



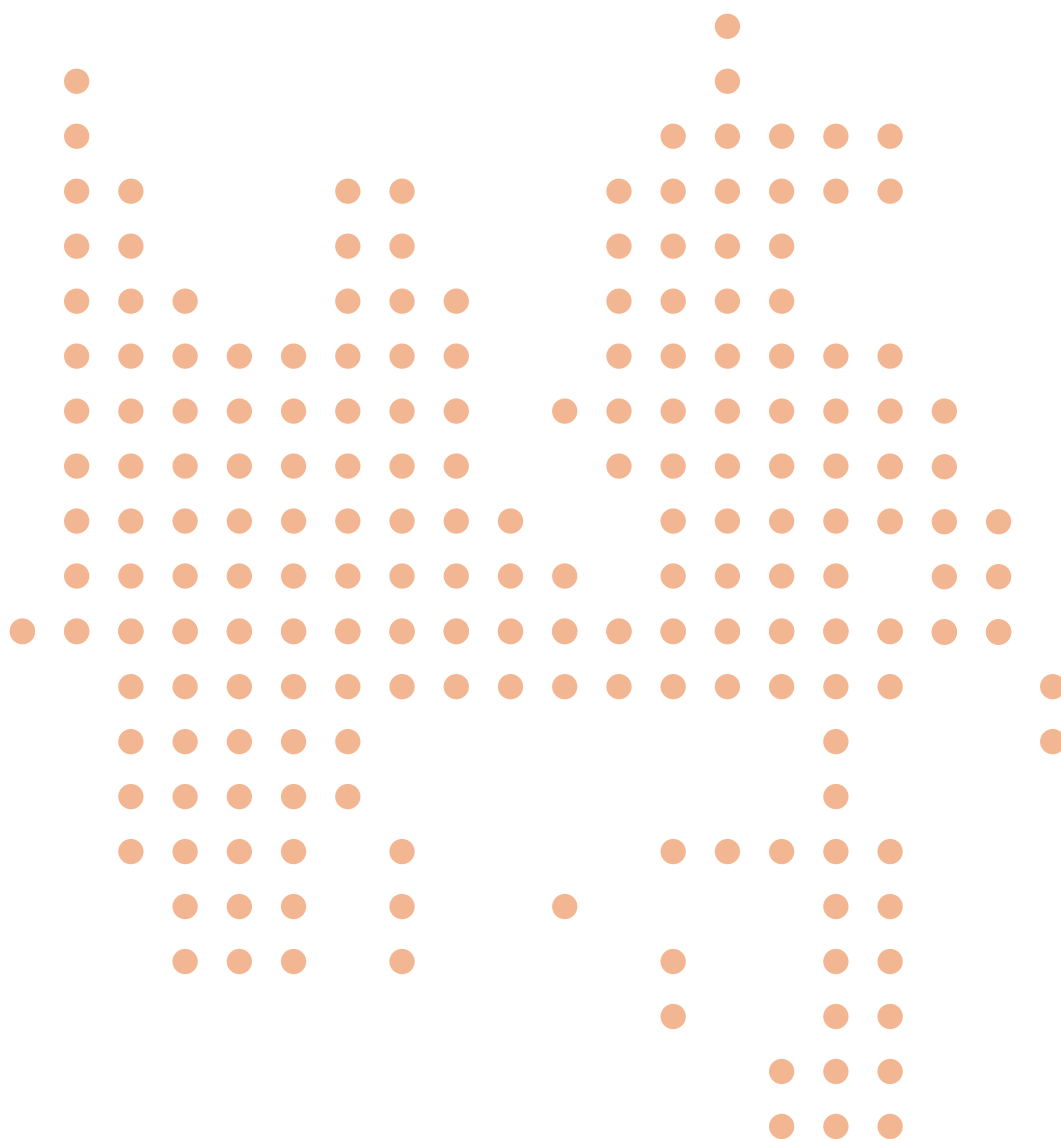
SINCE  
**1956**  
QUALITY.RELEVANCE.IMPACT


National Council  
of Applied Economic  
Research

# Annual Report 2019–20



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*Published by*  
Anil K. Sharma  
*Secretary and Operations Director*  
National Council of Applied Economic Research  
NCAER India Centre  
11 Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi 110 002  
Tel: +91-11-2345-2686, 6120-2657  
aksharma@ncaer.org  
www.ncaer.org

*Compiled by*  
Jagbir Singh Punia  
*Coordinator, Publications Unit*

# NCAER | Quality . Relevance . Impact

The National Council of Applied Economic Research, or NCAER as it is more commonly known, is India's oldest and largest independent, non-profit, economic policy research institute. It is also one of a handful of think tanks globally that combine rigorous analysis and policy outreach with deep data collection capabilities, especially for household surveys.

NCAER was established in 1956 as a public-private partnership, working with both government and industry. NCAER's first Governing Body included the entire Cabinet of economics ministers and the leading lights of the private sector. These included names like C. D. Deshmukh, J.R.D. Tata, John Matthai, and Asoka Mehta. The Ford Foundation provided substantial, early financial support, combined with support from the Finance Ministry and Tata Sons.

Over more than six decades, NCAER's Governing Body has included almost every prominent Indian economist and industrialist, including Dr Manmohan Singh as a member during 1976–82, and Ratan Tata as President during 1994–98. NCAER's current Governing Body is headed by Mr Nandan M. Nilekani, the former Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India, Co-founder and former CEO of Infosys Ltd, and now the Non-Executive Chairman of Infosys. NCAER has been led since 2011 by its ninth Director General, Dr Shekhar Shah, who joined NCAER from the World Bank where he was last the Bank's Regional Economic Adviser for South Asia.

NCAER's iconic campus located in the heart of New Delhi has been home to some of the best economists, statisticians, journalists, and corporate minds of India. On July 27, 2013, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh laid the foundation stone for the new NCAER India Centre (NIC).



Phase 1 of the NIC, consisting of a new office tower, a new conference centre, the NIC Plaza and ample underground parking, was completed in 2019. Staff shifted to the new office tower, now named the John Matthai Tower after NCAER's first President, at the end of August 2019. NCAER staff can now enjoy a pleasant, light-filled, ultra-modern facility that would match the facilities of any think tank globally. The Library, staff cafeteria, and other facilities continue to operate from the original A. P. Kanvinde *Parisila Bhavan*, which will be architecturally restored in Phase 2 that was slated to start in early 2020, but will now start in late 2020 or early 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This upgrading of NCAER's physical facility is part of a long-term strategy to grow NCAER's human, social, systems, and financial capital.

Our research fits five thematic areas:

- *Growth, macroeconomics, trade, fiscal and monetary policy, global finance;*
- *The investment climate, industry, infrastructure, the financial sector, labour, land, and urban;*
- *Agriculture, natural resources, and the environment;*
- *Poverty, human development, equity, gender, and consumer behaviour; and*
- *Scientific collection, innovation, and curation of economic and social data.*

NCAER faculty generate and analyse empirical evidence to support and inform public policy choices in these areas. NCAER's core strengths in primary data collection provide a strong foundation for its work. In late 2017, NCAER took a major step forward in this direction with the establishment of the NCAER Data Innovation Centre.

NCAER regularly brings expertise, evidence, and informed debate to the public discussion of important policy choices with its numerous outreach and public policy events. The annual India Policy Forum (IPF, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year), and the Neemrana Conference (which celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary in 2019) are both NCAER signature initiatives. The IPF proceedings are published in the *India Policy Forum*, one of the highest citations-ranked economics journals out of India. NCAER has been publishing its refereed, international journal *Margin: The Journal of Applied Economic Research*, for over five decades. NCAER adapted rapidly to the challenges of outreach during the pandemic, switching to virtual platforms that have allowed greater global participation in our events.

NCAER researchers pursue a mix of their own and bespoke research for governments and industry. The institution is also supported by long-term research grants from international and national donors, core support, and income from NCAER's endowment. NCAER was among the two largest members worldwide of the Think Tank Initiative, receiving competitive core funding from an international donor consortium during 2010-2019.

As an increasingly networked institution with a growing number of overseas and domestic non-resident, visiting researchers, NCAER maintains extensive research links in India and outside. Some of these include NBER, the Brookings Institution, the University of Michigan, the University of Maryland, Columbia University, Stanford University, the London School of Economics and Political Science, Oxford University, Australian National University, Monash University, and the Policy Research Institute in Tokyo. NCAER's links in South Asia include almost all the major economic think tanks in the region.

**For further details please visit  
[www.ncaer.org](http://www.ncaer.org)**



Naming the John Matthai Tower at the *NCAER India Centre*.



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*Shifting from Parisila Bhavan to the new NCAER T1 office tower, August 23-26, 2019, now named the John Matthai Tower.*

# The Institution

## Governing Body

The Governing Body of NCAER, headed by its President, includes prominent persons from government, industry and academia, and is elected by the General Body of NCAER. The Chief Executive of NCAER is its Director General. The General Body includes all members of the Governing Body, representatives of central government, public sector corporations, corporate houses, other institutions, and individuals.

The Governing Body met twice during 2019–20, on August 27, 2019 and on March 9, 2020. The General Body met on August 27, 2019.

### President

Nandan M. Nilekani Non-Executive Chairman of the Infosys Board Bengaluru, former Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India, New Delhi, and Co-Founder and former CEO, Infosys

### Vice-President

Rajendra S. Pawar Chairman and Co-Founder, NIIT Group, and Founder, NIIT University, New Delhi

### Members

Mukesh D. Ambani	Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries Limited, Mumbai
Surjit S. Bhalla	Executive Director for India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka, International Monetary Fund, Washington, D.C.
Atanu Chakraborty	Secretary, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi
Ashish Dhawan	Founder and Chairman, Central Square Foundation, New Delhi
Deepak S. Parekh	Chairman, HDFC Limited, Mumbai
Shekhar Shah	Director General, NCAER, New Delhi

### Secretary

Anil K. Sharma Professor and Operations Director, NCAER, New Delhi



### Founding Governing Body Members in 1956

John Matthai <i>Chairman, State Bank of India</i>	J.R.D. Tata <i>Chairman, Tata Industries Ltd</i>
C.D. Deshmukh <i>Union Minister of Finance</i>	Asoka Mehta <i>Member of Parliament</i>
T.T. Krishnamachari <i>Union Minister of Commerce and Industry</i>	J.F. Sinclair <i>General Manager, Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Co. of India Ltd</i>
V.T. Krishnamachari <i>Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission</i>	N.R. Pillai <i>Secretary-General, Ministry of External Affairs</i>

### General Body

<b>Life Members</b>	<b>Donor Members</b>
Bimal Jalan	Bata India Ltd
Subir Gupta	DCL Polyesters Ltd
D.N. Patodia	ICICI Bank Ltd
M.S. Verma	State Bank of India
	New Zealand High Commission, New Delhi
<b>Institutional and Corporate Members</b>	<b>Ordinary Members</b>
National Dairy Development Board	Agarwal Maheswari & Company
National Stock Exchange of India Ltd	EPW Research Foundation
NIIT Ltd	Martin & Harris (P) Ltd
Reliance Industries Ltd	SidhoMal Paper Conversion Co. (P) Ltd



*Governing Body meeting on March 9, 2020.*



*Naming of the John Matthai Tower.*



## DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE

It is a privilege and pleasure to present this 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research for fiscal year 2019-20.

With India and the world still in the grips of the Coronavirus pandemic, it feels strange to be writing about the year 2019-20, which was quite eventful, but which seems quite ordinary in comparison to what followed. 2019-20 ended as the pandemic was taking off. We knew so little of what lay ahead for the Indian economy, the health of its population, and how NCAER staff would continue to work under the pandemic. NCAER turned to work-from-home arrangements on March 17, a week before India started its first lockdown on March 25. As I write this, we continue to work from home, with essential staff maintaining the NCAER India Centre and critical administration staff going into the office only as needed and following strict health protocols.

2019-20 was eventful in part because it saw the most momentous physical transformation of NCAER in its 64-year history when we shifted in August 2019 to our new, ultra-modern, "T1" office tower from our much loved, 1961-vintage, *Parisila Bhavan*. We spent just under seven months in our beautiful new T1 quarters before we decided to close the NCAER India Centre for our staff in March. This report will describe both our move and the preparations for the pandemic that we initiated in late January as 2019-20 was ending.

### Our move to NCAER's new office tower

All NCAER staff moved their offices from *Parisila Bhavan* to our new T1 tower across the NCAER Plaza during the weekend of August 24-25, 2019. NCAER staff were more or less packed

by Thursday, August 22, awaiting the professional movers who did a splendid, clock-work job of shifting all cartons and IT equipment to their new locations, ready for occupancy on Monday, August 26. Tours of the new offices had been arranged over the previous month, including mock-ups of the three types of office spaces created on each floor, two in the common work areas and one in the doored rooms on each floor.

NCAER's new office quarters are one of the most modern, functional, buildings of any think tank in India, or indeed, overseas. Staff have been most pleased with the new spaces. They have liked their new ergonomic work chairs and work surfaces, modern IP digital telephones, a dedicated conference room and a self-help pantry on each floor, daylight-filled work areas, a centrally air-conditioned and heated building, and modern toilet facilities. There are sit-out areas to relax in or meet guests on each floor, and there are wonderful views of New Delhi available from most parts of the building. A large number of visitors who have visited NCAER after we moved in have been greatly impressed with the new facility.

### Naming NCAER's T1 office building the John Matthai Tower

At a simple ceremony on August 27, 2019 at the NCAER India Centre with staff and members of the NCAER Governing Body, NCAER's President Mr Nandan Nilekani named our new, 9-floor, office building as the John Matthai Tower. The Tower is named after NCAER's first President, Dr John Matthai (1886-1959), who led the first Governing Body during 1956 to 1959. Dr Matthai was also India's first Railway Minister, third Finance Minister, and



the first Chairman of the State Bank of India. NCAER is grateful to the Nilekani Philanthropies and to Nandan and Rohini Nilekani for their generous support for the NCAER India Centre. NCAER was privileged to host members of the Matthai family in October 2019 on a visit to the John Matthai Tower.

## NCAER in Coronavirus times

NCAER started preparing in late January for the pandemic and possibly having to close our offices. In mid-February, NCAER started intense sanitisation of all touch-points on the campus and staff education on hand washing, maintaining social distance, and being mindful of behaviour that could lead to aerosol or contact transmission of the Coronavirus.

**Work from home:** NCAER started its work-from-home protocol on March 17<sup>th</sup>, a week ahead of the March 25<sup>th</sup> national lockdown. This was completely uncharted territory for NCAER, so there was much learning and innovation that happened in the first weeks and months. Both administration and research staff at NCAER deserve the highest praise for their willingness to adapt to the new environment.

NCAER had taken the important step in February of going digital, building on the excellent IT infrastructure that NCAER had put in place in the NCAER India Centre. We purchased multiple Zoom licences to supplement our existing Cisco WebEx channels. We procured high-speed Wi-Fi dongles to distribute to staff with key business responsibilities. We also digitised and made remotely accessible as many campus-oriented functions as possible, including accounting and payments, campus surveillance, HR functions, access to our office IP telephones and our building management system, and eventually, during May-July, our annual statutory audit. To maintain the campus and physical facilities, we arranged for an

8-person security staff and a maintenance officer to be resident on campus and work in two shifts to provide 24x7 coverage of all maintenance, security, cleaning and gardening functions.

Starting immediately after we closed NCAER's offices in March, a Coronavirus Task Force (CVTF) began meeting every day on VC to go over issues and to plan and monitor the changes we were making in how NCAER was functioning. A key motivation for the CVTF has been the desire to build resilience while coping with the crisis so that we could be more efficient in normal times.

The crisis has forced innovation in the way we are working at NCAER, particularly in our core data collection work.

**Data collection:** Anticipating the multiple risks involved, NCAER suspended all field data operations on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The final round of NCAER's Delhi Metropolitan Area Study (DMAS) survey was the most affected, having started just a week earlier. To their credit, DMAS staff in the National Data Innovation Centre quickly pivoted their work, retooled, and began work on the NCAER Delhi Coronavirus Telephone Survey (DCVTS) for Delhi NCR. DCVTS is based on a sample of households that DMAS had been using. It seeks to understand household behaviour during the pandemic on many important health, family, mobility, and occupational dimensions. DCVTS was among the first such high-quality surveys done in India. DCVTS Round 1 was fielded during April 3-6, barely 10 days after the first lockdown started (findings released April 12), Round 2 during April 23-26 (findings released May 1), and Round 3 during June 15-23 (findings released July 4). NCAER has held three webinars to present this work. *The Economist* of April 23 cited the NCAER DCVTS-1.

The NCAER team managing the ongoing NCAER-Nossal study on

*Health Seeking Behaviour in Four Indian States* likewise pivoted to a rapid telephone survey during June 9-18, 2020, to gauge the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic in four districts in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. The aim was to understand the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on incomes, jobs, migration, availability of essentials, and existing health conditions. The survey also gauged perceptions about the return to work, concern about one's neighbours, the reliance that can be placed on others, fears related to the virus and isolation, and faith in the government's ability to handle the pandemic. The team in Delhi and Melbourne jointly presented the survey findings in a webinar that received significant coverage in the Indian national press.

The third major survey affected has been India's first crime and victimisation survey, the All India Citizens Survey of Police Services (AICSPS), which NCAER is doing for the Union Home Ministry. The sponsor, the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) cleared the final questionnaires in early April, a few days after the first lockdown had started. The AICSPS remains suspended as of this writing, dealing as it does with sensitive topics relating to household experience of crimes and therefore requiring nationwide, in-person surveys that remain infeasible. NCAER met BPR&D in mid-August to present a Contingent AICSPS Action Plan for when and how to deploy the field survey. Discussions are ongoing on when to proceed.

The suspension of field surveys is leading to innovation in data collection, most obviously in the switch to telephone surveys. NCAER's Business Expectations Survey has moved online away from tedious and costly enterprise visits. In a new major study of taxpayer satisfaction for the Ministry of Finance, we will be using web-based survey tools. We have obtained and started using data from the Covid-related surveys

that Facebook is carrying out for the University of Maryland, Carnegie Mellon University, and MIT. This is being done both for Covid-related substantive research using this data, and with the idea that NCAER may also use Facebook or other social media for surveys.

***Staff productivity and physical and mental health:*** We have tried hard to maintain productivity and staff engagement working from home in these difficult times. Most teams started meeting on VC several times a week. We started a weekly Friday virtual staff meeting that Governing Body members Mr Nilekani, Mr Pawar, and Mr Dhawan have also joined. We started a continuously open Zoom social channel called the *NCAER Digital Cafeteria* for any-time social and professional interaction for staff. We also started a Zoom session for informal family-oriented activities on Saturdays. We have arranged expert lectures by medical practitioners, including one on eye health during times of intense computer screen work, and a number of professional online staff training events, including on advanced techniques in data analysis and sampling for surveys.

NCAER did an online staff survey during April 2 to 5 to gauge staff preparedness for the lockdown and to benchmark their physical and mental health. We have been doing dipstick polling surveys during our Friday online staff meetings. NCAER's existing basic life and accidental death insurance policies were renewed with enhanced coverage. Extended basic life and accidental death insurance coverage were also made available to NCAER's contractual, out-sourced staff for the first time.

***Enhanced digital outreach:*** NCAER started a *Coronavirus Briefing Webinar* series on April 10<sup>th</sup> to promote ideas and discussion around key concerns for how India and its policymakers at the Central and State levels will navigate the very difficult terrain on the economy



while they seek to suppress the pandemic. These webinars have effectively replaced our public, in-person seminars and events and the response to them has been very positive, effectively expanding the reach for our events.

## Research starts and significant programme developments

### *Think-Tank Initiative Phase II ends:*

Phase-II of the Think Tank Initiative grant ended in March 2019, including a small supplemental 2018 grant for leadership training. Over the past 10 years, TTI has enabled NCAER to design and implement our 2020 Renewal Strategy to attain our vision of quality, relevance, and impact while providing us the room to explore, pilot, and learn by doing. TTI core support has provided a safety net for innovations and ambitious initiatives such as international recruiting and rebalancing our business model. It has allowed us to smooth revenue and other bumps along the way. More than anything, it has highlighted the importance of core support for NCAER and the need to expand our corpus.

***New research for the Department of Justice:*** The Department of Justice in the Ministry of Law and Justice signed an agreement in June 2019 for NCAER to undertake two research evaluations of India's eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase II and its Tele-Law Scheme. The first study is a follow up to an earlier NCAER study that assessed the efficiency and effectiveness of the eCourts Project to digitalise Indian courts. The Tele-Law Scheme provides low-cost legal aid through Common Service Centres in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and the Northeastern States. NCAER's evaluation will provide recommendations to enhance the scheme in case it is scaled up nationally.

In December 2019 the Department requested three further evaluation studies to assess the Access to Justice Scheme in the Northeastern States, the Nyaya

Mitra Scheme, and the Pro Bono Legal Services Programme. The Department of Justice in the Ministry of Law and Justice requested NCAER to conduct these three evaluations on a nomination basis. These evaluations will go towards a redesign of the schemes as DoJ is considering scaling them up to a national level.

### ***Assessing the impact of India's National Dairy Plan-1:***

The National Dairy Development Board in Anand requested NCAER in June 2019 to carry out a study to assess the impact of the first National Dairy Plan, NDP-1. The study will measure the impact of dairy interventions on producer households, farm employment generation, livelihoods, women empowerment, and vulnerable groups and on improvements in the quality of life in 18 major States that account for over 90 per cent of the country's milk production. It will do an ex-post, economic and financial evaluation to assess the design and delivery of the project.

### ***Measuring the impact of CDC funding on the Indian economy:***

The CDC Group is a development finance institution owned by the UK Government. NCAER signed an agreement with CDC in June 2019 to measure the impact on the Indian economy of CDC-supplied finance using a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model in collaboration with the Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS) at Victoria University, Melbourne. This is part of the NCAER-CoPS joint CGE research initiative under the MoU between NCAER and Victoria University. The work is led at CoPS by Professor Peter Dixon, one of the world's best experts in this field.

### ***Funding for the India Human***

***Development Survey-3 approved:*** July 2019 brought the good news that four-year funding for IHDS-3, NCAER's best known and India's only national household panel data set, was approved by the US National Institutes of Health through a grant to NCAER's long-

standing research partner, the University of Maryland at College Park. Two new U.S. collaborators joined the IHDS project, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and Indiana University Bloomington. Extensive preparatory work on the questionnaire and data systems proceeded during 2019 and 2020. The pandemic has postponed the original plans to launch the survey in 2020, now likely to start in 2021.

***Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru and its economic impact:*** NCAER started a study in July 2019 for the Bangalore International Airport Limited on a comprehensive economic impact assessment of the airport focusing on its regional economy and on the State economy and on income and employment generation. It will also assess the 10-year trajectory of this impact and examine the potential for better integration between the airport and the city's infrastructure to allow the airport to contribute more to the regional economy.

***Preparing health, education, and tourism satellite accounts for Uttarakhand State:*** The Directorate of Economics & Statistics of the Government of Uttarakhand commissioned NCAER to prepare these satellite accounts based on national and international guidelines and after in-depth analysis of the sectors and their inter-linkages. The research will identify sunrise sectors and provide a longer-term vision for these sectors in Uttarakhand's economy. NCAER will also help develop capacity in the Directorate of Economics & Statistics by organising training.

***Research study for WHO on alcohol taxation, affordability, and price elasticities in Indian States:*** WHO commissioned NCAER in September 2019 to review alcohol pricing mechanisms and the structure of liquor taxation across different alcohol products in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh,

Sikkim, Maharashtra, Bihar, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh. The study has estimated trends in sales, consumption, and the affordability of different alcoholic products, their price and tax elasticities segregated by geography and socio-economic status, and correlated the effects of different prohibition schemes on State revenues. The research has also estimated the cross-price elasticities between alcohol products and has provided an estimated incremental tax requirement for reducing the consumption of alcohol by 10 per cent by 2025.

***Preparing health, education, and tourism satellite accounts and an Input-Output transactions table for Himachal Pradesh:*** The Directorate of Economics & Statistics in the Government of Himachal Pradesh commissioned NCAER in December 2019 to prepare satellite accounts for these sectors and an input-output transactions table for the State. Similar in some respects with the ongoing work for Uttarakhand, the satellite accounts and the input-output transactions table will be prepared consistent with national and international guidelines and State officials will be trained to build capacity.

***Assessing the economic impact of the proposed Ratnagiri refinery:*** The Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd (RRPCL) commissioned NCAER in February 2020 to carry out an economic impact assessment of the proposed Ratnagiri refinery. The research is identifying key linkages that will yield the expected economic impact using input-output analysis to construct multipliers related to output, income, and employment at the State and national levels.

***NCAER receives the IEPF chair professorship:*** In March 2020, NCAER was privileged to receive the IEPF Chair on investor protection and regulatory economics for a term of five years from the Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority under the Ministry of

Corporate Affairs. The IEPF Chair Professor is expected to undertake research in the broad area of regulatory and public economics, including Indian investor behaviour and financial education, effectiveness of investor education and protection programmes, law, justice and economics, and land policies. Dr K P Krishnan, former Union Secretary, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, and with considerable experience in financial regulation, was selected for the position and joined NCAER in August 2020 as a regular staff member.

***Dynamic, multi-regional, Computable General Equilibrium modelling for India:***

NCAER working with the Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS) at Victoria University, Melbourne, will build on NCAER's existing strengths in CGE modelling with the help of the Asian Development Bank. The proposal has received enthusiastic support from the Ministries of Finance and Commerce & Industry. CGE policy simulations to be done by this work would allow policymakers to improve the evidence for policy design, implementation, and evaluation at the Central and State levels and would help build capacity in India for dynamic, regional, modelling by collaborating with the world's leading CGE modellers at CoPS in Australia.

## **NCAER events and outreach activities**

***Policy roundtable and industry consultation on NCAER's study on India's logistics costs:*** NCAER organised this meeting on May 20 to elicit comments on its study for the Logistics Division of the Ministry of Commerce. The Secretary, Logistics Division, chaired the vigorous discussion around the findings of the NCAER study.

***NCAER Panel Discussion: India's Current Macroeconomic Challenges:*** NCAER ran a timely panel discussion on June 7, 2019, on India's Current

Macroeconomic Challenges at the end of the new NDA Government's packed first week that also included an RBI Monetary Policy Committee meeting. Moderated by Y V Reddy, former Governor of the Reserve Bank, the panel consisted of Shankar Acharya, ICRIER, T N Ninan, *Business Standard*, and Sudipto Mundle, NCAER. In anticipation of the 2020 Union Budget and the new Chief Economic Adviser's maiden *Economic Survey*, the panel discussion was centred on key questions on fiscal and monetary policy in the face of the GDP slowdown with the lowest growth rate in five years in Q4 2019-20. It discussed questions such as how should policymakers use counter-cyclical policy that seemed to offer limited fiscal space and monetary policy that was not transmitting. What should a credible budget in July look like in face of these challenges? What could be the bold structural measures that could lift animal spirits? These questions seemed very important in June 2019, and looking back from the pandemic that followed, they look even more important.

***The 2019 India Policy Forum:*** The 16<sup>th</sup> India Policy Forum (IPF) was held on July 8-10, 2019, in the T2 Conference Centre at NCAER for the first time since the first IPF that was launched on a very small scale at NCAER. The 16<sup>th</sup> IPF brought together a who's who of some of the world's best economists working on India—including four Chief Economic Advisers to the Government of India, the Chairman of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, the former Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of the US Federal Reserve, two former Deputy Managing Directors of the IMF, two Secretaries to the Government of India, NITI Aayog's Advisor on Education, and a range of prominent researchers and policy analysts.

The 1<sup>st</sup> T. N. Srinivasan Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Pranab Bardhan of the University of California, Berkeley. Dr Krishnamurthy

Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India, opened the IPF with his keynote remarks. The annual IPF Lecture “*Modern Macroeconomic Policy*” was delivered by Professor Stanley Fischer, former Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the US Federal Reserve under President Obama. The Lecture was chaired by Mr N K Singh, Chairman, 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. The 2019 IPF featured five research papers, an IPF Roundtable on India’s new education policy, and the IPF Roundup summarising the key issues raised by the five papers. Concerns about the quality of India’s economic data dominated the papers and the discussion at the IPF. The IPF concluded with a panel discussion on *Validating India’s GDP Growth Estimates* moderated by Mr T N Ninan and featuring Dr Arvind Subramanian, Dr Pronab Sen, and Dr Sebastian Morris.

***The 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Institution Budget Seminar:*** The Directors of the five institutions, NCAER, the Centre for Policy Research, ICRIER, the India Development Foundation, and NIPFP came together on July 22, 2019 for this much awaited reflective assessment of the Union Budget. A full house at the Imperial Hotel in New Delhi joined the seminar to assess the first budget of the newly elected government. The seminar is organised by one of the five institutions on a rotating three-year cycle: ICRIER organised the 2019 Seminar. It is gratifying to see that the seminar that I started in 2006 when I was still with the World Bank continues to grow from strength to strength.

***NCAER QRE, the Quarterly Review of the Economy Seminar:*** NCAER’s QRE Seminar on July 26, 2019 released NCAER’s latest GDP growth projections, which were carried prominently in the media. A presentation on “Fintech: Prospects, Challenges and Opportunities” was made by MicroSave Consulting, with macro commentary by Dr Sudipto Mundle, Distinguished Fellow at NCAER.

***Memorial meeting for Dr Subir Gokarn:*** Subir Gokarn, former Chief Economist of NCAER and Executive Director at the IMF for India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, passed away in Washington DC after an illness. To celebrate his life and work, NCAER joined hands with Brookings India and *Business Standard* and held a memorial meeting on August 7, 2019, at NCAER. Subir was NCAER Chief Economist and held the IFCI Chair during 1999–2002. In that role, he ran the first three NCAER-NBER Neemrana Conferences. His association with NCAER continued over the years as an active member of the India Policy Forum Research Panel, co-editor on the *India Policy Forum* journal for several years, and a regular at the Neemrana Conferences.

***Workshop on Tourism Satellite Accounts for India:*** NCAER released its seminal study on India’s national and State tourism satellite accounts for 2015–16, prepared for the Union Ministry of Tourism, at a one-day workshop on September 6, 2019 at NCAER. Shri Yogendra Tripathi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, delivered the keynote address at the workshop attended by officials from the Departments of Economics and Statistics of several States; representatives of travel and tourism training institutes; officials from the Central Statistics Office and the Ministry of Tourism, and NCAER and other researchers. The Senior Director in the Research, Planning & Monitoring Department of the Nepal Tourism Board also attended.

***Quality of care and the bypassing of primary health centres in India: Implications for Ayushman Bharat:*** NCAER hosted the seminar by Krishna Dipankar Rao, Johns Hopkins University, on October 10, 2019. Shailender Swaminathan, Principal Economist, LEAD, KREA University, was the discussant. Dr Rao focused on the quality of care—both clinical and structural—and its implications for efforts to strengthen primary care



through the Government of India's recently launched Ayushman Bharat initiative.

***Joint NCAER-3ie conference: Leveraging open government, research, and data to strengthen policymaking in India:*** NCAER partnered with 3ie for this half-day event on November 7, 2019, in the T2 Conference Centre at NCAER as part of 3ie's Evidence Week. Panellists drew from their diverse backgrounds to discuss the nature and extent of data openness. Speakers recognised that though government and research data in India were not fully open and usable, concerns about data hoarding, confidentiality, and regulation by users also needed a closer look. Participants highlighted how silos within departments and lack of quality metadata constrain data availability and usability. The seminar offered suggestions on how accountability for the underlying evidence and for policymaking can be best served in a fast-moving digital world.

***Partnership with the India International Centre for the NCAER 2019-20 Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy:*** On November 16, 2019, NCAER presented the 2019-20 Mid-Year Review (MYR) of the Indian Economy at the India International Centre led by NCAER Distinguished Fellow Sudipto Mundle to a packed audience of policy makers, commentators, IIC members, and the business media. The MYR 2019 came at a time of heightened concern about the serious slowdown of the Indian economy, with both cyclical and structural factors coming together at a time when fiscal and monetary policy appeared to have limited headroom to tackle the slowdown. A panel discussion on "Balancing Macro Stability and Deeper Structural Reforms for a Growth Recovery" was moderated by Pronab Sen, former Chief Statistician of the Government of India. The MYR is the outcome of a long-standing partnership with IIC and continues the IIC series named after the MIDS founder, Malcolm

Adisheshiah.

***The 21<sup>st</sup> Neemrana Conference:*** The 21<sup>st</sup> Neemrana Conference with NBER was organised this year by ICRIER and commenced with a garden lunch hosted by the Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. N K Singh, NITI Aayog Members, Finance and DEA Secretaries, Arvind Subramanian, and Raghuram Rajan were among the prominent policymakers who spoke at Neemrana during December 13-15, 2019.

***Immigration, nationalism, and the economics of global movement:*** NCAER hosted a book talk on January 13, 2020, by Neeraj Kaushal, Professor of Social Policy at Columbia University, on her latest book, *Blaming Immigrants: Nationalism and the Economics of Global Movement*. Mr Sanjoy Hazarika, Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and Mr Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, Senior Editor, *Hindustan Times*, offered their comments after the book talk. Dr Kaushal discussed the growing discontent towards immigration globally. She found that it is neither the volume nor pace of immigration that is fuelling disaffection, but the willingness of nations to accept, absorb, and manage new immigration.

***The 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Institute Budget Seminar:*** NCAER, NIPFP, CPR, ICRIER, and IDF continued the tradition of coming together to present their reflections on the longer-term implications for the Indian economy arising out of the Union Budget 2020-21. Ms. Shereen Bhan, Managing Editor of CNBC-TV18, moderated the discussion and the Q&A for the seminar held on February 8, 2020. ICRIER organised this seminar.

***The C D Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2020:*** Dr David Lipton, First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, delivered NCAER's 8<sup>th</sup> C D Deshmukh Memorial Lecture in the T2 Auditorium on February 13, 2020, on "*India in a Changing World*." Lipton outlined the challenges and

uncertainties confronting the global economy, including the spread of the Coronavirus epidemic that was just gaining strength and was beginning to affect global value chains adversely. He cited 'secular stagnation' as a major policy problem across economies, reflected in challenges like anaemic productivity growth and weakening global trade. Though a legacy of the global financial crisis, these are also the new normal in a maturing, globalised world with rich but aging societies. Lipton argued that with the right domestic policies and a supportive global environment, India could become a source of 'secular dynamism,' the needed counterweight to the secular stagnation of the advanced economies. He rounded off his lecture by recommending that India participate more in global value chains and emerge as a hub for international manufacturing.

***Poverty, Inequality, and Growth in India, 2011-2018:*** Dr Surjit Bhalla, NCAER Governing Body member and IMF Executive Director for India, Nepal, and Bhutan, led this NCAER seminar on February 17, 2020, based on his joint paper with Karan Bhasin and Arvind Virmani. Dr Sudipto Mundle was the discussant. Bhalla addressed several issues around the debate on India's GDP growth and the quality of statistics, centred on the lack of robustness of national accounts data. The presentation showed estimates of poverty, inequality, and growth between 2011/12 and 2017/18 based on looking at all available data, including NCAER's own IHDS datasets, night-lights data, NSO data, and administrative data.

***NCAER launches its seminal Land Records & Services Index:*** NCAER launched its pioneering NCAER Land Records & Services Index (N-LRSI) on February 27, 2020, as part of the NCAER Land Policy Initiative that is being supported by the Omidyar Network, India. The importance of accurate and up-to-date land records has been recognised by the Indian

Government for over 30 years, but studies indicate a mixed record of the impact of the digitisation of land records. The rationale for the NCAER Index is to create a monitoring tool for States, to foster a competition to the top, and recognise performance and encourage progress. The LRSI-1 is covered in a main report, an overview, and a State compendium drilling down on the State-level data gathered by NCAER. At the event, NCAER also ran a poster session for members of the Property Rights Research Consortium and invited guests on their ongoing work on land policy.

## Concluding remarks

I sometimes compare NCAER with a world-class medical facility or teaching hospital that has different specialities under the same roof. For our junior research staff, this means that just like medical residents, they have the opportunity for hands-on experience of dealing with different aspects of economic and public policy problems. Often, economic data and evidence are not conclusive, just as medical diagnostics are sometimes not definitive, and yet, the treatment cannot be delayed. With all the areas of economic policy and measurement that NCAER covers under one roof, and with our added focus on primary data collection, NCAER researchers are particularly well placed to connect the dots between different parts of a complex economy like India's, an economy that is also undergoing massive social and economic change. This is particularly relevant as India continues to grapple with its most severe pandemic-related economic downturn in its independent history.

I am deeply grateful to NCAER's Governing Body—particularly President Nandan Nilekani and former Vice-President M. S. Verma—and our research partners, donors, and well-wishers in India and abroad for enabling NCAER to remain true to our 64-year legacy that our founding fathers laid down for us.



There were important transitions in NCAER's Governing Body during 2019. After two decades of dedicated, selfless service to NCAER, Vice President Mr M. S. Verma expressed his desire to retire from the Governing Body and stepped down in August 2019. Mr Verma joined the Governing Body in October 1999 and was elevated to Vice President and Chair of the Standing Committee in August 2002. The Governing Body invited Mr Verma to become an honorary Life Member of the NCAER Society, which he has kindly accepted. Mr Rajendra S Pawar took over in August 2019 as the Vice President and the Chair of the Standing Committee.

Mr Y C Deveshwar, Chairman of ITC, passed away in May 2019 after nearly two decades of service on the NCAER Governing Body, which he had joined in July 1999. Among his many contributions to NCAER, Mr Deveshwar played a major role starting in late 2007 in the decision to redevelop the NCAER campus. Along with Deepak Parekh, he was thereafter a member of the jury for selecting the architectural proposal for the redevelopment. The NCAER Governing Body will miss a valued colleague even as many of us have also lost a cherished friend and India a corporate leader.

I am particularly grateful to a number of staff for their invaluable and dedicated help during 2019-20. I would particularly like to thank Dr Anil K Sharma, Secretary of NCAER's Governing Body and NCAER's Operations Director, and Mr Rabi Narayan Panda, Controller and Finance Head, for their innumerable contributions during a time of many new initiatives and the completion of Phase 1 of the NCAER India Centre. I am also grateful to Dr Shashanka Bhide, who accepted my invitation to return to NCAER as Senior Adviser and Research Director in September 2019 after he retired as Director of MIDS, Chennai. I am thankful to NCAER's research staff at all levels for their ideas and hard work

in addressing some of the most pressing economic problems and challenges that India faces in its quest for rapid, equitable, and sustainable development. I am also grateful to our administrative section heads, Mr Rakesh Srivastava, Ms Shilpi Tripathi, Mr Girish Khulbe, and Mr Daya Shankar Prasad for their leadership and for ensuring the smooth functioning of NCAER during these difficult Coronavirus times when all staff have been working from home.

I am particularly grateful to staff in my own office. First, Ms Sudesh Bala, my Executive Assistant who runs the front office, has been a bedrock of support through all manners of ups and downs; and second, Ms Namrata Ramachandran, my Special Assistant until September 2019, for her dedicated and unfailing help in all my work, including stellar assistance as a lawyer on our crime and victimisation study. Ms Khushvinder Kaur provided excellent support throughout the year on special projects, including for our building work, and she and Ms Sangita Chaudhary provided solid secretarial support throughout the year.

I am thankful to all of them for going well beyond the call of duty with their time, patience, and hard work to help me navigate the many challenges that come with leading an institution through a process of change and, after March 2020, through the historically unprecedented problems and possibilities thrown up by the Coronavirus pandemic. It is this deep and enduring support for our mission and values that makes working at NCAER both fulfilling and a pleasure. As with every other NCAER staff member, I eagerly await the day when we can put the Coronavirus pandemic behind us and be back together face to face as part of this wonderful NCAER community.

Shekhar Shah  
Director General

October 15, 2020

# Activities

## NCAER Events During 2019-20

### Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Roundtables, Lectures, and Book Launches\*

2019

**April 26:** NCAER “*Quarterly Review of the Economy*”

**Chair:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER

**QRE Presentation:** NCAER QRE

Team led by Dr Bornali Bhandari

**Guest Speaker:** Mr Andreas Bauer, IMF

**Discussants:** Prof Sabyasachi Kar, Institute of Economic Growth, and Mr TCA Srinivasa Raghavan, *Business Standard*

**Closing Remarks:** Dr Sudipto Mundle, NCAER



**May 20:** Brainstorming Session on Analysis of India's Logistics Costs

**Speakers:** Dr Shekhar Shah, Prof Sanjib Pohit, Prof D. B. Gupta, and Prof Rajesh Chadha, NCAER; Mr N. Sivasailam, and Mr Anant Swarup, Ministry of Commerce

**June 7:** Panel Discussion on “*India's Current Macroeconomic Challenges*”

**Chair:** Dr Y. V. Reddy, Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India

**Speakers:** Dr Shankar Acharya, ICRIER; Dr Sudipto Mundle, NCAER; and Mr T. N. Ninan, *Business Standard*

**June 25:** Talk “*On Writing a Population History of India*”

**Speaker:** Prof Tim Dyson, London School of Economics and Political Science

**July 8:** 16<sup>th</sup> India Policy Forum, 2019, “*The 1<sup>st</sup> T. N. Srinivasan Memorial Lecture*”

by Prof Pranab Bardhan, University of California, Berkeley



**Chair:** Dr Stanley Fischer, U.S. Federal Reserve

**July 9-10:** The 16<sup>th</sup> India Policy Forum 2019

**Papers by:** Dr Aeimit Lakdawala, Michigan State University; and Dr Sanjay R. Singh, University of California, Davis; Dr R. Nagaraj, and Dr Amey Sapre, NIPFP, and Dr Rajeswari Sengupta, IGIDR; Dr Maitreesh Ghatak, LSE, and Prof Karthik Muralidharan, University of California, San Diego and NCAER; Dr Radhicka Kapoor, ICRIER; Dr Sudipta Ghosh and Prof Viktoria Hnatkovska, University of British Columbia; and



\* During April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Additional details, and in some cases multimedia and event presentations, can be viewed by scanning the QR codes in this listing.



*At the India Policy Forum 2019.*





**Introduction:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER

**Chair:** Mr N. K. Singh, 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission

**July 22:** The Five-Institute Budget Seminar on “*The Union Budget 2019-20: Reforms and Development Perspectives*” with CPR-ICRIER-IDF-NCAER-NIPFP



Prof Amartya Lahiri, CAFRAL and University of British Columbia

**IPF 2019 Policy Roundtable:**

“How Will the New Indian National Education Policy Deliver?”

with Dr Devesh Kapur, Johns Hopkins University; Dr Rukmini Banerji, Pratham Education Foundation; Prof Karthik Muralidharan, University of California, San Diego and NCAER; Mr Alok Kumar, NITI Aayog; and Mr Ashish Dhawan, Central Square Foundation and NCAER



**Moderator:** Ms Puja Mehra, Independent Economist

**Speakers:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER; Dr Yamini Aiyar, Centre for Policy Research; Dr Rajat Kathuria, ICRIER; Dr Nishant Chadha, India Development Foundation; and Dr Rathin Roy, NIPFP

**July 26:** NCAER “*Quarterly Review of the Economy*”

**Chair:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER

**QRE Presentation:** Dr Bornali Bhandari, and Dr Sudipto Mundle, NCAER; and Mr Mitul Thapliyal, Partner, MicroSave Consulting

**Discussants:** Dr Devendra Pant, India Ratings and Research; Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharya, *Business Standard*



**IPF 2019 Lecture:** “*Modern Macroeconomic Policy*”, by Prof Stanley Fischer, former Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors, U.S. Federal Reserve



**August 7:** Memorial Meeting for Dr Subir Gokarn (1959-2019), IMF Executive Director for India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan, and former Chief Economist and IFCI Chair, NCAER, by NCAER, Brookings India, and *Business Standard*



**Speakers:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER; Dr Shamika Ravi, Brookings India; and Mr T.N. Ninan, *Business Standard*

**September 6:** Workshop on Tourism Satellite Accounts for 2015-16 for India and Indian States and Union Territories



**Chair:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER

**Keynote Address:** Mr Yogendra Tripathi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism

**Presentations:** Dr Poonam Munjal, Dr Palash Baruah and Mr Asrar Alam, NCAER; Mr S.V. Ramana Murthy, Central Statistics Office



**October 10:** NCAER Seminar on “Quality of Care and the Bypassing of Primary Health Centres in India—Implications for Ayushman Bharat”

**Speaker:** Dr Krishna Dipankar Rao, Johns Hopkins University

**Discussant:** Dr Shailender Swaminathan, KREA University

**November 7:** NCAER Seminar on “How to Leverage Open Government, Research, and Data to Strengthen Public Policymaking in India”



**Opening Remarks:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER; and Dr Emmanuel Jimenez, 3ie

**Keynote Address:** Mr Amitabh Kant, NITI Aayog



**Co-Chairs:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER; and Dr Marie Gaarder, 3ie

**Panellists:** Dr Parth Shah, Centre for Civil Society; Ms Avani Kapur,

Accountability Initiative; Mr Rahul Matthan, Trilegal; Ms Aparna Krishnan, J-PAL South Asia; Mr C. N. Raghupathy, Infosys; and Dr Renuka Sane, NIPFP

**November 16:** The NCAER 2019-20 Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy



#### Welcome and

**Introduction:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER and Mr K.N. Shrivastava, India International Centre

**Presentations:** Dr Bornali Bhandari, NCAER; and Dr Rudrani Bhattacharya, NIPFP

**Panel Moderator:** Prof Pronab Sen, International Growth Centre



**Panellists:** Mr Abheek Barua, HDFC; Ms Debjani Ghosh, NASSCOM; Mr Vinayak Chatterjee, Feedback Infra Group; and Mr D.K. Joshi, CRISIL

**Discussant:** Dr Sudipto Mundle, NCAER

**December 15:** Session on “*Health and Economic Growth*”, 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Neemrana Conference

**Chair:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER

**Speakers:** Kathleen McGarry, Professor and Vice Chair, University of California, Los Angeles; Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO, Ayushman Bharat and National Health Authority; Dr Ali Mehdi, ICRIER

## 2020

**January 13:** Book talk, “*Blaming Immigration, Nationalism and the Economics of Global Movement*”, by Prof Neeraj Kaushal, Columbia University



**Chair:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER

**Discussants:** Mr Sanjoy Hazarika, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and Mr Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, *Hindustan Times*



**January 29:** NCAER Seminar on “*A Glass Half Full: Changes in Indian Standards of Living since 2012*”

**Chair:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER

**Speaker:** Prof Sonalde Desai, NCAER

**Discussant:** Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay, CPR

**February 8:** The Five-Institute Budget Seminar on “*The Union Budget 2020-21: Reform and Development Perspectives*” with NCAER-NIPFP-ICRIER-IDF-CPR.



**Moderator:** Ms Shereen Bhan, CNBC-TV18

**Speakers:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER; Dr Yamini Aiyar, CPR; Dr Rajat Kathuria, ICRIER; Dr Nishant Chadha, IDF; and Dr Rathin Roy, NIPFP

**February 13:** The 8<sup>th</sup> NCAER C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2020, “*India in a Changing World*”



**Chair:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER

**Speaker:** Dr David Lipton, IMF

**February 17:** NCAER Seminar on “*Poverty, Inequality and Growth in India: 2011-18*”



**Chair:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER

**Speaker:** Dr Surjit S. Bhalla, IMF





**Discussant:** Dr Sudipto Mundle, NCAER

**February 20:** NCAER “*Quarterly Review of the Economy*”

**Chair:** Dr Shekhar Shah, NCAER

**QRE Presentation:** Dr Sudipto Mundle and Dr Bornali Bhandari, NCAER; and Ms Rudrani Bhattacharya, NIPFP

**Speaker:** Mr Luis E. Breuer, IMF

**Discussant:** Ms Aditi Nair, ICRA

**Closing Remarks:** Dr Shashanka Bhide, NCAER

**February 27:** Release of the first edition of *NCAER Land Records & Services Index*

**Welcome and**

**Introduction:** Dr Shekhar Shah and Mr Deepak Sanan, NCAER; Ms Shilpa Kumar, Omidyar Network India; and Dr Tarun Kapoor, Delhi Development Authority

**Keynote Speaker:** Mr Ramesh Abhishek, former DPIIT



**Presentations:** Dr Prerna Prabhakar and Dr Charu Jain, NCAER

**Moderators:** Dr K.P. Krishnan, Cross-Border Bankruptcy Committee, and Dr Shamika Ravi, Brookings Institution



**Panellists:** Mr Ram Singh; Ms Jayashree Kurup; Mr Pranab Ranjan Choudhury; Mr Devendra Damle; Ms Namita Wah; and **State Representatives:** Mr Dnyaneshwar Patil and Ms G.V. Rashmi (Madhya Pradesh); Mr V.S. Tomar (Delhi); Mr Phigu Bhutia (Sikkim)

**Closing Remarks:** Ms Shreya Deb, Director, Omidyar Network India; and Prof D. B. Gupta, NCAER

**February 28:** NCAER Seminar on “*In the Danger Zone! Regulatory Uncertainty and Voluntary Bank Capital Surpluses*”

**Chair:** Dr Shashanka Bhide, NCAER

**Speaker:** Ms Aakriti Mathur, The Graduate Institute Geneva

# Activities

## NCAER's Research Programme

NCAER's research programme is structured around five thematic areas:

- *Growth, macroeconomics, trade, fiscal and monetary policy, global finance;*
- *The investment climate, industry, infrastructure, the financial sector, labour, land, and urban;*
- *Agriculture, natural resources, and the environment;*
- *Poverty, human development, equity, gender, and consumer behaviour; and*
- *Scientific collection, innovation, and curation of economic and social data.*

These themes cover NCAER's own research typically funded by multiple-year research grants or self-funded, as well as research studies sponsored by governments and the private sector. NCAER's sponsored studies requested by others are in line with NCAER's own research priorities in these areas. In many cases, NCAER studies involve outside collaborators. The list below contains research studies as of March 31, 2020 undertaken by NCAER in the year 2019–20. For detailed descriptions, please refer to the corresponding serial numbers in the sections that follow. Projects that show NCAER as the sponsor are self-financed activities.

Programme/Project/Study		Sponsor (s)
<b>A. Growth, macroeconomics, trade, fiscal and monetary policy, global finance</b>		
A1.	India Policy Forum 2019* Project Leader: Shekhar Shah Editors: Shekhar Shah, Barry Bosworth, and Karthik Muralidharan	NCAER, with additional grant support from HDFC and Reliance Industries, Mumbai
A2.	Quarterly Business Expectations Survey* Project Leader: Bornali Bhandari	NCAER, New Delhi
A3.	Quarterly Review of the Economy* Project Leader: Bornali Bhandari	NCAER and QRE subscribers
A4.	Mid-Year Review of the Economy 2019–20* Project Leader: Bornali Bhandari	NCAER and the India International Centre, New Delhi
A5.	The Union Budget 2019–20: Reforms and Development Perspectives* Project Leader: Shekhar Shah	NCAER-NIPFP-CPR-ICRIER-IDF with support from the World Bank, New Delhi
A6.	The Union Budget 2020–21: Reforms and Development Perspectives* Project Leader: Shekhar Shah	NCAER-NIPFP-CPR-ICRIER-IDF with support from the World Bank, New Delhi
A7.	The C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2020* Project Leader: Shekhar Shah	NCAER
A8.	Research and Estimation of Macroeconomic Logistics Costs* Project Leader: Sanjib Pohit	Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi

\*Programmes, projects and studies completed during financial year 2019–20 are marked with an asterisk. The rest are ongoing.

A9.	Potential Contribution of Microfinance to India's Economy Project Leader: Shashanka Bhide	Microfinance Institutions Network, Gurugram
A10.	Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Chair Professorship & Unit Project Leaders: Shekhar Shah and Anil K Sharma	Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi
A11.	Third Tourism Satellite Account of India and States/UTs of India for 2015-16* Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Ministry of Tourism, New Delhi
A12.	Tourism Satellite Account for Himachal Pradesh, 2017-18 Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Shimla
A13.	Input-Output Transactions Table for Himachal Pradesh, 2017-18 Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Shimla
A14.	Education Satellite Account for the State of Himachal Pradesh for the Year 2017-18 Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Shimla
A15.	Education Satellite Account for the State Uttarakhand for the Year 2017-18 Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Dehradun
A16.	Tourism Satellite Account for the State of Uttarakhand for the Year 2017-18 Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Dehradun
<b>B. The investment climate, industry, infrastructure, the financial sector, labour, land, and urban</b>		
B1.	Evaluation of India's Tele-Law Scheme: Mainstreaming Rural Legal Aid using ICT in India's Common Service Centres* Project Leaders: Sandhya Garg and Sanjukta Das	Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi
B2.	Evaluation of the e-Court Mission Mode Project Phase-II Project Leader: Shashanka Bhide	Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi
B3.	Impact of the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Bangalore International Airport Limited, Bengaluru
B4.	Economic Impact Assessment of Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemical Complex Ltd in the West Coast of Maharashtra Project Leaders: Saurabh Bandyopadhyay and Laxmi Joshi	Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemical Complex Limited, Mumbai

B5.	Assessment of Alcohol Taxation, Affordability and Price Elasticity Patterns in India* Project Leader: Soumi Roy Chowdhury	World Health Organisation, New Delhi
B6.	District-driven Growth: A Pilot Study for Making India a \$5 Trillion Economy, Phase-II Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi
B7.	Study of the Gems and Jewellery Sector of India Project Leader: K.A. Siddiqui	Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai
B8.	The Effect on the Indian Economy of Lending by CDC's Financial Institutions Investees* Project Leader: Devendra Pratap	CDC Investment Group, London
B9.	Evaluating the Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Scheme: Institutionalising Pro Bono Legal Services in India* Project Leader: Sanjukta Das	Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi
B10.	Evaluation of Access to the Justice Scheme in the North-Eastern States* Project Leader: Madhura Dasgupta	Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi
B11.	Evaluation of the Nyaya Mitra Scheme: Reducing Pendency in Indian Courts Project Leader: Madhura Dasgupta	Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi
B12.	NCAER's Land Policy Initiative (N-LPI) Project Leader: D.B. Gupta	Omidyar Network India, Mumbai
B13.	Social Impact Assessment Study for Acquisition of Land with Delhi Jal Board, for Public Purpose at Milan Garden and Saboli Gaddha in Gokulpur, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi* Project Leader: D.B. Gupta	Government of NCT of Delhi
<b>C. Agriculture, natural resources, and the environment</b>		
C1.	Study on Agricultural Diagnostics for the State of Bihar in India* Project Leader: Sanjib Pohit	DFID, New Delhi
C2.	Water-to-Cloud: Correlating Socio-economic Indicators with River Water Quality Project Leader: Soumi Roy Chowdhury	Tata Centre for Development, University of Chicago

C3.	Impact of Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra (CAIM)* Project Leaders: Saurabh Bandyopadhyay and Laxmi Joshi	Project Monitoring Unit of CAIM, Amravati and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), New Delhi
C4.	Impact Evaluation Study of the National Dairy Plan, Phase I* Project Leaders: Saurabh Bandyopadhyay and Laxmi Joshi	National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Anand, under a grant received from the World Bank
C5.	Contribution of ICAR Institutes in Agricultural Policy Project Leaders: Prem Vashishtha and Tarujyoti Buragohain	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
C6.	Economic Benefits of Monsoon Mission and Investment in High-Performance Computing, Phase-IV Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Ministry of Earth Sciences, New Delhi
<b>D. Poverty, human development, equity, gender, and consumer behaviour</b>		
D1.	India Human Development Survey III (IHDS-III) Project Leaders: Sonalde Desai and Santanu Pramanik	National Institutes of Health through University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA
D2.	An Evaluation of the <i>Beti Bachao Beti Padhao</i> Scheme* Project Leader: Anushree Sinha	Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi
D3.	Health Satellite Account for the State of Uttarakhand for the Year 2017-18 Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Dehradun
D4.	Health Satellite Account for the State of Himachal Pradesh for the Year 2017-18 Project Leader: Poonam Munjal	Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Shimla
D5.	Health Seeking Behaviour in Four Indian States Project Leader: P.K. Ghosh	Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne, Australia
D6.	Discrete Choice Experiments to Assess Health Seeking Behaviours in Four Indian States Project Leader: P.K. Ghosh	Population Council, New Delhi

E. Scientific collection, innovation, and curation of economic and social data		
E1.	Wage Employment and Migration* Project Leader: Sonalde Desai	The Ford Foundation, New Delhi
E2.	The NCAER National Data Innovation Centre Project Leaders: Sonalde Desai and Santanu Pramanik	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, New Delhi
E3.	All India Citizens' Survey of Police Services Project Leader: K A Siddiqui	Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi
E4.	Assessing the Direct Benefit Transfer Readiness Assessment of States and UTs* Project Leaders: Bornali Bhandari and R. Venkatesan	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, New Delhi
E5.	Studies on Impact of BS VI and Ethanol Blending on the Human Health Index Project Leaders: Sanjib Pohit and D.B. Gupta	The Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Delhi



## A. Growth, Macroeconomics, Trade, Fiscal and Monetary Policy, Global Finance

The Indian economic growth rate has practically halved between 2016-17 (8.3 per cent) and 2019-20 (4.2 per cent). There has been a sustained decline in GDP growth from Q3: 2017-18 to Q4: 2019-20. The last week of March 2020 was affected by complete shutdown of economic activity due to the imposition of the stringent Coronavirus-associated lockdown. After recording 6.8 per cent growth in 2016-17, agricultural Gross Value Added recorded a slowdown in 2017-18 (5.8 per cent) and 2018-19 (2.4 per cent). It strengthened in 2019-20 (4 per cent). Industrial growth has shown a sustained decline since Q4:2017-18 and has been virtually stagnant since Q2:2019-20. The average growth rate for the three quarters of 2019-20 was (-) 0.1 per cent. The annual data shows that industrial growth declined from 9.6

per cent in 2015-16 (9.6 per cent) to 0.9 per cent in 2019-20. The services sector has shown mixed trends. However, it too slowed down in the second half of 2019-20. The demand side was held up by double-digit growth in Government Final Consumption Expenditure. The Gross Fixed Capital Formation, exports and imports recorded negative growth in 2019-20. Retail inflation edged up in 2019-20, driven by double-digit food inflation in the last two quarters of 2019-20. The current account deficit was (-) 0.9 per cent of GDP in 2019-20. Fiscal deficit was 6.4 per cent of GDP in 2019-20. On the monetary policy front, the Reserve Bank of India reduced the repo rate from 6.0 per cent in April 2019 to 4.0 per cent in March 2020. However, the transmission has been relatively weak.

Photo Credit: World Bank



NCAER has continued to provide an assessment of economic conditions through its Quarterly Business Expectations Survey (BES), macroeconomic forecasting models, and the Quarterly Reviews of the Economy (QRE). Twice in 2019–20, that is, once in June 2019 and the second time in October 2019, a question was raised in the Parliament about the BES results. These documents disseminated insights, data and forecasts on the performance of various sectors of India's economy. Undertaken annually in November, NCAER's Mid-Year Review of the Economy of 2019–20 presented a comprehensive assessment of the Indian economy.

Some of the key issues pertaining to India's agriculture and infrastructure were highlighted in the Five-Institution Seminar on the Union Budget 2019–20. We were falling short of our own targets of doubling farmers' income and addressing the short-run distress. In infrastructure too, we were not meeting our aspirational targets. The key objectives in India's agricultural sector include diversifying farmers' income, mitigating risks, ensuring profitable economic activity, and improving productivity. Emphasis was laid on building better rural infrastructure by providing physical and digital connectivity between rural and urban areas.

The India Policy Forum 2019, the annual conference organised by NCAER in July every year, included a lecture on, *"Modern Macroeconomic Policy"*, delivered by Prof Stanley Fischer, former Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors, U.S. Federal Reserve.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Neemrana Conference on the



Photo Credit: World Bank

Indian economy was held in December 2019. The C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture, which was instituted by NCAER in 2013 in memory of one of India's most eminent economists and founding member of NCAER's first Governing Body in 1956, was delivered in February 2020 by Dr David Lipton, First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, on *"India in a Changing World"*. The distinguished audience included eminent economists, senior civil servants, prominent media persons, industry analysts, and students.

One of the ongoing studies estimates macroeconomic logistics costs in India. High logistics costs are a matter of concern for the growth of manufacturing and comprehensive development of the country.

There has been sustained work on the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for India and all Indian States and UTs. The key objective of the TSA is to estimate the contribution of the tourism sector to GDP and employment in the country. NCAER is also working with Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on their education and health satellite accounts.

The studies carried out under the programme area of 'Growth, Macroeconomics, Trade, Fiscal and Monetary Policy, Global Finance' are summarised below.\*

\*Programmes/projects completed during financial year 2019–20.



### A1. India Policy Forum 2019\*

**Sponsors:** NCAER, with grant support from HDFC and Reliance Industries

**Project Team:** Shekhar Shah, Namrata Ramachandran, Sudesh Bala, Khushvinder Kaur, Sangita Chaudhury, Anupma Mehta, Jagbir Singh Punia, and Prem Prakash Joshi

**Editors:** Shekhar Shah, Barry Bosworth, and Karthik Muralidharan

The 16<sup>th</sup> India Policy Forum (IPF) conference was held in New Delhi during July 8–10, 2019. Professor Stanley Fischer, former Vice Chairman, Board of Governors, U.S. Federal Reserve, delivered the 16<sup>th</sup> annual IPF lecture on “*Modern Macroeconomic Policy*”.

The annual publication *India Policy Forum 2019*, Volume 16, contains the papers and proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> IPF.

### A2. Quarterly Business Expectations Survey\*

**Sponsor:** NCAER, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Bornali Bhandari, Samarth Gupta, Ajaya Kumar Sahu, K.S. Urs, Charu Jain, Jaskirat Singh Kohli, Anupma Mehta, Praveen Sachdeva, Sudesh Bala, Khushvinder Kaur and Shilpi Tripathi

**Objectives:** Supplementing a wide range of quantitative data on the indicators of economic activity, these quarterly surveys of the business sector are aimed at

providing an assessment of the qualitative dimension of business expectations.

The surveys now provide two broad indicators of business sentiments. The Business Confidence Index (BCI) is focused on understanding the business sector respondents’ judgements on the course of economic growth, investment climate, financial position of firms, and capacity utilisation. The responses are aggregated to provide an overall BCI. The Political Confidence Index (PCI) is based on the respondents’ perceptions of political management of economic issues including management of overall economic reforms, inflation, employment, and the fiscal position of the government. The responses to eight such indicators are aggregated to estimate the PCI. The survey is conducted each quarter in the six major cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Pune. The findings of the survey during 2018-19 reflected pessimism in sentiments during the first three quarters with an upturn in BCI towards the end of the year.

**Status:** The findings of the surveys carried out during the year were disseminated to the public through media and also to the subscribers to NCAER’s *Quarterly Review of the Economy*. The BCI is also cited in RBI’s quarterly Macroeconomic Review.

### A3. Quarterly Review of the Economy\*

**Sponsors:** NCAER and QRE Subscribers

**Project Team:** Sudipto Mundle, Bornali Bhandari, Rudrani Bhattacharya (NIPFP), Anil K. Sharma, Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Devender Pratap, Pallavi Choudhuri, Prerna Prabhakar, Sandhya Garg, Ajaya Sahu, Praveen Sachdeva, Anupma Mehta, Sudesh Bala, Sangeeta Chaudhary, Khushvinder Kaur,



Vipin Kumar, Shilpi Tripathi, and Prem Prakash Joshi

**Objectives:** The QRE provides a comprehensive review of developments in the economy in the agriculture, industry, services, trade, finance, prices, public finance, and macroeconomic sectors. The reports also provide annual macroeconomic forecasts. A review of the economy is prepared each quarter and provided to the subscribers of the Review and to the media. The subscribers are also invited to the quarterly presentation on the 'state of the economy' seminars at NCAER.

### Contributors

#### Expert Commentators at the Quarterly Review Seminars

Sabyasachi Kar, Professor and Head, Development Planning Centre, at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, and an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Manchester, UK; TCA Srinivasa Raghavan, Consultant, *Business Standard*; Devendra Pant, Chief Economist and Head Public Finance, India Ratings and Research; Subhomoy Bhattacharya, Consulting Editor, *Business Standard*; Aditi Nayar, Vice President and Principal Economist, ICRA; Luis E. Breuer, IMF Senior Resident Representative to India, Nepal, and Bhutan

#### Special Presentations

Andreas Bauer, the IMF's Senior Resident Representative for India, Nepal, and Bhutan; and Mitul Thapliyal, Partner, MicroSave Consulting

**Status:** The quarterly discussions on the economy provide a forum for interaction among the readers of QRE, invited experts, and NCAER researchers. The

Review is also made available to the public through the press and its articles are often cited by the media.

### A4. Mid-Year Review of the Economy 2019-20\*

**Sponsors:** NCAER and the India International Centre, New Delhi

**Project Team: Internal:** Sudipto Mundle, Bornali Bhandari, Anupma Mehta, Sudesh Bala, Sangeeta Chaudhary, Khushvinder Kaur, Jagbir Singh Punia, Shilpi Tripathi, Vipin Kumar, and Prem Prakash Joshi

K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC; and Shekhar Shah, Director General, NCAER were the Co-Chairs of the event.

**Panel Discussion:** *Balancing Macrostability and Deeper Structural Reforms for a Growth Recovery*

**Moderator:** Pronab Sen, IGC

**Panellists:** Abheek Barua, HDFC; Debjani Ghosh, NASSCOM; Vinayak Chatterjee, Feedback Infra Group; and D.K. Joshi, CRISIL

**Objective:** The main objective of the Mid-Year Review was to provide a comprehensive review of the Indian economy for 2019–20.

**Contributors:** Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Pallavi Choudhuri, Sandhya Garg, Samarth Gupta, Perna Prabhakar, Devender Pratap, Ajaya K Sahu, Anil Sharma, NCAER; and Rudrani Bhattacharya (NIPFP)

**Status:** The 2019–20 Review was presented on 16 November 2019, at the India International Centre. The Review was published in November 2019.





## **A5 The Union Budget 2019-20: Reforms and Development Perspectives\***

**Sponsor:** NCAER-NIPFP-CPR-ICRIER-IDF with support from the World Bank, New Delhi

**Project Leader:** Shekhar Shah

This joint seminar brought together the Executive Directors of five institutions, namely, the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India Development Foundation (IDF), National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), and National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) to present their more reflective assessment of the Union Budget 2019-20. NCAER was represented by its Director-General, Dr Shekhar Shah. The discussion and the Q&A with the audience was moderated by Puja Mehra, an independent economist.

The Union Budget in India remains the bellwether of where the government is headed with its economic policies. The 2019-20 Union Budget was particularly important since it suggested how the new government was looking at the next five years. But much of the immediate commentary and eager dialogue on TV and the newspapers takes a narrow, short-term view. As a counter, the executive directors of five of India's leading

economic policy research institutes came together in March 2007 for the first time to present their assessment of the longer-term reform and development implications of the Budget. This joint seminar runs into its 13<sup>th</sup> year in 2019. The seminar was attended by a large gathering of researchers, policymakers, academicians, private and public sector experts, and media.

As might be expected from a government starting its term and a new Finance Minister, the 2019-20 Budget presented on July 5 has generated much interest. The slowing of the economy and the need to kick-start the investment cycle sits uneasy with the promise of fiscal consolidation and poor monetary transmission. Other trade-offs reflected in the Union Budget include domestic compulsions such as 'Make in India' versus international engagement, bank re-capitalisation versus the need for public investment, structural reforms versus handling short-term exigencies and the political imperatives of the three upcoming State elections. In the budget she presented, the Finance Minister tried to balance these and other needs, but her task remains an envious one. Against this backdrop, the heads of the five institutes shared a thoughtful view of the Union Budget and its longer-term implications for the Indian economy under the leadership of the Modi-led NDA Government, now decisively in its second term.

## **A6. The Union Budget 2020-21: Reforms and Development Perspectives\***

**Sponsor:** NCAER-NIPFP-CPR-ICRIER-IDF with support from the World Bank, New Delhi

**Project Leader:** Shekhar Shah

Photo Credit: World Bank



Another joint seminar, the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the 5-Institute Budget Seminar 2020-21, was held with the Executive Directors of the five institutions, namely, CPR, ICRIER, IDF, NCAER, and NIPFP, who offered their insights on the Union Budget 2020-21. NCAER was again represented by its Director-General, Dr Shekhar Shah. The discussion and the Q&A with the audience was moderated by Shereen Bhan, Managing Editor of CNBC-TV18.

This incisive discussion was based on presentation of the Union Budget 2020-21 by the Union Minister of Finance, Smt. Nirmala Seetharaman, in Parliament on February 1, 2020. This Budget is particularly important, coming as it does at a time when India's economic growth has slowed to a decadal low. There is thus a strong focus on the Finance Minister's proposals to deal with the slowdown. The Government has shown its intent to deal with the slowdown by convening stakeholder groups to gather ideas on the hard task of nursing the economy back to health. Some of these ideas were in the Budget, some have been held in reserve, and others have been discarded. In this context, the heads of the five leading think tanks in the National Capital Region critically examined all aspects of the Budget 2020-21 during the seminar.

#### **A7. The C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2020\***

**Sponsor:** NCAER, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Shekhar Shah, Anil Sharma, Sudesh Bala, and Khushvinder Kaur

NCAER instituted the C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture in 2013 in memory of one of India's most eminent economists and founding member of NCAER's first Governing Body in 1956. This year's

lecture, which was the eighth in the series, was delivered by Dr David Lipton, First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, on "*India in a Changing World*". The distinguished audience included eminent economists, senior civil servants, prominent media persons, industry analysts, and students.



#### **A8. Research and Estimation of Macroeconomic Logistics Costs\***

**Sponsor:** Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Sanjib Pohit, D.B. Gupta, Devender Pratap, Sameer Malik, and Lavanya Sayal

**Objectives:** High logistics costs in India as compared to those in countries with a similar environment and state of development are a matter of concern for manufacturing growth and comprehensive development of the country. Several reasons are cited for high logistics costs in the country, namely, an unfavourable policy regime, lack of a multimodal transport system (heavy reliance on road transport), fragmented storage infrastructure, presence of multiple stakeholders in the entire transport and storage value chain, poor quality of road and port infrastructure, and the absence of technology intervention in storage/transportation and distribution activities. The high cost of logistics affects the country's competitiveness in export and domestic markets. It is important to estimate overall logistics costs, including the various components/elements of logistics in order to understand the source of the problems and the corresponding solutions. To meet the overall objective of examining the logistics costs in India,



NCAER undertook interlinked studies with the following objectives: (a) Cost analysis of cargo movement on major routes (route study); (b) Estimation of macroeconomic logistics costs; and (c) Organising a Policy Roundtable among stakeholders.

**Key Findings:** The overall transportation speed, inclusive of stoppage time across the domestic routes, is estimated to be about 21 km per hour by road, on an average, and varies between 21 km per hour by rail in the best case scenario and 12 km per hour by rail in the normal scenario. However, what is worrying is the variation in the speed, with a standard deviation of about 4, among the routes, which makes logistics planning a difficult task. This is also true of India's EXIM route studies though the variation in this case is lower, with a standard deviation of about 2.5.

By and large, the study found that the logistics costs fall across all routes, including both domestic and EXIM routes, when the operation is undertaken by integrated service providers. This makes it imperative to create an incentive framework for bringing all stand-alone operators under the ambit of integrated service providers in the logistics sector. India's logistics costs amounted to 8.87 per cent of GVA at basic prices during the year 2017-18. This is equivalent to

8.10 per cent of GDP at market prices during the year 2017-18.

**Status:** Completed September 2019.

### A9. Potential Contribution of Microfinance to India's Economy

**Sponsor:** Microfinance Institutions Network, Gurugram

**Project Team:** Shashanka Bhide, D.B. Gupta, Bornali Bhandari, Devender Pratap, Samarth Gupta, Madhura Dasgupta, Ajaya Sahu, Ruchi Avtar, and Jaskirat Kohli

**Objectives:** This study will provide an assessment of the contribution of the microfinance sector to the economy in terms of overall GDP and employment. The assessment will be based on the analysis of upstream and downstream linkages of the sectors. Besides the economic parameters of contribution, the study will also examine the impact of microfinance on non-economic dimensions such as women's livelihoods and technology innovations. Alternative scenarios for the performance of the sector would be examined along with the key risks to growth in the sector.

**Status:** Ongoing.

### A10. Investor Education and Protection Fund IEPF Chair Professorship

**Sponsor:** The Investor Education Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi

**Project Team:** K.P. Krishnan, IEPF Chair Professor (appointed August 2020)

**Objectives:** The specific objectives of the five-year programme of work of the Chair Professor and Unit are to: (i)

Undertake research on the behaviour of Indian investors, their education on financial and investment products, on policies to protect investors, and on the effectiveness of investor education and protection programmes in India; (ii) Undertake research on the legal, regulatory, and procedural issues that weaken investor protection and make market participation more risky than it need be; (iii) Foster collaboration among economists, lawyers, policymakers, regulators, and Courts and Tribunals in the broad areas of law, economics, and justice in land policy, and in areas dealing with investors and investor education; (iv) Conduct seminars and conferences in the above areas; and (v) Carry out by mutual consent additional work specifically for IEPFA on terms mutually agreed between IEPFA and NCAER.

**Status:** Ongoing.

#### **A11. Third Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) of India and all Indian States and UTs of India for 2015–16\***

**Sponsor:** Ministry of Tourism, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, K.A. Siddiqui, P.K. Ghosh, Palash Baruah, Nijara Deka, Asrar Alam, Sundus Usmani, Rahat Hasan Khan, Sanjana Chhabra, Monisha Grover, and Shashi Singh

**Objective:** The key objective of this study was to estimate the contribution of the tourism sector to the GDP and employment of the country using the UNWTO-recommended methodology. Both direct and indirect contributions



Photo Credit: World Bank

were estimated. The scope of work involved the preparation of TSA Tables and Accounts using the Supply and Use Tables framework.

**Key Findings:** The key outcomes of the study were comprehensive TSA reports on the National TSA, and for each of the 36 States and UTs. These reports delineate the TSA Tables and Accounts and the contribution of tourism to the national and States' economies.

**Status:** Completed in March 2020.

#### **A12. Tourism Satellite Account for Himachal Pradesh, 2017-18**

**Sponsor:** Department of Economics and Statistics, Shimla

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, Asrar Alam, Palash Baruah, and Elizabeth Lyn

**Objective:** The main objective of this study is to prepare the Tourism Satellite Account for the State of Uttarakhand for the year 2017-18, in order to determine the contribution of the tourism sector to the State economy.

**Status:** Ongoing. Inception Report and Report on Data Requirement submitted.



### **A13. Input-Output Transactions Table (IOTT) for Himachal Pradesh, 2017-18**

**Sponsor:** Department of Economics and Statistics, Shimla

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, Asrar Alam, Palash Baruah, Sundus Usmani, and Elizabeth Lyn

**Objective:** The main objective of this study is to prepare the IOTT for the State of Uttarakhand for the year 2017-18.

**Status:** Ongoing. Inception Report and Report on Data Requirement submitted.

### **A14. Education Satellite Account for the State of Himachal Pradesh for the Year 2017-18**

**Sponsor:** Department of Economics and Statistics, Shimla

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, Asrar Alam, Palash Baruah, Gargi Pal, and Sonal Jain

**Objective:** The main objective of this study is to prepare the Education Satellite Account for the State of Himachal Pradesh for the year 2017-18, in order to determine the contribution of the education sector to the State's economy.

**Status:** Ongoing. Inception Report and Report on Data Requirement submitted.

### **A15. Education Satellite Account for the State of Uttarakhand for the Year 2017-18**

**Sponsor:** Department of Economics and Statistics, Dehradun

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, Asrar Alam, Palash Baruah, Sundus Usmani, Charu Jain, and Gargi Pal

**Objective:** The main objective of this study is to prepare the Education Satellite Account for the State of Uttarakhand for the year 2017-18, in order to determine the contribution of the education sector to the State's economy

**Status:** Ongoing. Primary data collection completed.

### **A16. Tourism Satellite Account for the State of Uttarakhand for the Year 2017-18**

**Sponsor:** Department of Economics and Statistics, Dehradun

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, Nijara Deka, Asrar Alam, and Sonal Jain

**Objectives:** The main objective of this study is to prepare the regional Tourism Satellite Account for the State of Uttarakhand for the year 2017-18.

**Status:** Ongoing. Draft report being prepared and to be submitted soon.

## B. The Investment Climate, Industry, Infrastructure, the Financial Sector, Labour, Land, and Urban

The year 2019-20 began with the Government articulating the launch of a new phase of economic growth with a target of achieving a GDP of \$5 trillion over a medium term of five years, signifying a near-doubling of the economy over the period. The Report of the Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline for 2019-2025 reported that to achieve a GDP of \$5 trillion by 2024-25, India needs to spend about \$1.4 trillion (Rs 100 lakh crore) between 2019 and 2025 on infrastructure. The push to increase the pace of growth may also be seen in the context of the slower growth rates in the preceding two years, 2017-18 and 2018-19, as compared to the growth of over 8 per cent achieved during 2015-16 and 2016-17. However, in 2019-20, the rate of economic growth decelerated further to 4.2 per cent, thereby highlighting the many challenges

faced by the economy. Industrial growth showed a sustained decline from 9.6 per cent in 2015-16 to 0.9 per cent in 2019-20. It was virtually stagnant in the second, third, and fourth quarters in 2019-20, contracting at an average rate of (-) 0.1 per cent. A crucial factor leading to the slow overall economic growth in 2019-20 was the decline in investment demand, or Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF). After showing resilient growth for three years between 2016-17 and 2018-19, the GFCF contracted by (-) 2.8 per cent in 2019-20. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck the global economy leading to huge losses in output and employment, the Government had been considering introduction of further reforms in factor markets. In this context, NCAER's work in the area of development of investment, infrastructure, and domestic finance has



Photo Credit: World Bank



evolved around themes that affect both growth and equity.

NCAER undertook a study to understand the growth drivers and their sustenance for two districts in Maharashtra. The project was supported by the Ministry of Commerce. Two other studies related to the assessment of the key transport and industrial infrastructure. One of these pertained to an assessment of the impact of development of the Bengaluru Airport while the second analysed the development of a major petroleum refinery project by Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited. Both studies focused on the impact of these activities on income and employment in the overall economy.

A two-year research programme that was launched in 2019-20 focuses on the progress of modernisation of land records, which has far-reaching implications not only for investments in land to ensure its productive use but also for policies to support livelihoods of farmers cultivating very small parcels of land. NCAER's Land Policy Initiative, supported by a grant from Omidyar Network India, led to the release of its Land Records and Services India (NLRSI 2020), providing a comparative assessment of the progress made by India's major States and Union Territories in modernising their land records to make them transparent, and easily accessible and usable for land

transactions. The NLRSI draws attention to the need for sustained efforts to improve land records and services across States.

Another important area of NCAER's work is reflected in a set of evaluation studies of schemes implemented by the Department of Justice for ensuring that the marginalised and vulnerable segments of society have access to justice. These schemes also adopt ICT applications to reach quality legal services to the people, even in the remote areas.

Another study conducted by NCAER, at the behest of the World Health Organisation's India Office, examined State alcohol taxation policies and estimated the price elasticity of alcohol demand by State. This study reviewed State-wise price mechanisms and the structure of alcohol taxation policies for Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) for seven States—Bihar, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Sikkim. The study also recommends that much greater effort and expenditures should be devoted to the design and deployment of awareness campaigns about moderation in alcohol consumption.

The Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council also commissioned NCAER to evaluate the competitiveness, employment potential, and status of various key issues in India's gems and jewellery (G&J) sector. This NCAER study provides a comprehensive map of various G&J clusters under each important segment based on the number of units and workers engaged in them. The NCAER team also undertook exhaustive manpower mapping and an analysis of the skills and technology gaps in the sector, India's position in the world G&J market, and the impact of existing Government policies on the sector.

The studies carried out under the programme area of 'The Investment Climate, Industry, Infrastructure, the Financial Sector, Labour, Land, and Urban' are summarised below.\*

### **B1. Evaluation of India's Tele-Law Scheme: Mainstreaming Rural Legal Aid using ICT in India's Common Service Centres\***

**Sponsor:** Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Sandhya Garg, Sanjukta Das, Namrata Ramachandran, Madhura Dasgupta, Jaskirat Singh Kohli, Anika Kapoor, Nijara Deka, and Samarth Gupta

**Objectives:** The objectives of this study were to: determine the procedural and substantive drivers of the Tele-Law Scheme (TLS); identify various challenges in implementation of the scheme at the ground level, and at the level of the implementing agencies; understand the coordination of people with Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs); gauge the satisfaction level of beneficiaries; and highlight the suggestions provided by all stakeholders to improve the scheme, in general, and for women, in particular. The study was conducted in the North-eastern States, and in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

**Key Findings:** The TLS is reaching people who are socially and economically more vulnerable. Vulnerable people in rural areas are consulting lawyers not only for resolving legal disputes but also if they face any issues with regard to government programmes or documents. Hence, this scheme has become an important tool for the empowerment

of marginal communities even in areas other than legal concerns. Some notable challenges in the effectiveness of the scheme include: lack of awareness among citizens regarding the scheme, lack of motivation among PLVs, infrastructural quality concerns in CSCs, and changes in lawyers handling the same case. These can mostly be dealt with through some investment to improve conditions at Common Service Centres and through a closer monitoring of the work of PLVs, VLEs, and panel lawyers. This scheme is likely to assume more importance in the future as it provides a feasible way for reaching the vulnerable sections of society who are seeking access to justice at a much larger scale than ever before.

**Status:** Completed January 2020.

**Outcome:** The report on the study has been presented to the Department of Justice, and it is available on the NCAER website ([www.ncaer.org](http://www.ncaer.org)).

### **B2. Evaluation of the E-Court Mission Mode Project Phase-II**

**Sponsor:** Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi

**Project Team:** D.B. Gupta, Namrata Ramachandran, Sandhya Garg, and Sanjukta Das

**Objectives:** The overall objective of this study is to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the e-Courts Project. This will be done in qualitative and quantitative terms, evaluating the procedural and substantive drivers and constraints, and the failures and successes sustained in the implementation of the e-Courts Project during various stages and phases of the project.

**Status:** Ongoing.

*\*Programmes/projects completed during financial year 2019–20.*



### B3. Impact of the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru

**Sponsor:** Bangalore International Airport Limited, Bengaluru

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, Palash Baruah, Sundus Usmani, and Elizabeth Lyn

**Objectives:** The main objective of this study is to estimate the direct and indirect economic impact of the Kempegowda International Airport on national, State, and regional economies with respect to their GDP and employment. The study also aims to make projections on traffic movement and revenue generation for the next five years.

**Status:** Ongoing. Draft report submitted.

### B4. Economic Impact Assessment of Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemical Complex Ltd (RRPCL) in the West Coast of Maharashtra

**Sponsor:** Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemical Limited Complex, Mumbai



Photo Credit: World Bank

**Project Team:** Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Laxmi Joshi, Devender Pratap, Tarujyoti Buragohain, Prabir Kumar Chaudhuri, and M.R. Saluja

**Objective:** The objective of this study is to assess the impact of construction and operation activities at the Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemical Limited Complex for both the national as well as the State economies in terms of output, income, employment, and tax contribution using the Input-Output Transaction Table.

**Status:** Inception Report and Interim Report submitted.

### B5. Assessment of Alcohol Taxation, Affordability, and Price Elasticity Patterns in India\*

**Sponsor:** World Health Organisation, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Soumi Roy Chowdhury, Sanjib Pohit, Samarth Gupta, and D.B. Gupta

**Objectives:** The broad objective of this project was to estimate the overall tax burden and elasticity of alcohol products for the last ten years in seven selected States of India, including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Bihar, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh. For attaining this goal, the research study undertook the following specific tasks: reviewing of the State-wise price mechanisms and structure of taxation across various types of alcohol products; estimating the trend in sales, consumption, and affordability of different alcohol products for the last ten years; examining the price and tax elasticity of different alcohol products segregated by geography and socio-economic status; estimating the cross-price elasticity between alcohol products;

analysing the State-wise increase in revenue in relation with the increase in taxation for the last ten years; and providing an estimated incremental tax requirement for relative reduction in consumption of alcohol by 10 per cent by 2025.

**Key Findings:** The study confirmed that the demand for alcohol is highly price-inelastic. The estimated cross price elasticities show that even a marginal increase in the price of Indian Made Foreign Liquor may lead to a significant substitution toward beer, whereas the reverse is not true.

Based on this pioneering work, the report makes several recommendations. It highlights they need to: (1) ensure comparable data across States; (2) assess the optimal mode of taxation for alcohol; (3) decide and enforce a nation-wide uniform minimum legal drinking age; (4) tailor interventions to moderate consumption as per the specific demand characteristics of each State; (6) estimate the burden on the poor of command and control measures, such as banning country liquor, that might actually increase alcohol expenditures at the cost of other family essentials; and (7) raise awareness about the adverse effects of excessive alcohol consumption.

**Status:** Completed December 2019

**Outcome:** Dissemination activities will be undertaken in the next financial year.

### **B6. District-driven Growth: A Pilot Study for Making India a \$5 Trillion Economy, Phase II**

**Sponsor:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, Deepak Sanan, Somnath Sen, D.B. Gupta, Nijara



Photo Credit: World Bank

Deka, Asrar Alam, and Rahat Hasan Khan

**Objectives:** Phase II of this project is being undertaken to implement the recommendations proposed in Phase I in the concerned districts. The key objective of this project is to mentor and handhold the district administrations during its implementation. This involves capacity building, convergence amongst the existing schemes of both the State and Central Governments, and introduction of skill initiatives for accelerating the growth of each district by 2-3 per cent.

**Status:** Ongoing. Draft report submitted.

### **B7. Study of the Gems and Jewellery Sector of India**

**Sponsor:** Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai

**Project Team:** K.A. Siddiqui, P.K. Ghosh, Poonam Munjal, Shayequa Zeenat Ali, Asrar Alam, Palash Baruah, S.K. Mondal, Y.K. Tanwar, B.B. Singh, Yashpal, K.K. Lal, and Tara Joshi

**Objectives:** The key objective of this project is to map the clusters and units across the gems and jewellery (G&J) sector in different locations of India. The other objectives entail developing a comprehensive understanding of the G&J sector including overview of the gems and jewellery value chain from raw material source to retail; qualitative

assessment/overview of government policies affecting exports and growth of the G&J sector, including demonetisation and implementation of GST; and assessment of the contribution of the G&J sector to the Indian economy in terms of (1) income, and (2) employment, considering direct and indirect channels.

**Status:** Ongoing.

### **B8. The Effect on the Indian Economy of Lending by CDC's Financial Institutions Investees\***

**Sponsor:** CDC Investment Group, London

**Project Team: Internal:** Devendra Pratap

**External:** J.A. Giesecke; P.B. Dixon; M.T. Rimmer; and N.H. Tran, Centre of Policy Studies, Victoria University, Melbourne Australia

**Objectives:** The main objective of this project was to investigate the impact of the funding activities of CDC's financial institution investees, and CDC's engagement activities on the Indian economy. The analysis was done by modelling the impact of (a) the withdrawal from India of the capital funding activities of CDC's financial institution investees, and (b) India losing the capital efficiency enhancement effects of CDC's engagement activities. The investigation was undertaken with a 150 sector dynamic computable general equilibrium model of the Indian economy (NCAER-VU-DYN, or NV-DYN), building on an existing comparative-static model (NCAER-VU).

**Status:** Completed October 2019.

**Outcome:** Final report submitted to the CDC Group, London, UK.

### **B9. Evaluating the Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Scheme: Institutionalising Pro Bono Legal Services in India\***

**Sponsor:** Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Sanjukta Das, Sandhya Garg, Namrata Ramachandran, Jaskirat Singh Kohli, and Anika Kapoor

**Objectives:** The main objectives of this project were to: identify the procedural and substantive drivers and constraints of the Nyaya Bandhu scheme; examine various challenges in implementation of the scheme at the ground level; gauge the satisfaction level of the beneficiaries; implement the suggestions provided by all stakeholders to improve the scheme; and highlight the lessons from a review of selected and available international practices in the provision of pro bono legal services.

**Key Findings:** The study was conducted based on a small sample survey of lawyers and applicants accessing the services under the scheme. The study also documents the pro bono services available in a few selected countries to draw insights about the potential benefits, opportunities, and constraints in such services. The study finds that the biggest strengths of the Nyaya Bandhu scheme are its talented pool of lawyers, who are motivated to work for a good cause, and the scheme's use of ICT tools for its implementation. The key challenge is to establish an effective link between the applicant and the lawyer. The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tools make this possible while also identifying valuable new methods of rapid monitoring and assessment of this link. The recommendations made to strengthen

and streamline the programme include generating more awareness about the scheme among the larger public, incentivising lawyers' pro bono work, collaborating with civil society organisations, and improving monitoring and evaluation under the scheme. The scheme is currently not operating at capacity as the number of applicants availing of the services is yet to pick up at scale. However, as awareness about the programme increases, the demand for the services of these lawyers is bound to rise given the large unmet need for such services.

**Status:** Completed March 2020.

**Outcome:** Report on the study submitted to the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.

### **B10. Evaluation of Access to the Justice Scheme in the North-eastern States\***

**Sponsor:** Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Madhura Dasgupta, Sanjukta Das, Namrata Ramachandran, Disha Saxena, Mohit Pandey, and Anika Kapoor

**Objectives:** The main aims of the 'Access to Justice' (A2J) scheme, implemented by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, are to: increase legal awareness; promote legal literacy through training and dissemination of information; and train people who are outside the formal judiciary, but play a crucial role in the traditional justice system. The scheme has supported a number of activities in the States where it has been implemented, including conducting training programmes, preparing and producing Information, Education, and Communication

(IEC) materials, organising legal literacy/dissemination activities, and conducting legal aid clinics. Building on the experience of implementation of the earlier phases of the scheme, the Department of Justice implemented the scheme 'Northeast and Jammu & Kashmir' (A2J NEJK). The Department of Justice entrusted NCAER with the task of assessing the present phase of this scheme (2017-2020) and its impact. The objectives of this study were to: analyse the effectiveness of the current model; identify the drivers, constraints, failures; and successes in implementation of the model; and recommend the progression of the scheme.

**Key Findings:** This study evaluated the A2J scheme through field visits in the two States of Assam and Tripura, and discussions about the various activities under the scheme with the implementing agency officials in the two States. In Assam, the projects, which were implemented by the State Resource Centre, involved legal literacy activities in addition to training and capacity building for the dissemination of information on the rights and duties of the citizens in a number of areas. In Tripura, two projects were selected for evaluation, one of which was implemented by the State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (SIPARD). The activities here also entailed dissemination of legal literacy and training and capacity building for propagation of the same. The other project in Tripura, on the 'propagation of legal literacy and setting up of Legal Aid Clinics', was implemented by the State Legal Services Authority, Tripura. The study also offered recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the scheme based on discussions held with the implementing agencies on the impact of the projects,



the constraints faced by them and their suggestions for improving the performance and outreach of the projects.

**Status:** Completed March 2020.

**Outcome:** The evaluation study, based on a review of the available documentation and field visits conducted in the two States of Assam and Tripura, and discussions with the Department of Justice, resulted in a number of recommendations pertaining to effective functioning of the scheme. In the report, the study offers further suggestions specific to the legal aid clinics and the panel lawyers, and PLVs involved in implementation of these activities.

### **B11. Evaluation of the Nyaya Mitra Scheme: Reducing Pendency in Indian Courts\***

**Sponsor:** Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Madhura Dasgupta, Sandhya Garg, Namrata Ramachandran, Mohit Pandey, Disha Saxena, and Anika Kapoor

**Objectives:** The Nyaya Mitra Scheme was first launched by the Department of Justice in April 2017, with the objective of providing assistance to the judiciary for the faster disposal of cases that were pending for ten years or more. The scheme was aimed at supporting judicial reforms and the effective implementation of Article 39-A of the Constitution of India to ensure access to affordable legal aid for all, irrespective of economic or other disabilities. The objectives of the NCAER study were: to assess the efficacy of the current model; identify the drivers, constraints, failures, and the successes in implementation of the scheme thus far; and recommend any future overhaul, as applicable.

**Key Findings:** This study evaluated the Nyaya Mitra scheme based on interviews conducted with the stakeholders in two districts each in the States of Rajasthan and West Bengal—one where the scheme has been in operation since its inception and the other where the scheme was not in operation. Feedbacks were also obtained from the stakeholders in West Tripura and in another district in Rajasthan. The study points to the need for addressing operational constraints such as the difficulties faced in the appointment of Nyaya Mitras, the need for defining their roles and functions, and coordinating the functioning of the Nyaya Mitras within the normal court processes.

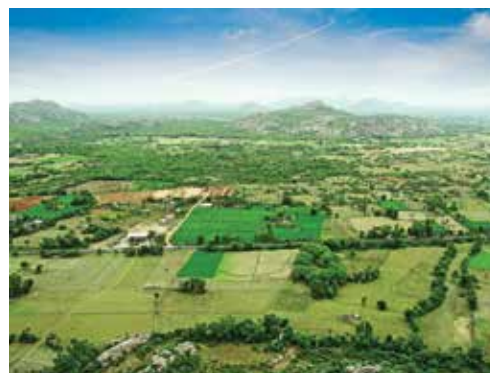
**Status:** Completed March 2020.

**Outcome:** Based on the information obtained from the stakeholders at the time of the survey and discussions with the sponsor, the study offers a number of recommendations to improve the efficacy of the scheme.

### **B12. NCAER's Land Policy Initiative (N-LPI)**

**Sponsor:** Omidyar Network India, Mumbai

**Project Team:** Deepak Sanan, D.B. Gupta, Shashanka Bhide, Prerna Prabhakar, Charu Jain, Somnath Sen, and Anika Kapoor



**Research Support:** Kajal Gupta, Chandni Mishra, Falak Naz, Nishika Pal, Disha Saxena, Arundhati Sharma, Vijay Singh Bangari, Yuvraj Sunger, Apoorva, and Rupal Taneja

**Objectives:** Land policy and governance is a core area of research for NCAER under the recently set up Land Policy Initiative (LPI). The two broad objectives of LPI are: i) development of a NCAER Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI) covering all the States and Union Territories of India, and ii) establishment of an NCAER Land Data Hub to create a warehouse for all publicly available land data in India.

N-LRSI aims to capture the extent of digitisation of land records and the quality of these land records in the States and Union Territories of India. The “Extent of Digitisation” component, which aims to assess whether a State has made all its land records digitally available to citizens, looks at three dimensions—the text of the land records (also called the record of rights), the official map associated with a land record (also called cadastral maps), and the property registration process. The “Quality of Land Records” component of the Index is designed assess if the land records are comprehensive and reliable, that is, whether ownership details are updated as soon as a sale occurs, the extent of joint ownership, type of land use, land area on the record and on the map, and if encumbrances are being recorded.

**Status:** Ongoing.

### **B13. Social Impact Assessment Study for Acquisition of Land with Delhi Jal Board, for Public Purpose at Milan Garden and Saboli Gaddha in**

### **Gokulpur, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi\***

**Sponsor:** Government of NCT of Delhi

**Project Team:** D.B. Gupta, Anika Kapoor, Dalip Kumar, and Arundhati Sharma

**Objectives:** Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is a process aimed at the identification, analysis, and assessment of land to be acquired for public purposes. The objective of the SIA study was to facilitate acquisition of 38.85 sq. m. of land for Delhi Jal Board at Milan Garden and Saboli (Gaddha) in the Gokulpur Assembly constituency. This land was required for construction of lift stations for laying and jointing internal sewer lines of 250 mm to 710 mm diameter in various colonies that are part of Gokulpur in Zone III, and the Yamuna Vihar Waste Water Treatment Plant Catchment area in Delhi.

**Key Findings:** The project is being implemented in accordance with the best alternative for obtaining land accepted by the Delhi Jal Board, Government of NCT of Delhi, based on the pre-feasibility report. The SIA study was critical for the acquisition of land for the construction of pump stations, which are important for completing the network of the existing newly laid sewerage system in the two colonies of the constituency, namely, Milan Garden and Saboli Gaddha. The SIA reports that the project fulfils the criteria laid down by Sub-section (4) of Section 4 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013. The social and environmental costs that will be incurred can be mitigated and are not completely irreversible. Therefore, land can be acquired as requested by the Delhi Jal Board, for completion of the ongoing project.

**Status:** Completed.

## C. Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the Environment

Due to rapid transformation of the Indian economy there is a significant reduction in the GDP share of agriculture and allied sectors. Nonetheless, a very large percentage of the rural population still depends directly or indirectly on the agricultural and allied sectors for income and employment. Consequently, faster development of the agricultural and allied sectors to achieve the objectives of higher growth and poverty reduction continues to remain a priority. Simultaneously, it is equally important to generate income and employment opportunities in the non-farm sectors through faster overall rural development. Thus, the prospects of faster rural development are intrinsically related to faster growth of both the agricultural and allied sectors as well as rural non-farm sectors. A key issue that needs to be addressed in this context is stagnation in agricultural productivity as well as non-farm sectors.

Several developments in the past few decades have opened up both opportunities as well as challenges for agricultural and allied sectors and overall rural development, which also includes the non-farm sector. Appropriate policies must, therefore, be designed to combat these challenges and exploit the new opportunities thrown up by globalisation, changes in food baskets, and climate change. There is an urgent need to revisit the traditional methods of agricultural production, post-harvest handling, marketing, distribution, and trade, both domestic and international. The acceleration in economic growth has also intensified pressures on natural resources, and therefore, greater attention also needs to be paid for managing the key natural resources such as land, water, and forests.

Over the years, NCAER has carried out numerous studies on agriculture, rural development, and natural resource management and the environment, and

Photo Credit: World Bank





this continuing priority is reflected both in the number of studies that have been completed as well as in new studies that have been initiated and are underway. In recent decades, a major effort has been to help the Ministry of Agriculture provide better short-term and medium-term outlook forecasts in agriculture, particularly for food crops, which was started in 2012. This was a multi-year effort involving networking with several other institutions and was underway until 2017–18. NCAER has also carried out studies on related issues like the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs, and Public Distribution, and examining the role of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in ‘Shaping Household Food and Nutritional Security’, for NITI Aayog. We have also been working in the area of greenhouse gas effects, identification of institutional funding gaps in the co-operative sector, strengthening the office of the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies, contribution of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes in agricultural policy, and assessment of the impact of rice varieties and package of practices developed by ICAR.

More recently, NCAER has been working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as their knowledge partner on the initiative of Doubling Farmers’ Income. At the State level, NCAER has undertaken a few studies including an analysis of Bihar’s agricultural sector to inform and operationalise the State government’s new five-year vision for agriculture to deliver inclusive growth and ensure greater food security in the region; and an evaluation of the impact of “Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra (CAIM)” in six distressed districts of the Vidarbha region in Maharashtra State. A study was also carried out on the correlation

of socio-economic indicators with river water pollution. Of two other studies that were conducted, one examined the socio-economic impact of the National Dairy Plan-I started in 2011-12 on the poor and marginalised sections of society and the other estimated the incremental economic and social benefits of the “Monsoon Mission” and investments made in “High-Performance Computing HPC”. These studies have utilised both primary as well as secondary data.

A few of the recent studies being carried out under the programme area of ‘Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the Environment’ are summarised below.\*

### **C1. Study on Agricultural Diagnostics for the State of Bihar in India\***

**Sponsor:** DFID, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Sanjib Pohit, Elumalai Kannan, R.K.P. Singh, Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Avisha Alawadhi, and Lavanya Sayal

**Objectives:** The main objective of this



Photo Credit: World Bank

\*Programmes/projects completed during financial year 2019–20.



diagnostic study was to help inform and operationalise the Government of Bihar's vision for agriculture in the next five years. For this purpose, the study: (a) assessed the drivers of agricultural productivity and growth in Bihar; (b) examined the obstacles to inclusive growth; and (c) identified actions to increase productivity and promote sustained and inclusive growth of this sector. The recommendations of this study will help policymakers, donors, and other stakeholders in Bihar's agricultural sector take informed decisions on policies and programmes to ensure inclusive growth of this sector and greater food security for the State of Bihar. Aligned with the agriculture roadmap of the State Government of Bihar, the purpose of this study is also to provide practical, evidence-based policy options for supporting sustainable growth in this sector.

**Key Findings:** The study found that poor functioning of agricultural markets, indicated by instability in the prices of agricultural produces and a low level of crop diversification, were the reasons for slow or lower rate of agricultural growth in Bihar. It is important to relax constraints in agricultural markets and promote crop diversification to ensure higher growth in Bihar's agriculture sector.

The study recommends the following



Photo Credit: World Bank

policy actions:

- Increasing market density;
- Strengthening public procurement;
- Improving functioning of farmers' groups; and
- Creating an enabling ecosystem for contract farming.

**Status:** Completed November 2019.

## **C2. Water-to-Cloud: Correlating Socio-economic Indicators with River Water Quality**

**Sponsor:** Tata Centre for Development at University of Chicago

**Project Team:** Soumi Roy Chowdhury, D.B. Gupta, and Sanjib Pohit

**Objectives:** The primary aim of this project is to study the socio-economic and livelihood implications of pollution in the waters of the Ganga river by correlating the real-time pollution parameters with self-reported livelihood measures. The Ganga river basin, spread across multiple States of India, is the world's most populous river basin, but the pressures of industrialisation and urbanisation make the basin vulnerable to incessant outpouring of sewage and large volumes of solid and industrial wastes. While there are studies to show the effect of contaminated drinking water on human health, there is a need to address the issue of correlations of socio-economic indicators with surface water pollution and to study the causality therein. The specific objectives of the study are to understand the effect of water pollution on the livelihoods of fishermen, and calculate the direct and indirect health costs of households associated with Ganga river water usage. In this context, fishermen in West Bengal and households in Uttar Pradesh were chosen as the two study groups.

**Status:** Ongoing.

### C3. Impact of Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra (CAIM)\*

**Sponsor:** Project Monitoring Unit of CAIM, Amravati, and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), New Delhi

**Project Team:** Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Laxmi Joshi, Prabir Kumar Chaudhuri (Consultant), Tarujyoti Buragohain, and Animesh Sharma

**Objectives:** The main aim of this project was to undertake an evaluation study to document the impact of CAIM interventions on: (i) reduction of household poverty, (ii) sustainable increase in household incomes, and (iii) increased household resilience to climate and market risks. The Vidarbha region in Maharashtra has for long been facing an acute agrarian crisis, causing distress to a large part of the local population whose primary occupation is agriculture. Six of the 11 constituent districts of Vidarbha—Akola, Amravati, Buldhana, Wardha, Washim, and Yavatmal—have been most adversely affected by the crisis, which has tragically led even to a spate of suicides by farmers in the region. Stepping in to alleviate the agrarian distress in the region, the Government of Maharashtra, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust joined hands to form a consortium to fund a programme for ensuring a steady increase in the incomes of poor farmers and farm workers in the rural hinterland of Vidarbha under the CAIM project.

**Key Findings:** The innovative features of the CAIM project included the use of a pro-poor-private sector partnership for addressing the problems of marketing agricultural produce, providing a central

role to women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for offering social and financial counselling to the distressed households, promotion of soil and water conservation to address water scarcity, and capacity building of farmers to enable them to reap the benefits of new farming practices.

The study observed that the CAIM-supported programmes had noticeably and sustainably enhanced the living conditions of the households and villages in distress. The programme has helped achieve a considerable level of women's empowerment and tangible long-term benefits for the targeted population through various means, including debt redemption, drudgery reduction, a micro livelihood plan, social enterprises, and joint asset ownership.

**Status:** Completed May 2019.

**Outcome:** The project report was accepted and provided the basis for the ongoing activities of the Community Managed Resource Centre under the aegis of the Maharashtra Arthik Vikas Mahamandal.

### C4. Impact Evaluation Study of the National Dairy Plan, Phase I \*

**Sponsor:** National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Anand, under a grant received from the World Bank

**Project Team:** Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Laxmi Joshi, Devendra Pratap, Tarujyoti Buragohain, Prabir Kumar Chaudhuri, Mohit Pandey, and Gargi Pal

**Objectives:** The main objective of this study was to evaluate the socio-economic impact of the dairy activities, propelled mostly by the Dairy Cooperative Societies, on the poor and marginalised sections of the society in India's



hinterland for generating remunerative incomes and enhancing women's empowerment.

**Key Findings:** The study found that a large number of landless, marginal, and small farmers involved in dairying were able to enjoy remunerative returns for their subsistence after the NDP-I interventions, as dairying, an off-farm activity, provides farmers an opportunity to enhance their earnings and also counter uncertainty of income due to variations in crop output. The vulnerable and marginalised rural populations also exhibited sustained commitment to dairy activity due to its long-term prospects. The creation of an effective marketing channel as part of the support structure built under NDP-I would provide a much-needed fillip to farmers to market their incremental milk production while also meeting the growing demands of urban consumers. The thrust on balanced feed has helped rationalise input costs and enable improvements in yield.

Moreover, spreading general awareness about the need to treat dairy activities as part of an integrated framework for ushering in overall development of the sector also had an impact on both the producers and consumers.

**Status:** Completed February 2020.

**Outcome:** Project report submitted, providing the basis for the ongoing activities of the National Dairy Plan, Phase II.

### C5. Contribution of ICAR Institutes in Agricultural Policy

**Sponsor:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Prem Vashishtha, Tarujyoti Buragohain, Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, S.K. Mondal, Divya Anand, Praveen Sachdeva, and Sadhna Singh

**Objective:** The objective of this study is to understand the contribution to agricultural policy of the research done by ICAR during two Plan periods, viz., the X<sup>th</sup> Plan (2002–03 to 2006–07) and XI<sup>th</sup> Plan (2007–08 to 2011–12) periods, with particular reference to the following aspects: 1) practical bearing of research on improvement of farmers' income; 2) improving status of farming women in respect of income, health, and the gender gap; and 3) policy implications of work on climate change, and the emerging climate variability and suggestions on ways to minimise farmers' losses.

The study reflects on the policy aspects by thematic areas rather than on individual projects/research institutions. The following thematic areas have been highlighted in the study: (i) agricultural

economics and policy; (ii) mainstreaming gender in agriculture; (iii) food and nutrition security; (iv) adaptive and strategic research; and (v) performance rating.

**Status:** Ongoing. Draft report submitted.

### **C6. Economic Benefits of Monsoon Mission and Investment in High-performance Computing, Phase-IV**

**Sponsor:** Ministry of Earth Sciences, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, R Venkatesan, Shayequa Zeenat Ali, Amit Sharma, and Devender Pratap

**Objective:** The objective of this study is to estimate the incremental economic and social benefits emanating from the interaction between the earth science system and its constituent parts subsequent to the setting up of the “*Monsoon Mission*” at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in 2012, and investments made in “High-performance Computing” at IITM to upgrade it to a 1.15 peta computing system.

**Status:** Ongoing. Draft report submitted.



Photo Credit: World Bank



## D. Poverty, Human Development, Equity, Gender, and Consumer Behaviour

Reducing poverty and economic and social disparities, including those based on gender, and achieving significant improvements in human development, have long been pressing concerns for Indian policymakers, even more so in these times of the pandemic. Several government flagship programmes aimed at achieving these objectives and increasing inclusiveness have been launched in the past decade. The experience gained through these interventions in India as well as elsewhere shows that the success of such initiatives depends not only on the implementation of new policies and programmes, but also on bringing about institutional and behavioural changes, and, of course, on politics.

NCAER has been contributing in these areas by carrying out research to evaluate

these programmes as well as mounting single- and multi-topic household surveys of income and expenditure to generate data for a rigorous exploration of these issues and for mapping the changes taking place in Indian society. A study of the MGNREGA scheme for the erstwhile Planning Commission was started in 2012–13. Another study on the targeting efficiency of the Public Distribution System was launched in early 2014. NCAER has also been contributing to the broader research and policy agenda by making many of its data sets publicly available. For example, the 2004–05 and 2011–12 India Human Development Survey (IHDS) is now being used by over 9,000 researchers worldwide.

The IHDS seeks to provide the first large nationwide panel for Indian households.

Photo Credit: World Bank



In order to accomplish that, all the households surveyed in 2004–05 were re-surveyed in 2011–12 as part of IHDS-II. With a re-contact rate of over 83 per cent, this panel provides an excellent opportunity to study changes in Indian society during an era of rapid social transformation. A third wave of the panel is being planned.

The growing focus on the quality of public services and ways of making these services accessible to excluded groups have emerged as key themes within the poverty programme area. NCAER research has tackled issues of access and quality in education, health, infrastructure, and access to jobs. As noted in the section on macro, NCAER is working on a study of gender-inclusive macroeconomic policy management and gender-aware macro models integrating intra-household behaviour. This work has been complemented by NCAER's assessment of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Readiness of India's States and Union Territories, which included interviews with stakeholders as well as assessment of the DBT readiness of flagship Centrally-sponsored schemes.

Details of studies carried out under the programme area of 'Poverty, Human Development, Equity, Gender, and Consumer Behaviour' are given below.\*

### **D1. India Human Development Survey, Wave 3 (IHDS-3)**

**Sponsors:** National Institutes of Health (NIH) through University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA

**Project Team:** Sonalde Desai, Amaresh Dubey, Santanu Pramanik, O.P. Sharma, Dinesh Kumar Tiwari, Debasis Barik, Pallavi Choudhuri, Manjistha Banerji, Ruchi Jain, Neerad Deshmukh, Jaya Koti,



Photo Credit: World Bank

Anupma Mehta, Arpita Kayal, Sreejith Karunakaran, Bijay Chouhan, Reem Ashraf, Sumiran Chandra, Gurpreet Singh, Abhinav Motheram, Neeraj Kumar, Zareena, and Deepa S.

**Objective:** The third wave of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) is aimed at assessing changes in an individual's life course as well as the impact of economic changes and public policies on household wellbeing. IHDS 3 is part of panel data on different dimensions of human development like education, caste, gender relations, and infrastructure.

**Status:** Ongoing.

### **D2. An Evaluation of the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (BBBP) Scheme\***

**Sponsor:** Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Anushree Sinha, Rajesh Jaiswal, Ramamani Sundar, Arpita Alawadhi, Dhruv Pratap Singh, Vishal Rangarajan, and Poonam Dhawan

**Objective:** The main objective of the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (BBBP) project is to evaluate the level of awareness among the public and the actions taken by various stakeholders based on this awareness about the Government's actions pertaining to the (i) elimination of gender-biased sex selection; (ii) assurance of survival and protection of the girl child; and (iii) assurance of education of the girl child.

\*Programmes/projects completed during financial year 2019–20.



**Status:** Ongoing.

### **D3. Health Satellite Account of the State of Uttarakhand for the Year 2017-18**

**Sponsor:** Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Dehradun

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, Asrar Alam, Palash Baruah, Elizabeth Lyn, Animesh Sharma, and Rahat Hasan Khan

**Objective:** The objective of this project is to prepare the Health Satellite Account for the State of Uttarakhand for the year 2017-18 in order to determine the contribution of the health sector to the State economy.

**Status:** Ongoing.

### **D4. Health Satellite Account for Himachal Pradesh, 2017-18**

**Sponsor:** Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Shimla

**Project Team:** Poonam Munjal, Asrar Alam, Palash Baruah, Sundus Usmani, Animesh Sharma, and Charu Jain

**Objectives:** The main objective of this study is to prepare the Health Satellite Account for the State of Uttarakhand for the year 2017-18 in order to determine the contribution of the health sector to the State economy.

**Status:** Ongoing.

### **D5. Health Seeking Behaviour in Four Indian States**

**Sponsor:** Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne, Australia

**Project Team:** P. K. Ghosh, Sumit Kumar, Sagari Sahu, and Sree Sanyal

**Objectives:** The major aim of this study was to assess the health seeking behaviour, its pathways and associated costs in relation to three specific health conditions, that is, a chronic condition among adults, an acute condition among children, and gynaecological problems among women. The study selected two States with low levels of health system development, namely, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, and two with higher levels of health system development, namely, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to better understand the differences between health seeking behaviour in more and less developed health systems at the State level in India.

**Status:** Ongoing.

### **D6. Discrete Choice Experiments to Assess Health Seeking Behaviours in Four Indian States**

**Sponsor:** Population Council, New Delhi

**Project Team:** P. K. Ghosh, Sumit Kumar, Sagari Sahu, and Sree Sanyal

**Objectives:** This project aims to implement three condition-specific discrete choice experiments (DCEs) to assess how Indian patients value certain characteristics of healthcare providers, including but not limited to diagnostic and treatment services, in health seeking journeys.

**Status:** Ongoing.



## E. Scientific Collection, Innovation, and Curation of Economic and Social Data

Surveys are cost-effective scientific tools for drawing inferences at the population level, if designed properly. NCAER has for long engaged in the collection and curation of economic and social data through scientifically designed surveys. Over time, this activity has grown to incorporate innovations in data collection with the overarching objective of strengthening the data ecosystem in India.

In a dynamic research and policy environment with a growing demand for data, it is crucial to invest in methods of data collection leading to timely, high-quality, and policy-relevant data. Changing socio-economic conditions and technological innovations necessitate rethinking of the kind of data that are collected and how they are collected, and also ways in which they are collated

and made accessible to users. In this context, NCAER is committed to adopt innovations in data collection across the themes of study design, sampling techniques, sampling frame, questionnaire designing, technology-assisted modes of data collection, remote monitoring of data collection activities, non-response, construction of survey weights in order to improve data quality, and survey estimates for population level inference.

Details of studies carried out under the programme area of 'Scientific Collection, Innovation, and Curation of Economic and Social Data' are given below.\*

### E1. Wage Employment and Migration\*

**Sponsor:** The Ford Foundation, New Delhi



Photo Credit: World Bank





**Project Team:** Sonalde Desai, Amaresh Dubey, O.P. Sharma, Dinesh Kumar Tiwari, Jaya Koti, Debasis Barik, and Zareena

**Objectives:** The main objectives of this project were to explore the avenues through which labour market conditions relate to the migration process, and to establish the feasibility of conducting a migration study in India which covers both the origin and destination locations of the migrants. Overall, the project aimed to link labour market processes to migration, and establish the feasibility of undertaking migration studies in India.

**Status:** Completed.

## E2. The NCAER National Data Innovation Centre

**Sponsor:** Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Sonalde Desai, Santanu Pramanik, O.P. Sharma, Dinesh Kumar Tiwari, Debasis Barik, Pallavi Choudhuri, Manjistha Banerji, Ruchi Jain, Neerad Deshmukh, Jaya Koti, Anupma Mehta, Arpita Kayal, Sreejith Karunakaran, Bijay Chouhan, Reem Ashraf, Sumiran Chandra, Gurpreet Singh, Abhinav Mothiram, G.C. Manna, Neeraj Kumar, Zareena, and Deepa S

**Objectives:** The main objective of this project is to develop innovative methodologies, and evaluate and

document them with training, capacity building, and demonstration projects emerging as by-products. The NDIC has three goals: (i) To pilot innovative data collection methods and to mainstream successful pilots into larger data collection efforts, which will focus both on household surveys and big data, particularly uses of administrative data; (ii) To train new generation of data scientists through formal and informal training; and (iii) To serve as a resource for diverse stakeholders, including government data agencies and ministries.

**Status:** Ongoing.

## E3. All India Citizens' Survey of Police Services (AICSPS)

**Sponsor:** Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Anushree Sinha, K.A. Siddiqui, Rajesh Jaiswal, Namrata Ramachandran, Shikha Bali, Kopal Mathur, Ritwik Kinra, Tasneem Ravindra Deo, Poonam Dhawan, and Dhruv Pratap Singh

**Objectives:** This project is aimed at conducting the first pan-India survey to supplement existing data on crime incidence and recording. The main objectives of the survey are to obtain data on safety perceptions and extent of victimisation; examine the gaps between incidences and reporting, and between reporting and recording of crime; and guide States/UTs to carry out the Crime Victimization Survey on an annual basis.

**Status:** Ongoing.

## E4. Assessing the Direct Benefit Transfer Readiness Assessment of States and UTs\*

**Sponsor:** Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

**Project Team:** Bornali Bhandari, R. Venkatesan, Sandhya Garg, Samarth Gupta, Ajaya K. Sahu, Sanjukta Das, Devender Pratap, Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Laxmi Joshi, Tarujyoti Buragohain, K.S. Urs, Sudhir Swarup, Jaskirat Kohli, and Avisha Alawadhi

**Objectives:** The main objective of this project was to assess the progress of Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) in terms of the ability of the State/UT to pursue government-to-person solutions through the use of ICT, or the electronic transfer of benefits under various welfare schemes (in cash, in-kind, or payments to service providers) after due authentication of the beneficiaries. In this context, the project identified the rankings of States/UTs based on their relative performance indicators on DBT implementation; and the challenges faced by the States/UTs and the best practices followed by them in implementing DBT.

**Status:** Completed.

### **E5. Studies on Impact of BS VI and Ethanol Blending on the Human Health Index**

**Sponsor:** The Indian Oil Corporation Limited, New Delhi

**Project Team:** Sanjib Pohit, D.B. Gupta, and Soumi Roy Chowdhury

**Objectives:** The main objective of this project is to generate data on air-borne pollutants; collect clinical and biometric information of individuals exposed to air pollution; and study the effect and severity of pollutants on human health. The study is being conducted in partnership with the Maulana Azad Medical College and Indian Oil



Photo Credit: World Bank

Corporation Limited, R&D Centre. The project is being undertaken in the context of a recently published report of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) which found that air pollution accounted for 12.4 lakh deaths in India in 2017, including 6.7 lakhs deaths due to outdoor air pollution. The ICMR report also stated that the average life expectancy in India would have been 1.7 years higher if air pollution levels had been within permissible limits. Thus, the Indian Government is making special efforts to reduce ground level air pollution by leapfrogging the implementation of BS IV to BS VI from 2020 onwards.

**Status:** Ongoing.



# Activities

## NCAER Publications

### Books and Published Reports\*

#### *1. Analysis of India's Logistics Costs*

(September 2019, NCAER, 392 pp.)

**Study Team:** Sanjib Pohit, D.B. Gupta, Devender Pratap, Sameer Malik, and Lavanya Sayal

Before making any policy intervention, it is important to estimate the overall logistics costs, including the various associated components/elements in order to understand and identify the problem areas and arrive at meaningful solutions. This NCAER report symbolises a major step in the direction of quantification of logistics costs. Hitherto, no serious attempt had been made to carry out research using a proper methodological framework for quantifying the logistics costs being incurred in India. Albeit, some estimates of the logistics costs incurred in the country are available in the public domain. However, these costs cannot be validated due to the non-availability of a framework for their estimation procedures. This also necessitates more comprehensive research in the area of estimation of logistics costs in India.

This report is the product of a Logistics Division, Ministry of Commerce-commissioned NCAER project to undertake interlinked studies on the time and cost analysis of cargo movements across India, estimate the overall logistics costs in India, and a Policy Roundtable organised to address the challenges faced by the sector.

#### *2. Study on Agricultural Diagnostics for the State of Bihar in India*

(November 2019, NCAER, 124 pp.)

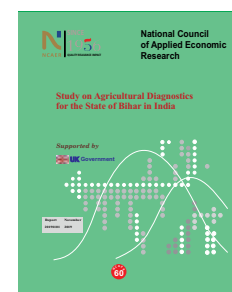
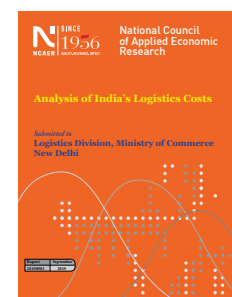
\*NCAER publications/periodicals are available by direct/email order or through subscription/online order at NCAER's website, [www.ncaer.org](http://www.ncaer.org) or [publ@ncaer.org](mailto:publ@ncaer.org).

**Study Team:** Sanjib Pohit, Elumalai Kannan, R.K.P. Singh, Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Avisha Alawadhi, and Lavanya Sayal

About 70 per cent of Bihar's rural workforce is employed in agriculture, which contributes over a quarter of the state GDP. Hence, rapid agricultural development remains important for Bihar. Recognising this, the State government started implementing what it called 'Agricultural Road Maps' in 2008, and is currently on its third Road Map (2012-13 to 2016-17), all of which are aimed at increasing productivity growth in the crop and livestock sectors and boosting farm incomes.

Agricultural growth responded well to these new initiatives in the first four years, reaching 3.1 per cent per annum during the first Road Map, but declined to 1.3 per cent in the second Road Map, averaged about 2.0 per cent during 2001 to 2017, and has shown a decelerating trend since 2012-13.

What explains these trends in Bihar's agriculture development? To answer these and related questions, NCAER has partnered with DFID, the UK Department for International Development in India, to undertake an agricultural sector diagnostic study for the State to understand the economic, natural, technological, and political constraints that agriculture in Bihar faces, and what it should do to alleviate these constraints. The key goal of this work has been to identify the binding constraints to faster and more sustainable agricultural growth in Bihar. The search





for such binding constraints has covered both the crop and livestock sectors, and has looked at land switching from low-value to higher value crops, crop diversification, crop yield improvements, and input intensification.

### **3. India: Regional Tourism Satellite Accounts, 2015-16 (36 States/UTs reports)** (December 2019, NCAER)

**Study Team:** Poonam Munjal, K.A. Siddiqui, P.K. Ghosh, Palash Baruah, Asrar Alam, Nijara Deka, Sundus Usmani, Rahat Hasan Khan, Sanjana Chhabra, Gunjan Pal, and Shashi Singh

The key objectives of these reports are to estimate the contribution of the tourism sector in the GDP and employment of the country using the UNWTO-recommended methodology. Both the direct and indirect contributions are to be estimated. The scope of work involves the preparation of TSA Tables and Accounts using the Supply and Use Tables framework.

**Key Findings:** The key outcomes of the study were the comprehensive TSA reports on National TSA and for each of the 36 States and UTs. The reports present the TSA Tables and accounts and the contribution of tourism to national and States' economies.

### **4. Impact Evaluation of the Maharashtra CAIM Programme - The Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra**

(December 2019, NCAER, 174 pp.)

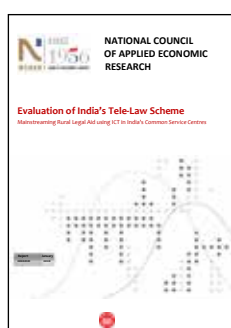
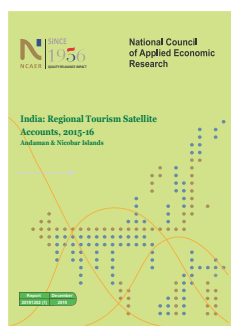
**Study Team:** Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Laxmi Joshi, Prabir Kumar Chaudhuri, Tarujyoti Buragohain, Animesh Sharma

The Vidarbha region in Maharashtra has for long been facing an acute agrarian crisis, causing distress to a

large part of the local population whose primary occupation is agriculture. The crisis has been caused by a number of factors, including fragmentation of land leading to tiny landholdings, scanty and irregular rainfall, sparse irrigation facilities, and lack of opportunities for non-farm activities. Six of the 11 constituent districts of Vidarbha—Akola, Amravati, Buldhana, Wardha, Washim, and Yavatmal—have been most adversely affected by the crisis, which has tragically led even to a spate of suicides by farmers in the region. In this backdrop, the Government of Maharashtra, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) joined hands to form a consortium to fund a programme to ensure a steady increase in the incomes of the poor farmers and farm workers in the rural hinterland of Vidarbha. Implementation of this programme, titled, Convergence of Agriculture Interventions in Maharashtra (CAIM), commenced in 2012 and ended in December 2018.

A socio-economic impact evaluation study was carried out by NCAER during January-June 2019, which observed that the CAIM-supported programmes had noticeably and sustainably enhanced the living conditions of the households and villages in distress, with a large number of households benefiting from it. The programme has helped achieve considerable level of women's empowerment and tangible long-term benefits for the targeted population through various means, including debt redemption, drudgery reduction, a micro livelihood plan, social enterprises, and joint asset ownership.

### **5. Evaluation of India's Tele-Law Scheme: Mainstreaming Rural Legal Aid using ICT in India's Common Service Centres** (January 2020, NCAER, 94 pp.)



**Study Team:** Sandhya Garg, Sanjukta Das, Namrata Ramachandran, Madhura Dasgupta, and Jaskirat Singh Kohli

This NCAER report evaluates the Tele-Law Scheme of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, which links rural citizens with urban lawyers using Information and Communication Technology. The study provides a number of important insights on the operation and impact of the scheme and proposes a set of recommendations, especially in view of the potential national rollout of the scheme. The Central Government is setting up a CSC in each Gram Panchayat, making a national rollout technically feasible. The question this study answers is how best to configure the technical and professional services under Tele-Law to make them more accessible in a meaningful way for the needy. The study highlights the need for strong, last-mile outreach and education about the scheme at the local level. It points to the need for increasing the number of empanelled lawyers, especially as the demand rises, or as a national rollout is considered. The study recommends a strong, continuous, monitoring and evaluation for the Tele-Law Scheme so that problems and constraints can be addressed rapidly on both the human and technical fronts in this innovative scheme.

#### **6. The NCAER 2019–20: Mid-Year Review of the India Economy**

(November 2019, NCAER, 56 pp.)

**Study Team:** Sudipto Mundle, Bornali Bhandari, Anil Kumar Sharma, Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Pallavi Choudhuri, Sandhya Garg, Samarth Gupta, Devender Pratap, Ajaya Kumar Sahu, and Prerna Prabhakar

NCAER's Mid-Year Review of the

Indian Economy (MYR) presents the most comprehensive, independent assessment of the Indian economy. The 2019–20 Review has been published in a long-standing partnership with the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi.

#### **7. A Study to Assess Alcohol Taxation, Affordability, and Price Elasticity Patterns in India**

(February 2020, NCAER, 82 pp.)

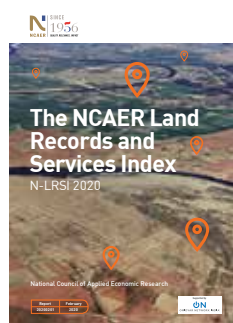
**Study Team:** Sanjib Pohit, Samarth Gupta, Soumi Roy Chowdhury, and Devendra B. Gupta

**Objectives:** The broad objective of the study is to estimate overall tax burden and elasticity of alcohol products for the last 10 years in 7 selected States (Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Bihar, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh) of India. To attain this goal, the research study involves the following specific tasks: reviewing of the State-wise price mechanisms and structure of taxation across various types of alcohol products; estimating the trend in sales, consumption, and affordability of different alcohol products for the last 10 years; examining the price and tax elasticity of different alcohol products segregated by geography and socio-economic status; estimating the cross-price elasticity between alcohol products; analysing the State-wise increase in revenue in relation with increase in taxation for last 10 years; and, providing an estimated incremental tax requirement for relative reduction in consumption of alcohol by 10 per cent by 2025.

The study report confirms that the demand for alcohol is highly price-inelastic. The estimated cross price elasticities show that even a marginal increase in the price of IMFL may lead to a significant substitution toward beer, whereas the reverse is not true.



Based on this pioneering work, the report makes several recommendations. There is need to: (1) have comparable data across States; (2) assess the optimal mode of taxation for alcohol; (3) have a nation-wide uniform minimum legal drinking age; (4) ensure stricter enforcement of the minimum legal drinking age; (5) tailor interventions to moderate consumption to the specific demand characteristics of each State; (6) estimate the burden on the poor of command and control measures, such as banning country liquor, that might actually increase alcohol expenditures at the cost of other family essentials; and (7) raise awareness about the adverse effects of excessive alcohol consumption.



#### **8. *The NCAER Land Records and Services Index – N-LRSI 2020***

(February 2020, NCAER, 152 pp.)

**Study Team:** Devendra B. Gupta, Perna Prabhakar, Charu Jain, and Anika Kapoor

NCAER's new NCAER Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI 2020), supported by Omidyar Network India, assesses the extent of digitisation of land records and the quality of these land records in the States and UTs of India. Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Tamil Nadu emerged as the top States in the N-LRSI 2020. The first component, which aims to assess whether a State has made all its land records digitally available to citizens, looks at three dimensions—the text of the land records (also called the record of rights), the official map associated with a land record (also called cadastral maps), and the property registration process. The second component of the Index aims to assess if the land records are comprehensive and reliable—are ownership details updated as soon as a sale occurs, the extent of joint ownership,

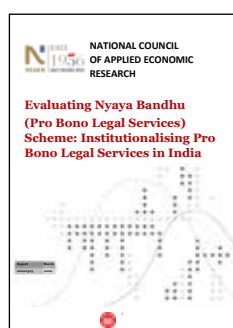
type of land use, land area on the record and on the map, and are encumbrances being recorded (other claims on the property such as mortgages and court cases). All these elements are closely connected to land disputes and to the ease with which transactions in land can be completed and legally recorded and then conveniently accessed. While for the textual record digitisation, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Chhattisgarh and Goa appeared to be the leading States, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh topped the list for spatial record digitisation. For the registration component, Maharashtra emerged as the leader, while Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh were the front-runners on the quality of their land records. The findings of the Index 2019-20 exercise are likely to enable States to make efforts in the direction of creating more comprehensive and accurate land records, by adopting the initiatives that successful States have made in this direction.

#### **9. *Evaluating Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Scheme: Institutionalising Pro Bono Legal Services in India***

(February 2020, NCAER, 60 pp.)

**Study Team:** Sanjukta Das, Sandhya Garg, Namrata Ramachandran, Jaskirat Singh Kohli, and Anika Kapoor

The 'Access to Justice' (A2J) scheme, implemented by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, aims at increasing legal awareness, promoting legal literacy through training and dissemination of information, in addition to training people who are outside the formal judiciary, but play a crucial role in the traditional justice system. The scheme has supported a number of activities in the States where it has been implemented. These include conducting training programmes, preparing and producing Information, Education



and Communication (IEC) materials, undertaking legal literacy/dissemination activities, and conducting legal aid clinics. Building on the experience of implementing earlier phases of the scheme, the Department of Justice (DoJ) implemented the scheme, 'Northeast & Jammu and Kashmir' (A2J NEJK). DoJ entrusted NCAER with the task of evaluating the present phase of this scheme (2017-2020) to assess its impact. The objective of this study was to analyse the effectiveness of the current model, identify the drivers, constraints, failures and the successes in the implementation thus far, and recommend the progression of the scheme.

This study has evaluated the A2J scheme by undertaking field visits in the two States of Assam and Tripura. The study offers recommendations on improving the effectiveness of the scheme based on the discussions held with the implementing agencies on the impact of the projects, the constraints faced by them and their suggestions on what needs to be done to improve the performance and outreach of the projects.

**10. Evaluating the Nyaya Mitra Scheme: Reducing Pendency in Indian courts**  
(March 2020, NCAER, 70 pp.)

**Study Team:** Madhura Dasgupta, Sandhya Garg, Namrata Ramachandran, Mohit Pandey, Disha Saxena, and Anika Kapoor

The Nyaya Mitra Scheme was first launched by DoJ in April 2017, with the objective of providing assistance to the judiciary in the faster disposal of cases, pending for 10 years or more. The scheme aims at supporting judicial reforms processes and the effective implementation of Article 39-A of the Constitution of India such that affordable legal aid is available to all, irrespective

of economic or other disabilities. At the request of DoJ, NCAER carried out an evaluation study of the scheme. The objective of this study was to assess the efficacy of the current model, and to identify the drivers, constraints, failures, and successes in the implementation of the scheme thus far, and to recommend any future overhaul, as applicable.

This study report evaluated the Nyaya Mitra (NM) scheme based on the interviews conducted with the stakeholders in two districts each of Rajasthan and West Bengal—one where the scheme has been in operation since its inception and the other where the scheme was not in operation. Feedbacks were also obtained from the stakeholders in West Tripura and in addition, the team obtained the responses of the NM in another district of Rajasthan. Recognising the significant potential benefits of the scheme, the study points to the need for addressing operational constraints such as the difficulties faced in the appointment of NMs, the need for defining the role and the functions of the NMs, and coordinating the functioning of the NMs within the normal court processes. The study provides a number of recommendations building on the strengths of the scheme and suggestions for making the implementation more effective.

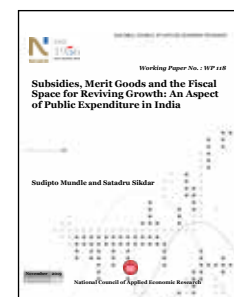
**11. Subsidies, Merit Goods and the Fiscal Space for Reviving Growth: An Aspect of Public Expenditure in India**

(November 2019, NCAER, 32 pp.)

**Working Paper No. 118**

Sudipto Mundle and Satadru Sikdar

Budget subsidies have been defined as the unrecovered cost of economic and social services. The incidence of these implicit and explicit budget subsidies provided by the central and state





governments has declined from about 12.9 per cent of GDP in 1987-88 to 10.3 per cent at present. The bulk of these subsidies is provided by the States and about half is spent on non-merit subsidies. The paper finds an inverse relationship between subsidy incidence and per capita income and also finds that subsidies are important determinants of the consumption of many public services though not all. There are large variations across States in the efficiency of subsidy use and the paper identifies the States which lie on the subsidy efficiency frontier for several key public services. The paper also argues that non-merit subsidies account for one of several deep fiscal reform measures that could together free up massive fiscal space, conservatively estimated at 6 per cent of GDP, and outlines a proposal for using this fiscal space to finance an inclusive growth revival strategy that could simultaneously reduce the fiscal deficit even without raising any tax rates.

### ***12. The US-China Trade War Impact on India and its Policy Choices***

(November 2019, NCAER, 22 pp.)

*Working Paper No. 119*

Rajesh Chadha, Sanjib Pohit, and Devender Pratap

The five-year period 2012-13 to 2016-17 witnessed a decline in Indian merchandise exports at an average rate of 4.5 per cent per annum. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry initiated a discussion in August 2018 on designing a strategy for doubling India's exports by 2025. This growth from US\$ 504 billion exports of goods and services in 2017-18 to above US\$ 1,000 billion in 2025-26 would imply an underlying growth rate of exports of above 9 per cent per annum.

While merchandise exports constitute close to 63 per cent of total exports, the share of service exports has been 37 per cent during the last three years, 2015-16 to 2017-18. Assuming these proportions remain unchanged, a doubling of merchandise exports in six years would mean going from the base 2017-18 level of US\$ 309 billion to about US\$ 618 billion by 2025-26, and service exports going from US\$ 195 billion to US\$ 390 billion. These are challenging targets. They raise the question of whether there are unexplored strategic opportunities in the current global trade situation, including in the looming US-China trade war, which can help India either achieve these targets or at least ensure that there are no significant reversals on the path to achieving them. This NCAER paper reflects on how India should react to the trade tensions between the world's two largest economies.

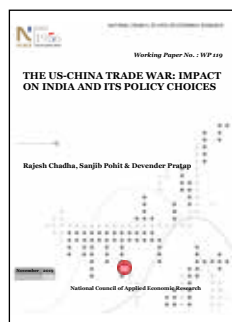
### **Serials**

#### ***India Policy Forum 2019 (Volume 16) (Annual)***

(2019, NCAER: SAGE Publications)

**Editors:** Shekhar Shah, Barry Bosworth, and Karthik Muralidharan

The *India Policy Forum* (IPF) is an annual NCAER publication dedicated to analysing contemporary trends in the Indian economy. Its objective is to carry theoretically rigorous yet empirically informed research on current issues related to India's economic policy. IPF serves as a forum for a global network of scholars interested in India's economic transformation. Copies of the publication are available with NCAER ([www.ncaer.org](http://www.ncaer.org)) and SAGE Publications ([www.sagepub.in](http://www.sagepub.in)).



## Articles

- Aeimit Lakdawala and Sanjay R. Singh. “The Effect of Foreign Shocks on the Indian Economy.”
- Nagaraj, Amey Sapre, and Rajeswari Sengupta. “Four Years after the Base-Year Revision: Taking Stock of the Debate Surrounding India’s National Income Estimates”.
- Maitreesh Ghatak and Karthik Muralidharan. “An Inclusive Growth Dividend: Reframing the Role of Income Transfers in India’s Anti-Poverty Strategy”.
- Radhicka Kapoor. “An Employment Data Strategy for India”.
- Sudipta Ghosh, Viktoria Hnatkovska, and Amartya Lahiri. “Rural-Urban Disparities in India in the Time of Growth”.

## Artha Suchi (Quarterly)

Volume 36, Numbers 3 and 4, and Volume 37, Numbers 1 and 2 (4 Issues)—under compilation

**Editor:** Shilpi Tripathi

A quarterly computerised index of government reports, journal articles, and newspaper write-ups related to the Indian economy brought out by the NCAER Library.

## The Journal of Applied Economic Research, “Margin” (Quarterly)

(NCAER and SAGE Publications)

Volume 13, Numbers 2, 3 and 4, and Volume 14, Number 1 (4 Issues)

**Editor:** Shekhar Shah

**Managing Editor:** Sanjib Pohit

**Consulting Editor:** Anuradha Bhasin

*The Journal of Applied Economic Research (JAER)*, also known as *Margin*, is

NCAER’s quarterly, peer-reviewed, international academic journal published in conjunction with SAGE Publications. Though now published in its newly registered form, *JAER/Margin* continues the 49-year long tradition of the original *Margin* journal started by NCAER in the late 1960s and available in the NCAER Library. *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. Empirical papers with significant policy implications are preferred, particularly papers with evidence-based policy analysis that apply modern quantitative techniques to sound data sets. At the same time, high-quality review articles are welcome. *JAER* appeals to a broad international audience and empirical papers.

For further details and subscriptions, please refer to [www.ncaer.org](http://www.ncaer.org)

## Selected articles from JAER:

- Kawasaki, Kenichi; Narayanan, Badri G.; Guimbard, Houssein; and Kuno, Arata. 2019. “Analysis of the Role of Tariff Concessions in East Asia”, 13(2): 141–167, May.
- Vogiatzoglou, Klimis. 2019. “Export Composition and Long-run Economic Growth Impact: A Cointegration Analysis for ASEAN ‘Latecomer’ Economies”, 13(2): 168–191, May.
- Barik, S. S. and Raje, Nishita. 2019. “Net Interest Margins of Banks in India”, 13(2): 192–207, May.
- Chitgupi, Aneesha. 2019. “Impact of Age-Structure Transition on India’s Current Account Balance: An Empirical Analysis”, 13(2): 208–231, May.
- Mohanty, Chandan Kumar and Mohanty, Smrutirekha. 2019. “Public-



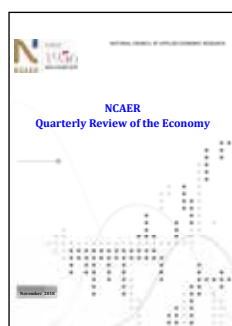
Private Wage Gap in the Indian Mining and Quarrying Industry”, 13(2): 232–253, May.

- Ahmad, Mahyudin. 2019. “Globalisation, Economic Growth, and Spillovers: A Spatial Analysis”, 13(3): 255–276, August.
- Jain, Hansa. 2019. “Wage–Productivity Relationship in Indian Manufacturing Industries: Evidences from State-level Panel Data”, 12(3): 277–305, August.
- Jayaraman, T. K. and Makun, Keshmeer. 2019. “Digitisation as a Contingent Factor in India’s Financial Sector Development-growth Nexus: An Empirical Study”, 12(3): 306–326, August.
- Kunroo, Mohd Hussain. 2019. “Trade, Industrial Dissimilarity, FDI and Business Cycle Co-movements: EC3SLS Evidence from Eurozone Economies”, 12(3): 327–359, August.
- Goswami, Rishabh; Hussain, Farah; and Kumar, Manish. 2019. “Banking Efficiency Determinants in India: A Two-stage Analysis”, 13(4): 361–380, November.
- Bulut, Umit. 2019. “Does the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey Respond Asymmetrically to Inflation and Output?”, 13(4): 381–400, November.
- Balié, Jean and Narayanan, Badri. 2019. “What should be the Focus of Agricultural Policy Reforms in Sub-Saharan Africa? A CGE Analysis”, 13(4): 401–435, November.
- Sebastian, Nancy. 2019. “(Re) investigation of Rural Women’s Labour Supply in India: The Impact of Household Poverty Status—A Panel Data Analysis”, 13(4): 436–469, November.
- Goh, Soo Khoon; Tang, Tuck Cheong; and Sam, Chung Yan. 2020. “Are Major US Trading Partners’ Exports and Imports Co-integrated?” Evidence from Bootstrap ARDL”, 14 (1): 1–27, February.
- Adil, Masudul Hasan; Hatekar, Neeraj; and Sahoo, Pravakar. 2020. “The Impact of Financial Innovation on the Money Demand Function: An Empirical Verification in India”, 14(1): 28–61, February.
- Mohanty, Ranjan Kumar; Panda, Sidheswar; and Bhuyan, Biswabhusan. 2020. “Does Defence Spending and its Composition Affect Economic Growth in India?”, 14(1): 62–85, February.
- Sahu, Jagadish Prasad. 2020. “Do Large Foreign Direct Investment Inflows Behave Differently From Smaller Inflows? Evidence from Developing Countries”, 14(1): 86–106, February.
- Vasilev, Aleksandar. 2020. “A Real-business-cycle Model with a Stochastic Capital Share: Lessons for Bulgaria (1999–2018)”, 14(1): 107–121, February.

### *Quarterly Review of the Economy* (Quarterly)

**Coordinator:** Bornali Bhandari

The *Quarterly Review of the Economy* is designed to meet the needs of policymakers, corporates and other interested parties in tracking the latest developments in the Indian economy. It provides an analysis of current policies and tracks developments in the domestic and global economies. NCAER growth forecasts are objective and widely quoted in Indian and international media. The subscribers to the *Review* also receive a



copy of the detailed report on NCAER's *Quarterly Business Expectations Survey*. An integral part of the *Review* is its quarterly State of the Economy seminars organised at NCAER, which bring together policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers on a common platform.

For subscription, please contact:  
indpack@ncaer.org

## Other NCAER Staff Publications

- Ali, S.Z. (*Forthcoming*). "Beyond the Polemics: Subcontracting in Unorganised Food Manufacturing in India", Chapter 10, in S. Bathla and E. Kannan (eds.), *Agro and Food Processing Industry in India - Inter-sectoral Linkages, Employment, Productivity and Competitiveness*, Singapore: Springer Nature.
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- Bhandari, Bornali and A.K. Sahu. 2020. "Women Face All-Pervasive Glass Ceiling", *The Hindu Business Line*, March 13.
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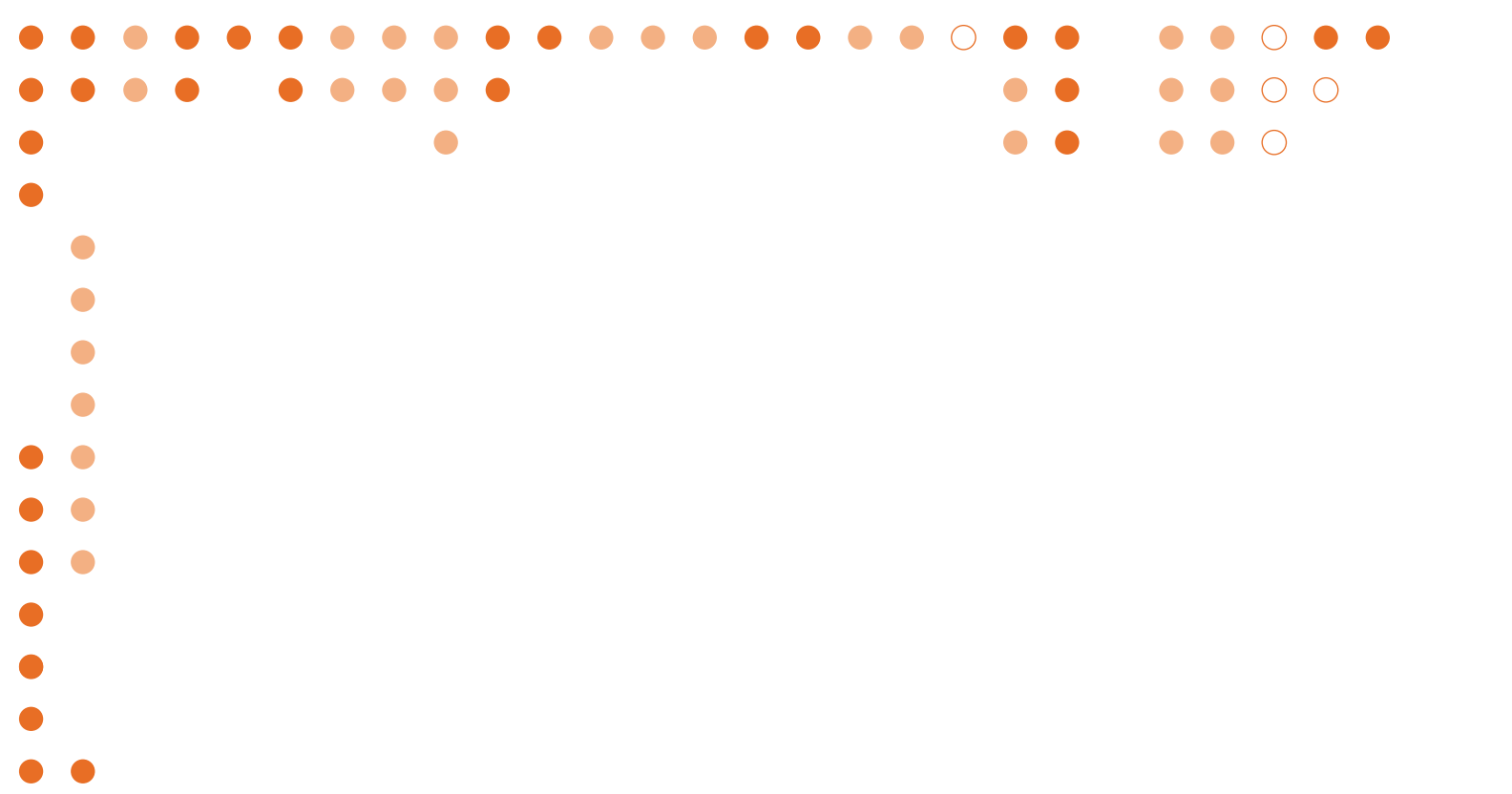
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  - Desai, Sonalde. 2019. “A Demographic Window of Opportunity: On Population and Policy”, *The Hindu*, July 11.
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- Pohit, Sanjib (with Devender Pratap and D.B. Gupta). 2019. "Quantifying India's Logistics Costs", *Policy Brief No. 3*, September, New Delhi: NCAER.
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- Prabhakar, Perna. 2020. "A Measure of Their Worth", *The Pioneer*, March 14.
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# Activities

## NCAER Research Staff Activities

### SHEKHAR SHAH

#### Positions Held

- Member, Governing Body, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy
- Member, Board of Directors, Institute for Policy Research Studies
- Member, Governing Body, National Productivity Council (NPC), Government of India
- Vice Chairman, Academic Council, Indian School of Public Policy
- Member, Academic Council, National Institute of Securities Markets
- Member, General Council, Institute of Applied Manpower Research, NITI Aayog, Government of India
- Member, High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) on Trade Policy, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India
- Member, Advisory Board, Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board for the Union and States (GASAB), Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Government of India
- Member, International Steering Committee, Pacific Trade and Development Conference (PAFTAD)
- Member, Steering Committee of National Data Quality Forum, Indian Council of Medical Research & National Institute of Medical Statistics, New Delhi
- Member, Working Group of the Commerce Minister on “US\$ 5 Trillion Indian Economy”, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India
- Member, National Steering Group of ‘SAMAVESH’ Initiative of NITI Aayog, Government of India
- Member, Editorial Advisory Board, *Sarvekshana*, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India
- Member, Executive Committee, National Spatial Data Infrastructure Department of Science and Technology, Government of India
- Member, Fellowship Committee, China India Foundation
- Member, Central Advisory Committee, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)



## Public Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

### 2019

**April 9-12:** Guest Speaker, “*Spring Meetings 2019*”, jointly organised by World Bank and IMF, World Bank, Washington D.C.

**April 26:** Chair, “NCAER’s Quarterly Review of the Economy”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**May 14:** Chair, Panel Discussion on “Inter-State Variations in Infrastructure and Social Service Delivery”, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi.

**May 16:** Speaker, Panel Discussion on “The Outreach of Research in Social Sciences Produced in the French Research Centers in India”, jointly organised by Centre de Sciences Humaines and the Institut Français India, Institut Français India, New Delhi.

**May 20:** Chair, “Brainstorming Session on “Analysis of India’s Logistics Costs by Logistics Division Study”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**May 27:** Invited Speaker, RBI Governor’s Meeting with Select Economists, RBI, New Delhi.

**June 4:** Speaker, Panel Discussion on “The Future of Work Ecosystem – Aligning Supply and Demand for an Inclusive Labor Market”, Rethinking the Future of Work to Promote Inclusive Growth in Asia Pacific, jointly organised by Asia Society and JP Morgan, Manila.

**June 7:** Moderator, Panel Discussion on “India’s Current Macroeconomic Challenges”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**June 8:** Special Presentation, “Strategies for the Future: NCAER”, Crime Victimisation Survey Workshop, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru.

**June 14:** Speaker, Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting, Union Budget 2019-20 with Economists, chaired by the Union Finance Minister, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.


**June 21:** Speaker, “Regulation 2.0: Ingredients of Effective Regulation amidst Market Disruption”, Annual General Body Meeting of The Forum of Indian Regulators, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi.

**June 22:** Invited Speaker, Interactive Session with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on “Economic Policy: The Road Ahead”, NITI Aayog, New Delhi.

**July 8-10:** Principal Organiser, Editor, & Chair, 16<sup>th</sup> India Policy Forum, NCAER, New Delhi.

**July 19:** Discussant, “The Investment Facilitation Agenda”, PAFTAD 40: New Dimensions of Connectivity in the Asia Pacific, jointly organized by Australian National University and Thailand Development Research Institute, Bangkok.

**July 22:** Panellist, The Five-Institution Union Budget Seminar on “*The Union Budget 2019-20: Reforms and Development Perspectives*” with CPR-ICRIER-IDFC-NCAER-NIPFP, New Delhi.



**July 24:** Speaker, “Potential Solutions/Decisions to Improve Data Quality”, Challenges and Solutions to Improve Data Quality in India: Launch of National Data Quality Forum, jointly organised by National Institute of Medical Statistics, Indian Council of Medical Research and Population Council, New Delhi.

**July 26:** Invited Speaker, RBI Governor’s Meeting with Select Economists, RBI, New Delhi.

**July 26:** Chair, “NCAER’s Quarterly Review of the Economy”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**August 6:** Chair, First Advisory Committee Meeting, “NCAER Land Policy Initiative (N-LPI)”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**August 7:** Principal Organiser and Chair, Memorial to pay tribute to Dr Subir Gokarn, in collaboration with Brookings India, and *Business Standard*, NCAER, New Delhi.

**August 12:** Invited Participant, “Emergence of Chinese Technology: Rising Stakes for Innovation Competition and Governance”, jointly organised by Omidyar Network and Esya Centre, New Delhi.

**September 4:** Guest Speaker, Workshop on “Data Governance Network”, NIPFP, New Delhi.

**September 6:** Chair, Workshop on “Tourism Satellite Account for India and All States and Union Territories”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**September 9:** Invited Speaker, Discussion on “Unpacking India’s Political Economy: The Big Policy Debates and Key Research Questions”, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi.

**September 23:** Invited Speaker, RBI Governor’s Meeting with Select Economists, RBI, New Delhi.

**October 21:** Invited Speaker, “Innovating and Scaling School-to-Work Transitions in India”, organised by JP Morgan, Mumbai.

**October 30:** Guest, “Release of the High Level Advisory Group Report”, organised by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, in association with Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi.

**November 7:** Principal Organiser and Chair, “How to leverage open government, research, and data to strengthen public policymaking in India”, jointly organised by NCAER and International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), NCAER, New Delhi.

**November 14:** Guest, Launch of the UK India Business Council’s “UK Socio-Economic Impact in India Initiative”, British High Commission, New Delhi.

**November 16:** Chair, “The NCAER 2019-20 Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy”, jointly organised by NCAER and India International Centre, New Delhi.



**December 5:** Invited Speaker, “Vocational Education, Equal Opportunity and Social Return”, For the Future: International Conference on Vocational Education and Training Development, jointly organized by China Development Research Foundation and Chinese Society of Technical and Vocational Education, Beijing.

**December 15:** Chair, Session on “Health and Economic Growth”, 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Neemrana Conference, Neemrana Fort-Palace, Rajasthan.

**December 17:** Chair, Second Advisory Committee Meeting, NCAER Land Policy Initiative, NCAER, New Delhi.

**December 20:** Invited Speaker, “Pre-Budget Consultations with Different Stakeholders, Union Budget 2020-21”, chaired by the Union Finance Minister, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.

**December 21:** Panellist, Economist’s Panel, 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi.

## 2020

**January 13:** Chair, Seminar on *Blaming Immigrants: Nationalism and the Economics of Global Movement*: Book Talk by author Neeraj Kaushal (Columbia University), NCAER, New Delhi.

**January 20:** Chair, Advisory Panel Meeting for the India Human Development Survey, NCAER, New Delhi.

**January 23:** Guest, “Release of Vision Document for the National Data and Analytics Platform”, NITI Aayog, New Delhi.

**January 24:** Invited Speaker, “Governor’s Meeting with Select Economists”, RBI, New Delhi.

**January 24:** Panellist, “Economic Performance and Growth Potential for India & World”, 14<sup>th</sup> SIAM Looking Ahead Conclave, “Automotive Industry and India’s USD 5 Trillion Vision: 2020 and Beyond”, jointly organised by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and Mahindra, New Delhi.

**January 29:** Chair, Seminar on “A Glass Half Full: Changes in Indian Standards of Living since 2012” by Sonalde Desai, NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 8:** Panellist, Seminar on “The Union Budget 2020-21: Reform and Development Perspectives” with CPR-ICRIER-IDFC-NCAER-NIPFP, New Delhi.

**February 13:** Chair, The 8<sup>th</sup> NCAER C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2020, “India in a Changing World” by David Lipton (IMF), NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 15:** Chair, India’s Tech Start-up Revolution: Potential and Challenges, with David Lipton (IMF), jointly organised by NCAER and Infosys, Bengaluru.

**February 17:** Chair, NCAER Seminar on “*Poverty, Inequality and Growth in India: 2011-18*” by Surjit S. Bhalla (IMF), NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 20:** Chair, “NCAER’s Quarterly Review of the Economy”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 27:** Chair, Release of the first edition of NCAER Land Records and Services Index 2020, NCAER, New Delhi.

**March 4:** Moderator, Panel Discussion on “25 Years of Land Record Digitisation: Where Are We?”, 4<sup>th</sup> India Land and Development Conference 2020, Center for Land Governance, New Delhi.

## SONALDE DESAI

### Positions Held

- Chair, International Outreach Committee, Population Association of America
- Member, Technical Advisory Committee on Household Surveys, Reserve Bank of India
- Member, Expert Group on Inflation Expectations Survey, Reserve Bank of India
- Member Editorial Committee, *Population and Development Review*
- Member Editorial Advisory Committee, *Demography*
- Member, Editorial Board, *Margin—The Journal of Applied Economic Research*, NCAER
- Member, Advisory Panel, Luxembourg Income Study, Luxembourg
- Tenure and Promotion Review for Faculty at the Ohio State University, University of Toronto, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- Member, Editorial Advisory Committee, *Asian Population Studies*
- Member, Editorial Advisory Board, *Studies in Family Planning*
- Member, Editorial Advisory Board, *Indian Journal of Human Development*
- Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of South Asian Development*
- Member, Editorial Board, *Margin: A Journal of Applied Economics*
- Member, Advisory Board, Integrated Public Use Micro Sample-International (IPUMS-I) at University of Minnesota, Minnesota



### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

#### 2019

**April:** Seminar at University of Minnesota on “Changing marriage patterns in India.”

**May:** Seminar at Stanford University, “Neither at Home, Nor in the Market: Low Returns to Women’s Education in India”.

**June:** Presented a paper on “Measuring women employment” at London School of Economics.

**July:** Participant in the Quality Council of India’s Engagement with Atal Innovation Mission programme, New Delhi.

**September:** Organised a Conference on “Measuring Gender Empowerment” at University of Maryland.

**October 18-19:** Organised, Session of Lessons from Longitudinal Studies on the “International Seminar on 25 Year of National Family Health Survey (NFHS)”, New Delhi.

**November 12-14:** Plenary presentation at the Nairobi Summit on International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) organised by the Govt. of Kenya and Denmark and UNFPA in Cairo.

**December 6-7:** Participated in the Panel Discussion on “Gender and Labour” in the conference “Closing the Gender Gap: Health, Education and Economic Opportunities” in Patna organised by the IGC, Asian Development Research Institute in collaboration with Gender Resource Centre.

**December 11:** Participant, an Experts’ Meeting on Population & Development, organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), New Delhi.

**December 13-15:** Presented, Paper on “A Glass Half Full: Changes in Living Standards Since 2012” in the 21st Annual Neemrana Conference, sponsored ICRIER, New Delhi.

## 2020

**January 7-9:** Presented, Paper and also discussant for a section at the 3 day conference on “Knowledge, Power and Social Change: Conference Honouring Simeen Mahmud” at BRAC, Dhaka.

**January 20:** Organised, “IHDS-3 Advisory Panel” meeting, NCAER, New Delhi.

**January 29:** Presentation, Seminar on “A Glass Half Full: Changes in Indian Standards of Living since 2012”, NCAER, New Delhi.



## SANJIB POHIT

### Positions Held

- Managing Editor, *Margin—The Journal of Applied Economic Research*, New Delhi
- Associate Member, UNCTAD Virtual Institute, Geneva, Switzerland
- Member, Forum for Global Knowledge Sharing, India

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

## 2019

**October 18:** Participant, Discussion on Disability, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi.

**October 23:** Participant, Meeting with Dr Ashok Dalwai, Additional Secretary, on “Doubling Farmer’s Income”, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

**October 31:** Participant, Meeting with officials of University of Chicago, on the project, ‘Water-to-Cloud: Correlating Socio-economic Indicators with River Water Quality’, NCAER, New Delhi.

**November 6:** Meeting on Study on “Agricultural Diagnostics for the State of Bihar

in India” by South Asia Research Hub, DFID and British High Commission, New Delhi.

**November 20:** Participant, Meeting on DFID Study on “Agricultural Diagnostics for the State of Bihar in India”, Patna.

**December 12:** Presentation, “Study of Assessing Alcohol Taxation Affordability Price Elasticity”, New Delhi.

## 2020

**January 27:** Participant, Project Review Meeting for “Study on Economic Burden of AT Users in India”, New Delhi.

**January 27:** Participant, Meeting on “Assessment of Alcohol Taxation, Affordability and Price Elasticity Patterns in India”, World Health Organisation, New Delhi.

## ANIL KUMAR SHARMA

### Position Held

- Member, Coordinating Committee for Organisation of Research Studies in the Field of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi



### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

## 2019

**July 8-10:** Participant, 16<sup>th</sup> India Policy Forum, NCAER, New Delhi.

**July 22:** Participant, The Five-Institution Union Budget Seminar on “The Union Budget 2019-20: Reforms and Development Perspectives” with CPR-ICRIER-IDFC-NCAER-NIPFP, New Delhi.

**July 26:** Participant, NCAER’s *Quarterly Review of the Economy*, NCAER, New Delhi.

**August 7:** Participated in a Memorial Meeting for Dr Subir Gokarn (1959-2019), IMF Executive Director for India. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan, and former Chief Economist and IFCI Chair, NCAER, by NCAER, Brookings India, and *Business Standard* held at NCAER, New Delhi.

**September 6:** Participated in a Workshop on “Tourism Satellite Accounts for 2015-16 for India and Indian States and UTs for the Union Ministry of Tourism”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**October 10:** Participated in a Seminar on “Quality of Care and the Bypassing of Primary Health Centers in India—Implications for Ayushman Bharat”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**November 7:** Participated in a Conference on “How to Leverage Open Government, Research, and Data to Strengthen Public Policymaking in India”, hosted jointly by NCAER and 3ie at NCAER, New Delhi.



**November 16:** Participated in NCAER's "Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy, 2019-20", in collaboration with the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi.

**December 13-15:** Participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Neemrana Conference, organised jointly by NCAER-NBER-ICRIER at Neemrana Fort-Palace, Rajasthan.

## 2020

**January 13:** Participated in a book talk by Neeraj Kaushal, Professor of Social Policy at Columbia University, on her latest book, *Blaming Immigrants: Nationalism and the Economics of Global Movement*, NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 17:** Participated in a Seminar by Surjit S. Bhalla, based on his joint paper with Karan Bhasin and Arvind Virmani, "Poverty, Inequality and Growth in India: 2011/12-2017/18", NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 27:** Participated in the Release of Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI 2020), held at NCAER, New Delhi.



## ANUSHREE SINHA

### Positions Held

- Member, CII National MSME Council
- Member, Editorial Board of the *Manpower Journal*, Vol. LIII, Nos. 2 and 3, (April-September 2019), NILERD
- Member, Advisory Committee, Estimating the Multiplier Effect of Tertiary and Social Sector Expenditure in Karnataka, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Finance Department, Government of Karnataka
- Advisory Board Member, *Artha Vijnana*, Journal of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics
- Member, Governing Council, Input-Output Research Association of India
- Member, International Input-Output Association
- Member, All India Econometric Society
- Member, Global Network-GAIN (Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network), International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- Member, All India Indian Society of Labour Economics

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

## 2019

**June 8:** Panellist, Workshop titled "Crime Victimization Survey Workshop", Azim Premji University, Bengaluru.

**September 26-27:** Discussant, Paper presentation titled, "A Gendered Social Accounting Matrix for South Korea", Macroeconomic Modeling of Care Work and Gender: Theory and Empirics, Levy Economics Institute, New York City.

**November 22:** Presentation on "A Study to Assess the Performance of Panchayats in Revenue Generation and Management of Common Property Resources", Ministry of Panchayati Raj, New Delhi.

## BORNALI BHANDARI

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

2019

**April, July, October 2019, and January 2020:** Coordination and presentation, NCAER *Quarterly Review of the Indian Economy* Seminars, NCAER, New Delhi.

**April, July, October 2019, and January 2020:** Coordination and presentation, NCAER *Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy* Seminars, NCAER, New Delhi.

**April 12:** Evaluation of Dissertation titled “Creating a Trained Workforce for Defence Acquisition”, Indian Institute for Public Administration, New Delhi.

**June 21:** Discussant for Paper on “Improving the Delivery of Direct Benefit Transfers in India”, 3iE: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, New Delhi.

**June 28:** Discussant for Paper on “Measuring Uncertainty: An Analysis of Qualitative Survey”, The Thirteenth Statistics Day Conference 2019: Statistics for the Future: Select Issues, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai.

**July 4:** Participated in TV Discussion on Union Budget 2019-20, *ABP News*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2azmiEarkCg>.

**August 9:** Expert Speaker, “Review of the Economy”, Tata Steel Expert Talk Series.

**October 10:** Participant, Workshop titled, “Towards Setting up a Community of Practice”, focused on Indian Technical and Vocational Education and Training, National Skill Development Corporation, New Delhi.

**November 9:** Judge for Shri Ram Paper Competition 2019, Shriram College of Commerce, University of Delhi, Delhi.

**November 19:** Participant, Roundtable Discussion on “Geo-economics—Education, Research and the Role of China” with Associate Professor Jane Golley, Director of the Australian Centre on China in the World, Australia-India Institute, New Delhi.

**November 22:** Panel Discussant at the Launch of the Book “Global Value Chains and the Missing Links: Cases from Indian Industry” by Dr Saon Ray, Senior Fellow, ICRIER.

**November 25:** Presentation on “Skills and Employability”, Indo-Swiss Joint Workshop ICSSR and ZHAW, ICSSR Conference Hall, New Delhi.

**November 26:** Reviewer for Paper titled “Trade Shock Transmission: A Study of Selected African Economies, the BRIC and the Rest of the Global Economy”, *International Journal of Emerging Markets*.

**December 2:** Reviewer for Paper titled “Universal Basic Income and Inequality: Feasibility towards Equality in India”, Indian Economic Association, Aligarh.

**December 6:** Participated in a Tata Trusts Consultation Workshop on Gender Equality.

**December 11:** Panel Discussion Participant in the Public Policy Forum and LitFest: 63<sup>rd</sup> Skoch Summit on “Capturing Economic Value in India”, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.



**December 13:** Guest Speaker, “Direct Benefit Transfer: Progress and Prospects”, Training Programme for ICA Probationers on “Emerging Issues and Challenges in Public Finance and Policy”, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi.

**December 27:** Key Speaker, Indian Economic Association, “Universal Basic Income”, Auro University, Gujarat.

## 2020

**January 7:** Visiting Professor, “Indexation”, DANICS Probationers of the 57<sup>th</sup> Batch, Directorate of Training, Delhi Government.

**January 21:** Visiting Professor, “Industrial Development”, DANICS Probationers of the 57<sup>th</sup> Batch, Directorate of Training, Delhi Government.

**February 11:** Reviewer for Paper titled, “Private or Public Enterprises? Cost Inefficiency Limits: An Application to Water Supply Companies in Brazil”, *International Journal of Emerging Markets*.

**March 6:** Reviewer for 2020-2021 Fulbright-Nehru Student Research programme (STEM, Business and Economics).

**March 12:** Visiting Professor “Institutional Credit”, DANICS Probationers of the 57<sup>th</sup> Batch, Directorate of Training, Delhi Government.



## POONAM MUNJAL

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

## 2019

**July 16, September 3, and December 27:** NCAER representative in the IIP Working Group on Base Revision, constituted by Central Statistics Office. Had three meetings during the year.

**September 6:** Organised Workshop on “Tourism Satellite Account for India and All States and Union Territories”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**December 7-9:** Co-presenter of Paper titled “Determinants of Female Labour Force Participation Rates in India—A District-level Analysis”, 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE), Punjabi University, Patiala.

**December 9-11:** Trainer, International Training Workshop on Tourism Satellite Account, UNESCAP, Bangkok.



## SANTANU PRAMANIK

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

## 2019

**April 10-13:** Presented Poster on “The Paradox of Declining Fertility and Declining Contraceptive Use in India” at Annual Meeting 2019, Population Association of America (PAA), Austin, Texas.

**June 24:** Presentation on “Quality Assurance through Remote Monitoring of Paradata and Survey Data: Delhi Metropolitan Area Study (DMAS)” at the Data QI and Data Repository Stakeholder Meeting, organised by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, New Delhi.

**July 24:** Attended the Launch of National Data Quality Forum (NDQF), organised by National Institute of Medical Statistics, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR-NIMS) in partnership with Population Council and ICMR, New Delhi.

**August 27:** Participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Committee on Planning and Designing of Large-scale Sample Surveys, organised by the National Statistical Systems Training Academy, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

**October 18-19:** Presented Paper on “The Paradox of Declining Fertility and Declining Contraceptive Use in India” at International Seminar on ‘25 Years of NFHS in India’ organised by International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai, at New Delhi.

**November 1:** Presentation on “Experience of NCAER in Conducting National and Area Surveys: Way Forward” at the Stakeholder Consultation on Skill Sets for Survey Specialist/Enumerators, organised by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), New Delhi.

**November 14:** Attended the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on ‘Planning and Designing of Large Scale Sample Surveys’, organised by the National Statistical Systems Training Academy, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), New Delhi.

**November 19:** Participated in a meeting on “Consultation on Strategy for Health Data Science in India” and presented on “Panel Data, Electronic Data Capture, Telephone Surveys” organised by The George Institute for Global Health, India.

## 2020

**January 21:** Presentation on “IHDS-3 Quality Control Plan: Learnings from Delhi Metropolitan Area Study (DMAS)” at IHDS-3 Advisory Meeting, NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 26:** Presented Poster titled, “Impact Assessment of the SALT Approach of Community Engagement to Increase Immunisation Uptake” in the workshop on ‘Learning from Innovations in Improving Immunisation’, organised by 3ie, New Delhi.

**March 17:** Presentation on “Demonstration of Blaise and STrak Software for Data Collection and Remote Monitoring for Quality Control: Experience from Delhi Metropolitan Area Study” to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation staff across various locations using a virtual platform.

## KHURSHEED ANWAR SIDDIQUI

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

## 2019–20

**May 7, June 11, November 18, 2019, and January 27, 2020:** Presentations before the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council for project on “Study of the Gems and Jewellery Sector of India”, New Delhi.







## SAURABH BANDYOPADHYAY

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

#### 2019

**April 26, July 26, 2019 and February 2020:** Presentation, Session on “Review of Industry”, NCAER’s *Quarterly Review of the Economy*, NCAER, New Delhi.

**May 26:** Presentation, “Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra (CAIM)”, at the Office of the Development Commissioner, Amravati.

**November 16:** Presentation, “Evaluation of Industry Performance”, at the *Malcolm S. Adiseshiah Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy, 2019-20* by NCAER and India International Centre (IIC).

**December 10:** Presentation, Seminar on “Socio-economic Impact of the National Dairy Programme in India”, jointly organised by World Bank and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Anand.

#### 2020

**March 5:** Presentation, “Study of Multi-State Cooperatives in India”, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, New Delhi.



## MANJISTHA BANERJI

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

#### 2019

**April 10-13:** Presented Paper on “Negotiated Identities: Re-examining Male Migration and “Left-behind” Wives in India”, at the Population Association of America Annual Conference Austin, Texas.

**September 18- 21:** Presented Paper in the RC21 on “Migrants’ Perspective of the “City as Employer”, New Delhi.



## DEBASIS BARIK

### Positions held

- Member , Population Association of America (PAA)
- Member, Asian Population Association (APA)
- Member, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)
- Life Member, Indian Association for Social Science and Health (IASSH)
- Review Editor and Associate Editor (Health Economics section) for the Journal, *Frontiers in Public Health*.
- Review Editor for the Journal, *Globalization and Health*.

## Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

### 2019

**April 10–13:** Presenter, Paper titled, “Community Level Determinants of High Neonatal Mortality in India”, 2019 Annual Conference, Population Association of America (PAA), Austin, Texas.

**September 20–22:** Delivered Lecture titled, “On Utilization of Public Healthcare System among Indians”, National Seminar on Population, Health and Environment, G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad.

### 2020

**January 30–31:** Presentation on “Overweight and obesity and associated health risk among ever married women in India: How does household economic status play out?”, National Conclave on Public Health Nutrition: Enriching the cycle of Research, Public Policy and Practice, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela.

## PALLAVI CHOUDHURI

### Positions held

- Member, Working Group for Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (HCES), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India



## Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

### 2019

**April 11:** Presenter, Poster on “Resource Dependence and Intergenerational Transmission Effect”, 2019 Annual Conference, Population Association of America (PAA), Austin, Texas.

**May 27:** Participant, Panel Discussion on “NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2016-17 - Approach and Way Forward”, NABARD, Mumbai.

**May 29:** Participant, Meeting on “Exploring area of collaboration on SDGs data related matters”, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), New Delhi.

**October 13:** Presentation, “Lack of Access to Clean Fuel and Piped Water and Children’s Educational Outcomes in India”, Sustainability and Development Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

### 2020

**February 26:** Participant, Meeting of the “Working Group for Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (HCES)”, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), New Delhi.



## PRABIR KUMAR GHOSH

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

2019

**November 5-7:** Presentation, Preliminary study findings for the project, “Health Seeking Behaviour in Four Indian States”, NCAER, New Delhi.



## RAJESH KUMAR JAISWAL

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

2019

**November 22:** Presentation, “A Study to Assess the Performance of Panchayats in Revenue Generation and Management of Common Property Resources”, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, New Delhi.



## LAXMI JOSHI

### Positions held

Member, Area Advisory Board for Undergraduate Programme, Agricultural Economics, Industrial Economics and Development Economics, Amity University, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh.

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

2019

**May 26:** Presentation, on “Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra (CAIM)”, Office of the Development Commissioner, Amravati.

**December 10:** Presentation, Seminar on “Socio-economic Impact of the National Dairy Programme in India”, jointly organised by World Bank and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Anand.

**March 5:** Presentation, Study of Multi-State Cooperatives in India, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, New Delhi.



## DEVENDER PRATAP

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

2019

**June 10-19:** Delivered a Course Lecture on “Applied General Equilibrium Analysis: An Illustrative Example using GTAP Model”, RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School on International Trade Theory and Practices, New Delhi.

**September 20-21:** Presentation, Paper titled “Import Content, Value Added and Employment Generated In India’s Exports: An Input-Output Based Analysis”, at National Seminar on Inter-sectoral Linkages, Productivity and Competitiveness of Agro and Food Processing Industries in India, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

## SHAYEQUA ZEENAT ALI

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

**2019**

**June 17-21:** Presentation, “Cluster Mapping of Gems and Jewellery Sector”, the Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting, Mumbai.

**September 20-21:** Presented, Paper titled, “Beyond the Polemics: Subcontracting in Unorganised Food Manufacturing in India” at the National Seminar on “Inter-sectoral Linkages, Productivity and Competitiveness of Agro and Food Processing Industries in India”, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



## TARUJYOTI BURAGOHAIN

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

**2019**

**December 10:** Presentation, Seminar on “Socio-economic Impact of the National Dairy Programme in India”, jointly organised by World Bank and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Anand.

**2020**

**January 29:** Participant, Seminar on “A Glass Half Full in Indian Standards of Living Since 2012”. NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 13:** Participant, The 8<sup>th</sup> NCAER C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2020, “India in a Changing World” by David Lipton (IMF), NCAER, New Delhi.



## MOUSUMI DAS

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

**2019**

**September 9-10:** Participant, PEGNet Conference on “Promoting Social, Economic and Socio-Political Development through Social Protection”, Bonn..

**2020**

**January 29:** Participant, Seminar on “A Glass Half Full: Changes in Indian Standards of Living since 2012”, NCAER, New Delhi.





**March 12:** Participant, Brown Bag Seminar on “Price and Tax Elasticity for Alcohol: Evidence from Seven Indian States”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**March 24:** Participant, Webinar titled, “Adaptations for Phone Surveys”, with Tavneet Suri, MIT Sloan School of Management.



## SANJUKTA DAS

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

**2019**

**August 9:** Presented, (with Sandhya Garg), Paper titled “What Drives Literacy in Villages without Schools? A Study of Indian Villages”, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi.



## MADHURA DASGUPTA

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

**2019**

**February 13:** Participant, The 8<sup>th</sup> NCAER C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2020, “India in a Changing World” by David Lipton (IMF), NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 27:** Participant, “Release of the first edition of NCAER’s Land Records and Services Index 2020 (N-LRSI)”, NCAER, New Delhi.



## NIJARA DEHA

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

**2019**

**June 6:** Presenter, Brown Bag Seminar on “Multidimensional Poverty Index for the Poor in Guwahati City (Assam, India)”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**July 22:** Participant, 5-Institute Budget Seminar on “The Union Budget 2019-20: Reforms and Development Perspectives”, New Delhi

**September 6:** Participant, “Workshop on Tourism Satellite Accounts for India and Indian States and Union Territories”, New Delhi.

**November 7:** Participant, Seminar on “How to Leverage Open Government, Research, and Data to Strengthen Public Policymaking in India”, organised by NCAER and 3ie, NCAER, New Delhi.

**2020**

**February 17:** Participant, Seminar on “Poverty, Inequality and Growth in India: 2011-18”, NCAER, New Delhi.

## **SAMARTH GUPTA**

### **Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars**

**2019**

**August 4:** Presentation on “Career Concerns and Credit Distortions: Evidence from India’s Lead Bank Scheme”, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore.

**November 12:** Presentation on “Career Concerns and Credit Distortions: Evidence from India’s Lead Bank Scheme”, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.

**December 13:** Presentation on “Career Concerns and Credit Distortions: Evidence from India’s Lead Bank Scheme”, at Macro and Finance Conference, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai.

**December 18:** Presentation at Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development titled, “Career Concerns and Credit Distortions: Evidence from India’s Lead Bank Scheme”, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi.

**2020**

**February 27:** Presentation, “Career Concerns and Credit Distortions: Evidence from India’s Lead Bank Scheme”, at Conference on Banking in South Asia, jointly organised by CAFRAL and World Bank, Mumbai.



## **CHARU JAIN**

### **Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars**

**2019**

**2019-20.** Participated in advisory committee meetings and monthly review meetings for NCAER’s Land Project, held at NCAER, Brookings and NIPFP.

**2020**

**January 23.** Discussant, Workshop on “Perception and Level of Job Satisfaction of Teachers towards Teachers Transfer Policy of Haryana”, Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar.

**February 27.** Presenter, “Release of the first edition of NCAER’s Land Records and Services Index 2020 (N-LRSI)”, NCAER, New Delhi.





## PRERNA PRABHAKAR

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

#### 2019

**July 2:** Presented the NCAER Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI) work at monthly meetings for Omidyar Network's Property Rights Research Consortium (PRRC), New Delhi.

**July 12:** Presented the NCAER Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI) work at Steering Committee Meeting for Omidyar Network's Property Rights Research Consortium (PRRC), New Delhi.

**August 6:** Presented the pilot NCAER Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI) at first Advisory Committee Meeting for NCAER Land Policy Initiative (LPI), New Delhi.

**September 3:** Presented the findings of study titled "Urban Policy Failure: A Study on Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi" at monthly meeting for Omidyar Network's Property Rights Research Consortium (PRRC), New Delhi.

**December 17:** Presented the draft findings of the NCAER Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI) at second Advisory Committee Meeting for NCAER Land Policy Initiative (LPI), New Delhi.

#### 2020

**February 7:** Presented the findings of the NCAER Land Records and Services Index 2020 (N-LRSI 2020) to the Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi.

**February 20:** Discussed N-LRSI 2020 findings in a webinar, "Building a Land Information Ecosystem in India", organised by the Land Portal, New Delhi.

**February 27:** Presented the findings of the NCAER Land Records and Services Index 2020 (N-LRSI) at the N-LRSI 2020 report launch event, NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 27:** Presented the findings of study titled, "Urban Policy Failure: A Study on Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi" at a poster session, NCAER, New Delhi.

**March 4:** Presented the findings of the NCAER Land Records and Services Index 2020 (N-LRSI 2020) work at a panel discussion titled, "25 years of Land Record Digitization: Where Are We?", at India Land and Development Conference 2020 (ILDC 2020), New Delhi.

**March 16:** Discussed the N-LRSI 2020 findings at an online/virtual workshop titled, "Putting Data into Action: Shaping an Open Guide on Land Governance", organised by Land Portal, Open Data Charter and the Open Government Partnership, New Delhi.



## SOUMI ROY CHOUDHURY

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

#### 2019

**August 8:** Presentation, "Socio-economic Indicators of Selected Riverine Communities of Uttar Pradesh", Tata Centre for Development, New Delhi.

**September 3.** Presentation, "Studies on Impact of BS VI and Ethanol Blending on

Human Health Index”, Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi.

**December 13.** Presentation, “Assessment of Alcohol Taxation, Affordability and Price Elasticity Patterns in India”, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi.

## 2020

**January 27:** Presentation, “Estimating the Economic Burden for the users of Assistive Technologies”, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Headquarters, New Delhi.

**February 25:** Presentation, “Research Findings on the Impact of BS-VI Fuel in Delhi-NCR”, The Indian Oil Corporation Research and Development Centre, Faridabad.

**March 12:** Presentation (jointly with Samarth Gupta), Brown Bag Seminar on “Price and Tax Elasticity of Alcohol Consumption: Evidence from Seven Indian States” NCAER, New Delhi.

## OM PRAKASH SHARMA

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

## 2019

**May 1:** Participant, Seminar on “One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: Transitions between Home, Pre-Primary and Primary Education in Rural India”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**June 7:** Participant, Panel Discussion on “India’s Current Macroeconomic Challenges”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**July 9:** Participant, 16<sup>th</sup> India Policy Forum”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**July 15:** Participant, Paper presentation titled, “Does Financial Inclusion Reduce Gender Bias? Evidence from Tamil Nadu”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**July 22:** Participant, Seminar on “The Union Budget 2019-20: Reforms and Development Perspectives”, with CPR-ICRIER-IDFC-NCAER-NIPFP, New Delhi.

**September 6:** Participant, Workshop on “Tourism Satellite Account for India and All States and Union Territories”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**November 29:** Participant, Seminar on “Be Best! Do SMS Reminders Improve Banking Agent Performance in Rural India?” NCAER, New Delhi.

## 2020

**January 29:** Participant, Seminar on “A Glass Half Full: Changes in Indian Standards of Living since 2012”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 5:** Participant, Seminar on “Improving Measurement of Women’s Work: Sensitivity of Work Participation Rates to Survey Design”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 8:** Participant, Seminar on “The Union Budget 2020-21: Reform and Development Perspectives” with CPR-ICRIER-IDFC-NCAER-NIPFP, New Delhi.





**February 13:** Participant, The 8<sup>th</sup> NCAER C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2020, “India in a Changing World” by David Lipton (IMF), NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 20:** Participant, “NCAER’s Quarterly Review of the Economy”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**March 12:** Participant, Brown Bag Seminar on “Price and Tax Elasticity for Alcohol: Evidence from Seven Indian States”, NCAER, New Delhi.



## DINESH KUMAR TIWARI

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

#### 2019

**May 1:** Participant, Seminar on “One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: Transitions between Home, Pre-Primary and Primary Education in Rural India” NCAER, New Delhi.

**June 7:** Participant, Panel Discussion on “India’s Current Macroeconomic Challenges”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**July 9:** Participant, 16<sup>th</sup> India Policy Forum, NCAER, New Delhi.

**July 15:** Participant, Paper Presentation titled, “Does Financial Inclusion Reduce Gender Bias? Evidence from Tamil Nadu”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**July 22:** Participant, Seminar on “The Union Budget 2019-20: Reforms and Development Perspectives”, with CPR-ICRIER-IDFC-NCAER-NIPFP, New Delhi.

**September 6:** Participant, Workshop on “Tourism Satellite Account for India and All States and Union Territories”, NCAER, New Delhi.



## K. S. URS

### Lectures/Presentations/Conferences/Seminars

#### 2019

**July 8:** Participant, 16<sup>th</sup> India Policy Forum 2019, NCAER, New Delhi.

**July 22:** Participant, Seminar on “The Union Budget 2020-21: Reforms and Development Perspectives” with CPR-ICRIER-IDFC-NCAER-NIPFP, New Delhi.

**September 6:** Participant, Workshop on “Tourism Satellite Accounts for India and Indian States and Union Territories”, NCAER, New Delhi.

**November 7:** Participant, Session on “How to Leverage Open Government, Research, and Data to Strengthen Public Policymaking in India”, jointly organised by NCAER and International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), NCAER, New Delhi.

**November 16:** Participant, “The NCAER 2019-20 Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy”, jointly organised by NCAER and India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi.

**2020**

**February 13:** Participant, The 8<sup>th</sup> NCAER C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2020, “India in a Changing World” by David Lipton, NCAER, New Delhi.

**February 27:** Participant, “Release of the first edition of NCAER’s Land Records and Services Index 2020 (N-LRSI)”, NCAER, New Delhi.

### PROGRAMME COORDINATORS



Anika Kapoor



Arpita Kayal

### SENIOR RESEARCH ANALYSTS



Asrar Alam



Palash Baruah



Ruchi Jain



Ajaya Kumar Sahu

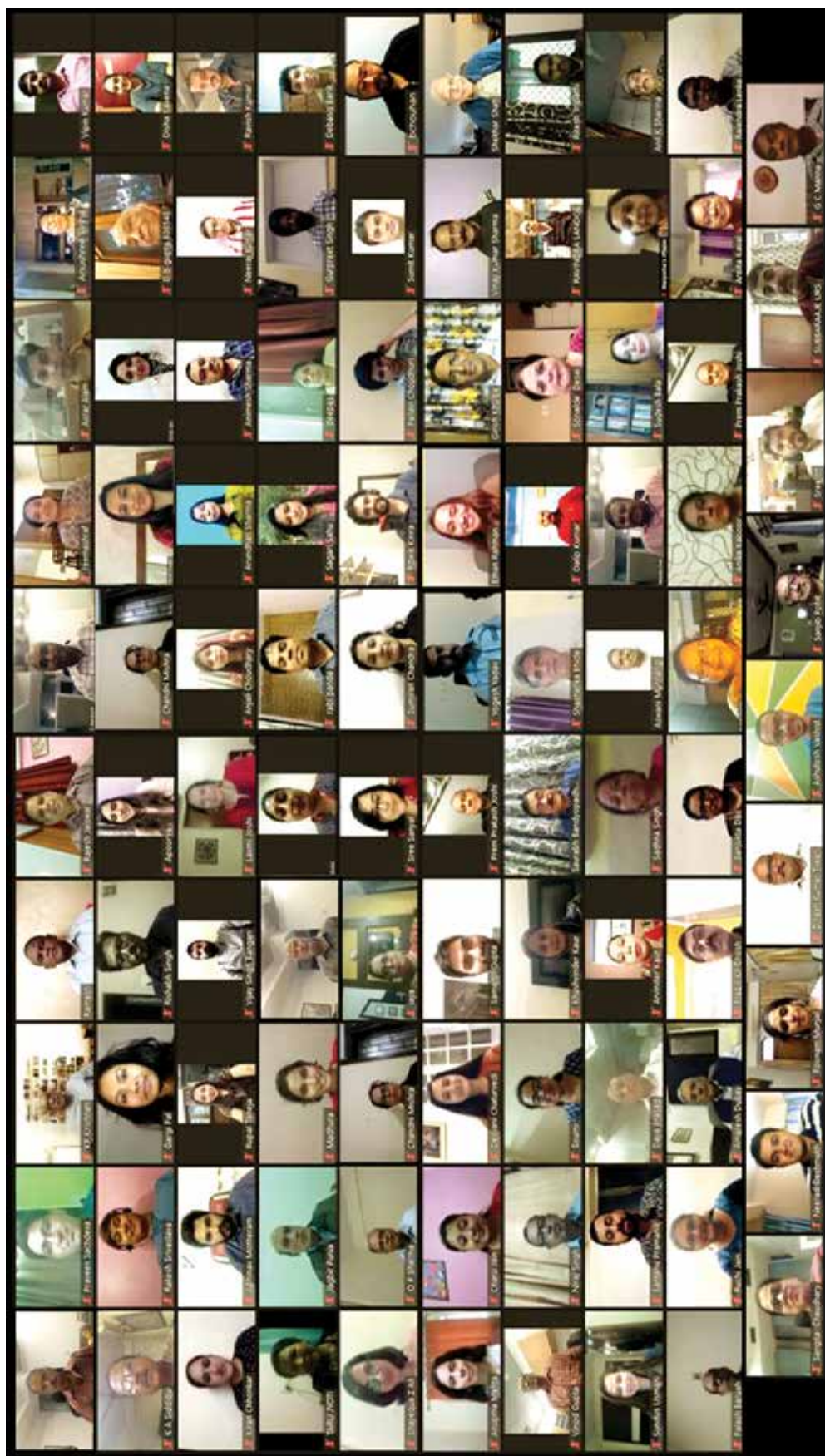
### RESEARCH AND PROJECT ANALYSTS



M. Abhinav  
Saikrishna  
*Research Analyst*



Jaya Koti  
*Project Analyst*



*The NCAER family: weekly staff meetings in Coronavirus Times!*



# Staff and Resources

## The NCAER Research and Administrative Teams

As of March 31, 2020

Research Staff	
Dr Shekhar Shah, <i>Director General</i>	
Dr Shashanka Bhide, <i>Senior Adviser and Research Director</i>	
Dr Anil Kumar Sharma, <i>Secretary and Operations Director</i>	
Ms Namrata Ramachandran, <i>Special Assistant to the Director General (until 30/9/2019)</i>	
<b>Professors</b>	Dr Soumi Roy Choudhury
Dr Sonalde Desai	Dr Mousumi Das
Dr Sanjib Pohit	Dr Sanjukta Das
Dr Anil Kumar Sharma	Dr Madhura Dasgupta
Dr Anushree Sinha	Dr Nijara Deka
<b>Senior Fellows</b>	Dr Samarth Gupta
Dr Bornali Bhandari	Dr Charu Jain
Dr Poonam Munjal	Dr Prerna Prabhakar
Dr Santanu Pramanik	Mr Om Prakash Sharma
Mr Khursheed Anwar Siddiqui	Dr Dinesh Kumar Tiwari
<b>Fellows</b>	Mr K.S. Urs
Dr Saurabh Bandyopadhyay	<b>Programme Managers</b>
Dr Manjistha Banerji	Mr Bijay Chouhan
Dr Debasis Barik	Ms Anika Kapoor
Dr Pallavi Choudhuri	Ms Arpita Kayal
Mr Prabir Kumar Ghosh	<b>Senior Research Analysts</b>
Dr Rajesh Kumar Jaiswal	Mr Asrar Alam
Dr Laxmi Joshi	Dr Palash Baruah
Mr Devender Pratap	Dr Ruchi Jain
<b>Associate Fellows</b>	Mr Ajaya Kumar Sahu
Dr Shayequa Zeenat Ali	<b>Research Analyst</b>
Dr Tarujyoti Buragohain	Mr M. Abhinav Saikrishna
	<b>Project Analyst</b>
	Ms Jaya Koti
Distinguished Fellows	
Dr Sudipto Mundle	Mr Rajat M. Nag
Non-resident and Visiting Researchers	
Prof Anil B. Deolalikar, University of California, Riverside	
Prof Shantayanan Devarajan, former World Bank and Georgetown University	
Prof Sisira Jayasuriya, Monash University	
Dr Daniel Hammer, Berkeley Institute for Data Science	
Prof Jeffrey Hammer, former Princeton University and World Bank	
Prof Ravi Kanbur, Cornell University	
Prof Rajnish Mehra, Arizona State University	
Prof Karthik Muralidharan, University of California, San Diego	
Ms Premila Nazareth, Independent Consultant	
Prof Raghuram Rajan, former Governor, RBI and University of Chicago	
Prof Tarun Ramadorai, Imperial College London	
Prof M. Govinda Rao, former Member, 14 <sup>th</sup> Finance Commission	



### Senior Consultants/Advisors

Dr Shashanka Bhide Prof Amaresh Dubey Prof D. B. Gupta	Dr Gurucharan Manna Mr Deepak Sanan
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### Consultants

Dr Reem Ashraf Ms Tasneem Ravindra Deo	Dr Sumit Kumar Ms Anupma Mehta
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### Research Associates

Ms Apoorva Ms Arundhati Ms Shikha Bali Mr Vijay Singh Bangari Ms Sumiran Chandra Mr Neerad Deshmukh Ms Kajal Gupta Ms Sonal Jain Md Rahat Hasan Khan Mr Jaskirat Singh Kohli Ms Elizabeth Lyn	Ms Chandni Mishra Ms Falak Naz Ms Gargi Pal Ms Nishika Pal Ms Sagari Sahu Ms Sree Sanyal Ms Disha Saxena Mr Animesh Sharma Mr Rishabh Singh Mr Yuvraj Sunger Ms Rupal Taneja Ms Sundus Usmani
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### Field Manager

Mr Gurpreet Singh
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### Administrative Staff

Dr Anil K. Sharma, <i>Secretary and Operations Director</i>
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### Section Heads

Ms Sudesh Bala, <i>Director General's Office</i> Mr Rabi Narayan Panda, <i>Finance</i> Mr Daya Shankar Prasad, <i>General Services</i>	Mr Rakesh Kumar Srivastava, <i>IT</i> Ms Shilpi Tripathi, <i>Library</i>
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### Assistant Officers

Mr Ajay Gupta	Mr Girish Chander Khulbe
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### Senior Executives

Ms Sangita Chaudhary Mr Vinod Kumar Gupta Dr Dalip Kumar Mr Ravindra Sadashiv Landge Mr Rajendra Kumar Lenka	Mr Jagbir Singh Punia Mr B. Ramesh Mr Praveen Sachdeva Mr Vinay Kumar Sharma Mr Budh Singh
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### Executives

Ms Shalini Aggarwal Mr Khurshid Ahmed Ms Anjali Mr Virendra Bahadur Mr Prem Prakash Joshi Ms Khushvinder Kaur Mr Ram Kumar	Mr Surinder Kumar Mr Vipin Kumar Ms Deepa S. Mr Niraj Kumar Singh Mr Satyender Singh Mr Gauravh Tandon Mr Ritesh Kumar Tripathi
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### Short-term administrative staff

Ms Poonam Dhawan Mr Sreejith E. Karunakaran Mr Neeraj Kumar	Ms Tara Kumari Ms Sadhna Singh Ms Shashi Singh
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## Director General's Office



Shekhar Shah



Namrata  
Ramachandran  
(until 30/9/2019)



Sudesh Bala



Sangita  
Chaudhary



Khushvinder Kaur

## Operations Director and Section Heads



Anil K. Sharma



Sudesh Bala



Rabi Narayan  
Panda



Daya Shankar  
Prasad



Rakesh Srivastava



Shilpi Tripathi

## Research Staff

### Composition of Regular and Other Research Staff as of March 31, 2016–2020

I. Regular	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Director General	1	1	1	1	1
Professors	6	6	6	5	4
Special Assistant to DG	1	1	1	1	-
Senior Fellows	2	1	3	4	4
Fellows	2	1	3	7	8
Associate Fellows	17	21	19	10	13
Programme Managers	-	-	-	2	3
Senior Research Analysts	7	5	5	4	4
Research Analysts	7	5	5	1	1
Project Analysts	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>
II. Other					
Distinguished Fellow, Senior Consultants/Senior Advisors	10	7	4	6	7
Consultants	7	4	2	4	4
Research Associates	7	7	3	17	23
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total (I-II)</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>73</b>

### Composition of Research Staff (Regular and Other) as of March 31, 2020

	All Research Staff			PhDs	
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female
Regular	39	19	20	10	17
Short-term	34	15	19	5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>

## Administrative Staff

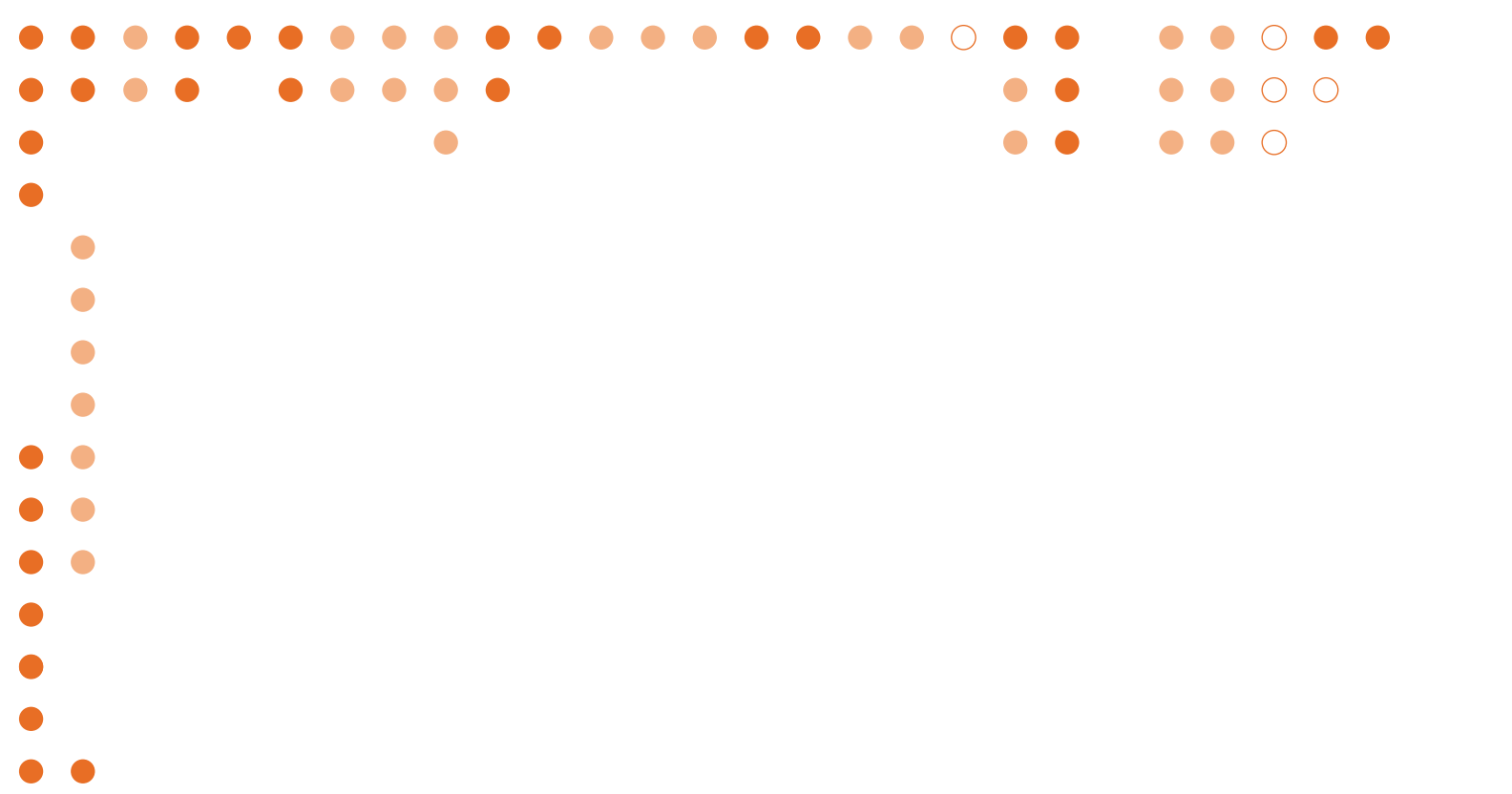
Composition of Regular and Short-term Administrative Staff as of March 31, 2016–2020

I. Regular	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Section Heads	4	4	4	5	5
2. Level 4	1	1	2	1	-
3. Assistant Officers	-	-	-	2	2
4. Level 3	11	14	12	11	10
5. Level 2	10	12	12	12	14
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>II. Short-term</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total (I-II)</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37</b>

Composition of Administrative Staff (Regular and Other) as of March 31, 2020

All Support Staff			
	Total	Male	Female
Regular	31	24	7
Short-term	6	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>





# Administrative Staff and Resources

## NCAER Library and Information Services

The Library continues to evolve and gain expertise in digital collection management, preservation, open access and other emerging technologies in order to meet the information needs of the NCAER faculty and to support learning and research.

The NCAER Library, set up in 1956, is one of India's premier research libraries in applied economics. It is a storehouse of knowledge in every sense of the term, having provided constant research support for almost 60 years to NCAER's researchers as well as to policy makers, and researchers and readers from across the globe. For over five decades, the NCAER Library has been building carefully crafted collections of books, reports and other documents.

The Library continues to take the lead role in digital preservation within the institution by ensuring the safeguarding of its valuable digital assets. The Library has invested in the Open Source Software, DSpace. Its digital collection is now available on DSpace 5.4 XMLUI interface, which preserves and enables easy and open access to all types of digital content including text, static and moving images. The initial phase of preservation focused on documents, especially reports, published by the institution and has now moved on to both digital and digitised collections from Special Collections of the Library. The Library is working towards ensuring the sustainable preservation of the digitised objects created by NCAER; a unique collection of reports, videos, photographs and audio files by developing and embedding digital preservation practices within the library and across the institution.

During 2019–20, the Library added

about 150 documents, bringing its collection to over 32,000 volumes, over 34,100 government reports, and 16,500 other documents. The NCAER Library subscribes to about 250 journals and databases like Prowess and Economic Outlook. Access to e-journals is on the increase and access to back-file collection through Science Direct and JSTOR is also available. The Library digitised NCAER's extensive collection of published and unpublished reports, as also a series of Indian journals that are a part of the Library's invaluable document collection. As of March 31, 2020, over 11 lakh digital pages have been uploaded on the digital repository.

The Library continues to expand its online journal collection giving users quick access to the latest publications. The Library now provides subscription-based access to over 1000 journals through the online databases and offers online access to 19 international and 11 Indian journals through e-subscriptions. While libraries will always constitute the backbone of research institutions, the current information environment has changed radically. The advent of the World Wide Web and development of commercial search engines have enabled unprecedented access to information. Digitisation has had a dramatic impact on the significance and utilisation of traditional library collections. Physical journals have been replaced with their online counterparts and many of them are now available through databases. The NCAER Library is working towards developing and implementing new plans, underlining and reinforcing the shift from libraries as collections to librarians as contributors to learning and research.



Shilpi Tripathi  
*Head*



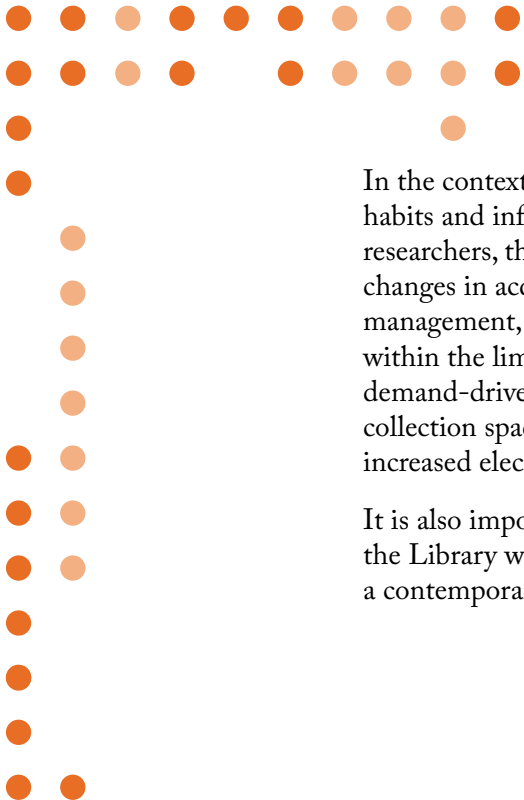
B Ramesh



Shalini Aggarwal




Anjali Choudhary



In the context of the changing reading habits and information needs of the researchers, the Library is bringing about changes in acquisitions and collection management, adopting new practices within the limited budget available, demand-driven acquisitions, efficient collection space management and increased electronic interaction.

It is also important to mention that the Library will be reincarnated with a contemporary look as soon as the



campus redevelopment enters its second and final phase. Our focus in the coming years will, therefore, be on rolling out the Library's service and infrastructure initiatives supporting open access, implementing new systems for digital preservation, and facilitating easy access to research data. The NCAER Library services and access to information will be guided and driven by the information needs of its research faculty and other library users.

For more information please email us at [info@ncaer.org](mailto:info@ncaer.org)

## NCAER Finance

NCAER's Finance Group is placed at the intersection of all research and administrative activities at NCAER, reporting directly to the Director-General and functionally to the Head of Operations. The functions it performs include financial management, treasury, budgeting, payments, control, planning, auditing, and risk-mitigation. It is also responsible for managing NCAER's corpus and all its multi-year research grants. The Finance Group is the primary contact point for NCAER's statutory auditor, S. P. Chopra and Co. The Finance Group has been in the forefront of transforming most of its routine functions to digital processes that have enabled NCAER staff and projects to function despite the pandemic-related lockdown starting in March 2020 and the remote working of the office since then.

The onset of project management and civil construction work at the NCAER India Centre led to a substantial

expansion of the Finance Group's responsibilities, entailing a continuous review of all running bills of the contractor and the project management company, along with those supporting the Director General and the Head of Operations in the course of their management of the NIC project. Already working closely with the Projects Office, the Group envisages increased interaction with the latter to streamline information flows relating to NCAER research activities and to provide management dashboard information on NCAER's ongoing and prospective research projects and activities.

The Finance Group plays a nodal role in NCAER's work on building an enterprise resource management system to bring its various research and administrative functions on a digital ERP platform that would allow for better management, control, and reporting functions across all of NCAER's activities.

For more information please email us at [info@ncaer.org](mailto:info@ncaer.org)



Rabi Narayan Panda, *Head*



Ajay Gupta  
*Assistant Officer*



Dalip Kumar



Vinay Kumar Sharma



Virendra Bahadur



## NCAER Human Resources



Girish Chander  
Khulbe, *Assistant  
Officer*

At NCAER we value our people and firmly believe that it is our human resources that help us achieve and sustain a competitive edge in the think-tank space in India and beyond. The primary goal of NCAER's HR team is to create unique work opportunities in economic policy research and a rewarding and invigorating work environment for the staff.

The HR team spearheads high-impact initiatives catering to the unique needs and focus areas of the organisation and its members. It foresees an increased impetus in the following areas in the times to come:

- Identifying and attracting talent from domestic and international markets.
- Engaging, retaining, and capacity building of human resources.

- Continuous review of HR policies and procedures to make them consistent with modern practices.
- Implementation and monitoring of new performance management systems geared towards achieving both individual and team results, honest performance feedback, career planning and growth, closely linked to compensation rewards.

The road ahead is challenging, beckoning us with its potential and promise to usher in wide-ranging changes. Our objectives and plans for the future would help us strengthen and redefine NCAER's culture and values. The HR team is committed to move forward along this path of transformation.

For more information please email us at [info@ncaer.org](mailto:info@ncaer.org)



Niraj Kumar Singh



Gauravh Tandon

## NCAER Publications

The Publications Unit of NCAER is the fulcrum for the dissemination of its outreach activities and comprises a vital link connecting the NCAER faculty to researchers, policymakers, the private sector, the media, and citizens both in India and abroad. The Unit is responsible for the assembly, designing, copy editing, translation, printing and production of all the books, journals, project reports, monographs, working papers, newsletters, reprints, and miscellaneous brochures brought out by NCAER. The Unit directly handles the sales of NCAER publications, both online through NCAER's website, and through booksellers. The Unit is also responsible

for the printing and production of the various detailed questionnaires required for many of the surveys conducted by NCAER throughout the year.

In 2019–20, the Unit produced two books, nine reports, two working papers, and fourteen other publications.

The Unit also published the annual editions of the *India Policy Forum* and *The Malcolm S. Adiseshiah Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy 2019–20*, four issues of the NCAER quarterly refereed international journal, *The Journal of Applied Economic Research*, "Margin", and four issues of the quarterly journal, *Artha Suchi*.

For more information please e-mail us at [publ@ncaer.org](mailto:publ@ncaer.org) or [info@ncaer.org](mailto:info@ncaer.org)



Anupma Mehta  
*Editor*



Jagbir S. Punia  
*Coordinator*



Rakesh Srivastava  
*Head*



Bijay Chouhan  
*Data Manager*



Rajendra Kumar  
Lenka



Praveen Sachdeva

## NCAER Information Technology

NCAER's Information Technology Centre has been successfully facing a number of challenges posed by rapid changes in technology and a continuously evolving work environment, especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown, compelling people to work remotely and interact virtually for sustained periods. The implementation of the new infra setup at the NCAER India Centre (NIC) by the IT team has enabled the entire NCAER staff to work from home without much hindrance during this tough and unprecedented situation.

A major initiative taken by the NCAER IT team over the last year was to migrate all IT infrastructure to the new building and provide state-of-the-art technology solutions after the staff shifted to the new building. This was possible after extensive discussions and planning with our technology advisor, NIIT. The following technologies have been developed at the NIC:

- **Network LAN:** The 10g fibre-based LAN network connects between the existing building and the new building using Cisco 3850 as core switches connecting to all Cisco 3650 as access switches.
- **WLAN:** The Cisco Wireless controller (5520 model) in High Availability mode provides seamless wireless connectivity to the entire building through Cisco wireless access points (2702 and 2802).
- **VoIP Facility:** Cisco IP Telephony solutions are in place to offer VoIP facilities using Cisco IP phones (8865, 8841 models).
- **Video Conferencing:** The use of WebEx meeting room, Zoom meeting room, and Zoom Webinar licence have allowed all the staff to meet at the same platform, making possible the convergence of both small and large groups of people, regardless of their physical locations. These cloud-based video conference platforms have helped us to organise and participate in more than 300 virtual workshops/conferences/meetings during the year.
- **CCTV Surveillance:** The installation of a significant number of high-end video surveillance IP cameras (Bullet and Dome cameras) at strategic points has ensured the safety and security of the entire NCAER campus.
- **High-end Servers:** The high-end Cisco UCS C220 M4, 2.60 GHz E5-2640, 128 GB RAM servers with latest MS 2016 Windows server Datacenter Edition as an operating system, are helping enhance the existing capability of network security while making our systems robust enough to withstand internal and external abuse or attack.
- **Internet Leased Line:** The IT Centre is also ensuring the availability and reliability of high bandwidth for NCAER's research community. It is presently using 100 Mbps of Internet-leased line connectivity from the National Knowledge Network (NKN), which is slated to be enhanced further up to 1 Gbps, and a 50 Mbps 1:1 leased line provided by Tata Communications is expected to be enhanced further up to 100 Mbps. This arrangement ensures a sound back-up mechanism and uninterrupted Internet access.

The IT Centre also incorporates the latest econometric software, i.e., STATA 15SE, E-Views, and SPSS, for effective SaaS solutions.

Hence, the NCAER IT Centre

provides efficient and collaborative services and solutions that aid the NCAER team in achieving the organisation's strategic goals.

For more information, please email us at [helpdesk@ncaer.org](mailto:helpdesk@ncaer.org).



Ritesh Kumar  
Tripathi



## NCAER General Services



Daya Shankar Prasad, *Head*

NCAER's General Services Group is responsible for the installation and maintenance of physical facilities and equipment at NCAER.

The Group also provides full logistical, hospitality, catering, security, and travel services support to NCAER staff, including for all NCAER events at and outside NCAER.



Ravindra Sadashiv Landge

The Group's functioning is vital to the smooth operation of literally all aspects of the administrative working of NCAER. This has become particularly important during the major construction phase of the NCAER India Centre as NCAER has shifted in its new John Matthai Tower equipped with world-class facilities and substantial automation that has also ushered in changes in the way the staff has started to work in the new environment. The Group plays a vital role in ensuring the security of the NCAER premises, again particularly important during the NIC construction



Budh Singh



Vinod Kumar Gupta



Prem Prakash Joshi



Vipin Kumar



Ram Kumar



Satyender Singh



Khurshid Ahmed



Surinder Kumar

phase and, more recently, when staff have been working from home since March 17, 2020.

A major challenge for the Group starting in late January 2020 has been the intense sanitisation of the NCAER buildings to both educate NCAER staff about the approaching Coronavirus pandemic and to ensure that the possibility of viral transmission is reduced as far as possible. As the NCAER closed down in light of the pandemic in March, the General Services Group has been in the forefront of managing and maintaining the campus during these extremely difficult times. The Group continues to help manage the NCAER campus and to ensure that it remains free from the threat of COVID-19 infection or any other health risk. The next challenge will be to help manage the refurbishment of the existing NCAER building and eventually the distribution of staff and services across all three buildings of the new campus.

For more information please email us at [info@ncaer.org](mailto:info@ncaer.org)

# NCAER Accounts

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019–20

### MANAGEMENT REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2019–20

The Management of the National Council of Applied Economic Research has the responsibility for preparing the accompanying financial statements and for their integrity and objectivity. The annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards, applied on a consistent basis, and there are no material departures.

Management has taken proper and sufficient care, to the best of its knowledge and ability, for the maintenance of adequate accounting records for safeguarding the assets of NCAER and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities. The financial statements include amounts that are based on Management's best estimates and judgements. Management has also prepared other information in the Annual Report and is responsible for its accuracy and consistency with the financial statements.

S.P. Chopra & Co., independent auditors, appointed by the Governing Body and approved by the General Body, have audited the NCAER's 2019–20 financial statements. Management has made available to the auditors all of NCAER's financial records and related data, as well as the minutes of the General Body and Governing Body meetings. Furthermore, Management believes that all representations made to the auditors during their audit were valid and appropriate.

NCAER's Management has established a system of internal controls in order to carry on the business of NCAER in an orderly and efficient manner, ensure adherence to management policies, safeguard assets and secure, as far as possible, the completeness and accuracy of records that provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial statements. The system of controls also provides for appropriate division of responsibility. Management periodically monitors the internal controls for compliance and their adequacy. The existing internal controls are also supplemented through an appropriate management reporting system.

Management also recognises its responsibility for fostering a strong ethical culture in NCAER so that its affairs are conducted according to the highest standards of personal and corporate accountability. This responsibility is characterised and reflected in NCAER's code of conduct, which includes the need for ensuring open communication within NCAER; avoiding potential conflicts of interest and compliance with all domestic and foreign laws, including those relating to financial disclosure and the confidentiality of proprietary information.

New Delhi  
August 31, 2020

**Shekhar Shah**  
*Director General*

## VALUE OF SPONSORED PROJECTS 2016-17 TO 2019-20

Year	Value of projects brought forward from the previous year		Value of new projects received during the year		Projects completed during the year		Projects carried forward to the next year	
	No.	Rs lakh	No.	Rs lakh	No.	Rs lakh	No.	Rs lakh
Financial Year 2019-20	6	5,856.16	17	2,993.66	8	5,880.34	15	2,969.48
Financial Year 2018-19	2	5,164.37	15	1,584.39	11	892.60	6	5,856.16
Financial Year 2017-18	5	4,747.48	5	2,466.76	8	2,049.87	2	5,164.37
Financial Year 2016-17	8	4,370.16	8	1,643.21	11	1,265.89	5	4,747.48

Note : Self-sponsored research projects funded by NCAER are not included.

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS 2010-11 TO 2019-20

Rs in lakh

Particulars	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Project Revenues	1,913.09*	1,895.35*	2,044.17	1,382.80	1,248.78	1,554.83	1,563.65	1,294.39	1,712.80	1,994.76
Interest on Investments	84.37	100.29	101.85	222.77	309.89	278.12	212.58	217.64	242.97	259.36
Sale of Publications**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	73.26	9.24	67.04	37.08	54.39	18.68	5.85	45.21	23.65	113.07
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,070.72</b>	<b>2,004.88</b>	<b>2,213.06</b>	<b>1,642.65</b>	<b>1,613.06</b>	<b>1,851.63</b>	<b>1,782.08</b>	<b>1,557.24</b>	<b>1,979.42</b>	<b>2,367.19</b>
Salary Cost^	1,364.31	1,360.37	1,372.25	980.89	908.95	1,031.42	1,100.74	1,308.43	1,354.87	1,722.90
Non-Salary Cost	506.77	558.12	630.12	494.17	411.97	495.32	446.12	402.39	507.68	428.49
Depreciation	45.95	54.49	60.94	60.68	67.76	61.80	62.16	41.90	72.84	67.37
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,917.03</b>	<b>1,972.98</b>	<b>2,063.31</b>	<b>1,535.74</b>	<b>1,388.68</b>	<b>1,588.54</b>	<b>1,609.02</b>	<b>1,752.72</b>	<b>1,935.39</b>	<b>2,218.76</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>153.69</b>	<b>31.90</b>	<b>149.75</b>	<b>106.91</b>	<b>224.38</b>	<b>263.09</b>	<b>173.06</b>	<b>(195.48)</b>	<b>44.03</b>	<b>148.43</b>
Surplus to Total Revenue	7.4%	1.6%	6.8%	6.5%	13.9%	14.2%	9.7%	-12.6%	2.2%	6.3%
Salary to Project Revenue	71.3%	71.8%	67.1%	70.9%	72.8%	66.3%	70.4%	101.1%	79.1%	86.4%
Corpus Fund	1,091.19	1,120.00	2,651.18	2,761.23	2,873.47	2,982.43	3,086.17	3,187.31	3,291.84	3,398.12
Other Grant Funds	3.30	3.30	3.30	4,750.00	6,802.34	7,170.58	7,497.74	7,737.54	7,950.40	2,528.98
Investments	1,098.44	1,126.14	2,627.24	2,658.42	2,802.24	2,920.95	3,002.73	3,108.73	3,205.52	3,310.06

Notes:

\* Includes revenue of Rs 640.65 lakh & Rs 113.51 lakh from the Handloom Project in 2010-11 and 2011-12, respectively.

^ Includes payments to external sub-contractors for field data collection.

\*\* Proceeds from Sale of Publications shown netted against expenditures on NCAER's Publications and Reports in years after 2008-09.



# INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (BUDGETED FOR 2020-21 AND ACTUAL FOR 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20)

(Rs in lakh)

PARTICULARS	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Budget 2020-21
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Research Activities	1,324.39	1,041.33	1,562.31	1,994.76	2,000.66
Grants - Think Tank Initiative	239.26	253.06	150.49	-	-
Membership & Subscription	1.70	-	11.39	4.00	4.00
Interest (on Investments, Saving Bank, Income Tax Refund)	212.58	217.64	242.98	259.36	215.00
Amounts Written Back (include Rs 96.58 lakh provision for Interest on Infrastructure Loan written back in 2019-20)	-	27.38	9.31	103.77	-
Other Income	9.01	17.83	3.09	5.30	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,786.94</b>	<b>1,557.24</b>	<b>1,979.57</b>	<b>2,367.19</b>	<b>2,239.66</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
NCAER Staff Salaries & Allowances	693.61	769.03	863.10	989.10	1,020.50
Payment for Leave Encashment	37.02	37.12	21.36	60.24	27.14
Payment for Gratuity Expenses	17.26	81.28	14.43	28.29	16.67
Survey/Data Gathering	164.30	271.78	268.80	460.00	183.00
Payment to Analysts/Professionals	175.83	134.12	169.89	170.86	262.95
Travelling & Conveyance	86.66	77.85	127.21	98.62	31.85
Publications & Reports	5.04	2.14	2.32	1.29	3.65
Rent, Rates & Taxes	3.85	4.51	5.09	12.88	32.02
Postage, E-Mail & Website Expenses	7.96	7.67	7.18	5.72	11.31
Telephone & Fax Expenses	5.77	5.76	5.85	7.10	10.65
Stationery & Printing	28.82	22.87	18.35	32.98	17.78
Repairs & Maintenance	25.52	38.17	35.89	42.67	61.77
Periodicals & Journals	52.31	59.06	61.22	43.62	50.00
Entertainment Expenses	2.43	3.49	3.32	3.60	2.70
Vehicle Running & Maintenance Expenses	2.44	2.78	2.26	3.68	2.96
Payment to Auditors	2.10	2.18	2.30	2.37	3.15
Depreciation on Fixed Assets	62.16	41.90	72.84	67.37	77.48
Legal & Professional Expenses	2.04	2.23	2.51	3.51	2.57
Maintenance of Computers & Stat. Lab. Charges	23.92	22.67	15.42	28.19	40.83
Interest and Finance Charges	-	-	0.05	5.29	6.58
Miscellaneous Expenses	3.58	3.84	4.17	5.43	4.81
Workshop & Seminar	50.17	44.10	101.59	27.69	33.23
Staff Development Expenses-Advertisement, Recruitment & Training Expenditure	1.67	9.76	8.74	1.59	2.07
Staff Welfare Expenses (including Employee Insurance Policies)	12.72	15.10	17.31	14.41	21.62
Water & Electricity	67.78	75.68	84.13	85.37	76.83
Amount Written Off	7.54	4.97	6.40	2.37	5.00
Amortisation of Premium on Investments	0.51	0.14	0.02	0.02	0.02
Estimated Cost of Incomplete Projects	34.44	-	-	0.46	25.00
Insurance Expenses	1.20	0.45	1.98	3.96	5.78
Prior Period Expenses	0.65	0.08	3.29	0.53	1.00
Provision for Doubtful Receivables/Other Advances	27.42	-	-	-	-
Library Relocation Charges	5.86	6.45	7.01	5.46	-
Service Tax/GST Expense	1.12	5.47	1.47	2.73	3.32
Interest on Service Tax/TDS/PF/GST	0.18	0.09	0.04	1.36	1.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,613.88</b>	<b>1,752.72</b>	<b>1,935.53</b>	<b>2,218.76</b>	<b>2,045.95</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>173.06</b>	<b>(195.48)</b>	<b>44.04</b>	<b>148.43</b>	<b>193.71</b>

\* Until 2015-16 salaries of housekeeping staffs were treated as a part of the Repairs & Maintenance expenditure. From 2016-17 onwards these have been reclassified under main Salary Head.

**S.P. CHOPRA & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants

31-F, Connaught Place  
New Delhi- 110 001

Tel: 91-11-23313495-6  
Fax: 91-11-23713516  
ICAI Regn. No. 000346N  
Web Site: [www.spchopra.in](http://www.spchopra.in)  
E-mail: [spc1949@spchopra.in](mailto:spc1949@spchopra.in)

### Independent Auditor's Report

To

The Members of National Council of Applied Economic Research

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **National Council of Applied Economic Research**, New Delhi (the 'Council'), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2020 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the relevant provisions of the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and the Income Tax Act, 1961 (the 'Acts'), in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the Council as at March 31, 2020 and its Surplus for the year ended on that date.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by ICAI, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibility of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid Acts and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

(Contd.)

Those charged with governance are also responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

**For S. P. CHOPRA & CO.**

Chartered Accountants  
Firm ICAI Regn. No. 000346N  
sd/-

**(Pawan K. Gupta)**

Partner

M. No. 092529

UDIN : 20092529AAAACS7963

Place: New Delhi

Dated: August 31, 2020

## BALANCE SHEET AS OF MARCH 31, 2020

Particulars	Schedule No.	As of March 31, 2020	As of March 31, 2019
		Rs	Rs
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>			
Corpus	1	339,812,046	329,183,646
Reserves	2	161,176,092	146,333,325
Grant Funds (Restricted/Specific Purpose)	3	252,897,765	795,039,655
Deferred Grant	4	522,410,592	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,276,296,495</b>	<b>1,270,556,626</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipments	5	539,523,289	23,631,846
Intangible Assets	5	5,988,024	1,833,164
Capital Work-in-Progress	6	130,557	548,202,551
Investments	7	331,005,621	320,552,521
Net Current Assets	8	399,624,620	376,310,468
Miscellaneous Expenditure (Premium on Investments - to the extent not written off or adjusted)		24,384	26,076
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,276,296,495</b>	<b>1,270,556,626</b>
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts	16		

Schedules 1 to 16 form an integral part of the Accounts.

sd/-  
**Rabi N. Panda**  
Controller and  
Head of Finance

sd/-  
**Anil K. Sharma**  
Secretary &  
Operations Director

sd/-  
**Shekhar Shah**  
Director General

sd/-  
**Nandan M. Nilekani**  
President

As per our report of even date attached  
**For S. P. Chopra & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants  
ICAI Regn. No.000346N

sd/-  
**Pawan K. Gupta**  
Partner  
M. No. 092529  
UDIN : 20092529AAAACS7963

Place: New Delhi  
Dated: August 31, 2020



## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

Particulars	Schedule No.	Current Year	Previous Year
		Rs	Rs
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership Subscription		400,000	1,138,984
Receipts from :			
- Research Activities		199,476,232	156,231,208
- Think Tank Initiative Project		-	15,049,178
Interest	9	25,935,853	24,297,286
Other Receipts	10	10,907,161	176,106
<b>Total</b>		<b>236,719,246</b>	<b>196,892,762</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Employees' Remuneration and Benefits	11	109,204,426	91,618,885
Survey/Data Gathering		45,999,991	26,880,454
Travelling & Conveyance		9,862,361	12,721,074
Payment to Analysts/Professionals		17,086,351	16,988,641
Cost of Publications	12	128,656	232,199
Interest & Finance Charges	13	664,576	9,601
Administration and Other Expenses	14	32,191,453	36,752,695
Amortisation of Premium on Investments		1,692	1,692
Depreciation and Amortisation	15	6,736,973	7,284,181
<b>Total</b>		<b>221,876,479</b>	<b>192,489,422</b>
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>		<b>14,842,767</b>	<b>4,403,340</b>
Less : Transferred to Capital Assets Fund		4,403,503	-
Add : Surplus brought forward from earlier year		56,299,257	51,895,917
<b>Surplus carried over to Reserves</b>		<b>66,738,521</b>	<b>56,299,257</b>
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts	16		

Schedules 1 to 16 form an integral part of the Accounts.

sd/-  
Rabi N. Panda  
Controller and  
Head of Finance

sd/-  
Anil K. Sharma  
Secretary &  
Operations Director

sd/-  
Shekhar Shah  
Director General

sd/-  
Nandan M. Nilekani  
President

As per our report of even date attached  
**For S. P. Chopra & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants  
ICAI Regn. No.000346N

sd/-  
**Pawan K. Gupta**  
Partner  
M. No. 092529  
UDIN : 20092529AAAACS7963

Place: New Delhi  
Dated: August 31, 2020

## SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

### Schedule 1 - Corpus

Particulars	As of April 01, 2019	Add: Grant/ Corpus fund received during the year	Add: Interest for the year	Less: Interest transferred to Income & Expenditure Account	Interest Ploughed back to Corpus Fund	As of March 31, 2020
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
<b>Corpus - 1</b>						
Ford Foundation Grant -1993	8,075,779	-	-	-	-	8,075,779
Government of India Grant -1994-95	9,550,000	-	-	-	-	9,550,000
General Fund	16,323,017	-	2,594,300	2,594,300	-	16,323,017
<b>Total Corpus-1</b>	<b>33,948,796</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,594,300</b>	<b>2,594,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,948,796</b>
<b>Corpus - 2</b>						
Sir Ratan Tata Trust Grant- 1997	<b>9,215,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>711,728</b>	<b>640,528</b>	<b>71,200</b>	<b>9,286,700</b>
<b>Corpus - 3</b>						
A. Ford Foundation Grant - 2002	47,737,250	-	3,661,003	1,830,503	1,830,500	49,567,750
B. Matching contribution received (against Ford Grant) from :						
Canadian International Development Agency	8,000,000	-	-	-	-	8,000,000
Government of India Grant - 2002-03	6,500,000	-	-	-	-	6,500,000
Reserve Bank of India	7,500,000	-	-	-	-	7,500,000
Interest on matching contributions ploughed back	23,105,000	-	3,483,793	1,741,793	1,742,000	24,847,000
Subtotal for matching contributions for Ford Grant	45,105,000	-	3,483,793	1,741,793	1,742,000	46,847,000
<b>Total Corpus - 3 (A+B)</b>	<b>92,842,250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,144,796</b>	<b>3,572,296</b>	<b>3,572,500</b>	<b>96,414,750</b>
<b>Corpus - 4</b>						
Government of India Grant- 2012-2013	<b>193,177,100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,969,413</b>	<b>6,984,713</b>	<b>6,984,700</b>	<b>200,161,800</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>329,183,646</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,420,237</b>	<b>13,791,837</b>	<b>10,628,400</b>	<b>339,812,046</b>

**Note :** Refer to Note No. 5 of Schedule -16.

## SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

### Schedule 2 - Reserves

Particulars	As of March 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2019	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Capital Assets Fund (Refer Note No. 3 of Schedule 16):				
As per last Accounts	90,034,068		90,034,068	
Add: Transferred from Income & Expenditure Account	4,403,503	94,437,571	-	90,034,068
Surplus as per Income & Expenditure Account		66,738,521		56,299,257
<b>Total</b>		<b>161,176,092</b>		<b>146,333,325</b>

### Schedule 3 - Grant Funds (Restricted / Specific Purpose)

Grant	As of March 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2019	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
2020 Capital Campaign Grant (Nilekani Gift) : Rs. 50 crores (Refer Note No. 6.a of Schedule 16)				
As per last Accounts	630,897,009		609,611,657	
Add: Ploughment of Interest earned on unutilised amount	20,443,828		21,285,352	
Less: Transferred to the 'Deferred Grant'	398,443,072	252,897,765	-	630,897,009
MOF Specific Purpose Infrastructure Grant : Rs. 15 crores (Refer Note No.6.b of Schedule 16)				
As per last Accounts	164,142,646		164,142,646	
Less: Transferred to the 'Deferred Grant'	164,142,646	-	-	164,142,646
<b>Total</b>		<b>252,897,765</b>		<b>795,039,655</b>

### Schedule 4 - Deferred Grant

Particulars	As of March 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2019	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
(Refer to Note No. 7 of Schedule 16)				
Transfer from Grant Funds (Restricted/Specific Purpose)				
- 2020 Capital Campaign Grant (Nilekani Gift)	398,443,072		-	
- MOF Specific Purpose Infrastructure Grant	164,142,646		-	
Less : Depreciation/Amortisation of the Related assets	(40,175,126)	522,410,592	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>522,410,592</b>		<b>-</b>

**SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**Schedule 5 - Property, plant and equipments and Intangible assets**

Description	GROSS BLOCK			DEPRECIATION			NET BLOCK	
	As of April 01, 2019	Additions	Sale/ Adjustment	As of March 31, 2020	For the year April 01, 2019	Sale/ Adjustment	As of March 31, 2020	As of March 31, 2019
<b>Old Building</b>								
<b>Tangible Assets</b>								
Land (Leaschold)	49,330	-	-	49,330	-	-	49,330	49,330
Building	1,536,037	-	-	1,536,037	917,319	15,468	603,250	618,718
Electric Installations	1,010,158	-	-	1,010,158	804,297	20,585	185,276	205,861
Statistical & Laboratory	270,156	-	-	270,156	256,648	-	13,508	13,508
EDP System	39,821,751	3,568,124	164,912	43,224,963	33,431,203	3,627,436	6,300,417	6,390,548
Office Equipments	15,550,392	45,436	-	15,595,828	10,137,830	814,744	4,643,254	5,412,562
Air Conditioners & Refrigerators	5,169,375	-	-	5,169,375	3,892,262	128,550	1,148,563	1,277,113
Library Books	17,732,018	299,440	-	18,031,458	11,240,270	679,117	6,112,071	6,491,748
Motor Car	3,514,976	-	-	3,514,976	1,952,954	312,405	1,249,617	1,562,022
Motor Bike	126,000	-	-	126,000	45,360	16,128	64,512	80,640
Furniture & Fixtures	8,205,064	203,000	-	8,408,064	6,686,575	172,020	1,549,469	1,518,489
Misc. Property, plant and equipments	226,148	-	-	226,148	214,841	-	11,307	11,307
<b>Total tangible assets (Old Building) - 1</b>	<b>93,211,405</b>	<b>4,116,000</b>	<b>164,912</b>	<b>97,162,493</b>	<b>69,579,559</b>	<b>5,786,453</b>	<b>21,930,574</b>	<b>23,631,846</b>
<b>Intangible Assets</b>								
Computer Software	11,089,120	287,503	-	11,376,623	9,255,956	950,520	1,170,147	1,833,164
<b>Total intangible assets (Old Building) - 2</b>	<b>11,089,120</b>	<b>287,503</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,376,623</b>	<b>9,255,956</b>	<b>950,520</b>	<b>1,170,147</b>	<b>1,833,164</b>
<b>Current Year's Total (Old Building) (3 = 1+2)</b>	<b>104,300,525</b>	<b>4,403,503</b>	<b>164,912</b>	<b>108,539,116</b>	<b>78,835,515</b>	<b>6,736,973</b>	<b>23,100,721</b>	<b>25,465,010</b>
<b>New Buildings</b>								
<b>Tangible Assets</b>								
Building Tower & Auditorium (T 1 & T 2)	-	364,009,553	-	364,009,553	-	9,100,239	354,909,314	-
Electric Installations	-	47,241,035	-	47,241,035	-	4,724,104	42,516,931	-
EDP System	-	21,520,374	-	21,520,374	-	8,608,150	12,912,224	-
Office Equipments	-	48,332,957	-	48,332,957	-	7,249,943	41,083,014	-
Air Conditioners & Refrigerators	-	33,347,601	-	33,347,601	-	3,334,760	30,012,841	-
Furniture & Fixtures	-	24,689,095	-	24,689,095	-	2,468,910	22,220,185	-
Generator Set & UPS	-	17,422,757	-	17,422,757	-	3,484,551	13,938,206	-
<b>Total tangible assets (New Buildings) - 4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>556,563,372</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>556,563,372</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,970,657</b>	<b>517,592,715</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Intangible Assets</b>								
Computer Software	-	6,022,346	-	6,022,346	-	1,204,469	4,817,877	-
<b>Total intangible assets (New Buildings) - 5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,022,346</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,022,346</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,204,469</b>	<b>4,817,877</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Current Year's Total (New Buildings) (6 = 4+5)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>562,585,718</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>562,585,718</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,175,126</b>	<b>522,410,592</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Grand Current Year's Total (7 = 3+6)</b>	<b>104,300,525</b>	<b>566,989,221</b>	<b>164,912</b>	<b>671,124,834</b>	<b>78,835,515</b>	<b>46,912,099</b>	<b>545,511,313</b>	<b>25,465,010</b>
Previous Year's Total	105,439,343	9,498,352	10,637,170	104,300,525	81,599,907	7,284,181	25,465,010	-



## Schedule 6 - Capital Work-in-Progress

Particulars	As of March 31, 2020	As of March 31, 2019
	Rs	Rs
Opening Balance	548,202,551	490,238,062
Add : Additions during the year	14,513,724	57,964,489
	562,716,275	548,202,551
Less: Capitalised during the year (New Buildings)	562,585,718	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>130,557</b>	<b>548,202,551</b>

**Note :** Refer to Note No.11 of Schedule 16.

## SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

### Schedule 7 - Investments

Description	Corpus Related Investments							Investment from own Funds	Total as of March 31, 2020
	Corpus - 1		Corpus - 2		Corpus - 3		Total		
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Ford Grant	Matching Contribution		Rs	Rs
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	
LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS (UNQUOTED)									
A. FIXED DEPOSITS									
- Housing Development Finance Corporation	-	218,000	8,527,000	-	-	-	8,745,000	230,000	8,975,000
- PNB Housing Finance Ltd	5,160,000	241,000	3,032,000	3,000,000	-	-	11,433,000	50,000	11,483,000
- LIC Housing Finance Limited	13,399,000	3,840,000	5,302,000	1,840,000	-	-	24,381,000	950,000	25,331,000
- Canara Bank	-	-	-	-	7,700,000	-	7,700,000	-	7,700,000
- HDFC Bank Ltd	15,000	-	-	7,138,000	8,146,024	-	15,299,024	559,000	15,858,024
- State Bank of India	3,000,000	1,209,000	-	6,646,497	55,050,542	-	65,906,039	2,690,912	68,596,951
- Oriental Bank of Commerce	-	3,212,000	6,978,000	-	-	-	10,190,000	-	10,190,000
- IDFC FIRST Bank	-	420,500	5,186,000	24,130,500	8,456,462	-	38,193,462	-	38,193,462
- Allahabad Bank	-	-	-	-	50,000,000	-	50,000,000	-	50,000,000
- Corporation Bank	-	-	-	-	56,919,184	-	56,919,184	-	56,919,184
B. BONDS									
- 7.5% Govt. of India - 2034	-	-	1,200,000	1,200,000	-	-	2,400,000	-	2,400,000
- 8.70% Power Finance Corp. Ltd - 2020	9,985,000	-	-	-	-	-	9,985,000	-	9,985,000
- 8% Saving Taxable Bonds - SBI	-	75,000	16,712,000	1,682,000	6,905,000	-	25,374,000	-	25,374,000
Current Year	31,559,000	9,215,500	46,937,000	45,636,997	193,177,212	326,525,709	4,479,912	331,005,621	
Previous Year	31,559,000	9,146,000	45,172,500	43,936,997	186,258,112	316,072,609	4,479,912	320,552,521	

## SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

### Schedule 8 - Net Current Assets

Particulars	As of March 31, 2020		As of March 31, 2019	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
<b>Cash &amp; Bank Balances</b>				
Cash in Hand (inclusive of Postage Stamps)	112,707		55,836	
Balances with Scheduled Banks:				
- Savings Accounts (Including Rs. 73,769/- in FCRA - INR Account)	11,219,503		4,224,646	
- Margin Money - Deposits against Bank Guarantees	10,169,378		9,469,378	
- Fixed Deposits				
- 2020 Capital Campaign Grant	246,842,285		245,063,848	
- NCAER Working Fund	55,651,943		49,845,052	
- Others	119,145,003		84,733,494	
- Current Accounts	7,902,080	451,042,899	15,641,357	409,033,611
<b>Interest Accrued but not due on investments and other deposits</b>		26,148,290		17,446,100
<b>Receivable from Research Activities</b>				
(Unsecured )				
- Considered Good	28,653,134		42,092,550	
- Considered Doubtful	-		2,741,936	
	28,653,134		44,834,486	
Less: Provision for Doubtful Receivables	-	28,653,134	2,741,936	42,092,550
<b>Research Work in Progress</b>		9,026,236		10,840,988
<b>Publications / Reports</b>				
(As physically verified, valued and certified by the Management)		1,697,145		1,467,200
<b>Advances &amp; Deposits</b>				
(Unsecured - considered good)				
- Advances to Staff	96,244		65,301	
- TDS Recoverable	18,253,055		23,377,366	
- Prepaid Expenses	1,426,892		4,373,244	
- Deposits	941,067		945,916	
- Other Advances	3,814,943	24,532,201	1,773,333	30,535,160
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>541,099,905</b>		<b>511,415,609</b>
<b>LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Advance - Research Activities		101,867,238		69,378,011
Creditors for Expenses		10,153,388		17,734,536
Salary Payable		36,358		5,854,165
Liabilities towards Construction of Campus/Office Building		1,676,649		3,769,059
Provision for Estimated Loss on Incomplete Research Activities		231,114		184,835
Provision for Leave Encashment		16,500,996		14,530,168
Provision for Gratuity premium payable to LIC		2,829,210		7,821,054
Provision for Interest on Infrastructure loan		-		9,657,534
Other Liabilities		8,180,332		6,175,779
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>141,475,285</b>		<b>135,105,141</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>399,624,620</b>		<b>376,310,468</b>

## SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

### Schedule 9 - Interest

Particulars	Current Year		Previous Year	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
On Investments:				
- Corpus	24,420,237		23,993,753	
Less: Interest Ploughed back to Corpus Fund (Note-1)	10,628,400		10,453,100	
	13,791,837		13,540,653	
- Others	336,167	14,128,004	342,669	13,883,322
On Fixed Deposits with Banks:				
- 2020 Capital Campaign Grant (Note-2)	20,443,828		21,285,352	
Less : Interest Ploughed back to Grant Funds	(20,443,828)		(21,285,352)	
	-		-	
- NCAER Working Fund	4,198,467		4,436,345	
- Others	7,096,195	11,294,662	5,514,804	9,951,149
On Saving Bank		513,187		462,815
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,935,853</b>		<b>24,297,286</b>

Note-1 : Refer Schedule -'1'

Note-2 : Refer to Note No. 6.a of Schedule 16

### Schedule 10 - Other Receipts

Particulars	Current Year	Previous Year
	Rs	Rs
Profit / (loss) on Sale/Disposal of Property, plant and equipments	112,421	(118,920)
Interest on Income Tax Refund	53,649	-
Royalty on Sale of Journals	275,568	282,891
Liabilities / Provisions no longer required written back	10,376,652	-
Miscellaneous Receipts	88,871	12,135
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,907,161</b>	<b>176,106</b>

### Schedule 11 - Employees' Remuneration and Benefits

Particulars	Current Year	Previous Year
	Rs	Rs
Salaries & Allowances	79,993,091	72,270,221
Gratuity	2,829,210	1,442,964
Payment to Temporary / Casual Workers	12,716,090	8,513,088
Contribution to Provident Fund & Pension Fund etc.	6,200,758	5,525,388
Leave Encashment	6,024,118	2,136,424
Staff Welfare Expenses	1,441,159	1,730,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,204,426</b>	<b>91,618,885</b>

## SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

### Schedule 12 - Cost of Publications/Reports

Particulars	Current Year	Previous Year
	Rs	Rs
Opening Stock	1,467,200	1,189,559
Add : Printing, Editing & Translation Expenses	392,301	520,940
	1,859,501	1,710,499
Less : Recoveries from sale/subscription	(33,700)	(11,100)
Closing Stock	(1,697,145)	(1,467,200)
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,656</b>	<b>232,199</b>

### Schedule 13 - Interest & Finance Charges

Particulars	Current Year	Previous Year
	Rs	Rs
Interest on GST and TDS etc.	136,225	4,936
Interest on Overdraft facilities	528,351	4,665
<b>Total</b>	<b>664,576</b>	<b>9,601</b>



#### Schedule 14 - Administration and Other Expenses

Particulars	Current Year		Previous Year	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Rent, Rates & Taxes		1,288,037		509,357
Water & Electricity		8,537,716		8,412,863
Stationery & Printing		3,297,679		1,835,475
Postage, Telegram & Telephones		1,281,822		1,303,382
Repairs & Maintenance		1,538,290		1,107,275
Watch and Ward Expenses		2,729,250		2,481,447
Periodicals & Journals		4,362,177		6,122,448
Computer services		2,818,791		1,541,503
Legal & Professional Expenses		351,280		251,090
Seminars & Workshops		2,768,621		10,158,721
Vehicle Running & Maintenance		367,697		225,523
Entertainment Expenses		359,506		332,339
Auditor's Remuneration				
- Audit Fee	200,000		175,000	
- Certification Fee	37,000	237,000	54,700	229,700
Staff Development Expenses		56,736		755,875
Advertisement		101,842		117,671
Prior Period Expenses (Net)		52,767		328,921
Receivables/Other amounts written off (Net of provision)		237,310		640,407
Provision for Cost Overrun on Research Activities (net)		46,279		(931,047)
Library Relocation Charges		546,115		701,319
GST Expense		272,356		146,892
Insurance Expenses		396,312		197,957
Miscellaneous Expenses		543,870		283,577
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,191,453</b>		<b>36,752,695</b>

## Schedule 15 - Depreciation and Amortisation

Particulars	Current Year		Previous Year	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Depreciation/Amortisation for the Year (Refer Schedule 5)	46,912,099		7,284,181	
Less: Transferred to Deferred Grant (Refer Note No.7 of Schedule 16)	(40,175,126)	6,736,973	-	7,284,181
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,736,973</b>		<b>7,284,181</b>

## SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

### Schedule-16: Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts for the year ended March 31, 2020

#### A. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

##### 1. Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements:

The accompanying financial statements of National Council for Applied Economic Research (the 'Council/NCAER') have been prepared on accrual basis, as a going concern under the historical cost convention, except otherwise stated, in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in India (GAAP), and the applicable Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the relevant provisions of the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and the Income Tax Act, 1961.

##### 2. Use of Estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires the Management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities on the date of financial statements and the reported amount of receipts/income and expenses during the reporting period. The difference between actual results and estimates are recognised in the period in which the results are known/materialised.

##### 3. Revenue Recognition:

- i) Income and Expenditure are recognised on accrual basis except income pertaining to self-sponsored activities, subscription to Journals and membership subscriptions, which are accounted for on receipt basis.
- ii) Receipts from Research Activities:
  - a) Revenue from Research Activities is recognised in proportion to the costs incurred on the activity (including cost of associated computers, equipment etc. purchased from activity funds) assuming that the costs incurred represent the corresponding progress on the Research Activity.
  - b) The difference, if any, between the contract value of the Research Activities and the revenue recognised as stated in para (a) above is recognised when the activity is completed.
  - c) Where the cost incurred is not in proportion to the progress of work, for revenue recognition actual progress, as estimated by the project team leader (PTL), is taken into account.
  - d) Provision for expected overruns, if any, on incomplete Research Activities are recorded in the period in which the overruns are likely based on current estimates.
  - e) The Cost incurred on Research Activities is ascertained by applying daily or hourly rates for research staff at different levels to their actual time spent on the activity, plus direct cost of the project and the cost of common facilities and other overheads, as determined from time to time.

##### 4. Grants:

Grants from government, other public and private entities and individuals received as a contribution to NCAER with conditions that restrict utilisation of the

principal amount of grant are credited to the “Corpus Account”. Grants received to support recurring or non-recurring expenses are recognised as income in the year of receipt. Grants partially or wholly related to acquisition/construction of fixed assets are treated as ‘Grant Funds (Restricted/Specific Purpose)’, and after acquisition/construction and capitalisation of the related asset, the same is treated as Deferred Grant in the Balance Sheet and is amortized by credit to the depreciation on a systematic basis over the useful life of the assets.

#### 5. Investments:

Long-term investments are primarily meant to be held over long-term period and are valued at cost. Provision is made when in the Management’s opinion there is a decline, other than temporary, in the carrying value of such investments. Current investments are valued at cost or net realisable value, whichever is less. For unquoted interest-bearing bonds, the premium paid at the time of acquisition is amortized over the remaining period to the date of maturity of the bonds.

#### 6. Property, Plant and Equipment:

- i. Property, Plant and Equipment are accounted for on historical cost basis, inclusive of all incidental and installation costs, less the accumulated depreciation and, impairment loss, if any.
- ii. Depreciation is provided on written-down value basis at rates given below, based on the useful life of the assets, and retaining 5 % of the original cost of the assets as residual value.

Fixed Assets	Rate of Depreciation (%)
Building	2.50
Electric Installation and Substation, EPABX System, Air Conditioners & Refrigerators, Library Books and Furniture & Fixture	10.00
Office Equipment	15.00
Diesel Generator Set, Statistical laboratory, and Motor Car	20.00
EDP Systems	40.00
Miscellaneous property, plant and equipment	25.00

- iii. Software that is not an integral part of related hardware is treated as an intangible asset and amortised over a period of five years (on a straight line basis) or its licence period, whichever is less.
- iv. In the case of additions to property, plant and equipment during the year, depreciation is charged for the full year, and in the case of sale or deletion, no depreciation is charged in the year of sale/deletion.

#### 7. Retirement Benefits:

- i. Gratuity to employees is funded through a Trust, which in turn has entered into a Group Gratuity Scheme with LIC of India. The liability is paid or provided based on actuarial valuation as determined by LIC under this scheme.
- ii. Contribution towards Provident Fund is recognised on the basis of the amount paid or payable by NCAER for the period during which services are rendered by the employee.
- iii. Liability for leave encashment is provided for on the basis of actuarial valuation.

## 8. Stock of Publications:

The stock of unsold publications is valued at cost, net of provision for old, slow and non-moving stock.

## 9. Borrowing Cost:

Borrowing costs that are allocated to the acquisition or construction of qualifying assets are capitalised as part of the cost of such assets. A qualifying asset is one that necessarily takes substantial period of time to get ready for intended use. All other borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

## 10. Foreign Currency Transactions:

Transactions in foreign currencies, covering current assets and current liabilities, are accounted for at the exchange rates prevailing on the date transaction takes place. Transactions that remain unsettled at the year-end are translated at year-end/contract rate. Gains and losses arising out of subsequent fluctuations in the exchange rates at the time of settlement or translation are adjusted in the Income & Expenditures account under the respective head of account.

## 11. Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

### a) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Council has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of obligation. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation, at the Balance Sheet date.

### b) Contingent Liabilities

A disclosure for a contingent liability is made when there is a possible obligation arising from past events, the existence of which will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council or a present obligation arising as a result of past event that probably will not require an outflow of resources or where a reliable estimate of the obligation cannot be made.

## B. NOTES TO ACCOUNTS:

1. Balances in the accounts of receivables, sundry creditors and other parties are subject to confirmation/reconciliation. The impact, if any, subsequent to the reconciliation will be taken in the year the confirmation/reconciliation is carried out, which in the view of the management will not be material.
2. Contingent Liability:  
Bank guarantee of Rs 101.69 lakhs issued by the Bank on behalf of the Council, towards the performance of the projects awarded to the Council.
3. Reserves include 'Capital Assets Fund', which represents amounts appropriated over the years towards fixed assets of NCAER. Out of the Surplus available for appropriation in the Income & Expenditure Account, the amount of Rs 44.04 lakhs has been transferred to the Capital Assets Fund during the year.
4. Foreign exchange variation loss (net) amounting to Rs 42.96 lakhs (previous year, net gain: Rs 19.81 lakhs) has been debited/credited to the respective heads.



5. Corpus in “Schedule – 1” includes as under:

**Corpus-1:** The Ford Foundation gave an endowment grant of US\$ 250,000 (Rs 8,075,779) in the year 1993, for publications, faculty development and other core activities. As per the terms and conditions of the grant, NCAER was to raise funds on a 1:1 basis as a matching requirement. NCAER raised this within the stipulated time through matching contributions from the Government of India.

**Corpus-2:** The Sir Ratan Tata Trust granted Rs 75 lakhs in the year 1997 to enhance NCAER’s library services. As per terms and conditions of this Grant, 10 % of the interest earned on this Corpus fund, along with the unutilised amount of income, is to be ploughed back into the Corpus every year, a condition that is complied with every year.

**Corpus-3:** The Ford Foundation granted an endowment grant of US \$ 5,00,000 (Rs 24,302,750) in the year 2002 for institutional support. As per the terms and conditions of the grant, 50 % of interest earned during the year is to be ploughed back into the Corpus every year. As per the revised terms and conditions, NCAER was to raise 1:1 matching contributions, which it did within the stipulated time with matching contributions from the Canadian International Development Agency, Government of India, and the Reserve Bank of India.

**Corpus-4:** Government of India, following the announcement made in the Budget 2012, released a Corpus Fund of Rs 1,500 lakhs during 2012-13. As per the terms of sanction, the Corpus Fund is to be kept intact and the income/ interest accrued from investment of the corpus fund may be utilised by NCAER to carry out research and other related activities in the field of economics and other fields consistent with NCAER’s Memorandum of Association subject to certain compliances to be met from time to time. 50 % of the interest earned during the year, has been ploughed back to the Corpus, as considered appropriate by the management.

6. Grant Funds (Restricted/Specific Purpose) under “Schedule – 3” include as under:

a. 2020 Capital Campaign Grant (Nilekani Gift)

Grant of Rs 50 crores was received in earlier years for the purposes of increasing NCAER’s endowment to be utilised for establishment of the NCAER India Centre Campus and new research and knowledge capabilities/ assets. Out of total interest of Rs 1730.05 lakhs earned through placement of unused Grant fund in fixed deposits with banks/housing finance companies, interest of Rs 1,513.41 lakhs (including Rs 204.44 lakhs during the current year) has been ploughed back to the Grant Fund. The amount of Rs 3,984.43 lakhs utilised on acquisition/construction of the Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets as per the objectives and conditions of the said Grant, has been transferred to the Deferred Grant (under Schedule 4) consequent to the capitalisation of these assets during the current year. The same shall be amortised on a systematic basis over the useful life of the related assets.

b. MoF Specific Purpose Infrastructure Grant 2013-14

Government of India had released non-recurring grant-in-aid of Rs 1,500 lakhs for the purposes of construction of the new Campus/Office Building in the earlier years. Interest of Rs 141.43 lakhs earned through placement of unused Grant fund in fixed deposits with banks in the earlier year/s, had been

ploughed back to the Grant Fund in terms of the condition of the sanction. The total Grant of Rs 1,641.43 lakhs utilised on acquisition/construction of the Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets as per the objectives and conditions of the said Grant, has been transferred to the Deferred Grant (under Schedule 4) consequent to the capitalisation of these assets during the current year. The same shall be amortised on a systematic basis over the useful life of the related assets.

#### 7. Deferred Grant under Schedule 4:

As per the accounting policy of the Council, Grants partially or wholly related to acquisition/construction of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets are treated as 'Grant Funds (Restricted/Specific Purpose)', and after acquisition/construction and capitalisation of the related assets, the said Grant is treated as 'Deferred Grant' in the Balance Sheet and is amortised by credit to the depreciation on a systematic basis over the useful life of the related assets. During the current year amount of Rs 5,625.86 lakhs, has been transferred to the 'Deferred Grant' on capitalisation of the assets acquired/constructed by utilisation of the 'Grant Funds (Restricted/Specific Purpose)' as detailed in Note 6 above. The Deferred Grant shall be amortised on a systematic basis over the useful life of the related assets, and accordingly during the year amount of Rs 401.75 lakhs has been amortised by credit to the depreciation and amortisation towards the depreciation and amortisation charged on the related assets.

#### 8. Income Tax

- a. The income of NCAER is exempt under Section 10(21) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, in view of its being approved by Government of India, vide Gazette Notification dated 22.12.2010 as an organisation partly engaged in research activities under Section 35(1)(ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, w.e.f. 01.04.2002 (Assessment Year 2003-04) under the category of 'Other Institution'. As NCAER has fulfilled all the conditions laid down under Section 10(21), accordingly no provision for income tax is considered necessary for the current year.
  - b. The income tax assessment has been completed up to the assessment year 2017-18, wherein the income of NCAER has been held to be exempted under Section 35(1)(ii) of Income Tax Act, 1961. In respect of Assessment Years 2018-19 and 2019-20, NCAER is of the view that, as it is approved under Section 35(1)(ii), and its activities are within the ambit of Section 2(15) of Income Tax Act, 1961, exemption will be available for these years under Section 10(21), hence no provision for Income tax for these years is required to be made in the accounts.
9. NCAER has complied with the applicable mandatory Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India except accounting of certain income as per the accounting policy No. 3 (i) which are being accounted on receipt basis. The said policy of accounting of income on receipt basis has no material impact and is being followed by NCAER consistently.
10. In the opinion of the Management, Current Assets and Loans and Advances as of March 31, 2020 have a value on realisation in the ordinary course of business at least equal to the amount at which they are stated in the Balance Sheet as of that date, and that all the known and ascertained liabilities and all the accrued

income and expenses relating to the year ended on March 31, 2020 have been duly provided/accounted for in these Accounts.

11. Capital Work-in-Progress under Schedule-‘6’ includes the ‘Pre-Operative/ Construction Expenditure’ as under:

Particulars	Amount (Rs)	
	As of March 31, 2020	As of March 31, 2019
Interest paid on Infrastructure Loan	27,141,034	27,141,034
Architect/ Consultants Fees/Building Up-gradation fees/Soil testing/MCD fees, etc.	64,052,724	60,473,616
Printing & Stationery	137,050	126,356
Travelling & Conveyance	810,692	797,104
Watch and Ward Expenses	6,112,126	3,294,882
Miscellaneous including AMC, etc.	3,793,609	2,133,899
	<b>102,047,235</b>	<b>93,966,891</b>
(Less):		
Interest earned on investment of unutilised amount of the loan money	(60,045,901)	(60,045,901)
<b>Net amount</b>	<b>42,001,334</b>	<b>33,920,990</b>

During the year the above balance of Rs 420.01 lakhs lying under ‘Pre-Operative/ Construction Expenditure’ has been transferred to the respective property, plant and equipment and intangible assets proportionately based on the total cost of the related assets and capitalised accordingly.

12. The services provided by NCAER are taxable under the Service Tax Act (1994) with effect from July, 2012 onwards and also under Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017 (GST), which had replaced the Service Tax Act from July, 2017 onwards. Accordingly, NCAER has levied Service Tax/GST on the invoices raised to their sponsors and availed CENVAT/Input credit of the Service Tax/GST paid on the input services used for providing the taxable services and for the modernisation of its new Campus/erection of Office Building based on an expert opinion obtained from a Chartered Accountant which was obtained when the Service Tax was applicable, considering that the same principle which were applicable to then Service Tax shall now be applicable on GST. Further, the GST audit of the Council for the year is yet to be conducted and the impact thereof, if any, will be taken on its completion, which in the view of the management will not be material.

### 13. Employee Benefits:

- (a) Post-Employment Benefit:

Gratuity : Payable on separation @ 15 days pay for each completed year of service to eligible employees who render continuous service of 3 years or more.

- (b) Long Term Benefit:

Leave Encashment : Payable on encashment during the service or on separation as per the policy to the eligible employees who have accumulated earned leaves.

- (c) Defined Contribution Benefit:

Council's employees are covered by Provident Fund, to which the Council makes a defined contribution measured as a fixed percentage of salary. During the year, amount of Rs 59.56 lakhs (Previous Year: Rs 52.98 lakhs) has been charged to the Income and Expenditure Account.

(d) Other disclosures as required under AS-15 (Revised 2005) on "Employee Benefits" are as under:-

(i) Expenses recognised in Income & Expenditure Account

Particulars	Gratuity (Rs)		Leave Encashment (Rs)	
	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19
Current Service Cost	1,928,659	1,657,930	1,692,605	1,462,292
Interest cost on benefit obligation	2,169,718	2,116,429	1,111,558	1,091,196
Expected return on plan assets	(1,492,751)	(1,418,948)	-	-
Net actuarial (Gain)/Loss recognised in the year	223,584	(912,447)	3,219,955	(417,064)
Amount to be recognised in Income & Expenditure Account	2,829,210	1,442,964	6,024,118	2,136,424
Amount recognised in Income & Expenditure Account	2,829,210	1,442,964	6,024,118	2,136,424

ii) Change in the present value of the Defined Benefit Obligation

Particulars	Gratuity (Rs)		Leave Encashment (Rs)	
	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19
Present Value of obligation at the beginning of year	28,929,582	28,107,110	14,530,168	14,116,380
Interest cost	2,169,718	2,116,429	1,111,558	1,091,196
Current Service Cost	1,928,659	1,657,930	1,692,605	1,462,292
Benefits Paid	(1,926,343)	(2,039,440)	(4,053,290)	(1,722,636)
Net actuarial (Gain)/Loss on obligation	223,584	(912,447)	3,219,955	(417,064)
Present value of the defined benefit at the end of year	31,325,200	28,929,582	16,500,996	14,530,168

iii) Change in the fair value of plan assets

Particulars	Gratuity (Rs)		Leave Encashment (Rs)	
	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19
Fair Value of Plan assets at the beginning of year	21,108,528	19,979,020	-	-
Expected return on plan assets	1,492,751	1,418,948	-	-
Contribution	7,821,054	1,750,000	4,053,290	1,722,636
Benefits Paid	(1,926,343)	(2,039,440)	(4,053,290)	(1,722,636)
Fair value of plan assets at the end of year	28,495,990	21,108,528	-	-

iv) The amount recognised in the Balance Sheet


Year	Present Value of obligation at the end of year	Fair Value of Plan assets at the end of year	Difference i.e. Assets/ (Liabilities)	Net Assets/ (Liability) recognised in the balance Sheet
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)
<b>Gratuity</b>				
2015-16	(16,949,102)	16,127,609	(821,493)	(821,493)
2016-17	(18,809,445)	17,083,122	(1,726,323)	(1,726,323)
2017-18	(28,107,110)	19,979,020	(8,128,090)	(8,128,090)
2018-19	(28,929,582)	21,108,528	(7,821,054)	(7,821,054)
2019-20	(31,325,200)	28,495,990	(2,829,210)	(2,829,210)
<b>Leave Encashment</b>				
2015-16	(9,943,814)	-	(9,943,814)	(9,943,814)
2016-17	(12,541,003)	-	(12,541,003)	(12,541,003)
2017-18	(14,116,380)	-	(14,116,380)	(14,116,380)
2018-19	(14,530,168)	-	(14,530,168)	(14,530,168)
2019-20	(16,500,996)	-	(16,500,996)	(16,500,996)

(v) Actuarial Assumptions:

Principal assumptions used for actuarial valuation are as under:

	Gratuity		Leave Encashment	
	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19
Method used	Projected unit credit method			
Discount rate	7.25%	7.50%	6.80%	7.65%
Salary Escalation	6.00%	6.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Mortality Rate	LIC (2006-08)	IALM (2006-08)		
Withdrawal rate up to 30/44 and above 44 years	3%/2%/1%			
Rate of return on plan assets	7.80%	7.80%	-	-





14. The previous year's figures have been regrouped / rearranged wherever considered necessary.

**Signatures to Schedules '1' to '16' of the Accounts**

Sd/-  
**Rabi N. Panda**  
*Controller and  
Head of Finance*

Sd/-  
**Anil K. Sharma**  
*Secretary & Operations  
Director*

Sd/-  
**Shekhar Shah**  
*Director General*

Sd/-  
**Nandan M. Nilekani**  
*President*

**For S. P. Chopra & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm ICAI Regn. No. 000346N

**(Pawan K. Gupta)**  
(Partner)  
M. No. 092529  
UDIN : 20092529AAAACS7963

Place: New Delhi  
Dated: August 31, 2020

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

A2J	Access to Justice
AICSPS	All India Citizens Survey of Police Services
APA	Asian Population Association
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BBBP	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
BCI	Business Confidence Index
BES	Business Expectations Survey
BPR&D	Bureau of Police Research and Development
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
CAFRAL	Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning
CAIM	Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CDC	Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CGE	Computable General Equilibrium
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry
CoPS	Centre of Policy Studies
CPR	Centre for Policy Research
CRISIL	Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited
CSCs	Common Service Centres
CVTF	Coronavirus Task Force
DANICS	Delhi, Andaman, and Nicobar Islands Civil Service
DBT	Direct Benefit Transfer
DCEs	Discrete Choice Experiments
DCVTS	Delhi Coronavirus Telephone Survey
DFID	Department for International Development
DIPP	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
DMAS	Delhi Metropolitan Area Study
DoJ	Department of Justice
DoLR	Department of Land Resources
DPIIT	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
EAB	Editorial Advisory Board
EPW	Economic and Political Weekly
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
EXIM	Export-Import
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
GAIN	Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network
GASAB	Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFCF	Gross Fixed Capital Formation
GoI	Government of India
GST	Goods and Services Tax
GTAP	Global Trade and Analysis Project
G&J	Gems and Jewellery
GVA	Gross Value Added
HCES	Household Consumer Expenditure Survey



HDFC	Housing Development Finance Corporation
HLAG	High Level Advisory Group
HPC	High Performance Computing
IASSH	Indian Association for Social Science and Health
ICA	Institute of Chartered Accountants
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICICI	Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
ICRA	Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency
ICRIER	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
ICSSR	Indian Council of Social Science Research
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDF	India Development Foundation
IDFC	Infrastructure Development Finance Company
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
IEG	Institute of Economic Growth
IEPF	Investor Education and Protection Fund
IEPFA	Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCI	Industrial Finance Corporation of India
IGC	International Growth Centre
IHDS	India Human Development Survey
IGIDR	Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research
IIC	India International Centre
IITM	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
ILDC	India Land and Development Conference
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMFL	Indian-made Foreign Liquor
IOTT	Input-Output Transactions Table
IPF	India Policy Forum
IPUMS	Integrated Public Use Micro Sample-International
ISLE	Indian Society of Labour Economics
ISSN	International Standard Serial Number
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
JAER	Journal of Applied Economic Research
LPI	Land Policy Initiative
LSE	London School of Economics
MIDS	Madras Institute of Development Studies
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MoSPI	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
MYR	Mid-Year Review
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NASSCOM	National Association of Software and Science Companies
NBER	National Bureau of Economic Research
NCAER	National Council of Applied Economic Research
NCT	National Capital Territory
NDDB	National Dairy Development Board

NDIC	NCAER National Data Innovation Centre
NDQF	National Data Quality Forum
NDP	Net Domestic Product
NEJK	Northeast and Jammu & Kashmir
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NIC	NCAER India Centre
NIH	National Institute of Health
NIIT	National Institute of Information Technology
NIPFP	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy
NITI	National Institution for Transforming India
NILERD	National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development
NIMS	National Institute of Medical Statistics
N-LPI	NCAER's Land Policy Initiative
N-LRSI	NCAER's Land Records and Services Index
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
N-SIPI	NCAER State Investment Potential Index
NSS	National Sample Survey
ON	Omidyar Network
PAA	Population Association of America
PAFTAD	The Pacific Trade and Development Conference
PCI	Political Confidence Index
PDS	Public Distribution System
PLVs	Para Legal Volunteers
PRRC	Property Rights Research Consortium
QRE	Quarterly Reviews of the Economy
RFCTLARR	Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement
RIS	Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries
RRPCL	Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemical Complex Ltd
SBI	State Bank of India
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SIPARD	State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development
SRTT	Sir Ratan Tata Trust
TLS	Tele-Law Scheme
TPDS	Targeted Public Distribution System
TSA	Tourism Satellite Accounts
UK	United Kingdom
UTs	Union Territories
UMD	University of Maryland
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
VLEs	Village Level Entrepreneurs
WDR	World Development Report
WHO	World Health Organization





