



नीति आयोग
NITI AAYOG



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CONTENTS**

ECONOMICS.....	3-4
EDUCATION	4
ENERGY.....	5
FINANCE/BANKING.....	5-6
FOOD PROCESSING.....	7
HEALTH.....	7
INDUSTRY.....	8
LAW AND SOCIETY.....	8-9
RURAL DEVELOPMENT	10
WATER MANAGEMENT	10

ECONOMICS

1. [Employment incentives and skilling opportunities alone will not dent the brunt of K-shaped recovery.](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 30, 27 July, 2024

Despite the electoral setback, the much-awaited first budget of the third National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government threw up no big surprises. Overall, the budget pressed ahead with the fiscal consolidation stance for the fourth consecutive year. The total budget spending, which peaked at 17.7% of the gross domestic product (GDP) following the implementation of the revival package to aid the post-pandemic recovery, has now reduced to 14.8% in the budget estimates for 2024–25. However, the relative budget size is still more than a percentage point larger than that of the pre-pandemic level.

2. [Unincorporated Non-agriculture Enterprises](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 29, 20 July, 2024

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has finally brought out the first two annual surveys of unincorporated sector enterprises (ASUSE) for 2021–22 and 2022–23. They are the foremost of a new series that will now help to regularly assess and estimate the various operational and economic characteristics of the unincorporated non-agricultural establishments in manufacturing, trade and other services. This will significantly improve the reliability of a major component of the national accounts statistics and put it on a firmer footing. Hopefully, it will also help frame appropriate policies to fully tap the huge entrepreneurial potential of this vast sector and boost growth.

3. Sujata Kundu, Rajeev Jain, Ranjeeta Mishra

[Poverty in India over the Last Decade](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 28, 13 July, 2024

The release of microdata from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (2022–23) now allows evaluation of methodological advances on nowcasting poverty developed over the last decade. A key issue raised has been the difficulty in the use of national accounts consumption growth as a measure of survey consumption growth, with many using non-standard data sets provided by private sector while others developing imputation-based approaches using other NSSO surveys. Forecast errors provide a useful evaluation technique for these advances. The simple approach of using consumption growth from national accounts outperforms each of these methods and does so in a significant manne

EDUCATION

4. Denzil Saldanha

[From 25 Years Ago: Residual Illiteracy and Uneven Development – I: Patterned Concentration of Literacy](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 28, 13 July, 2024

The account of contemporary literacy campaigns in India since 1989 is partly a story of voluntary people's participation and cultural awakening. It is in part a narrative of the resistance of two regions to the literacy campaign approach – the urban areas of relatively high literacy and the rural areas within underdeveloped regions, especially in the northern belt. This study attempts an understanding of the former scenario of residual illiteracy, locating the analysis within a larger context of uneven development. The analysis of residual illiteracy cannot remain unrelated to the latter regions of mass illiteracy.

ENERGY

5. Probal P Ghosh and Jyoti K Parikh

[Electric Vehicles as a Solution to Energy Transition](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 30, 27 July, 2024

Transport is the second major carbon dioxide emitter after the power sector in India. Electric vehicles reduce overall pollution and demand for imported fuels. We surveyed electric two-wheeler owners—mainly salaried class, small business persons, and students travelling up to 10–30 km per day. A survey of 24-hour charging patterns during lean and peak months shows that e2W growth on the grid in the near-to-medium term may not add to peak load, but instead may add revenue for utilities during off-peak times.

FINANCE/BANKING

6. D K Srivastava, Muralikrishna Bharadwaj, Tarrung Kapur and Ragini Trehan

[Finance Commissions' Distance Criterion](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 28, 13 July, 2024

The income distance criterion plays a key role in determining states' shares in the divisible pool of taxes as recommended by several finance commissions, especially from the Ninth Finance Commission. It has been accorded the highest weight among all devolution criteria. It aims at fiscal capacity equalisation in India's fiscal transfer system. Over time, the weight attached to this criterion has been reduced, resulting in reduced fiscal capacity equalisation. The underlying axiomatic framework that informs India's tax devolution system is discussed. Alternative versions of the distance criterion are considered to increase the equalisation through this criterion.

7. Arindam Bandyopadhyay

[Climate Risk Management](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 28, 13 July, 2024

The Reserve Bank of India has proactively come out with a draft climate risk disclosure framework to sensitise Indian commercial banks and regulatory entities to give due importance to climate change risk and factor it in their business sustainability decisions. Indian commercial banks and regulated entities need to disclose climate-related physical and transition risks in terms of amounts and percentages of assets vulnerable to both risks. Banks are required to devise internal metrics to assess exposures to high climate risk sectors and gauge the erosion of capital or profitability under stress scenarios with different mitigating responses from these industries

8. Anuragh Balajee, Pawan Gopalakrishnan and Siddhartha Nath

[Estimating Average Effective Tax Rates](#)

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

The average effective tax rates for labour and capital income for India are estimated using a novel approach with the help of India KLEMS and CMIE Prowess database. The estimates suggest that AETR on both labour and capital incomes have improved since 2013, indicating a broadening of the tax base and formalisation of economic activities. Improvement in AETR on capital income was driven by improved tax coverage on industrial activities, while that of the service sector remained stable. There could be some scope for improving aggregate tax revenue by reallocating taxes on capital income between activities and raising taxation of capital income in general to some extent.

FOOD PROCESSING

9. Shaji KV

[Demand in India What is Food Processing? What are the reasons behind its growing?](#)

Yojna : July 2024

Food Processing- It involves transforming raw agricultural products into consumable food items, adding value and extending shelf life. Food processing sector has been recognised as a ‘sunrise sector‘ and a key priority industry under the ‘Make in India’ initiative.

10. Amit Sharma

[What is the significance of the Food Processing Sector?](#)

Yojna: July 2024

The food processing sector has emerged as an important segment of the Indian economy in terms of its contribution to GDP. During the last 5 years the sector had grown at an average annual growth rate of around 8.3% as compared to around 4.87% in the agriculture and allied sectors (at 2011-12 prices).

HEALTH

11. Stefanie Fischer, Heather Royer and Corey White

[Health Care Centralization: The Health Impacts of Obstetric Unit Closures in the United States](#)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics Vol. 16, No. 3, July 2024

Over the last few decades, health care services in the United States have become more geographically centralized. We study how the loss of hospital-based obstetric units in over 400 counties affects maternal and infant health via a difference-in-differences design. We find that closures lead mothers to experience a significant change in birth procedures such as inductions and C-sections. In contrast to concerns voiced in the public discourse, the effects on a range of maternal and infant health outcomes are negligible or slightly beneficial.

While women travel farther to receive care, closures induce women to receive higher quality care.

INDUSTRY

12. Yan Bai, Keyu Jin, Dan Lu

[Misallocation under Trade Liberalization](#)

American Economic Review: Applied Economics Vol. 114, No. 7, July 2024

This paper formalizes a classic idea that in second-best environments trade can induce welfare losses: incremental income losses from distortions can outweigh trade gains. In a Melitz model with distortionary taxes, we derive sufficient statistics for welfare gains/losses and show departures from the efficient case (Arkolakis, Costinot, and Rodríguez-Clare 2012) can be captured by the gap between an input and output share and domestic extensive margin elasticities. The loss reflects an endogenous selection of more subsidized firms into exporting. Using Chinese manufacturing data in 2005 and model-inferred firm-level distortions, we demonstrate that a sizable negative fiscal externality can potentially offset conventional gain.

LAW AND SOCIETY

13. Alok Prasanna Kumar

[Breaking the 50% Barrier in Reservations](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 29, 20 July, 2024

A division bench of the Patna High Court in *Gaurav Kumar v State of Bihar* (2024) recently held the Bihar government's attempt to increase reservation quotas across the board to be unconstitutional. While ostensibly following the Supreme Court's binding precedent in the *Indra Sawhney* case, the Court's judgment throws up the unsatisfactory and contradictory state of reservation jurisprudence in India.

14. Rozi Kumari and Rupayan Pal

[Catastrophic Decline in Women's Ownership of Firms in India, 2014 and 2022](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 29, 20 July, 2024

Analysing nationally representative data sets from the World Bank Enterprise Surveys, women's ownership and participation in top management of registered private firms in India are examined. It is seen that both the parameters have drastically decreased, from a low to a meagre level between 2014 and 2022, despite sustained gross domestic product growth and the launch of several government programmes to promote entrepreneurship. The pattern of decline is consistent across sectors (manufacturing and services) and size groups (small, medium, and large) of firms, barring some variations. This is true regardless of the measure of women's ownership considered and is not due to the entry and exit of firms.

15. Rambooshan Tiwari and Shubham Narayan Dixit

[Trajectories of Crime against Women in Contemporary India](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 30, 27 July, 2024

In India, incidents of crime and crime rates against women are increasing steadily during the 21st century with considerable distributional inequalities among the states, districts, and metropolitan cities. Most of the high-crime-prone districts are located in north and central India. Crime against women varies among the social groups and the crime against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes women is relatively high. The composition (nature) of CAW varies considerably across the states, with cases of dowry deaths largely concentrated in the Hindi-speaking states.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

16. Riti Thapar Kapoor

[Jugaad Innovations Transforming Rural India](#)

Kurukshetra: July 2024

Jugaad innovations refer to frugal innovations at which take place at the grassroots level. These ingenious solutions, are born out of necessity and resource constraints, empower rural communities, address their unique challenges, and bridge the socio-economic divide.

WATER MANAGEMENT

17. Hilmer Bosch and Joyeeta Gupta

[Water Property Rights in India](#)

EPW: Vol. 59, Issue No. 29, 20 July, 2024

As Indian states continue to revise and reform their water laws in response to the escalating water crises, property rights in water instruments and their effect on water governance gain importance. Based on the examination of 153 law and policy documents shortlisted to 64, it is found that (i) India has a plural governance model with provincial water statutes; (ii) these laws avoid addressing the underlying landownership-related groundwater and riparian rights, and instead perpetuate water rights linked to the land through a registration process; (iii) new state-issued permits provide quasi-property rights to permit holders but how this relates to point (ii) is unclear; and (iv) as most water is over-allocated, reallocating water will be challenging, given the above property rights system.