



सत्यमेव जयते

**नीति आयोग**

**NITI AAYOG**



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## AGRICULTURE

1. R Gopinath, Aparajay Kumar, K Ugalechumi, R Rajakumar and R Rengalakshmi  
[Agriculture in the Cauvery Delta? - The Need for a Holistic and Scientific Approach](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 23, 08 June, 2024

In the Cauvery delta zone, farmers (especially small and marginal) are facing the problem of water scarcity, unseasonal heavy rainfall, seawater intrusion, difficulties in maintaining the moisture content of grains, inadequate infrastructure at the village level, and a general lack of access to resources and services in both the production and post-production stages. Policymakers need to adopt a multipronged approach in integrating their water conservation strategy to address the problems related to water.

2. Paul Arthur Van Driessche  
[Agricultural Producer Markets in the Maldives: How Poor Market Connectivity Between Farmers and the Markets can be Enhanced](#)

International Journal of Rural Management: Vol. 20, Issue 1 April 2024

In 2018, a multisite case study investigated the agricultural challenges faced by Maldivian farmers and farming stakeholders. The study interviewed a total of 373 farmers and stakeholders from 51 islands across 15 atolls. In their own words, farmers and stakeholders identified factors in macro and micro levels agricultural systems that are related to poor connectivity between farmers and the markets. This research article conducts a deeper investigation into these factors using the Ecological Systems Theory. In this investigation, the data clearly reveal that any efforts towards market connectivity resolution must address the individual within the context of the greater, extrinsic challenges present in the interrelated systems of farming in the Maldives. While the individual is placed at the smallest level of a greater system, and the interconnections of the larger systems are great in impact, the individual is ultimately the decision maker on what and how things work, and how effective they will be. In this article, five recommendations are

identified to enhance farmers' connectivity to markets. This first-person perspective of smallholder farmers is an essential contribution to understanding what measures are needed to address connectivity challenges between Maldivian farmers and the markets they would like to supply.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

3. Tasneem Chowdhury Fahim and Sabrina Arefin

[Climate Change-induced Salinity Intrusion and Livelihood Nexus: A Study in Southwest Satkhira District of Bangladesh](#)

International Journal of Rural Management: Vol. 20, Issue 1 April 2024

Anthropogenic climate change-induced extremities have turned southwest Bangladesh into one of the most climate-vulnerable regions of the Earth. The southwestern coastal Satkhira District of the country is alarmingly exposed to climate change-driven salinity intrusion. This research attempted to explore the challenges faced by the informal livelihood-dependent households in the presence of salinity, changing livelihood patterns of the salinity-affected households and the nature of sector-specific adaptation strategies aimed at improving livelihood in Satkhira District. Based on the survey of 180 households and the in-depth interview, focus group discussion and participatory rural appraisal, this study uncovers different livelihood challenges faced by the local households. Increasing salinity forced 27% of households to change their livelihood patterns. Livelihood adaptation strategies of the local households are analysed according to their opinions. Saline-tolerant crop cultivation has emerged as a very effective adaptation measure in the area, where replacing crop fields with fish enclosures is not creating a substantial impact on the local community. The importance of nature-based solution has increased in recent days to adapt to the impacts of climate change. More than half of the respondents are satisfied with the recent adaptation initiatives championed by the government and non-government organisations.

## **ECONOMICS**

4. Sacchidananda Mukherjee

[Is GST Regressive in India? - Distribution of Tax Burden across Consumer Groups](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 24, 15 Jun, 2024

The distributional impact of goods and services tax across different consumer groups in India is estimated for 2021–22 for various tax rates. Multiple rate structures and fixation of GST rates based on product specification make it difficult to assign a specific rate or estimate the effective rate across items. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy’s Consumer Pyramids Household Survey for 2021–22 is used to explore the all-India average monthly per capita consumption expenditure for 123 items across nine tax categories. The share of each tax category in aggregate average monthly per capita consumption across fractile classes is estimated for both rural and urban areas.

5. Ghanshyam Shah

[Neo-liberal Economy and Middle-class Patidar Agitation for Reservations in Gujarat](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 25, 22 June, 2024

The dominant-caste Patidars, once opponents of reservations, launched an agitation in 2015–16 demanding reservation in educational institutions and government jobs. An examination of the historical rise of Patidars as the dominant caste in Gujarat and their social capital in reinforcing social bonds, nevertheless, reveals its discontents in the educated youth reeling under neo-liberal economic growth. The agitation was led, organised and mobilised by capitalising on the community’s social capital. The movement succeeded in getting 10% reservation, although on “secular” criteria, as an economically weaker section, and not as a backward caste.

6. Laura Veldkamp and Cindy Chung

[Data and the Aggregate Economy](#)

Journal of Economic Literature: Vol. 62, No. 2, June 2024

Recent data technology innovations, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, have transformed the production of knowledge and increased the importance of data. This review explores how data—digitized information—has been modeled within classic macroeconomic frameworks. It compares the

economics of data to other concepts such as ideas, patents, and learning-by-doing. This paper also shows potential ways to model applications for data, including innovation, process optimization, and matching. Because this research area is nascent, much of the article is devoted to open questions and directions for future data economy research.

## **EDUCATION**

7. Seongeun Kim, Michèle Tertilt and Minchul Yum

[Status Externalities in Education and Low Birth Rates in Korea](#)

American Economic Review: Vol. 114, No. 6, June 2024

South Koreans appear to be preoccupied with their offspring's education and also have the lowest total fertility rate in the world. We propose a novel theory with status externalities and endogenous fertility connecting these facts, motivated by novel empirical evidence on private education spillovers. Using a quantitative model calibrated to Korea, we find that fertility would be 28 percent higher without the externality. We explore the effects of government policy: a pro-natal transfer or an education tax can increase fertility and reduce education spending. An education tax of 22 percent together with moderate pro-natal transfers maximizes the current generation's welfare.

8. Mayank Bhardwaj, Ashish Ranjan and Jyoti Sharma

[Curriculum and NEP 2020: Perspectives and Inter-connections](#)

Indian Journal of Public Administration: Vol.70, Issue 2 June 2024

There cannot be a more appropriate time for infusing the education system of India with flexibility, innovativeness and quality. National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, is a step in this direction which emphasises on inclusiveness, equity and quality with a clear focus on the attainment of learning outcomes. NEP 2020 promotes the adoption of learner-centric education which develops critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills and discourages rote learning methods. An effective education policy relies on strong curricular foundations for optimum results. An enriched curriculum should be rooted in India's diverse culture, knowledge systems and traditions embracing local knowledge and cultural practices, on the one hand, and at the same time, should incorporate the

modern-day learning perspectives developed by the curriculum theorists over the last century. This article analyses the idea of curriculum as conceived by different learning perspectives and how NEP 2020 draws inferences from them.

## **FINANCE/BANKING**

9. Priti Samant and Smeeta Bhatkal

[Liquidity Coverage Ratio Guidelines and Banking in India](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 23, 08 Jun, 2024

The trends in the retail and wholesale banking segments following the implementation of liquidity coverage ratio guidelines are examined for 10 major banks in India. The results indicate that most of the banks are placing greater emphasis on retail banking and are also showing higher net interest margins.

10. Alan S. Blinder, Michael Ehrmann, Jakob de Haan, and David-Jan Jansen

[Central Bank Communication with the General Public: Promise or False Hope?](#)

Journal of Economic Literature: Vol. 62, No. 2, June 2024

Central banks are increasingly reaching out to the general public to motivate and explain their monetary policy actions. One major aim of this outreach is to ensure accountability and create trust; another is to guide inflation expectations. This article surveys a rapidly growing literature on central bank communication with the public, rather than with the financial markets. We first discuss why such communication matters and is more challenging than communicating with expert audiences. Then we turn to methods: How do central banks try to reach the public, and do they succeed? Next, and importantly, we survey the empirical evidence on the extent to which this new outreach affects inflation expectations. On balance, we see some promise in the potential to inform the public better, but many challenges along the way.

## **HEALTH**

11. Vijay Kumar and Tulika Tripathi

[Timely Access to Public Health Facilities for Pregnancy Care in Tribal Gujarat - A Geospatial Analysis](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 22, 01 Jun, 2024

In Gujarat, the tribal population constitutes 14.8% of the overall population, with approximately 89.17 lakh individuals residing in 14 districts. Thus, the provision of accessible and timely healthcare, especially pregnancy care, is necessary for the well-being and development of the tribal communities. Using geospatial analysis to study the distribution and accessibility of public healthcare facilities in tribal regions of Gujarat, we find that there are significant distribution and population density biases in public health facilities against tribal regions and border districts, blocks, and villages. Furthermore, the location and distribution of public health centres are suboptimal in most tribal-populated districts, resulting in inadequate pregnancy care.

## INDUSTRY

12. Ketan Reddy and Sunil Mitra Kumar

[Discouraged Borrowers - SMEs in Indian Manufacturing](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 24, 15 Jun, 2024

Discouragement, or the phenomenon where firms do not apply for credit despite being potentially eligible for loans, is widely regarded as a significant problem for growth and development. Using data from the 2014 World Bank Enterprise Survey, we examine the role of several firm characteristics as predictors of discouragement. Firm size, value added, and access to trade credit are found to be negatively associated with discouragement, while competition and corruption are positively associated. Firms integrated with global value chains are significantly less likely to be discouraged. In partial contrast to the literature, we find that firms where females are involved in management and ownership are not necessarily more discouraged.

13. Krishan Sharma and Nida Rahman

[Navigating the Dual Challenges of International Trade - Trade Balance and Competition](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 25, 22 Jun, 2024

Developing countries face dual challenges when participating in the international market. First, they must generate enough trade balance in supply of goods and



services while balancing domestic investment. And second, they struggle to reach their potential buyers in a cost-effective way amid intense international competition and regulation.

## **POLICY**

14. Vinayak Nikam, Haripriya Veeram, Kiran Kumara T M and Prem Chand  
[How Are Farmer Producer Organisations Functioning in India? - An Empirical Evidence from a Mixed Methods Research Synthesis](#)  
EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 22, 01 Jun, 2024

Using mixed methods research synthesis, with 314 studies published since 2000, a significant positive impact of the farmer producer organisations on members' crop and livestock yield, income per unit area, and technical efficiency is found. Qualitatively, findings from the perception studies also highlight direct and indirect relations with impact findings. The findings of this paper provide insights to policymakers and promoting institutions to take necessary measures to improve the performance of FPOs.

15. Sthanu R Nair and Pooja Bhatia  
[Balancing Self-sufficiency and Health Risks - Should India Commercialise Genetically Modified Mustard Crop?](#)  
EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 25, 22 Jun, 2024

The need for genetically modified mustard in India is examined in light of making India self-sufficient in rapeseed-mustard oil production. Despite a domestic shortage, imports of rapeseed-mustard oil have not increased since the early 1990s due to the blending of the oil with other imported edible oils. Adopting the indigenously developed GM mustard crop could reduce import dependency, but the high levels of erucic acid levels in India's GM mustard crop make it harmful for human consumption. From a public health point of view, India should continue oilseed plant breeding programmes to develop an indigenous GM mustard crop variety with lower erucic acid levels that meet health standards.

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

16. Prachy Hooda

[Khap Panchayats in Transition - Navigating Legal Pluralism, Gender Dynamics, and Sports in Rural Haryana](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 26-27, 29 Jun, 2024

The coexistence of a complex set of legal orders forms the basis for the study of legal pluralism, encompassing state law, customary law, and other non-state laws. The interaction of traditional non-constitutional mechanisms such as khap panchayats in Haryana with state laws provides a rich understanding of the relationship between the modern state and society. This paper specifically delves into the interaction of the khaps with the modern state and whether it has had a substantive impact on the reconstitution of hegemonic relationships by focusing on the culture of sports, especially among women. It shall focus on the role of the khaps (if any) in providing an impetus to it in ways such as felicitating women achievers, and its role in ensuring the rights of sportspersons as was witnessed in the extension of solidarity with the wrestlers' protests against their alleged sexual harassment.

## **WATER MANAGEMENT**

17. Supriya David

[Water Resource Management in India: Problems and Prospects](#)

Indian Journal of Public Administration: Vol.70, Issue 2 June 2024

Water resource management is one of the most intractable challenges for planners and policymakers today. Given the limited supply, continuously growing demand and declining quality of freshwater, it is imperative to safeguard and effectively manage this resource. In order to effectively address significant challenges to human health and environmental deterioration, it is necessary to adopt a comprehensive strategy for managing freshwater and wastewater. This approach should include inventive and context-specific methods, as well as active involvement from local communities. To attain better development outcomes, water must be made an integral part of all planning and management. Water had its impact on a wide range of aspects impinging on human wellbeing, from

agricultural sustainability to food security, and further, environmental security. Therefore, it calls for a systematic thorough management.