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

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NCAER Research Outputs

Monthly Review of the Economy October, November, and December 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, October, November, and December 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. The third wave of the project has also been launched in May 2022. Currently, data collection is going on in various States.

India COVID-19 Poverty Monitor Report

This report documents the all-round impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on various population categories across India. It has been compiled using a combination of original qualitative data collected from some of the people affected by the pandemic in India, along with interviews with local leaders and community development actors, and secondary data from a range of different sources. Being an attempt to particularly assess the consequences of the pandemic for the vulnerable populations and the risks of impoverishment faced by them, the report focuses on occupational shifts during the pandemic, levels of distress and hardship experienced by the households, COVID and non-COVID health burdens, limited learning activities because of school closure and lack of access to remote modes of education, and financial constraints in supporting children’s education digitally among other issues related to the pandemic.
Building India’s Export Competitiveness in Electronics–2025-26: From Assembly to Manufacturing Hub: Call to Action Report

The need to create a globally competitive electronics industry that meets international standards of excellence and efficiently caters to both the domestic and export markets has always been a priority for the country. Accordingly, the National Policy on Electronics (NPE), 2019, and its precursor in 2012, laid down certain goals to significantly boost domestic production and create an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally. Against this backdrop, NPE, 2019 set an aspirational target for the electronics industry to achieve a turnover of US$ 300 billion by 2025-26. In this context, NCAER prepared a Call to Action Report for the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), to assess the current scenario of the electronics industry and recommend policy interventions to facilitate achievement of the NPE goals and build export competitiveness.

Project Update

Data collection for the third wave of the NCAER flagship longitudinal survey, India Human Development Survey (IHDS-3), is in full swing. Collection of data from households, communities (villages/urban blocks), health facilities, and schools in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh has been completed, while it is ongoing and in various stages of completion in Uttar Pradesh (65 per cent completed), Bihar (65 per cent completed), and West Bengal (15 per cent completed). For the State of Karnataka, training of field staff is going on in Mysore, and data collection is expected to commence soon.

Policy Brief

Accessibility of Agricultural Land Records in India

The Government of India launched the National Land Records Modernisation Programme (NLRMP) in 2008 by unifying the Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) and the Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA and ULR) programmes, in order to accomplish the goal of improving the quality of land records across all States and Union Territories (UTs) of the country. Later in 2016, the NLRMP was brought under the “Digital India” initiative and renamed as the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP). This policy brief by Aswani Munnangi, Somnath Sen, and Deepak Sanan points out that the programme guidelines clearly prioritise a focus on the services that citizens ought to benefit from as a result of digitisation of land records. Accessible land records allow owners to verify their details and apply for corrections if discrepancies are found. This is likely to clear disputes, save time and resources, and finally improve the quality of land records. Since land is the essential commodity for property markets, access to improved and accurate information available from the land records will spur economic activity while providing protection to owners, sellers, and buyers.

Opinion and Commentary

NCAER researchers published the following opinion and journal articles during the months of October to December 2022:

Opinion Articles

Slow and steady is how India’s digital currency will win
Barry Eichengreen and Poonam Gupta
The Times of India, December 25, 2022

Why extending a swap line to India should be in the interest of Fed as well as RBI
Poonam Gupta
The Economic Times, December 16, 2022
A Financial Agenda for India's G20 Presidency
Poonam Gupta and Barry Eichengreen
Project Syndicate, December 12, 2022

Freeing the white elephants: Why privatisation of public banks can only be good
Poonam Gupta and Arvind Panagariya
The Economic Times, October 7, 2022

Skilling in schools: How do we make Indian youth self-reliant
Poonam Munjal and Asrar Alam
Qrius, December 7, 2022

Learning to live together, all eight billion of us
Sonalde Desai
The Hindu, November 15, 2022

Air pollution is not just about PM10 and PM2.5
Soumi Roy Chowdhury and Sanjib Pohit
The Hindu Business Line, October 28, 2022

Global Hunger Index: A lesson in how not to measure hunger
Sonalde Desai
The Indian Express, October 21, 2022

Nothing logical about logistics cost estimates
Sanjib Pohit
The Hindu Business Line, October 17, 2022

Fiscal prudence, key to stability
Mridul Saggar
The Hindu Business Line, October 10, 2022

RBI's tight money push justified
Mridul Saggar
The Hindu Business Line, October 9, 2022

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

The paradox of declining fertility and declining contraceptive use in India: An artefact of survey design
Sonalde Desai, Santanu Pramanik and Bijay Chouhan
SSM - Population Health, Volume 19, September 2022

Sources of agricultural growth: Implications for policy interventions

Update on NCAER Events

Indian Job Market for Economists, December 21-23, 2022

NCAER and the Society for Economics Research in India (SERI), in collaboration with Econometric Society and Econ Job Market, had set up the Indian Job Market for Economists (IJME) in hybrid mode. The collaboration aimed to create a platform for bringing together fresh and budding economists looking for jobs from India and abroad and Indian think tanks and universities looking to fill up their open positions. NCAER offered its state-of-the-art facilities and campus to recruiters for conducting both in-person and online interviews for economists. The event attracted a wide variety of eminent recruiters to NCAER, including Department of Economic Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur; School of Arts and Sciences, Azim Premji University; School of Interwoven Arts and Sciences, Krea University; Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning; Xavier
NCAER-AIIB Seminar, December 8, 2022
NCAER and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) organised the regional launch of the AIIB Flagship Report titled, “Moonshots for the Emerging World: Building State Capacity and Mobilising the Private Sector toward Net Zero”, at the Tamarind Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Handover Event for Transfer of G20 Presidency from Indonesia to India, and Bilateral Workshop with the Indonesian Think20 (T20) Chairs, November 30 and December 1, 2022

As India took over the G20 Presidency from Indonesia, the Government of India constituted task forces to address well-defined global problems in order to support G20 policymakers, and to aid business and civil society organisations in complementing the G20 policy efforts. The NCAER Director General Dr Poonam Gupta was selected as the Chair of the Think20 Task Force on Macroeconomics, Trade and Livelihoods, and NCAER as the host institution for this task force.

The task force will focus on promoting better coherence within countries on monetary and fiscal policies as well as stronger international coordination among nations, and also suggest ways to make them responsive to economic imperatives. It will also examine the inter-relationship between trade and investment policy and global supply chains, and how they are impacted and shaped by national macroeconomic policies.
The work streams falling under this task force would cover the following themes:
- Monetary Synchronisation and Fiscal Space;
- Trade, Investment, and Supply Chain Resilience; and
- Economic Growth, Employment, and Livelihoods.

Another Gendered Demographic Dividend: The Rise of Sonless Families and their Transformative Adaptations, November 7, 2022

NCAER organised a hybrid seminar on “Another Gendered Demographic Dividend: The Rise of Sonless Families and their Transformative Adaptations” by Dr Keera Allendorf, Indiana University.

The NCAER Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy, 2022-23, November 5, 2022

NCAER and India International Centre (IIC) organised an insightful, expert commentary, and a lively debate on “The Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy, 2022-23”, at IIC. The NCAER Mid-Year Review (MYR) carries forward the tradition started by Dr Malcolm Adiseshiah at the IIC in 1976 through Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.

NCAER-IMF Panel Discussion on Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific, October 31, 2022

NCAER and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) organised an in-person panel discussion on the IMF’s latest Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific, at the Tamarind Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
The NCAER Director General, Dr Poonam Gupta's comment at a pre-Budget panel discussion that no country will have monetary or fiscal policy space to stimulate growth in the coming year, global growth would slow down as predicted by most agencies was cited in an article published in The Hindu, titled, “Monetary policy hostage to vegetable prices: PM’s advisory council member”, December 20, 2022. [Weblink]

Dr Poonam Gupta was also among the leading economists and experts consulted on the #PreBudget2023 discussions in a meeting with Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi, November 28, 2022. [Weblink]

Another article published in The Economic Times, cited Dr Poonam Gupta's view that India's balance of payments may slip into a $45-50 bn deficit, November 9, 2022. [Weblink]

Watch an interview with Dr Sonalde Desai, Professor, NCAER, and Director of the NCAER-National Data Innovation Centre, in “The World Ahead 2023: Five stories to watch out for”, a film prepared by The Economist. [Weblink]

The views of Dr Sonalde Desai were cited in the following articles on the Social Progress Index Report, which was released by the Economic Advisory Council-Prime Minister (EAC-PM) on December 20, 2022:

- Press Information Bureau: Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts
- Livemint: Social Progress Index: Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Goa best-performing states; Jharkhand, Bihar worst
- The Week: Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep emerge top in Social Progress Index; Jharkhand, Bihar the worst

The other articles that have quoted Dr Sonalde Desai include:
- “A Day of 8 Billion and Infinite Possibilities” by Naina Gautam, published in Outlook, November 15, 2022. [Weblink]
- “Does India need a population policy?”, by Sreeparna Chakrabarty, published in The Hindu, October 14, 2022. [Weblink]
- An article titled, “A leg-up for logistics” by Vinayak Chatterjee, published in Business Standard, cites the views of Dr Sanjib Pohit, Professor, NCAER, November 2, 2022. [Weblink]

Dr Mridul Saggar, Former IEPF Chair Professor, NCAER, gave the following interviews to Ms Latha Venkatesh, CNBC TV18:

- “Decoding Growth in India's Capex Cycle & Global Uncertainties and Macros: Indianomics”, November 27, 2022. [Weblink]
- “Can’t conclude inflation is slowing down”, November 15, 2022. [Weblink]
- “As inflation rises and IIP shrinks, economists warn India might struggle to hit 6% GDP next year”, October 13, 2022. [Weblink]

The comments of Dr Bornali Bhandari, Senior Fellow, were mentioned in the following podcasts:

- “Excess imports, sluggish exports — what makes India’s current account deficit more challenging”, The Print, November 15, 2022. [Weblink]
- “Despite border tensions & calls for boycott, imports of Chinese goods up 44% in a year”, The Print, November 8, 2022. [Weblink]
- National University of Singapore, South Asia Chat: “Food Security Concerns in India and South Asia”, October 12, 2022. [Weblink]

Faculty Activities

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

Dr Poonam Gupta, Director General

- Presentation—Context Setting Session, “Is the Indian economy poised to grow at an annual average rate of 7 per cent plus over the next one decade”; 22nd Annual Neemrana Conference, organised by Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, Neemrana Fort-Palace, December 16, 2022.

• Speaker at the India-Indonesia Dialogue for the session on “Macroeconomics, Trade, and Livelihoods: Policy Coherence and International Coordination”, India T20 Group of India, New Delhi, December 1, 2022.

• Participated in virtual discussions on the Budget with the Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and her team, November 28, 2022.

• Panellist to discuss a paper on “Revising Fiscal Rules and Fiscal Strategies after the Pandemic”, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), New Delhi, November 11, 2022.

• Anchored a discussion between the Finance Minister, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman and Dr Janet Yellen, the United States Secretary of the Treasury, at the Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, November 11, 2022.

• Discussant at a presentation of the World Bank Report on “Coping with Shocks: Migration and the Road to Resilience”, focused on the South Asian Region, at meeting of the Economic advisory Council to the Prime Minister, NITI Aayog, New Delhi, November 10, 2022.

• Presentation on “Mid-Year Review of the Economy”, organised by NCAER and India International Centre (IIC), at IIC, New Delhi, November 5, 2022.

• Presentation to the Honorable PM on “Global Developments, Impact on India, and Policy Options, including for the upcoming Budget”, Prime Minister’s Residence, New Delhi, November 2, 2022.

• Panellist in Discussion on “Possible Priorities and Outcomes in the Finance Track” at the G-20 Conference, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, November 1, 2022.

• Participated in NCAER- IMF Panel Discussion on “Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific”, New Delhi, October 31, 2022.


• Participated in a Virtual Roundtable Discussion arranged by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, Dr Gita Gopinath, October 7, 2022.

• Discussant at launch of book by Mr. N.K. Singh and Dr. P.K. Mishra, Recalibrate: Changing Paradigms, India International Centre, New Delhi, October 3, 2022.

• Speaker at a panel discussion on the Release of the Report titled “Social Progress Index: States and Districts of India” organised by Institute for Competitiveness at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, December 20, 2022.


• Leadership meeting with National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Investigation Agency (NIA), Office of Behavioural and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) Department Director, December 12, 2022.


• Participated in the first meeting of the Committee to Study the Performance of States and the Governance Issues under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), organised by Ministry of Rural Development, November 21, 2022.

• Gave a talk on “Leveraging Data from the India Human Development Survey” at the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting 2022, Brussels, Belgium, October 23-26, 2022.

• Speaker at a Discussion on “Does India Need a Population Policy?” in The Hindu Parley podcast hosted by Sreeparna Chakrabarty, October 14, 2022.

Dr Sonalde Desai, Professor and Director, NCAER-National Data Innovation Centre


• Speaker at a panel discussion on the Release of the Report titled “Social Progress Index: States and Districts of India” organised by Institute for Competitiveness at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, December 20, 2022.


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• Speaker at a Discussion on “Does India Need a Population Policy?” in The Hindu Parley podcast hosted by Sreeparna Chakrabarty, October 14, 2022.
Dr Sanjib Pohit, Professor

- Participated in Discussion on “CGE Modelling with a Focus on SAM”, under the India Climate and Energy Modelling Forum, November 29, 2022.
- Participated in a poster competition as part of the Conference on “Systems Analysis for Reducing Footprints and Enhancing Resilience”, organised by International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria, November 16-17, 2022.
- Participated in Steering Committee Meeting of the India Climate and Energy Modelling Forum, November 15, 2022.
- Presentation on “Modelling Macroeconomic Implications of Energy Transition”, Shakti Foundation, October 17, 2022.
- Participated in National Conference on “COP27 Compass”, organised by TERI through Cisco WebEx, October 12, 2022.

Dr Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Senior Fellow

- Presentation before the second Fare Fixation Committee meeting of the Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) on behalf of NCAER, HMR office, Hyderabad, November 15, 2022. The FFC has been set up by the Government of India to take a decision on the revision of fares of the Hyderabad Metro Rail. NCAER is providing critical research inputs to HMR and FFC on the revision of fares.
- Presentation of the Mid-Term Report of the Study on Fisheries by NCAER, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, October 18, 2022.

Dr Bornali Bhandari, Senior Fellow

- Delivered Guest lecture at National Accounts Users Meeting with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, New Delhi, December 13, 2022;
- Delivered Guest Lecture on “Open Discussion on Economics” for Dadra & Nagar Haveli Civil Services (DANICS) Probationers, 59th Batch and PCS(P) 2020 Batch, Union Territories Civil Services, New Delhi, November 21, 2022.
- Delivered Guest Lecture at the Data User Seminar on “Database of Indian Economy”, Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi, October 14, 2022.

Dr Pallavi Choudhuri, Senior Fellow

- Moderated session on “The income pathway: Wages, employment, and transfers” at the two-day workshop on “Affordability of Healthy Diets in South Asia: Challenges and Recommendation”, a CGIAR’s TAFSA (Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia) initiative hosted by International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi, December 16, 2022.

Dr Poonam Munjal, Senior Fellow

Dr Santanu Pramanik, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director, National Data Innovation Centre

- Mentored two probationary officers, Sutapa Ghosh and Kalpna Bamel, from the Indian Statistical Service, 43rd batch, as a part of NDIC grant capacity building mandate and collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Project title: Impact of Health Insurance Coverage on Out of Pocket Expenditure on Delivery Care in India, October-December, 2022.

Dr Debasis Barik, Fellow

- Delivered lectures on “Handling of IHDS Data and Doing a Panel” and “Analysing Economic Mobility, Health and Education” at a Workshop on “Large-scale Survey Data Analysis”, hosted by the Department of Economics, Banaras Hindu University, November 22-29, 2022.

Mr Devender Pratap, Fellow

- Participated in a poster competition as part of the Conference on “Systems Analysis for Reducing Footprints and Enhancing Resilience”, organised by International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria, November 16-17, 2022.

Ms Somya Mathur, Associate Fellow

- Participated in a poster competition as part of the Conference on “Systems Analysis for Reducing Footprints and Enhancing Resilience”, organised by International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria, November 16-17, 2022.

Dr Isha Dayal, Associate Fellow

- Presentation of survey design, analysis, and key findings of the Report on “Hyderabad Metro Rail: Fare Fixation and Revision”, at the second Fare Fixation Committee meeting for HMR, at Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) office, Hyderabad, November 15, 2022.
- Presentation of Report on “Hyderabad Metro Rail: Fare Fixation and Revision”, at the first Fare Fixation Committee meeting for Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR), at ITC Kakatiya, Hyderabad, October 27, 2022.

Dr Ruchi Jain, Senior Research Analyst


Mr M. Abhinav Saikrishna, Research Analyst

- Online presentation, "Remembering the Dead: Estimates of Excess Mortality during the COVID-19 Pandemic from Panel Study in Delhi-NCR", with Debasis Barik, Santanu Pramanik, and Bijay Chouhan, as part of the Health, Morbidity, and Mortality Working Group, European Association of Population Studies.

Institutional News

NCAER In the News

- A Moment of Pride for NCAER: As India took over the G20 presidency from Indonesia and constituted Think20 Task Forces, NCAER Director General Dr Poonam Gupta was invited to chair the Task Force on Macroeconomics, Trade and Livelihoods, and NCAER would be the host institution for the Task Force.
The NCAER Business Expectations Survey (BES) (Weblink), which was released in October 2022, was widely covered in the national media. Following is a snapshot of the press coverage of the NCAER BES:

- **Business Standard**: Business confidence falls for second straight quarter, says NCAER survey
- **The Times of India**: NCAER-NSE biz confidence higher in Q2
- **Hindustan Times Insight**: The NCAER-NSE Business Expectations Survey for India: Second Quarter 2022–23

The findings of an NCAER Report on “Building India’s Export Competitiveness – 2025-26” have been quoted extensively across both Indian and international media. Following is a snapshot of the news articles that cited the NCAER Report:

- An article titled, “High tariffs hitting electronics exports”, in the e-paper Bizz Buzz, by Ravi Shanker Kapoor, December 20, 2022;
- An editorial article titled, “India can’t bypass Asia-Pacific cooperation in growing trade”, by Wang Yi, Global Times, November 23, 2022;
- An editorial article titled, “To compete with China, India might need to open up to it”, The Wall Street Journal, November 16, 2022;
- An op-ed article titled, “Let them in to let our hardware out”, The Economic Times, November 4, 2022;
- An article titled, “India needs to soften FDI rules, rationalise tariff to become an electronics hub”, The Economic Times, October 31, 2022.

Data from an NCAER Study Report of 2010-11, which documented the economic growth and role of the mining sector in the Goan economy, was cited in an article in Hindustan Times, titled, “Goa receives 28 bids for four iron ore mining blocks up for auction”, November 30, 2022. Weblink.

**News about our Faculty**

- NCAER Professor and Director of the National Data Innovation Centre at NCAER, Dr Sonalde Desai, who holds a joint appointment as Distinguished University Professor at University of Maryland, has recently been appointed to:
  - A consensus study panel on “Women’s Empowerment, Population Dynamics, and Socioeconomic Development” of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the collective national academies of the United States. Weblink.
  - A nine-member panel set up by the Central Government and led by former Rural Development Secretary, Mr Amarjeet Sinha, to review the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Weblink.