



सत्यमेव जयते

नीति आयोग NITI AAYOG



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AGRICULTURE

1. Souvik Ghosh and Shreya Anand
Adoption of Digital and Innovative Farming Techniques
Kurukshetra: March 2024

Digitalisation is crucial for Indian agriculture to enhance competitiveness and achieve self –sustainability. With the advent of FPOs in India, there is a great opportunity for digital agriculture to cover the whole agricultural value chain, from upstream operations like cultivation and inputs to downstream activities like post-harvest handling and value addition like food processing. The FPOs facilitate the connection between farmers, their produce, and the market.

2. H L Sharma and Shyam Lal
Organic Farming: Benefits, Present Status and Future Prospects
Kurukshetra: March 2024

Organic farming in India has evolved from being a niche practice to a growing movement with significant potential for transforming the agricultural landscape. The benefits of environmental sustainability, healthier produce and soil health make organic farming a viable and attractive option for farmers and consumers alike. While the present status reflects positive growth, addressing challenges and focusing on future prospects, including technology integration, research, policy support and consumer awareness, is instrumental in realising the full potential of organic farming in the country. With concerted efforts from farmers, policy makers and the public, organic farming can contribute to a greener, more sustainable future for Indian agriculture.

3. Divya Veluguri, Anjali Shandilya, Aayush Malik, Aleesha Sooraj, Ananya Awasthi, Lindsay M Jaacks
[A Review of Data Relevant to Agriculture in India](#)
EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No.11, 16 March, 2024

Summarising the data relevant to the understanding of food production across the country unearths the lack of coordination between the ministries. This has resulted in the replication of efforts and inconsistencies in reported values for key indicators. Various other factors, including, for example, reporting in PDF format, frequent

changes in district boundaries, missing data, and time lags in reporting, further hinder their utilisation. A standardised data collection protocol could be developed and overseen by a central, inter-ministerial Agri-Food System Data Governance Steering Committee. The establishment of such a committee would help ensure data-driven, evidence-based policymaking towards a nutrition-secure India.

CENSUS

4. Shamika Ravi, Mudit Kapoor, Sunil Rajpal and S V Subramanian

[Change in Religious Composition across Districts in India from 2001 to 2011 - A Descriptive Analysis of the Religion Census](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 10, 09 March, 2024

Shamika Ravi is Member, EAC-PM, NITI Aayog

There are more than a billion people in India with diverse religious beliefs, and understanding the changes in the religious composition over time can be insightful from a cultural, social, and political standpoint. Using the census data on religion from 2001 to 2011 to describe the changes in religious composition across 640 districts in India, we find that the share of the population of a religious group appears to depend on the differences in growth rates across religions (and not on the absolute growth rates of any given religion) and the baseline share of religion in the previous period. Similar growth rates across religions will still generate different compositions in the districts, underscoring the importance of understanding religious composition in contextual terms.

ECONOMICS

5. Ian Goldin, Pantelis Koutroumpis, François Lafond and Julian Winkler

[Why Is Productivity Slowing Down?](#)

Journal of Economic Literature: Vol. 62 No. 1 March 2024

We examine the contribution of different explanations to the slowdown of labor productivity. Comparing the post-2005 period with the preceding decade for five advanced economies, we seek to explain a slowdown of 0.8 to 1.8 pp. No single explanation accounts for the slowdown, but we have identified a combination of factors that, taken together, account for much of what has been observed. In the countries we have studied, these are mismeasurement, a decline in the contribution of capital per

worker, lower spillovers from the growth of intangible capital, the slowdown in trade, and a lower growth of allocative efficiency. Sectoral reallocation and a lower contribution of human capital may also have played a role in some countries. In addition to our quantitative assessment of explanations for the slowdown, we qualitatively assess other explanations, including whether productivity growth may be declining due to innovation slowing down.

6. Aboozar Hadavand, Daniel S. Hamermesh and Wesley W. Wilson

[Publishing Economics: How Slow? Why Slow? Is Slow Productive? How to Fix Slow?](#)

Journal of Economic Literature: Vol. 62 No. 1 March 2024

Economics publishing proceeds much more slowly than in the natural sciences, and more slowly than in the other social sciences and finance. It is relatively even slower at the extremes. Much of the lag, especially at the extremes, arises from authors' dilatory behavior in revisions. Additional rounds of resubmissions at top economics journals are related to additional citations; but conditional on resubmission, the delays are unrelated to greater scholarly attention. We offer several proposals for speeding publication, including no-revision policies such as Economic Inquiry's, the use of "cascading referee reports," limits on authors' time revising, and limits on editors waiting for dilatory referees.

7. S C Srivastava

[Employment Status of Digital Platform Workers - Approaches of Apex Courts](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 9, 02 Mar, 2024

Examining the principles laid down by the Supreme Court of India in determining the traditional employer–employee relationship and their application in determining the employment status of gig and platform workers, the paper looks at the legislation and judicial decisions in determining the employment status of platform-based gig workers in other parts of the globe. Arguing that the law on digital labour platforms could not keep pace with the advancement of digital technology, the paper suggests that we have to move beyond the traditional employer–employee relations and draw lessons from the development taking place overseas to examine how far the same may be adopted in the Indian conditions.

8. Amarjit Singh Sethi

[Structural Changes in Labour Productivity Growth - Where Does India Stand among Some Other Developing Asian Economies?](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 11, 16 March, 2024

Based on the information culled out from the Groningen Growth and Development Centre/United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research Economic Transformation Database for 1990–91 to 2018–19 on real value added and employment in 12 industrial activities, structural changes in labour productivity growth among 14 developing economies (including India and China) have been examined. Except for the primary sector, both India and China have shown signs of convergence (with the US economy) in labour productivity of the other major economic activities, though at varying speeds. Moreover, the growth has occurred primarily due to intra-industries improvement—in the services sector for India and the secondary sector for China.

EDUCATION

9. Sudhanshu Bhushan

[The Governance Conundrum - Power Centres in the Governance of Higher Education in Bihar](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 9, 02 Mar, 2024

Rules and rationalities are the bases of analysis in a rules-determined governance model. Power as the ability to influence decision-making and the influence of power centres are not sufficiently examined in the literature on the governance of higher education. Various centres of power in the functioning of universities are analysed in this paper. It is found that conflict among power centres affects governance in an amorphous way. Power centres in the governance of higher education are a useful instrument to study the governance of universities.

FINANCE/BANKING

10. Mohd Yousuf Malik, Jayant Kumar, Irsad, Kulsoom Raza

[Microfinance Institutions - Evidence from Bundelkhand](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No, 11, 16 March, 2024

The status of microfinance in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh is explored through a primary survey. The relationship between socio-economic development and loan amounts, reasons for borrowing, instalment amounts, interest rates, and borrower affordability is examined. There is an urgent need for a more effective financial system in the region as a majority of people still resort to informal moneylenders for their financial needs. The government and microfinance institutions need to work together to provide better services for the region.

INDUSTRY

11. Paritosh Jha, Deba Prasad Rath

[A Different Perspective to Better Negotiate Free Trade Agreements](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 9, 02 Mar, 2024

The reasons behind India's negative trade balance over the years are identified. To do so, a Bayesian network or belief network approach is employed to examine the inherent structure and conditional dependencies from the trade patterns of India's exports and imports.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

12. Anjani Kumar, Biswajit Sen and Sunil Saroj

[Impact of Dairy Cooperatives on Milk Productivity - Evidence from Rural Bihar](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 13, 30 Mar, 2024

The impact of dairy cooperative membership on milk yield in Bihar is examined by using cross-sectional data from a 2015 field survey of 675 milk producers. Using an endogenous switching regression model that accounts for selection bias, dairy cooperative membership was found to have a positive and statistically significant impact on milk yield. Dairy cooperative membership was found to benefit small farmers more than other categories of farmers.

13. Tamoghna Halder, Akshit Arora

[Structural Transformation among Scheduled Castes in India - A Jati-level Analysis](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No.12, 23 Mar, 2024

The rate of transition from agricultural work to non-agricultural employment for more than 150 jatis listed as Scheduled Castes across 12 Indian states is examined by utilising the population census of 1991 and 2011. Expanding the limited literature on jati-level dynamics, the paper sheds light on the nature of intra-caste disparities versus inter-caste inequalities. A significant heterogeneity exists across SC jatis in terms of experiencing structural transformation, and yet in multiple instances, the aggregate experience of SCs as a group is well approximated by the median SC jati.