

Dec 2021-Jan 2022

NCAER NEWS



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

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NCAER Research Outputs

Monthly Reviews of the Economy – December 2021 and January 2022

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

India Human Development Survey Forum Newsletters, December 2021 and January 2022

The IHDS Forum is a monthly update of publications, op-eds, and data news based on the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), which was jointly conducted by NCAER and the University of Maryland in two waves, in 2004-05 and 2011-12. Preparations are underway for launching the third wave soon.

India Covid-19 Poverty Monitor, January 2022

The India Covid-19 Poverty Monitor bulletin has been compiled by the NCAER National Data Innovation Centre and The Chronic Poverty Advisory Network (CPAN) hosted at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London, using a combination of original qualitative data collected from a small number of affected people in India, interviews with local leaders and community development actors, and secondary data from a range of different sources. The Bulletin has been authored by S. Pramanik, M. Banerji, D. Tiwari, P. Choudhuri, B. Chouhan, A. Motheram, and A. Lenhardt.

NCAER researchers published the following opinion and journal articles during the months of December 2021 and January 2022:

Opinion Articles

Will a legally binding MSP deliver?

C. Rangarajan and Shashanka Bhide
The Hindu Business Line, January 24, 2022

How India can give a boost to biofuels

Sanjib Pohit
The Hindu Business Line, January 9, 2022

Will Omicron make Indians stay home? Data on how much they socialise offers a clue

D.L. Wankhar and Palash Baruah
The Print (Online), January 5, 2022

Towards doubling farmers' income

Tarujyoti Buragohain
Financial Express, January 5, 2022

Will 2022 see a painful end to the bonhomie between the Centre and RBI?

Mythili Bhusnurmath
The Economic Times, January 4, 2022

E-buses not a great idea for India

Sanjib Pohit
The Hindu, December 29, 2021

Protection from Data Protection Authority

K.P. Krishnan
Business Standard, December 28, 2021

Will raising the marriageable age for women to 21 improve gender outcomes?

Anupma Mehta
The Economic Times, December 24, 2021

Why we need to boost cashew export in Konkan region of the State?

Poonam Munjal and Nijara Deka
QRIUS (Online), December 24, 2021

Cautious optimism on gender data in National Family Health Surveys (NFHS-5)

Anupma Mehta
QRIUS (Online), December 21, 2021

Where will India's economic growth settle in the next 2-3 years?

Poonam Gupta
The Economic Times, December 17, 2021

Why India always misses the innovation bus

Sanjib Pohit

The Hindu Business Line, December 12, 2021

Tourism sector can go places with new ideas

Poonam Munjal and Anupma Mehta

The Pioneer, December 11, 2021

The challenges that firms faced during the pandemic, according to NCAER

Bornali Bhandari, Samarth Gupta, Ajaya K. Sahu, and K.S. Urs

QRIUS (Online), December 8, 2021

Participation of disabled persons in community activities and socialising: A reality check

Palash Baruah and D.L. Wankhar

Counterinterview (Online), December 4, 2021

The shadows lurking behind India's Q2 report card

Mythili Bhusnurmath

The Economic Times, December 2, 2021

With India's demographic transition, come challenges

Sonalde Desai and Debasis Barik

The Indian Express, December 1, 2021

What do firms want?

Bornali Bhandari, K.S. Urs, Ajaya K. Sahu and Samarth Gupta

QRIUS (Online), December 1, 2021

Articles on NCAER Research published in *Insight*, *The Hindustan Times*

NCAER Study: State of education, health and tourism in Himachal Pradesh

December 17, 2021

NCAER Study: State of education, health and tourism in Uttarakhand

January 6, 2022

Journal Articles and Working Papers

Empirical Evidence of Gender Bias in Land Ownership in India

Charu Jain, Disha Saxena, Chandni Mishra, Rupal Taneja, Deepak Sanan, and Somnath Sen

NCAER Working Paper No. WP 132, January 2022

Cohort Profile: The Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI)

Arokiasamy Perianayagam, , David Bloom, Jinkook Lee, Sulabha Parasuraman, T.V. Sekher, Sanjay K. Mohanty, Aparajita Chattopadhyay, Dipti Govil, Sarang Pedgaonkar, Sangeeta Gupta, Arunika Agarwal, Ashok Posture, Albert Weerman, Santanu Pramanik

International Journal of Epidemiology, dyab266, January 19, 2022

Agricultural Growth Diagnostics: Identifying the Binding Constraints and Policy Remedies for Bihar, India

Elumalai Kannan and Sanjib Pohit

Review of Development and Change, 26(2): 207–225, December 14, 2021

Role of Policy Interventions in Limiting Emission from Vehicles in Delhi, 2020-2030

Sanjib Pohit, Rishabh Singh, and Soumi Roy Chowdhury

ADB Working Paper Series No. 1297, December 2021

Women's Inheritance Rights and Child Health Outcomes in India

Joseph B. Ajefu, Nadia Singh, Shayequa Zeenat Ali, and Uchenna Efobi

The Journal of Development Studies, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Online, December 1, 2021

Business Sentiments during India's National Lockdown: Lessons for Second and Potential Third Wave

Bornali Bhandari, Samarth Gupta, Ajaya K. Sahu, K.S. Urs

Indian Economic Review (Online), November 29, 2021

Update on NCAER Events

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NCAER Webinar on “Issues Facing Small Investors and What Can They Hope for from Budget 22-23”, January 21, 2022

A webinar on issues facing small investors and what they can hope for from Budget 2022-23 was held virtually with Mr Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. Ltd, and Mr N.S. Venkatesh, Chief Executive, Association of Mutual Funds in India. The discussion was moderated by Ms Mythili Bhusnurmath, Senior Adviser, NCAER. The webinar was part of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) monthly webinar series. NCAER established the IEPF Chair Unit in 2020, with funding from the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority, Ministry of Corporate Affairs. NCAER's IEPF Chair Unit conducts research on contemporary issues related to investor education and protection, and an analysis of related economic, legal and regulatory issues.

Book Launch, *The German Chambers of Commerce and Industry*, December 21, 2021

NCAER organised a launch of the book, *The German Chambers of Commerce and Industry*, held virtually, with the author, Prof André Habisch of Catholic University Eichstaett-Ingolstadt. The discussion was moderated by Dr Poonam Munjal, Senior Fellow, NCAER. The discussants were Prof Santosh Mehrotra, Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath, U.K., and Dr Bornali Bhandari, Senior Fellow, NCAER. This book examines a key factor driving the enduring international success of German companies. Beyond industrial specialisation, peaceful labour relations, local financial markets, and the “Miracle of the Mittelstand”, it focuses on a characteristic aspect of governance within the German economy, symbolised by the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

NCAER Public Lecture: Global Recovery from the Pandemic Policy Challenges in 2022, December 15, 2021

NCAER hosted a lecture by Dr Gita Gopinath, Chief Economist at the International Monetary Fund. Dr Poonam Gupta, NCAER Director General, chaired and moderated the session. The talk by Dr Gopinath focused on the outlook for global growth in the year to come. As the global economy recovers from the pandemic, a great deal of uncertainty remains about new COVID-19 variants and

increased inflation pressures in many countries. Dr Gopinath discussed how policymakers can best deal with these challenges in an increasingly uncertain environment.

Conversations with NCAER, “Recalibrating the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code”, December 14, 2021

This webinar on ‘Recalibrating the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code’ was the third of NCAER’s monthly webinar series titled ‘Conversations with NCAER’. NCAER hosted Shri Jayant Sinha, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Mr M.S. Sahoo, Former Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), and Mr Pallav Mohapatra, CEO, ARCIL, for this conversation. The discussion was moderated by Ms Mythili Bhusnurmath, Senior Adviser, NCAER.

Launch Announcement: NCAER Gig Economy Initiative, December 7, 2021

NCAER launched a new NCAER research programme on the “Gig Economy”. The proposed programme seeks to holistically analyse the socio-economic impact of the platform economy in India. The research programme is divided into two phases. In the first phase, it entails a study of the food delivery sector including delivery partners, restaurants, and platform providers. The second phase will involve an assessment of the impact of platforms’ adoption on firms, especially on workers. The research programme is supported by Prosus. The keynote address at the launch was delivered by Mr Sunil Barthwal, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The Japanese Debt Sustainability and Fiscal Reforms – Possible Implications for Indian Fiscal and Tax Policy, January 28, 2022

In this NCAER seminar, Mr Usami Koichi, of the Embassy of Japan in India, discussed fiscal debt sustainability, an issue of concern for most governments, regardless of their sizes, income levels, and developmental phases of the economies in their respective countries. The seminar highlighted the current state of the fiscal situation in Japan, analysed structural drivers behind the accumulated debt, and discussed the recent reforms in the country.

The Political Budget Cycles in the Presence of a Fiscal Rule: The Case of Farm Debt Waivers in India, January 21, 2022

The participants at this NCAER seminar included Vidya Mahambare (Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai), Sowmya Dhanaraj (Madras School of Economics), and Pragati Mittal (Madras School of Economics). They discussed the issue of farm debt waivers meant to signify a one-time settlement of loans. Their paper finds that the timing of waiver announcements by State governments between 2001-02 and 2018-19 is associated with the timing of elections after controlling for variables related to farming distress.

Voices of our Researchers

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- An article titled, “Budget 2022: PMAY Short of Target as India's Housing Burden Rises”, published in *Bloomberg Quint*, on January 18, 2022, had detailed comments by Dr Perna Prabhakar, Associate Fellow, NCAER, on the PMAY Scheme and the informal housing scenario in Delhi, based on research carried out by NCAER. [Web link.](#)
- In an interview to Mr Sarthak Takyar of *Renewable Watch Magazine*, Dr Sanjib Pohit, Professor, NCAER, offered suggestions for “Mission 500 GW”, on key issues, policy interventions needed, and the role of different energy sources with respect to the non-

fossil energy capacity target for 2030 announced at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), January 3, 2022.

- In an interview to Dr Kingsuk Misra, Independent Evaluator, Dr Sanjib Pohit, Professor, NCAER, spoke on the issue of assessing the 'Value for Money' aspects of Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) research funding, December 12, 2021.
- In an interview along with eminent economist, Dr Pronab Sen, telecast on CNBC-TV18 on November 30, 2021, Dr Sudipto Mundle, Senior Adviser, NCAER, spoke about the prospects of growth and the key takeaways from the Q2 GDP. [Weblink](#).

Faculty Activities

Following are details of the activities and engagements of NCAER staff and faculty during December 2021-January 2022:

Dr Poonam Gupta, Director General

- Participated in a Brainstorming Session on "Vision India @ 2047", organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, January 13, 2022.
- Chaired and moderated NCAER Public Lecture on "Global Recovery from the Pandemic Policy Challenges in 2022", by Dr Gita Gopinath, Chief Economist, IMF, December 15, 2021.

Dr Sonalde Desai, Professor

- Panellist in a discussion on "Internal migration: Impact on women and children", organised by *The Indian Express*, January 20, 2022.
- Participated in a UNICEF South Asia Reference Group meeting, January 13, 2022.
- Delivered a talk on "India Human Development Surveys: What Can Longitudinal Data Tell Us", organised by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (Hyderabad), January 11, 2022.
- Panellist in a discussion on "Issues Related to Marriage, Fertility and Family Planning based on NFHS-5 Findings and Way Forward" in a National Dissemination Workshop organised by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, December 21, 2021.
- Panellist in a research leader session on "Building Trust in India's Data Ecosystem: A Model of Change (Sponsored by the Population Council)" in the International Population Conference 2021, organised virtually by International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), December 9, 2021.
- Panellist in a research leader session on "Reaping the Benefit of the Demographic Dividend in India: Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Option (Sponsored by UNFPA)" in the International Population Conference 2021, organised virtually by IUSSP, December 8, 2021.
- Panellist in the session, "Gig Economy: Challenges and Opportunities", at the launch of NCAER's *Gig Economy Initiative*, organised by NCAER, December 7, 2021.

Dr Sanjib Pohit, Professor

- Invited Referee for the Vision Document on "India's 2070 Net-Zero Pathway and Energy Vision 2047".
- Panellist at a Roundtable Discussion on "India's 2070 Net-Zero Pathway and Energy Vision 2047", organised by Shakti Foundation, December 17, 2021.

Dr Bornali Bhandari, Senior Fellow

- Discussant, Book Launch, *The German Chambers of Commerce and Industry*, with the author, Prof André Habisch of Catholic University Eichstaett-Ingolstadt, organised virtually by NCAER, December 21, 2021.
- Presented Overview of NCAER's Gig Economy Initiative, at the launch announcement of the programme, "Gig Economy: Challenges and Opportunities", December 7, 2021.

Dr Poonam Munjal, Senior Fellow

- Represented NCAER in the brainstorming discussion on preparation of "Vision India @ 2047", organised by DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, January 21, 2022.
- Represented NCAER in the Meeting on Inclusive Improvement System (IIS), organised by NITI Aayog, Data Management and Analysis, December 21, 2021.

Dr Santanu Pramanik, Senior Fellow

- Taught a session on "Basics of Survey Sampling and Sampling Design" for the online workshop on research methodology for the potential research grantees, organised by Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah (MEA) Trust and Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai. January 27, 2022.
- Participated in "SDG Indicators at the Sub-National Level" working group meeting involving officials from MoSPI and UNFPA. The key agenda was to finalise the small area estimation methodology for estimating the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) at the district level. January 14, 2022.
- Participated in Facebook Q4 Health Data Expert Group (HDEG) Technical Committee meeting organised by Facebook Data for Good team. The key agenda of the meeting was to discuss the survey topic selection for the ongoing Global COVID-19 Trends and Impact Survey (CTIS) and methodological issues around CTIS. December 9, 2021.
- Participated in First Meeting of the TAC for the pilot survey to test the feasibility of collecting data and to develop a protocol for perception-based SDG Indicator 16.1.4 through remote data collection methods, organised by MoSPI in collaboration with The Population Council Institute. December 1, 2021.

Dr Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Fellow

- Presentation with Dr Soumi Roy Choudhury on the study to assess the availability of resources for generating Own Sources of Revenue (OSR) by the Gram Panchayats in India, for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, January 19, 2022.
- Presentation with Dr Laxmi Joshi, at a kick-off meeting to start a study on the fishery sector in India, "An Overview of the Current Status and Its Future Prospects", for the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Government of India, January 6, 2022.

Dr Debasis Barik, Fellow

- Presented poster entitled, "Risk of developing NCDs in later life among the overweight and obese women in India: Insights from a nationally representative longitudinal study", at the International Population Conference organised by IUSSP, Hyderabad, India, December 9, 2021.
- Presented poster entitled, "Role of government-sponsored health insurance schemes in improving healthcare access and reducing household out-of-pocket payment for inpatient care", at the International Population Conference organised by IUSSP, Hyderabad, India, December 7, 2021.

- Participated in the release of National Health Accounts for India 2017-18 report as member of the NHA Expert Committee. The event was organised by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, November 29, 2021.

Dr Pallavi Choudhuri, Fellow

- Paper presentation on “Urban Exclusion: Rethinking Social Protection in the Wake of the Pandemic in India”, with Dr Santanu Pramanik and Dr Sonalde Desai at the 16th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, hosted by ISI, Delhi, December 21, 2021.
- Paper presentation on “Urban Exclusion: Rethinking Social Protection in the Wake of the Pandemic in India”, with Dr Santanu Pramanik and Dr Sonalde Desai at the International Population Conference, hosted by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), December 9, 2021.

Dr Charu Jain, Associate Fellow

- Poster presentation on “Women’s Land Ownership and Its Impact on Spousal Violence and Sexual Decision Making Behaviour: Investigating Inequalities and Transformations in India”, at the 29th International Population Conference, Poster Session 21, December 10, 2021.
- Presented paper entitled, ‘Investigating Causes and Implications of Chronic Absenteeism Behaviour among Primary Grade Students in India: An Empirical Approach’, at the 29th International Population Conference, Session 9 on ‘Education, Human Capital and Demography’, December 6, 2021.

Dr Ruchi Jain, Senior Research Analyst

- Poster presentation on “Gender Differences in Perceived Risk and Knowledge about COVID 19: An Indian Perspective”, with Ms Sumiran Chandra, Dr Santanu Pramanik, Dr Sonalde Desai, and Dr Dinesh Kumar Tiwari, at the International Population Conference organised by IUSSP, December 10, 2021.
- Paper presentation on “Impact of India's Conditional Cash Transfer Program on Childhood Immunisation Rates”, with Dr Santanu Pramanik and Dr Sonalde Desai, at the International Population Conference, hosted by IUSSP, December 10, 2021.

Institutional News

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Launch of Gender Data Hub by NDIC

The NCAER National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC) is launching a gender data hub supported by a five-year grant from Co-Impact. This hub will focus on research supporting evidence-based policy design from a gender perspective. It will serve as a resource for researchers, policy-makers, civil society representatives, and journalists by undertaking gender-focused analyses of data in areas of livelihoods, health, education, and family formation. Activities undertaken by this hub will include enhancing access to data collected by NCAER, visiting fellowships for practitioners and researchers, and seminars addressing strategies for incorporating a gender lens in data collection processes. Sonalde Desai, Professor, and Centre Director, NCAER-NDIC, and Pallavi Choudhuri, Fellow, NCAER-NDIC, will lead this initiative.

IHDS-3 Field Testing

The NCAER NDIC team, led by Dinesh Tiwari and Om Prakash Sharma, conducted field testing of the India Human Development Survey-3 (IHDS-3) CAPI survey instruments in two villages in Alwar

district of Rajasthan during 14-17 December, 2021. The objective of this activity was to test the flow, relevance, functionality, survey duration, and respondent burden for all the household questionnaires (Income and Social Capital, Education and Health, Marriage and Fertility of Eligible Woman, Anthropometry Measurement and Learning Test of children aged 8-11 years) along with feasibility of data uploading in a remote connectivity setting.

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