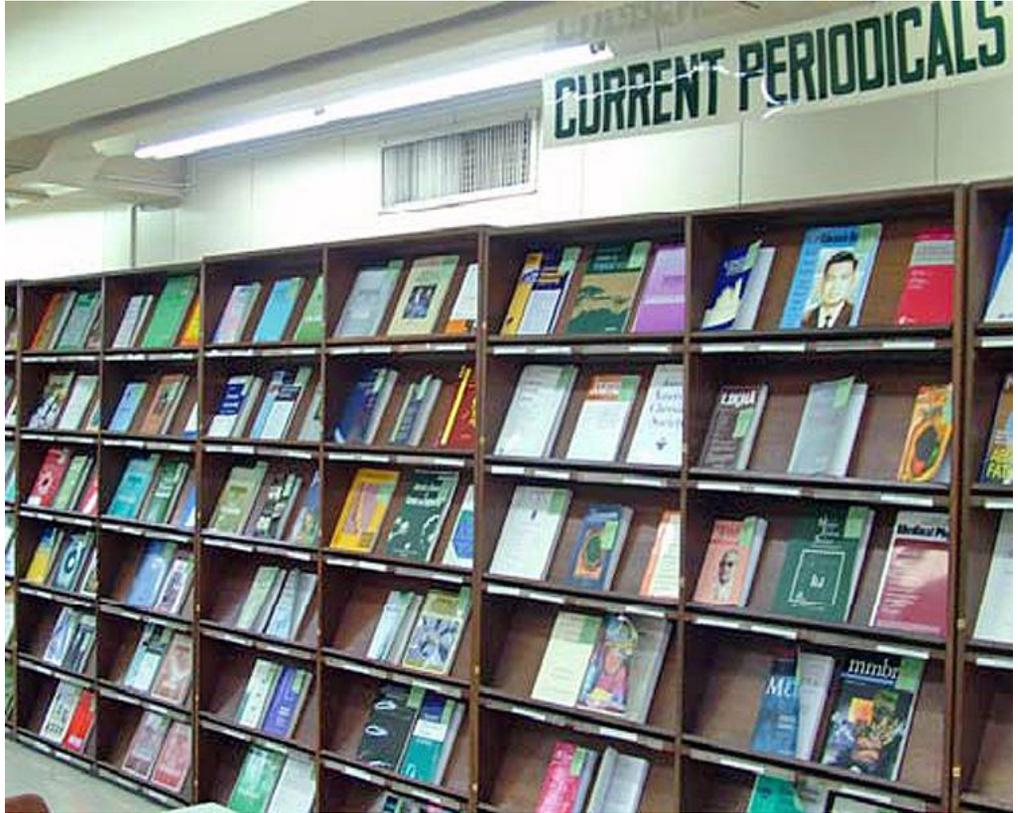




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AGRICULTURE

1. Dey, Kushankur; Maitra, Debasish

[Agriculture insurance in India: promise, pitfalls, and the way forward](#)

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(52), 2017(30th December): 88-96

Article on “The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana” (during kharif 2016) and Weather-based “Crop Insurance Scheme” (kharif 2007-kharif 2014) are assessed by considering a set of performance indicators, namely average sum insured per insured cropped area, percentage of loaned and non-loaned farmers covered, average area insured per farmer, total claim ratio, farmer claim ratio, premium as percentage of sum insured, gross profit to insurance agencies. The study finds that claim pay-out can increase farmer’s coverage under PMFBY while subsidy and actuarial premium rate significantly impact farmer’s coverage for WBCIS. However, as recourse to complement the performance of two schemes, we propose a total insurance package like seed insurance through replanting guarantee programme, crop cycle insurance, prepaid insurance card, to name a few.

** AGRICULTURE.

2. Miao, Ruiqing and Khanna, Madhu

[Effectiveness of the biomass crop assistance program: roles of behavioral factors, credit constraint, and program design](#) .

APPLIED ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES AND POLICY, 39(4), 2017 (December): 584-608

The article describes Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) aims to incentivize the production of biomass for bioenergy and bioproducts. This paper investigates the potential effectiveness of BCAP in stimulating biomass production. We find that the effectiveness of BCAP is significantly affected by program design, farmers, risk and time preferences, credit availability, and biomass prices. The impact of a budget-constrained BCAP on incentivizing biomass production is much larger under a program design that enrolls land with the largest incremental biomass production per BCAP payment dollar (IBP-Max design) than under a design that enrolls land with the lowest cost of production (COP-Min design). The effectiveness of BCAP in inducing biomass production is highest when farmers are credit constrained, have a high degree of risk aversion, and a high rate of time preference under the IBP-Max design. The mix of feedstocks induced by the BCAP also varies as the biomass

price increases; at low prices much of the biomass induced is from crop residues, while at high prices it is from perennial energy crops. The additional biomass production induced by the BCAP ranges from 0.1% to 62% of total biomass production without BCAP under the IBP-Max design, and from 0.1% to 3% under the COP-Min design. However, the volume of biomass production induced by BCAP is small even in the credit constrained, high-risk aversion, and high discount rate scenario (2.7 million metric tons annually) due to the limited program budget of \$125 million BCAP budget under the 2014 Farm Bill.

** AGRICULTURE

ECONOMICS

3. Kumar, Shashi Bhushan

P.V. Narasimha Rao: The precursor of the era of economic reforms in India.

INDIAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 63(4), 2017 (December): 616-630

In this article Pamulaparti Venkata (P.V.) Narasimha Rao ascended to the office of the Prime Minister (PM) of India at a time when India was stuck at its worst phase of economic turmoil. His keen foresight had initiated India to a path of economic liberalisation, the ripples of which are felt by the country to date. This is a narrative of the policy of a master planner of economic reforms in India, who along with his economist Foreign Minister Manmohan Singh, lifted it out of the economic morass consequent upon the Nehruvian policy of mixed economy of about four decades by initiating the economic reforms in 1991. What India has achieved as an economic power, P.V. Narasimha Rao as PM deserves credit for, along with his team of ministers, especially Manmohan Singh and P. Chidambaram.

** ECONOMICS

4. Berg, Andrew G. and Ostry, Jonathan D.

Inequality and unsustainable growth: two sides of the same coin?

INDIAN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 65(4), 2017: 792-815

This paper focuses on the connections between income inequality and the fragility of economic growth. We find that longer growth spells-periods of strong, healthy, per capita growth-are robustly associated with more equality in the income distribution, even when controlling for a range of other standard determinants. A key implication is that it would be a

gamble to think that distribution will take care of itself provided policy makers steadfastly pursue growth. Over longer horizons, avoiding excessive inequality and sustaining economic growth may be two sides of the same coin.

** ECONOMICS.

5. Tara , Roshni and Dhamija, Vedanta

[Global financial crisis and India's private corporate sector.](#)

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 53(3), 2018(20th January):53-58

Paper focus on the global financial crisis that hit the world economy in 2007-08 has had the most intense and widespread impact in the history of the modern economy. Although India stayed relatively insulated from this crisis for the most part, growth has faltered nonetheless. While a lot has been said about the impact of the crisis on macroeconomic indicators like gross domestic product growth, inflation, etc, this study examines the same specific to the Indian private corporate sector. We find that there are three channels- debt servicing costs, foreign inflows, liquidity crunch-through which the economic recession played out to create significant challenges for the corporate sector and its profitability.

** ECONOMICS.

ENERGY

6. Todd D. Gerarden, Richard G. Newell and Robert N.

[Assessing the energy-efficiency gap.](#)

JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC LITERATURE, 55(4), 2017(December):1486-1525

Article provides a detailed energy-efficient technologies offer considerable promise for reducing the financial costs and environmental damages associated with energy use, but it has long been observed that these technologies may not be adopted by individuals and firms to the degree that might be justified, even on a purely financial basis. We survey the relevant literature on this "energy-efficiency gap" by presenting two complementary frameworks. First, we divide potential explanations for the energy-efficiency gap into three categories: market failures, behavioral explanations, and model and measurement errors. Second, we organize previous research in terms of the fundamental elements of cost-minimizing energy-efficiency decisions. This provides a decomposition that organizes thinking around four

questions. First, are product offerings and pricing economically efficient? Second, are energy operating costs inefficiently priced and/or understood? Third, are product choices cost minimizing in present value terms? Fourth, do other costs inhibit more energy-efficient decisions? We synthesize academic research on these questions, with an emphasis on recent empirical findings, and offer suggestions for future research.

** ENERGY.

FISCAL POLICY

7. Ohanian, Lee E.

The great recession in the shadow of the great depression: A review essay on hall of mirrors: the great depression, the great recession, and the uses and misuses of History, by Barry Eichengreen.

JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC LITERATURE, 55(4), 2017(December): 583-1601

This essay compares the Great Depression to the Great Recession in light of Barry Eichengreen's new book Hall of Mirrors. Eichengreen discusses these two episodes from a historical, Keynesian perspective, and concludes that policies that increase aggregate demand, such as larger fiscal deficits, would have promoted a much stronger and faster recovery from the Great Recession. I review these episodes from a neoclassical approach, which provides a very different perspective on why recoveries from these episodes were so slow and incomplete. I also argue that supply-side policies, rather than demand-side policies, are more likely to restore prosperity today.

** FISCAL POLICY.

INFRASTRUCTURE

8. Kundu, Amitabh; Arjun Kumar

Housing for the Urban Poor?: Changes in credit-linked subsidy

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(52), 2017(30th December): 105-110

Article describes recent modifications in the credit linked subsidy scheme-an important vertical under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)-have raised the income limits for eligibility of loans, increased the amount of subsidised loans, relaxed norms with regard to built-up area, and importantly, have included the middle-income group, diluting its core

agenda of being "pro-poor". While this would boost the housing sector, there is risk that subsidies will be cornered by real estate developers, private builders, and the urban middle class. The planners must view this development with concern. .

** INFRASTRUCTURE.

POVERTY

9. Singh, Kanwal D.P

Inclusive growth and poverty reduction: a case study of India.

INDIAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 63(4), 2017 (December): 579-594

The article surveys the reduction in poverty in India after Independence. It looks into the idea of development through inclusiveness of all sections of society. Important elements of inclusiveness and causes for low inclusive growth in India are explained. The methodologies adopted by Planning Commission of India to estimate poverty have been analysed. Important committees formed for poverty estimation in India are discussed. The controversies in India over the calculation of a poverty line are discussed and shown in tables and in diagrams. It also discusses the regional disparities in poverty reduction and alleviation of poverty among various castes and groups. The article goes on to discuss the XIth and the XIIth Five-Year Plans and the state action towards alleviation of poverty and promotion of inclusive growth.

** POVERTY.

10. Vijay, Devesh

Falling poverty, rising privations: trends over a quarter century in a slum and a village near Delhi.

INDIAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 63(4), 2017 (December): 595-615

This article describes the need to track multi-dimensional poverty in place of just subsistence is being widely recognised by policy makers. However, the challenge of quantifying deficits in housing and sanitation as well as „freedoms,, is immense and a number of dearths that bring maximum suffering to people (like risks spawned by contaminated water and food supplies) remain uncharted in common counts of „poverties,, and deprivations. In this context, long-term, multi-disciplinary accounts of urban and rural poverty in a range of communities can be of help. As a contribution, this article offers an analysis of changing indices of

material poverty as well as „privations,, like the worsening health environment, in the microcosm of a village and a slum from Delhi,,s periphery, observed over a quarter century through observations, surveys, group discussions and semi-structured interviews. The study shows that „absolute poverty,, has declined, in both the sites, since late 1980s but „privations,, have risen on many fronts.

** POVERY.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

11. Parchure, Rajas and Phadke, Manasi

[Candidate quality in Zilla Parishads and Panchayat samitis of Maharashtra.](#)

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 53(1), 2018(6th January): 55-62

Article describe the study on candidate quality of contestants in the zilla parishad and panchayat samiti elections of Maharashtra finds that a majority of the candidates are not highly educated, lack relevant grass-roots experience, are hand-picked by political parties based on non-meritorious criteria, and belong to political families with money power. An analysis of "winnability" of candidates suggests that those from politically connected families, high financial standing and party affiliations stand a higher chance of winning elections.

** RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

SOCIOLOGY

12. Coffey, Diane; Khurana, Nidhi and Thorat, Amit

[Explicit prejudice: evidence from a New survey](#)

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 58(1), 2018(6th January): 46-54

In this paper a representative phone survey to study explicit prejudice against women and Dalits in Delhi, Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan reveals widespread prejudice in several domains and discusses the consequences for women and Dalits, and society as a whole. The results suggest the need for a more robust public discourse and active approach to measuring and challenging prejudice and discrimination.

** SOCIOLOGY.

13. Kundu, Debolina; Banerjee, Arpita
[Migration, caste and marginalised sections: inequality in the coverage of basic services in urban India](#)
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 53, 2018(13th January): 62-69

In this article describes⁶² a spatial overview on availability of urban basic services reveals disparities across urban India. Although various levels of government, including the parastatals, have strived to achieve sufficiency in provisioning of urban basic services, the coverage is far from satisfactory. The growing urban population creates deficiencies on the limited urban infrastructure. The condition is even more precarious for the new migrants who are poor and belong to socially marginalised groups. Using secondary data from the census and National Sample Survey Office, the distribution of basic amenities, including housing across states and size classes of urban centres, and the disparity in their distribution disaggregated by new migrants, marginalised groups and poverty levels are analysed.

** SOCIOLOGY.

UNEMPLOYMENT

14. Fujita, Shigeru and Moscarini, Giuseppe
[Recall and unemployment.](#)
AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 107(12), 2017(December): 3875-3916

We document in the Survey of Income and Program Participation covering the period 1990-2013 that a surprisingly large share of workers return to their previous employer after a jobless spell, and experience very different unemployment and employment outcomes than job switchers. The probability of recall is much less procyclical and volatile than the probability of finding a new employer. We add to a quantitative, and otherwise canonical, search-and-matching model of the labor market a recall option, which can be activated freely following aggregate and job-specific productivity shocks. Recall and search effort significantly amplify the cyclical volatility of new job-finding and separation probabilities.

** UNEMPLOYMENT.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

15. Sadoway, David and Badami, Madhav G

[JNNURM as a window on urban governance: its institutional footprint, antecedents, and legacy](#)

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 53(2), 2018(13th January): 71-79

Article discusses owing to its scope, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is an excellent window for understanding the evolution of urban governance in India, despite its closing in 2014. The JNNURM's aspirations were belied by its realities of progressive centralisation, degraded local capacities, commercially-oriented infrastructure development, and intercity and intra-city inequalities. We identify and discuss three signatures that shaped its conceptualisation, operationalisation, and outcomes: flexible networks of policy actors and advisors; mobile policy ideas, best practices, and norms; and the pervasive role of consultancies. These signatures appear to endure, to varying degrees, in new urban programmes, with potentially far-reaching ramifications for urban governance.

** URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

16. Smitha, K C

[Spatial reproduction of urban poverty in global city: gender, informality and mobility in Bengaluru](#)

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 53(3), 2018(20th January):67-75

The study explores the impact of displacement and resettlement on slum dwellers evicted from two slums in Bengaluru to facilitate the construction of the metro rail in the city. The study documents the changes that have occurred in the socio-economic profile, livelihood status, and mobility of the slum dwellers, especially women, after the implementation of the rehabilitation package by Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation. Findings from this study clearly show that relocation to new areas has seriously affected the occupational and economic mobility, particularly of uneducated and elderly women. As a result, women's contribution to the family's income has drastically reduced, thereby exacerbating spatial reproduction of urban poverty.

** URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

17. Neetha, N

Natioal policy for women.

KURUKSHETRA, 66(3), 2018(January): 19-22

In this paper discuss the acknowledgement of women's unpaid work and the need for its recognition and valuation, resonating the concerns raised in the SDGs is surely is an important landmark of the policy. To reduce the burden on women thereby freeing women to take up paid work, provisional of creches and other facilities are outlined. But, the fact that many of the governmental schemes, such as ICDS, are build upon the devalued work of women who are framed as 'voluntary' workers needs to be accounted and addressed if any substantial change is to occur in the larger perspective of women's unpaid work and its valuation.

** WOMEN DEVELOPMENT.

18. Srivastava, Rakesh

Empowering rural women: the way forward.

KURUKSHETRA, 66(3), 2018(January): 5-9

Article focus on women for holistic empowerment of rural women to happen, an effective convergence of all aspects impacting a women's life is needed-be it social economic or political. The process of empowering rural women is a conntinues process. The need of the hour is to make women realise their potential, make them aware of the bright future that awaits them, guide them and nurture them.

** WOMEN DEVELOPMENT.

19. Verma, Manisha

Health of rural women-wealth of nation.

KURUKSHETRA, 66(3), 2018(January): 51-53

Article describes the basket of services for health of all women, with special focus on rural areas, is aimed for providing affordable and accessible health services, to advance the agenda of universal health coverage in the country. This shall contribute significantly to meeting targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to which India is committed.

** WOMEN DEVELOPMENT.