

October-December 2023

NCAER NEWS



Welcome to the NCAER newsletter, in which we showcase all the activities and outputs of our researchers and faculty over the last three months.

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NCAER Research Outputs

Monthly Review of the Economy, October, November, and December 2023

The Review of the Economy released every month summarises the economic and policy developments in India; monitors global developments of relevance to India; and showcases the pulse of the economy through an analysis of high-frequency indicators and the heat map.

Heatmap for high-frequency indicators



Source: NCAER. Trend's calculations, based on the CEIC database.
Note: (a) The 'most growth' (%) has been calculated for all indicators for the period as indicated in the data appendix (except for PMI Manufacturing and PMI Services).

India Human Development Survey Forum, October, November, and December 2023

The IHDS Forum is a monthly update of publications, op-eds and data news based on the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), which was jointly conducted by NCAER and the University of Maryland in two rounds, in 2004-05 and 2011-12. The third round of the project has also been launched and is currently underway, with data collection having been completed in several States.



Ten Facts About Son Preference in India



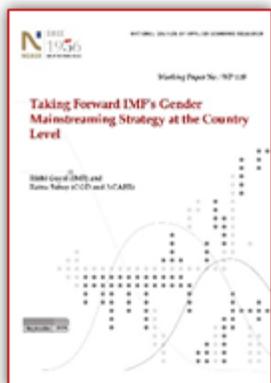
This paper discusses son preference in India, encompassing both differential investment in sons and a fertility preference to have sons. Regarding differential investment, this article focuses on child health, where the evidence shows that gender gaps in inputs and outcomes have narrowed in recent years. Nonetheless, girls remain disadvantaged in important ways, and making health services free might not be enough to close these remaining gaps. The desire to have a son drives the skewed sex ratio, and it shows little sign of abating. In fact, the downward trend in family size is exacerbating how the desire for a son translates into sex-selection. Families' quest for a son also imposes collateral damage on sisters' health. The policy challenge, particularly around diminishing the desire for sons, is large. Empowering women is not a panacea. Offering financial incentives to have daughters risks further concentrating girls in poorer families. In this context, several policies warrant implementation, such as public pensions as an alternative to old-age support from sons, increased delivery of health services through schools, and attitude- and norm-change interventions that aim to increase the intrinsic value that Indian families place on girls.

Is Electrification in India Fiscally Sustainable?



This paper studies the fiscal health of state electricity distribution companies (discoms) in India and its bearing on the supply of electricity. India has, in a policy landmark, lately achieved near-universal household electrification, in large part through Central funding of infrastructure totalling Rs. 5 lakh crores as well as State bailouts totalling Rs. 35 lakh crores since 2001. Central and State transfers enable State distribution companies to run ongoing losses, which, in turn, threaten the supply of energy to agriculture and rural households. The authors find that: (i) the fiscal health of State distribution companies remains concerning, with declared losses of only 2% in 2021-22, far lower than recent trends, rising to 22% when excluding Central and State government subsidies; (ii) the proportional losses of the distribution companies, excluding subsidies from the Central and State governments, have declined 6 percentage points (on a base of 28%) in the last decade, but their aggregate yearly loss has increased by Rs. 77,000 Cr (43%) due to growth in subsidised consumption; (iii) most gains in reported discom finances are due to the increasing formalisation of States bringing electricity subsidies onto their budgets; (iv) States that drew funds under the most recent Central bailout programme (the UDAY scheme) have seen smaller gains in efficiency and reductions in losses in recent years than States that did not participate in the bailout.

Taking Forward IMF's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy at the Country Level



The International Monetary Fund's 2022 Strategy to Mainstream Gender calls for an intentional and systematic approach to integrating gender into macroeconomic policies to foster strong, sustainable, and inclusive growth. This working paper by Ratna Sahay and Rishi Goyal argues that the IMF is filling a critical gap in its mandate by mainstreaming gender into its work. It makes the case that (i) closing gender gaps is macro-critical because they go hand-in-hand with higher economic growth, greater financial stability, and lower income inequality. Not doing so would lead to underdevelopment, underutilization, and misallocation of productive human resources; and (ii) applying a gender lens to macroeconomic, financial, and structural policy design can help to narrow gender gaps and result in improved economic outcomes.

Reports



Logistics Cost in India: Assessment and Long-term Framework

India's National Logistics Policy, launched on 17 September 2022, aims to reduce logistics costs in India in order to enhance efficiency and competitiveness, and foster innovation across various sectors of the economy. In this context, it is important to reliably measure the costs associated with logistics and identify ways to reduce these costs. Since there is currently no official estimate nor any scientific framework for determining logistics costs in the country, the Logistics Division notified a Task Force on 28 March 2023, comprising members from academia, international experts, NITI Aayog, Asian Development Bank, line Ministries and industry associations, with the objective of developing a framework for estimating logistics costs. Two senior members of the NCAER faculty, Professors Poonam Munjal and Sanjib Pohit, were among the members appointed for this Task Force. Several meetings of the Task Force were held between March and October 2023, to discuss various issues, including global benchmarks and methodologies, the best possible measurement methods for India, and the availability of updated or even real-time data, among other things. This report is the outcome of this extensive exercise.



The NCAER-NSE Business Expectations Survey for India Second Quarter 2023-24

NCAER carried out the 126th Round of its Business Expectations Survey (BES) in September 2023, with support from the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE). NCAER has been conducting the BES every quarter since 1992, covering 500 firms across four regions. There has been an all-round improvement in business sentiments in this quarter. The Business Confidence Index (BCI) rose from 128 in 2023-24: Q1 to 140.7 in 2023-24: Q2. The BCI was also higher than in the corresponding quarter in the previous year (132.5 in 2022-23: Q2).

Journal

MARGIN: The Journal of Applied Economic Research

Margin: The Journal of Applied Economic Research (JAER) is a quarterly, peer-reviewed, international journal published by NCAER in conjunction with SAGE International. JAER publishes papers that pay special attention to the economics of emerging economies, but is open to high-quality papers from all fields of applied economics. The latest issue of *Margin* contains the following papers:

- **Priorities for the G20 Finance Track** by Barry Eichengreen and Poonam Gupta
- **Urban Exclusion: Rethinking Social Protection in the Wake of the Pandemic in India** by Pallavi Choudhuri, Santanu Pramanik and Sonalde Desai
- **The Economic Implications of Air Pollution: A Case of Two Cities** by Soumi Roy Chowdhury, Sanjib Pohit, and Rishabh Singh
- **A Systemic Analysis of the Impact of the Pandemic on the Indian Tourism Economy** by Poonam Munjal
- **Chronic Absenteeism and Its Impact on the Learning Outcomes of Primary Grade Students in India** by Charu Jain and Ruchi Jain



Data collection for the third wave of the NCAER flagship longitudinal survey, India Human Development Survey (IHDS-3), is in full swing. Data collection has been completed for about 44,000 households as well as communities (villages/urban blocks) in which they live and, health facilities and schools in these communities. Data collection for Assam, North-east, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is ongoing while data collection for the rest of the States and Union Territories has been completed. IHDS-3 also contains a telephonic survey of individuals who have migrated out from the households interviewed in IHDS-1 and IHDS-2. This survey is ongoing.

Opinion and Journal Articles/Blogs

NCAER researchers published the following opinion articles and blogs during the last three months:

Opinion Articles

[Unlocking India's potential with AI](#)

Nandan Nilekani and Tanuj Bhojwani

Finance & Development (IMF Publication), December 31, 2023

[Evaluating the Indian economy's resilience](#)

Poonam Gupta

Business Standard, December 29, 2023

[India needs a gender strategy](#)

Poonam Gupta

Business Standard, October 19, 2023

[Designing social welfare systems for gig workers](#)

Bornali Bhandari and Ajaya K. Sahu

The Hindu Business Line, December 28, 2023

[Why mandatory period leave may not work](#)

Ravi Gupta

Financial Express, December 27, 2023

[The key to a sovereign's resilience](#)

Udaibir Das

OMFIF, December 21, 2023

[Climate change: Are we close to collective action?](#)

Isha Dayal and Sanjib Pohit

The Hindu Business Line, November 18, 2023

[The time for Africa's financial transformation is now](#)

Udaibir Das

OMFIF, November 15, 2023

Indians do work long hours

Palash Baruah and D.L. Wankhar

The Hindu Business Line, November 9, 2023

Fish consumption in India in 2022-23 and future prospects

Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Laxmi Joshi and Nijara Deka

Aquapost (Online), November 1, 2023

India needs both e-vehicles and biofuels

Sanjib Pohit and Anupma Mehta

The Hindu Business Line, October 27, 2023

Chattogram Port: A win-win for India and Bangladesh

Saurabh Bandyopadhyay

The Financial Express, October 23, 2023

Closing the gender pay gap in the workforce

Sonalde Desai

The Hindu, October 16, 2023

Not a favoured place for raising girls

Anupma Mehta

QRIUS, October 14, 2023

Journal Articles

"Exploring gender role attitude of stay-at-home and employed married women in Delhi"

Jyoti Thakur and Reimeingam Marchang, *S.N. Social Science Journal*, Springer Nature, 6 December 2023

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"A mobile sensor platform based cyber-physical system for surface water quality mapping and management"

Srinivasa Balivada, Priyank Hirani, Saba Mundlay, Gregory Grant, Himank Sharma, Ritumbhara Chauhan, Sukanya Randhawa, Ashu Balhara, Anand Kumar, Nutun Maurya, Prashant Pandey, Gopi Shaik, Lova Murthy, Utkarsh Rai, Bala S. G, Tanima Dutta, Hari P. Gupta, Sanjib Pohit, Soumi R. Choudhury, Malini Reddy, Srinivas V. Chary, Monisha Ghosh, Supratik Guha, *Preprint*, November 2023

"Gender and Generation: Landownership and Older Indians' Autonomy"

Hope Xu Yan, Sonalde Desai, and Debasis Barik, *Feminist Economics*, 17 October 2023

Update on NCAER Events

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The 23rd Annual Neemrana Conference, December 16-17, 2023

NCAER, in collaboration with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) organises an annual conference at Neemrana Fort Palace. This year's Conference was held during 16-17 December 2023. The Neemrana Conference began in 1999, led by a desire to create a

forum that focuses on important economic policy issues and brings together prominent policy-makers, regulators, industry leaders, and academic luminaries from the best think tanks and universities from India and abroad working on policy matters around the world.

The various sessions at the 23rd Neemrana Conference covered deliberations on a diverse range of subjects, including the Public Debt Landscape; Skills, Jobs and Economic Growth in the Era of AI; India's Trade and Industrial Policy Activism; Policy Mix for Responding to External Shocks; Demography and Destiny; Global Outlook and Implications for India; How India's Private Sector Finances, Governs and Manages Itself; and a lecture on 'India in Search of Glory'.



Indian Job Market for Economists 2023, December 22-23, 2023

NCAER and the Society for Economics Research in India, in collaboration with the Econometric Society and EconJobMarket.org, set up the Indian Job Market for Economists (IJME) in 2022. The collaboration has created a hybrid centralised platform to bring together young economists and PhD candidates looking for jobs from India and abroad, on one hand, and Indian think tanks, universities, research institutions, government agencies, and private sector organisations looking to fill up their open positions, on the other hand. IJME also aims to solve coordination problems among job-seekers and potential recruiters, and to allow for a more efficient flow of information.

The second IJME was conducted from September 2023 to December 2023. The in-person meetings were held during 22-23 December 2023 at NCAER's iconic campus in New Delhi.



IEPFA-NCAER Webinar: "Investor Education and Protection Policy in India: Claiming the Unclaimed", December 12, 2023

NCAER, in partnership with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), conducted an in-person one-day workshop for youth under the theme "Investor Education and Protection Policy in India: Claiming the Unclaimed", on 12 December 2023.

The workshop witnessed the convergence of diverse stakeholders, including students, government entities, academic institutions, investors, and experts. Dr C.S. Mohapatra, IEPF Chair Professor at NCAER, at the outset, emphasised the criticality of empowering budding investors with adequate financial knowledge and a secured environment along with fast restoration of unclaimed shares to the rightful claimants.



NCAER Dialogue Room Seminar Series: "Access to Clean Water and the Role of Information and Transaction Costs: Field Experimental Evidence from India", December 1, 2023

NCAER organised an in-person event on 'Access to Clean Water and the Role of Information and Transaction Costs' on 1 December 2023, as part of its Dialogue Room Seminar Series.

At the seminar, Dr Prarthna Agarwal Goel, Assistant Professor with the Department of Economics at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, presented findings from the study located in a rural region of India where groundwater is heavily contaminated with a hazardous naturally occurring compound. The authors of this paper worked with State government agencies to implement a cluster RCT to study the reasons behind the lack of demand for water quality in the region.



Dissemination Workshop on Collaborative NCAER-CDS-Celestial Earth Study, November 28, 2023

A Dissemination Workshop was held on 28 November 2023 at the Energy Management Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, to discuss the report, "Challenges and Policy Implications for Low-Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach", which is based on a study undertaken by NCAER in collaboration with Centre for Development Studies and The Celestial Earth.



IEPFA-NCAER-NSE Conference on Investor Protection in the Digitalised World: Role and Criticality of Financial Advisors, November 20, 2023

A joint Conference on ‘Investor Protection in the Digitalized World: Role and Criticality of Financial Advisors’, organised by IEPFA, NCAER, and the National Stock Exchange (NSE), was held at the NSE office in Mumbai, on 20 November 2023. Since its inception, the IEPFA has held a number of Investor Awareness Programmes aimed at achieving inclusive financial literacy for stakeholders in rural, semi-urban, and urban areas besides enabling the rightful claimants to get their due unclaimed shares, dividends, and debentures speedily. The joint Conference at NSE signified a continuation of this effort.



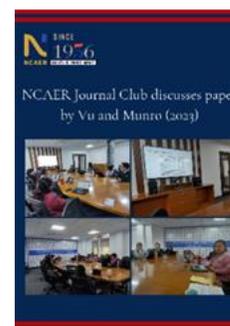
IEPFA-NCAER Investor Education and Protection Webinar, October 30, 2023

The IEPFA, in partnership with NCAER, conducted a webinar on the theme “Role of Data Protection Act, 2023 in Protecting Investors in the Digital Era”, on 30 October 2023. The webinar witnessed the convergence of diverse stakeholders, including government entities, academic institutions, investors, and industry experts. In his welcome address, Dr C.S. Mohapatra, IEPF Chair Professor at NCAER, highlighted the need for and importance of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP) Act, with special reference to its role in protecting investors in the digitalised era.



NCAER Journal Club Meeting, December 20, 2023

The journal club meeting entailed a discussion on a paper by Vu and Munro (2023), **The Link between Vulnerability to Poverty and Depression: Evidence from Vietnam**, using the ‘Vietnam Access to Resources Household Survey’ panel data, which finds significant causal relationship between vulnerability to poverty and mental health.



Voices of our Researchers

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- Dr Poonam Gupta’s paper, **Inflation Targeting in India: An Interim Assessment**, was cited in the article, **Four years of 4%-plus inflation – how RBI lost and is regaining control**, by Siddharth Upasani, published in *MoneyControl.com*, on 18 October 2023.
- Dr Sonalde Desai’s views were cited in the following articles:
 - **Truth be told, state of malnutrition in India is not known**, by Siraj Hussain, published in *Deccan Herald*, 18 December 2023.
 - **India’s women are staying in school longer – but not for their careers**, by Karishma Mehrotra, published in *The Washington Post*, 9 December 2023.

- [Poor Asian countries face an ageing crisis](#), published in *The Economist*, 12 October 2023.
- [Why everyone's counting on the Census — and why a delay hurts](#), by Udit Misra, published in *The Indian Express*, 6 October 2023.
- Dr Bornali Bhandari's views were cited in the following articles:
 - [Firms dither on hiring as labour market stagnates, says NCAER survey](#), by S. Rajora, *Business Standard*, 3 November 2023.
 - [Finance Commission gets first officer; terms of reference expected soon](#), by S. Bhattacharya, *Business Standard*, 7 November 2023.
- Dr Piyali Majumder's views were cited in the article, [Rise of FTAs In India: What's Changed and Why Now? — BQ Explains](#), published in *bqprime.com*, 6 November 2023.

Faculty Activities

Following are details of the activities and engagements of NCAER staff and faculty during October-December 2023:

Dr Poonam Gupta, Director General

- Participated in EAC-PM meetings, New Delhi, October, November, December 2023.
- Speaker on 'Economic Scorecard or Political Opportunity, Pre-Budget Session', Ananta Centre, New Delhi, December 20, 2023.
- Participated in NITI Aayog G-20 Book Launch Event, New Delhi, December 19, 2023.
- Presentation on 'Responding to External Shocks: What is the Right Policy Mix for India?', at the 23rd Annual Neemrana Conference, Neemrana Fort Palace, December 17, 2023.
- Presentation on 'Public Debt Landscape: Global and India', at the 23rd Annual Neemrana Conference, Neemrana Fort Palace, December 16, 2023.
- Participated online in GDN Board Meeting, Paris, December 2-3, 2023.
- Speaker on 'India's Debt Dilemma', World Bank, Washington, D.C., November 28, 2023.
- Presentation on 'Dealing with Debt: India's Experience in the Global Context', at Observer Research Foundation America, Washington, D.C., November 20, 2023.
- Chair of a session at the Columbia University Conference on 'India's Growth Story: Why UP and Bihar Matter', New York, November 18, 2023.
- Speaker at Columbia University Conference on 'The Future of Jobs and Jobs of the Future', New York, November 18, 2023.
- Speaker at IMF Conference on 'Fiscal Policy in an Era of High Debt', Washington, D.C., November 16-17, 2023.
- Participated in Conference on State Forum, jointly organised by the NIPFP and the World Bank, New Delhi, November 2-3, 2023.
- Participated in High-Level Consultation on the World Bank's 2024 World Development Report, NCAER, New Delhi, October 23, 2023.
- Panellist at the Kautilya Economic Conclave on 'Macro Management: Domestic Structural Reforms and Growth', New Delhi, October 20-22, 2023.
- Keynote Speaker at a Roundtable on 'States as Drivers of Development in India', Institute for Competitiveness, New Delhi, October 18, 2023.
- Participated in Virtual Roundtable Conversation with IMF First Deputy Managing Director, October 9, 2023.

Dr Sonalde Desai, Professor

- Attended Review Meeting, Research for Impact, UN Fund for Population Activity, and Chair of Session on “Emerging Population Issue and Climate Change”, December 4, 2023.
- Participated virtually in the 16th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Surveys, organised by Department of Statistics and Information Management, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai, November 30, 2023.
- Participated in the "Research-based Education and Anusandhan Scenario in Sciences and Related Fields", organised by the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports at Parliament House, New Delhi, November 9, 2023.
- Speaker in a panel discussion on the book titled, *Scheduled Castes in the Indian Labour Market: Employment Discrimination and its Impact on Poverty*, published by Oxford University Press, UK, organized by Rosa-Luxemburg Stiftung, South Asia, and Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, at India International Centre, New Delhi, November 8, 2023.
- Speaker at NITI Aayog Post G-20 Thematic Workshop, “Harnessing Data for Development (D4D) for Accelerating the Progress on Sustainable Development Goals”, New Delhi, November 3, 2023.
- Co-chair at the Artha Retreat 2023, theme, “The Road to 2047: Opportunities and Challenges” organised by Artha Global, Kochi, Kerala, October 27-30, 2023.
- Presented paper titled, “India’s Occupational Transformation: A Tale of Two Escalators”, at a conference on “India’s Economy in a Changing Global Landscape” at Cornell University, Ithaca, October 14, 2023.

Dr Ratna Sahay, Professor

- Chaired panel on “Managing Exogenous Shocks: What is the Right Policy Mix for India?” at 23rd Annual Neemrana Conference, Neemrana Fort Palace, December 17, 2023.
- Published book (with Gaston Gelos), titled, *Shocks and Capital Flows: Policy Responses in a Volatile World*, International Monetary Fund, November 2023.
- Participated in panel discussion on “Gender Diversity in Economics,” organised by the School of Economics and Social Sciences, Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Pakistan, November 16-19, 2023.
- Participated in Sessions related to ‘Care Economy’, World Economic Forum’s Annual Meetings, Dubai, October 16-18, 2023.

Dr Sanjib Pohit, Professor

- Presentation/Participation in meeting of India Climate and Energy Modelling Forum Task Force 1, at NITI Aayog, New Delhi, December 21, 2023.
- Presentation in seminar on “Challenges and Policy Implications for Low Carbon Pathway for Kerala: An Integrated Assessment Modelling Approach”, organised by Centre for Development Studies, at Energy Management Centre, Kerala, November 28, 2023.

Dr Bornali Bhandari, Professor

- Presented paper titled, ‘Tenure, Earnings and Productivity of Platform Delivery Workers: Evidence from India’, along with co-authors, Samarth Gupta and Ajaya K. Sahu, at the 18th Annual Conference on ‘Economic Growth and Development’, ISI, New Delhi, December 19, 2023.
- Panel Speaker on ‘Socio-economic Analysis of Food Delivery Platform Workers’ at Session on ‘Digital Economy and Platformization’, National Conference on Digital Technology and Social Change, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, November 23, 2023.

- Invited Speaker, 'Impact of G-20 Presidency on Indian Economy', Bharat Chamber of Commerce, New Delhi, October 31, 2023.
- Panel Discussant, 'Status and Rights of Platform and Gig Workers', Project Digital Platforms and Women's Economic Empowerment, at ISI Delhi and KREA University, October 10, 2023.
- Part of the EXIM Bank International Economic Research (IERA) Citation 2022.

Dr C.S. Mohapatra, IEPF Chair Professor

- Participated in an interactive session on "National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE): Where Are We Today", with officials of the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE), Mumbai, November 22, 2023.
- Participated in an interactive session titled, "From Knowledge to Wealth: Bridging the Gap between Financial Literacy and Financial Well-being", with the faculty of the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM), Mumbai, November 21, 2023.
- Delivered a special guest lecture on "Financial Stability Architecture in India and Its Role in Promoting Investor Awareness and Protection" to students at the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM), Mumbai, November 21, 2023.
- Guest Speaker on the topic, "Digital Inclusion: A Catalyst for Corporate Innovation and Social Progress", at the 51st National Convention of Company Secretaries on the theme, 'India @ G20- Empowering Sustainable Future through Governance and Technology', at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, November 2 and 3, 2023. Also released a publication brought out by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), titled, "Limited Liability Partnership", on the occasion.

Dr Pallavi Choudhuri, Senior Fellow

- Panellist, NITI Aayog State Workshop Series on 'Leveraging State Data Ecosystems for State and District-Level Policy and Planning', hosted by NITI Aayog and the World Bank, Lucknow, November 17, 2023.
- Discussant for presentation on 'Explaining the Significant Hikes in Female Work Participation Rate in India in Recent Years and Some Thoughts on How to Raise It Further', Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, November 9, 2023.

Mr Devender Pratap, Senior Fellow

- Delivered a Public Lecture on 'Input- Output Analysis and Social Accounting Matrix: A Multiplier Analysis', at Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, November 30, 2023.
- Chaired a Plenary Session on 'Climate Change and Agriculture: Adaptations for Sustainable Food Security, at the Conference on 'India's Growth Trajectory during Amrit Kaal', at Department of Finance and Business Studies, South Campus, University of Delhi, November 17, 2023.
- Delivered two online lectures on: i) 'Input-Output Models and Social Accounting Matrix: A Primer to General Equilibrium Analysis', and ii) 'Role of CGE Modelling in Evidence-Based Policy Making in India', as part of the Online Refresher Course in Economics, at The Malviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, October 7, 2023.

Dr Piyali Majumder, Associate Fellow

- Invited as an expert at the The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI)-European Roundtable on 'Climate Change and Sustainable Transition', at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, October 18, 2023.
- Presented paper on 'Impact of Agglomeration Economies on Plant Productivity: Evidence from Indian Manufacturing', co-authored with Professor Aparna Sawhney, at National Conference on

'Towards Industrial Transformation of India', at Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, October 4-6, 2023.

Dr Anomita Ghosh, Associate Fellow

- Paper presentation on "Persistence in Physicians' Locations: Long-Run Evidence from Decentralised Loan Repayment Programs", at Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, November 24, 2023.
- Paper presentation on "Persistence in Physicians' Locations: Long-Run Evidence from Decentralised Loan Repayment Programs", at Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad, October 16, 2023.

Institutional News

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NCAER In the News

- The following news articles covered the NCAER report, [Logistics Cost in India: Assessment and Long-term Framework](#):
 - *India shipping News*: [India to pitch for changes to West Bengal Logistics Index](#)
 - *Business Standard*: [Reduction of logistics cost is a big macro turnaround for India](#)
 - *Logistics Insider.in*: [The earlier estimate was subjective, which has not been replaced by a rational number" Dr Surendra Ahirwar on India's logistic cost](#)
 - *Economic Times*: [India's logistics cost is not 13-14 percent of GDP, it never was](#)
 - *The New Indian Express*: [Aim to bring logistics cost down to 5% of GDP: Piyush Goyal](#)
 - *The Shillong Times*: [Big-ticket infra push helps India emerge as bright spot amid global slowdown](#)
 - *The Hindu Business Line*: [Logistics cost in India at 7.8% - 8.9% of GDP in 2021-22: NCAER report](#)
 - *The Financial Express*: [NCAER estimates India's logistics costs at 7.8-8.9%, lower than assumed so far](#)
 - *Livemint*: [India's logistics cost declined to 7.8-8.9% of GDP in FY22: NCAER](#)
 - *Money Control*: [Logistics cost for 2021-22 between 7.8-8.9 percent of GDP says govt.](#)
 - *Zeebiz* : [NCAER pegs India's logistics cost between 7.8-8.9% of GDP in FY22: NCAER Estimates](#)
 - *Reuters*: [India cuts logistics costs to below 9% of GDP with higher state spending](#)
 - *The Print in*: [India's logistics cost to GDP is 8-9%: Report](#)
 - *Twitter.com/ani/status/*: [On India's logistics cost between 7.8-8.9% of GDP in 2021-22](#)
 - *Republicworld.com/India*: [India cuts logistics costs to below 9% of GDP with higher state spending](#)
 - *Mmillenniumpost.in*: [India's logistics cost ranges from 7.8 - 8.9% of GDP in FY22: NCAER](#)
- [The Workshop on Investor Education and Protection Policy in India: Claiming the Unclaimed](#), jointly organised by NCAER and IEPFA on December 12, 2023, received the following media coverage:
 - *PIB*: [IEPFA and NCAER jointly organise workshop on 'Investor Education and Protection Policy in India: Claiming the Unclaimed' in New Delhi](#)

- *FELA Foundation*: [Youth Empowerment: IEPFA and NCAER Host Workshop on Investor Education and Unclaimed Funds](#)
- *ForumIAS Community*: [IEPFA and NCAER jointly organize workshop on 'Investor Education and Protection Policy in India](#)
- The following news articles covered [The NCAER-NSE Business Expectations Survey for India Second Quarter 2023–24](#):
 - *Business Standard*: [Firms dither on hiring as labour market stagnates, says NCAER survey](#)
 - *The Economic Times*: [All-round improvement in business sentiments in Q2: NCAER survey](#)
 - *Cfo.economictimes.indiatimes.com*: [All-round improvement in business sentiments in Q2: NCAER survey](#)
 - *www.newsdrum.in*: [All round improvement in business sentiments in Q2: NCAER Survey](#)
- The NCAER report, [Health Seeking Pathways in Four Indian States \(4IS\)](#), was cited in the following news articles:
 - [NCAER bats for investment in public healthcare services](#), published in *Bizz Buzz* (online), 25 October 2023.
 - [Three Charts on Ayushman Bharat’s Achievements and Shortfalls](#), published in *Indiaspend.com* (online), on 8 October 2023.
- The NCAER report, [Study to Identify Gap in Institutional Funding in Agro-Processing Cooperative Sector in India](#) was cited in the news article, [The era of agtech: Shifting from conventional to digital transformations](#), published in *The Financial Express*, 29 November 2023.
- Dr Sonalde Desai has been appointed as one of the Non-Official Members of the [Standing Committee on Economic Statistics \(SCES\)](#), constituted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), to deliberate on various issues related to all surveys, as and when required by MoSPI.
- A paper co-authored by Professor Bornali Bhandari was amongst the top 10 popular articles in 2023 in the journal, *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, https://www.linkedin.com/posts/sced-journal_sced-economics-employment-activity-7147961604712665088-C884/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

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