Decisions after Corporate Tax Hikes](#)

[American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 16, no. 4, November 2024](#)

This paper estimates the causal effect of corporate tax hikes on firm investment based on more than 1,400 local tax changes. By observing planned and realized investment volumes in a representative sample of German manufacturing firms, we can study how tax hikes induce firms to revise their investment decisions. On average, the share of firms that invest less than

previously planned increases by 3 percentage points after a tax hike. This effect is twice as large during recessions.

15. Romar Correa

[A Non-neoclassical Perspective on Private Property and Inheritance Tax](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 44-45, 02 Nov, 2024

These reflections are prompted by the furore caused by the proposal of an inheritance tax and, independently, the questioning of the meaning of private property in India in April 2024. We suggest that an inheritance tax is solid economics and the assumption of private property in models is without foundation.

16. Pankhuri Gaur

[Micro-level Export Management in Foreign Trade Policy](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 46, 16 Nov, 2024

While examining the role of districts in India's export sectors, it has been observed that Indian exports at the district level are highly skewed with nearly 50% of exports concentrated in the top 18 districts and the top 50 districts constituting India's 75% of exports in 2023–24. The Districts as Export Hubs initiative, with proper implementation, would be able to reduce the export disparity among the districts while encouraging the self-reliance approach with the necessary push to the agriculture, toy cluster and MSME industries with Make in India, Skill India, and other initiatives under India's Foreign Trade Policy 2023.

17. Christian Mücke, Lorian Pelizzon, Vincenzo Pezone and Anjan Thakor

[The Carrot and the Stick: Bank Bailouts and the Disciplining Role of Board Appointments](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 16, no. 4, November 202

We empirically examine the Capital Purchase Program (CPP) used by the US government to bail out distressed banks and its implications for regulatory policy. We find strong evidence that a feature of the CPP—the government's ability to appoint independent directors on the board of an assisted bank that missed six dividend payments to the Treasury—had a significant effect on bank behavior. Banks were averse to these appointments—the empirical distribution of missed

payments exhibits a sharp discontinuity at five. Director appointments by the Treasury were associated with improved bank performance and lower CEO pay.

FOOD PROCESSING

18. Surbhi Kapur

[Is Indian Food Import Safety Regulation Opaque?](#)

EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 48, 30 Nov, 2024

Nations across the world, including India, implement “food import control” measures to foster “food import safety.” In international agri-food trade and economics, food has been a seminal article of trade and “food safety,” a centerpiece of the regulatory authorities. However, opacity in the working of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, regulatory gaps, irregularities, and instances of regulatory arbitrage pose obstacles to India’s journey. The article attempts to elucidate the ambiguity and opacity surrounding the data that is not shared by the Indian food safety regulator with respect to the regulation of safety of the imported articles of food.

HEALTH

19. Evelina Björkegren, Helena Svaleryd and Jonas Vlachos

[Remote Instruction and Student Mental Health: Swedish Evidence from the Pandemic](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Vol. 16, no. 4, November 2024

When COVID-19 reached Sweden, upper-secondary students (ages 17–19) transitioned to remote instruction, while lower-secondary schools (ages 14–16) remained open. We use this setting as a natural experiment to analyze how modes of instruction affect student mental health. We find a 4.4 percent decrease in mental health care use from remote instruction, primarily due to fewer diagnoses and prescriptions for depression and anxiety. The reduction persists throughout the study period; 21 months after the initial closure and 9 months after schools resumed usual operations. This suggests potential mental health benefits from remote instruction, at least in the medium term

INDUSTRY

20. Eddie Watkins

[The Dynamic Effects of Recycling on Oligopoly Competition: Evidence from the US Paper Industry](#)

[American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, vol. 16, no. 3, August 2024](#)

Consumer recycling generates new intermediate inputs. If some of the inputs are used to manufacture a substitute for the original product, the primary seller faces an incentive to reduce current output and raise rivals' future costs. I find that firms in the US paper industry facing exposure to future competition from the recycled sector, based on differences between product specific recycling technologies, reduced output more than firms not exposed to the recycled sector as consumer recycling increased. I then use the model to illustrate how the strategic response to recycling affects environmental policy.

LAW AND SOCIETY

21. Yagati Chinna Rao and Priyadarshini Vijaisri

[Sub-classification of Scheduled Castes](#)

[EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 44-45, 02 Nov, 2024](#)

This preliminary reading of the recent Supreme Court judgment seeks to gauge the significance of the juridical validity accorded to the sub-classification of Scheduled Castes as this will have important ramifications in terms of the state's reaffirmation of its commitment to the goals and ideas of equality and redistributive justice. However, within the juridical narrative and the pleas of other stakeholders, there are certain arguments that provide insights into the broad vision(s) of social justice as well as the deflections from lurking problems and contradictions in the justification of sub-classification.

22. Dipankar Mitra and Alope Kar

[Disparity in Asset Holdings of the Household Sector](#)

[EPW, Vol. 59, Issue No. 47, 23 Nov, 2024](#)

Apart from producing estimates of debts and investments of the households, the All-India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS) of the National Sample Survey (NSS) provides statistics on

households' asset holding. The latter body of statistics is used for measuring the wealth of the household sector in terms of both physical and financial assets. In fact, according to the national accounting framework, the sum of the values of physical and financial assets minus the sum of liabilities of the household sector should, by and large, represent the wealth of the entire private sector, except that of the non-profit institutions. In practice, however, the AIDIS data do not serve well the purpose of estimating private sector wealth. Much of the financial asset holdings, especially those of the wealthier households, remain unreported in household surveys. The AIDIS data on physical asset holdings, on the other hand, is seemingly less affected by under-reporting and is, thus, often used for measuring inequality in the distribution of physical wealth.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

23. Lin Yang, Yatang Lin, Jin Wang and Fangyuan Peng

[Achieving Air Pollution Control Targets with Technology-Aided Monitoring: Better Enforcement or Localized Efforts?](#)

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, vol. 16, no. 4, November 2024

Weak enforcement of environmental regulations remains a global issue due to inadequate monitoring and misaligned incentives. This paper examines the effects of automated monitoring on achieving air pollution control targets amidst China's war on pollution. Utilizing the staggered rollout process and remote-sensing data, we find local governments respond to the advanced monitoring system by strategically targeting areas near monitors, resulting in a 3.2 percent decrease in pollution adjacent to automated monitors compared to areas farther away. Furthermore, we observe heterogeneity in response across cities with varying degrees of preexisting data manipulation and among officials facing different incentives and public pressure.