

NCAER NEWS



In this Issue

New Facilities at NCAER

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.

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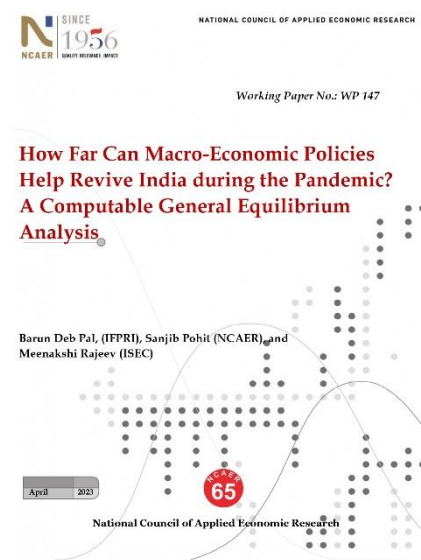
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The IHDS Forum is a monthly update of publications, op-eds and data news based on the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), which was jointly conducted by NCAER and the University of Maryland in two rounds, in 2004-05 and 2011-12. The third round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

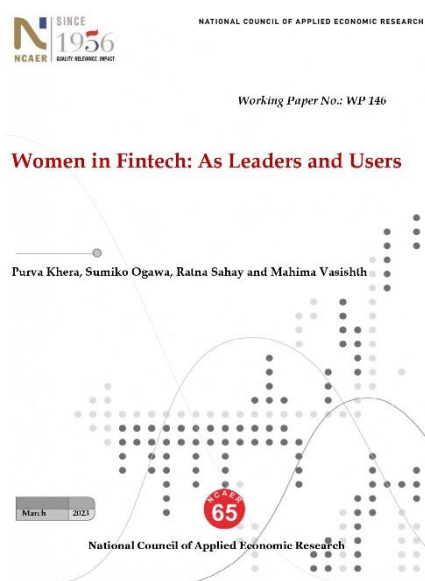


How Far Can Macro-economic Policies Help Revive India during the Pandemic? A Computable General Equilibrium Analysis

This study by **Barun Deb Pal, Sanjib Pohit, and Meenakshi Rajeev** uses a computable general equilibrium model to analyse whether the economic relief package offered by the Indian Government to the affected parties during the COVID-19 pandemic had any lacunae or alternative policies, and whether institutional arrangements could have been devised to minimise the economic losses caused by the pandemic in the country. The results reveal that existing economic relief packages saved a loss of almost 3 per cent in GDP. In contrast, spending 6 per cent of GDP as cash incentive to the producers would have resulted in only a 1 per cent fall in GDP. The authors argue that the pandemic raises transaction costs for the producer, and thus incentivising them would boost the supply of goods and services in the economy.



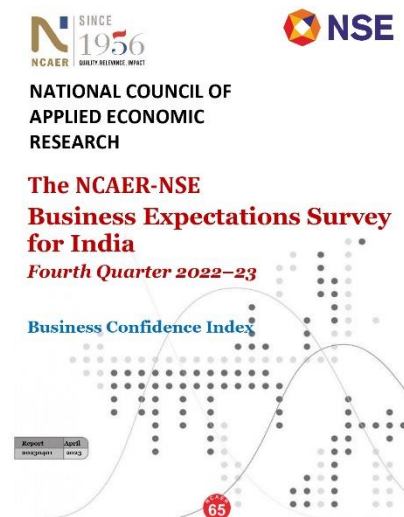
Women in Fintech: As Leaders and Users



While digital financial services have made access to finance easier, faster, and less costly, helping to broaden digital financial inclusion, its impact on gender gaps varies across countries. Moreover, women leaders in the fintech industry, although growing, remain scarce. This paper by **Purva Khera, Sumiko Ogawa, Ratna Sahay, and Mahima Vasishth** explores the interaction between ‘women’ and ‘fintech’ by examining: (i) the role of women leaders on firm-level performance in the fintech industry; and (ii) the determinants of gender gaps in the usage of digital services to better understand the cross-country differences. The results indicate that greater gender diversity in the executive board is associated with better performance of fintech firms. With regard to determinants of the gender gaps in the usage of digital financial services, the authors find that higher financial and digital literacy of women is associated with lower gender gaps in digital financial inclusion, and that socio-cultural factors also play a key role.

The NCAER-NSE Business Expectations Survey for India Fourth Quarter 2022-23: Business Confidence Index

NCAER carried out the 124th Round of its Business Expectations Survey (BES) in March 2023, with support from the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE). NCAER has been carrying out the BES every quarter since 1992. The BES is composed of the NCAER-NSE Business Confidence Index (BCI), which is based on positive responses for the following four components: 'Overall economic conditions will improve in the next six months'; 'Financial position of firms will improve in the next six months'; 'Present investment climate is positive'; and 'Present capacity utilisation is close to or above the optimal level'. Annexure 1 of the BES reports the methodology, sample composition, and summary statistics for the survey.



Project Updates

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Data collection for the third wave of the NCAER flagship longitudinal survey, **India Human Development Survey (IHDS-3)**, is in full swing. The collection of data from households, communities (villages/urban blocks), health facilities and schools in the States/Union Territories of Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, and Tripura has been completed. Data collection is ongoing in West Bengal (2 per cent), Tamil Nadu, Jammu, and Odisha. For the state of Kashmir, training of field staff is going on in Delhi, and data collection in Kashmir is expected to start by mid-July.

The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has commissioned NCAER to conduct India's first **All India Citizen's Survey of Police Services (AICSPS)**. Official crime statistics, which rely on police registration of crimes, may not provide an accurate representation of the actual incidence of crime in the country. Unreported and unregistered crimes create gaps in the data, hindering effective policymaking, and law enforcement. The AICSPS aims to address this issue by directly surveying a representative sample of 1.32 lakh households about their experiences of crime and reporting. This initiative will provide policymakers, citizens, the judiciary, and the police, with a more comprehensive understanding of crime rates and people's perceptions of safety and police services in India. The findings of the AICSPS will contribute significantly to improving police services and enhancing the safety and security of residents. Additionally, the survey will include a small-scale investigation into the working conditions and challenges faced by police personnel.

The **Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam** has awarded the following projects to NCAER:

- **Construction of an Input-Output Table for Assam:** The objective of this study is to prepare the Input-Output Transactions Table for Assam for the latest year for which GDP statements are available. The study team will prepare Supply and Use Tables (SUTs), and a Multiplier Matrix to derive sectoral multipliers for the study.
- **Survey of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector of Assam with a Focus on Sectors with Data Gaps:** This study will assess the different parameters for the development of the MSME sector in Assam. It will examine the key economic characteristics for MSMEs in the focus areas as well as their contribution to the economy and employment, ease of doing business norms, and indicators for the Global Competitive Index.

- *Survey of Women's Conditions in Assam with a Focus on Health and Nutrition Conditions, Educational Attainments, Skills and Employability and Incidence of Crimes against Women:* This report will present a comprehensive statistical portrait of the women of Assam. The objective of the study is to survey women's conditions in Assam with a focus on health and nutrition conditions, educational attainments, skills and employability, and the incidence of crimes against women.

In order to ensure the smooth implementation of three Scholarship Schemes implemented for minority students, the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** (MoMA) had commissioned NCAER to conduct the monitoring and evaluation of these schemes through a primary survey of 60,000 students (both beneficiary and non-beneficiary) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in July 2022. Based on the shortcomings of the scheme, the MoMA further entrusted NCAER to carry out physical verification of the schemes implemented in schools. The main objective was to audit all the applicants of the scholarship scheme through physical verification of their application documents as well as the attendance registers of their respective institutions/schools; and capture anomalies (if any) in fulfilling the programme objectives. The study has covered 744 schools spread across 166 districts in 21 States. The physical verification of students from the minority communities who have applied for three Central Sector Scholarship Schemes for Minorities has been initiated in June 2023.

Opinion and Journal Articles/Blogs

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

Opinion Articles

[Time for a great reset of global finance for developing countries](#)

Poonam Gupta

The Economic Times, June 20, 2023

[Priorities for the G20 Finance Track](#)

Barry Eichengreen and Poonam Gupta,

Ideas for India, May 3, 2023

[Reforming the rating agencies](#)

Poonam Gupta

Business Standard, April 14, 2023

[Has the RBI Pivoted?](#)

Poonam Gupta

The Economic Times, April 10, 2023

[Ideas@IPF2023 series: NCAER's India Policy Forum – where research meets policy](#)

Anupma Mehta

Ideas for India, July 11, 2023.

Bank of England exercises aim to better understand market dynamics

Udaibir Das

Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum, June 30, 2023

The need for high-quality environment data in India: The case of riverine pollution

Anupma Mehta and Sanjib Pohit

Ideas for India, June 28, 2023

In Assam, police have a weighty issue on hand

Palash Baruah and D.L. Wankhar

The Hindu Business Line, June 8, 2023

Ensuring a green and lean public transport system for Delhi

Anupma Mehta and Sanjib Pohit

The Pioneer, June 5, 2023

The building blocks for working out green GDP

Deepika Chawla

The Hindu Business Line, June 1, 2023

India's employment problem and bad statistics

Sonalde Desai

The India Express, May 26, 2023

Renewables driven power generation isn't a bright idea

Sanjib Pohit

The Hindu Business Line, May 25, 2023

'Farming' research

Bornali Bhandari and Laxmi Joshi

The Hindu Business Line, May 19, 2023

Sample surveys' reference periods need a revisit

Poonam Munjal and Palash Baruah

The Hindu BusinessLine, May 9, 2023

Mission Life: Ifs and buts

Sanjib Pohit and Somya Mathur

The Daily Guardian, May 8, 2023

India is upgrading

Nandan Nilekani

The Financial Express, May 3, 2023

Maharashtra's dilemma

Sanjib Pohit and Chetana Chaudhuri

The Hindu BusinessLine, May 2, 2023

A digitally unprepared workforce

Asrar Alam

The Hindu BusinessLine, May 2, 2023

The way forward for Odisha power sector

Chetana Chaudhuri, Sanjib Pohit and Pradeep Kumar Panda

Hans India (online), *The Kalinga Chronicle*, and *The Raisina Hills*, April 23, 2023

Skills shortage hampering farm mechanisation

Bornali Bhandari and Laxmi Joshi

The Hindu BusinessLine, April 13, 2023

Programming can unlock IT potential

Palash Baruah

Deccan Herald, April 13, 2023

Build disaster-proof cities

Sanjib Pohit

The Hindu BusinessLine, April 12, 2023

Save Mission Millet before it crashes

Reshma Roshania

The Hindu BusinessLine, April 10, 2023

Nutritional security: Fishery demand in India could have been better managed

Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Nijara Deka, Palash Baruah, Laxmi Joshi, and Falak Naz

QRIUS (online), April 5, 2023

Journal Articles and Book Chapter

Economic Impact Analysis of a Mega Project on Petroleum Refinery: A Case Study of the Proposed Ratnagiri Refinery in Maharashtra

Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Pradip Kumar Biswas, Devender Pratap, Laxmi Joshi, and Ajaya K. Sahu

Margin: The Journal of Applied Economic Research, Volume 16, Issues 3-4, August-November 2022, pp. 254-277.

Assessing needs for interdisciplinarity in agriculture, nutrition, and health education

Reshma Roshania, Joe Yates, Lauren McIntyre, Tim Chancellor, Emily Fivian, Michael Hill, Rosemary Isoto, Pamela Marinda, Sudha Narayanan, Louise Whatford, Francis Zotor, and Shweta Khandelwal
Global Food Security, Volume 37, June 2023, 100691.

The Status of Own Sources of Revenue of the Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in India: An Inquiry into Structural Concerns on Revenue Generations

Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Soumi Roy Chowdhury, and Laxmi Joshi

Journal of Economic Policy & Research, Volume 17, No. 2, April-September 2022, pp. 1-28.

Aligning household decision-making with work and education: A comparative analysis of women's empowerment

Sonalde Desai (with Sojin Yu and Feinian Chen)

Demographic Research, Volume 48, Article 19, April 25, 2023, pp. 513-548.

Nature of agglomeration of the manufacturing sector –A study of Indian Districts

Piyali Majumder

Indian Public Policy Review, Volume 4, No. 2, March-April, 2023, pp. 55-74.

Are the Young and the Educated More Likely to Have “Love” than Arranged Marriage? A Study of Autonomy in Partner Choice in India

Manjista Banerji

Chapter in edited volume titled, *India’s Social and Economic Transformation in 21st Century*, New Delhi: Routledge Publications, Forthcoming.

Policy Brief

Making India a Global Power House in the Farm Machinery Industry,

Bornali Bhandari, Laxmi Joshi, Ajaya K. Sahu, and Shish Pal Bansal

Policy Brief No. 1, 2023, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi.

Update on NCAER Events

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NCAER hosts its 20th India Policy Forum, July 6-7, 2023

NCAER held its marquee event, the India Policy Forum (IPF) at the NCAER India Centre, New Delhi, during July 6-7, 2023.

The IPF aims to promote rigorous empirical economic research on India through commissioned papers presented at the Conference, which are published in an international journal. In addition, the IPF features policy lectures and a Roundtable discussion on critical issues.

The 2023 IPF is special because it marks the 20th Anniversary of the Conference. In the past two decades, the Forum has engaged in policy conversations that have contributed to a profound transformation of the Indian economy and society. The 20th edition of the IPF was attended by a galaxy of eminent policymakers, economists, academics and researchers, who focused on the key economic challenges facing India, and deliberated on five research papers, covering a range of diverse sectors and subjects.

The first paper presented at the IPF 2023 was on **India’s Debt Dilemma**, in which the authors, Barry Eichengreen, Poonam Gupta, and Ayesha Ahmed, highlighted the prevalence of high fiscal deficit



and public debt prevalent in India, and the need for fiscal consolidation by achieving lower primary deficits through greater tax revenue generation and privatisation.



The authors of the second paper titled, **Is Electrification in India Fiscally Sustainable?**, by Prabhat Barnwal and Nicholas Ryan, analysed the fiscal health of State electricity distribution companies (discoms) in India and the impact of this indicator on the supply of electricity in the country. The authors pointed out that though India has recently achieved near-universal household electrification, State discoms continue to record losses, largely because of Central and State transfers to bail them out.



Another paper presented at the IPF 2023, **Workers, Managers, and Productivity: How Investments in Workers Can Fuel India's Productivity Growth**, by the team of Achyuta Adhvaryu, Smit Gade, Anant Nyshadham, Sandhya Srinivas, and Jean-Francois Gauthier, delineated a stylised data set on productivity in the manufacturing sector in India, which points to an average decline in aggregate growth of productivity in India over the last several years.



An important gender-based paper titled, '[Ten Facts about Son Preference in India](#)', authored by Seema Jayachandran, Princeton University, generated a lot of debate and discussion on the issues of patrilocal and gender-based outcomes that characterise the sex composition and the ostensible practice of sex selection among Indian families.



The last paper presented at the IPF 2023, titled, '[The Past and Future of Finance](#)', by Ruchir Agarwal, outlined the financial crisis India faced during the period 2018-20. This was followed by an analysis of the fiscal slowdown in the country commencing in 2018, which was signified by a serious decline in its GDP and recession in various sectors of the economy.

In addition to the five papers, the India Policy Forum Conference of 2023 also featured three lectures, including the IPF Annual Lecture by Professor H  l  ne Rey, of London Business School, on ‘**Monetary and Macprudential Policies with Global Financial Cycles**’; the Policy Maker’s Lecture, titled, ‘**Discretion is the Bitter Part of Advice**’, delivered by the Chair of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, Dr Bibek Debroy, who focused on how policy-making is often hampered by the ambivalence or recalcitrance of policy advisors to deliver actionable recommendations for executing State policies; and the T.N. Srinivasan Lecture titled, ‘**Poverty and Inequality in India: An Exploration of Undercurrents at the Village Level**’, by Peter Lanjouw, VU University, Amsterdam, Netherlands.



The IPF 2023 concluded with the IPF Policy Roundtable, titled, ‘**The World in a Polycrisis**’, which featured a keynote speech by noted financial journalist, Martin Wolf of *Financial Times*, and moderated by Arvind Panagariya, Columbia University and NCAER. The Discussants for this session included V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India, and Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP).

The summaries of the papers presented at the IPF 2023 Conference are also being published as part of a Blog Series [Ideas@IPF2023 series](#), being co-hosted by NCAER and *Ideas for India*.



DataTalk: An Online Conversation between Data Journalists and Data Producers, June 15, 2023



DataTalk:

AN ONLINE CONVERSATION BETWEEN DATA JOURNALISTS AND DATA PRODUCERS

15 June, 2023

6:30-8 PM

OUR PANEILLISTS

MODERATOR



SONALDE DESAI

PROFESSOR,
NCAER



S RUKMINI

INDEPENDENT DATA
JOURNALIST



PRAMIT
BHATTACHARYA

COLUMNIST,
MINT, HT



MAHESH VYAS

CEO, CMIE, CPHS



ABHISHEK SINGH

PROFESSOR,
IIPS, NFHS



PC MOHANAN

CHAIR, KERALA
STATISTICAL COMMISSION



JAYANT BANTHIA

EX-REGISTRAR GENERAL &
CENSUS COMMISSIONER

NCAER's National Data Innovation Centre (NCAER-NDIC) hosted a webinar entitled, "DataTalk: An Online Conversation between Data Journalists and Data Producers". In recent years, the field of data and statistical journalism in India has grown in sophistication and depth. However, this also puts substantial demands on data systems. At the same time, data systems have faced tremendous challenges, particularly with the absence of face-to-face data collection during the pandemic. The post-pandemic scenario has also created a unique opportunity to build a more robust data infrastructure and empirically grounded public discourse. The panel discussion with eminent data journalists and leading data producers focused on the challenges and opportunities faced by both sides. Following are some of the questions that were discussed at the webinar: How do journalists cope with deadlines when deciding which data to report and how? How can data producers work with data journalists to place information in the public domain without fearing being misquoted? What skill sets do both sides need to make this a fruitful collaboration? What are the constraints under which each side operates?

The panellists in this discussion included some of India's leading statistical journalists and data producers. The discussion was moderated by NCAER Professor, **Sonalde Desai**.

What is Women's Work? Challenges of Measurement for Policy Design, June 12, 2023

The NCAER Gender Hub and FESDIG (Feminist Economics Saturday Discussion Group) jointly organised a hybrid discussion on "What is Women's Work? Challenges of Measurement for Policy Design" on June 12, 2023.

Despite the strong policy interest in women's low and declining work participation in India, data and research on this subject continues to show contrasting and puzzling results. This discussion explored these puzzles and examined how far the definition of women's work and its



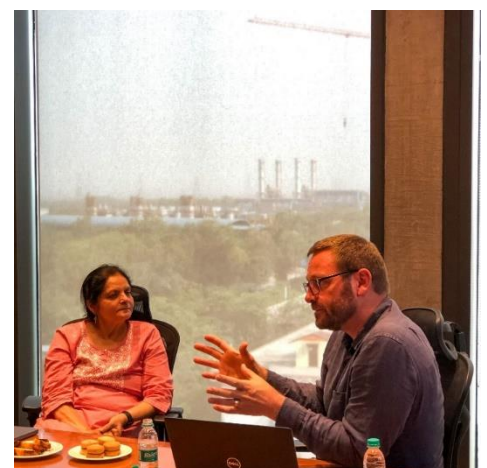
measurement are consistent with policy needs. The discussion was held in two parts. During the first hour, participants from different backgrounds briefly offered their perspectives on definitions and measurement of women's work, including work in the digital economy, the informal sector, and data biases in collection. The second hour was devoted to an open discussion on the topic.

The discussion was hosted by **Sonalde Desai**, Professor, NCAER; **Pallavi Choudhuri**, Senior Fellow, NCAER; and **Bina Agarwal**, Founder, FESDIG.

Presentation on "User Beware: The Promises and Pitfalls of Using Tax Data to Study U.S. Internal Migration", May 16, 2023

NCAER organised an internal seminar titled, 'User Beware: The promises and pitfalls of using tax data to study U.S. internal migration' by **Jack DeWaard**, Scientific Director of Social and Behavioral Science Research, at The Population Council, New York, on May 16, 2023.

In the seminar, Dr DeWaard pointed out that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) makes publicly and freely available period migration data at the state and county levels. Among their uses, these data inform estimates of net-migration as part of the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program,



which, in turn, are used for producing other annual statistics, survey design, business and community planning, and federal funding allocations. In his talk, he detailed a highly concerning, apparently systemic, and presently unresolved problem with the IRS migration data since the IRS took over responsibilities for preparing these data from the U.S. Census Bureau in 2011. Unless and until this problem is addressed by the IRS, he concluded that the post-2011 data should not be used.

Seminar Series Presentation on “Thematic Bonds: A Tool to Finance India’s Energy Transition”, May 15, 2023



As part of its Seminar Series, NCAER hosted a seminar on “Thematic Bonds: A Tool to Finance India’s Energy Transition” by **Dr Gautam Jain**, Senior Research Scholar at the Centre on Global Energy Policy, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, on 15 May 2023. Dr Jain’s presentation covered the findings and conclusions of his recent research concerning ‘Thematic Bonds: Financing Net-Zero Transition in Emerging Market and Developing Economies’ and ‘India Integrates Green Bonds into Its Decarbonization Strategy’.



The discussion was chaired by **Dr Sudipto Mundle**, Chairman, Centre for Development Studies, and Senior Adviser, NCAER. The discussants for the event were **Mr Gagan Sidhu**, Director- CEEW Centre for Energy Finance; **Ms Neha Kumar**, Head, South Asia Programme, Climate Bonds Initiative; and **Dr Praveen Kumar**, Honorary Senior Adviser, NCAER.

Presentation of IMF's Fiscal Monitor, April 2023, May 8, 2023



NCAER organised an event in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the presentation of an Analytical Chapter titled, “*Inflation and Disinflation: What Role for Fiscal Policy*”, from the latest **IMF Fiscal Monitor** released in April 2023. **Dr Marcos Poplawski-Ribeiro**, Deputy Division Chief in the IMF’s Fiscal Policy and Surveillance Division of the Fiscal Affairs Department, made the presentation. He has previously held positions in the IMF’s Research, Fiscal Affairs, and African Departments, including as the IMF’s Resident Representative in Gabon during 2017–21.

Dialogue Room | Episode 1 | Impact of Different Waves of the Pandemic on the Tourism Economy, April 12, 2023

In the first presentation of The Dialogue Room seminar series, **Dr Poonam Munjal**, Professor at NCAER, pointed out that the tourism industry is an important contributor to income and employment generation in the Indian economy. This study quantifies the losses suffered by the Indian tourism industry due to the successive waves of the COVID-19 pandemic and recommends policies for making the industry resilient to such shocks.



Voices of our Researchers

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- **NCAER Interview Series:** Continuing the NCAER Interview Series, “**Dialogues and Discussions**”, the second interview in the series features NCAER Professor **Dr Poonam Munjal**, in conversation with the NCAER Editor, **Ms Anupma Mehta**. The interview largely focuses on the sunrise industry of tourism, especially because of the rising importance of the

tourism sector in the Indian economy in the foreseeable future, and Dr Munjal's expertise in the area of tourism research, May 9, 2023. [Weblink](#)

- **Dr Sonalde Desai's** comments on the environmental costs of rising urbanisation mentioned in an article by Ms Ritu Chatterjee, titled, "India's population passes 1.4 billion — and that's not a bad thing", published in *NPR.org*, June 8, 2023, were cited in an interview with US National Public Radio. [Weblink](#)
- **Dr Sonalde Desai's** views were also cited in a report titled, "**Women lead Indian families as men migrate**" by Ms Divya Arya, published in *BBC News*, June 2, 2023. This is based on a BBC documentary. [Weblink](#)
- **Dr Pallavi Choudhuri's** views on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) were cited in an article titled, "Demand for rural jobs scheme increases again in May", published in *The Financial Express*, June 3, 2023. [Weblink](#)
- In an interview to CNA, the news and current affairs channel of Singapore's public broadcaster, **Dr Sonalde Desai** spoke on India's demographic dividend coupled with a fertility decline and their concomitant impacts for the future of the country's workforce, April 19, 2023. [Weblink](#)
- **Dr Chetana Chaudhuri's** views were quoted in an article titled, "Importing power in a Net zero scenario may prove costly for Kerala: Study", published in *Energy World*, April 17, 2023. This article is based on NCAER's report on the project titled, "Decoding National-level Low-carbon Pathways at the State Level". [Weblink](#)
- **Dr Laxmi Joshi's** statement on the impact of the unseasonal rains in March on the wheat crop in some northern States was cited in an article by Janani Janarthanan, titled, "Farmers Advised to Hasten Wheat Harvest as Drier Times Lie Ahead", published in *BQ Prime*, April 7, 2023. [Weblink](#)

Faculty Activities

Following are details of the activities and engagements of NCAER staff and faculty during April-June 2023:

Dr Poonam Gupta, Director General

- Attended meeting of the Online Advisory Group for the World Bank Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank, June 22, 2023.
- Speaker at first online Board meeting of the Coalition for Capacity on Climate Action (C3A), World Bank, June 21, 2023.
- Presented at meeting of the Prime Minister with the members of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), New Delhi, India, June 9, 2023.
- Presented on 'Rethinking Fiscal Policy' at the International Monetary Fund-Peterson Institute for International Economics seminar at Washington, D.C., USA, May 31, 2023.
- Delivered Welcome Remarks at Seminar on "Thematic Bonds: A Tool to Finance India's Energy Transition" by Dr Gautam Jain, at NCAER, New Delhi, India, May 15, 2023.

- Presented on “Inflation and Disinflation: What Role for Fiscal Policy Potential”, during presentation of The IMF Fiscal Monitor’s Analytical Chapter, NCAER, New Delhi, India, May 8, 2023.
- Speaker on “Reforming Global Finance” at the NITI Aayog In-house Lecture Series (8th Edition) on the theme of ‘The G20 Leaders Process: Adapting to a Changed World’, New Delhi, India, April 28, 2023.
- Panellist at an online discussion on ‘South Asia Economic Climate Outlook’ organised by the World Bank, April 4, 2023.

Dr Sonalde Desai, Professor

- Organised and chaired Webinar on “DataTalk: An Online Conversation between Data Journalists and Data Producers”, June 15, 2023.
- Organised and moderated hybrid discussion on “What is Women’s Work? Challenges of Measurement for Policy Design”, in collaboration with FESDIG (Feminist Economics Saturday Discussion Group) at NCAER, New Delhi, India, June 12, 2023.
- Discussant for the session, “The Implication of Very Low Fertility in the Select States of India”, at the UNFPA India Country Programme-10 Research for Impact (R4I) Meeting organised by The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), New Delhi, India, May 9, 2023.
- Participated in the Population Association of America Annual Meeting at New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Delivered presidential address, “The Global Aspirational Class and Its Demographic Fortunes”, April 12-15, 2023.

Dr Ratna Sahay, Professor

- Moderated the opening panel discussion on “*Mitigating drags on growth through financial inclusion, exploring the realities of the key challenges through the lens of how they affect women uniquely*”, Making Finance Work for Women Global Summit, Women’s World Banking, Mumbai, India, May 24-25, 2023.
- Participated in G-20 Empower Financial Inclusion Group led by Chetna Sinha and Mann Deshi, Mumbai, India, May 23, 2023.
- Chaired the panel on NCAER-IMF Seminar on “*Inflation and Disinflation: What Role for Fiscal Policy*”, NCAER, New Delhi, India, May 8, 2023.

Dr Sanjib Pohit, Professor

- Presented on “Decoding National Level Low-carbon Pathway at the State Level”, at online discussion organised by International Sustainable Energy Foundation, New Delhi, India, June 16, 2023.
- Presented on “India’s Net-zero Pathways and Its Macroeconomic Implications,” at online discussion organised by International Sustainable Energy Foundation, as part of the NITI Aayog Task Force-I, New Delhi, India, May 23, 2023.
- Presented on “SUT-based Logistics Computations”, at meeting of the Task Force to Develop a Framework for Calculation of Logistics Costs, New Delhi, India, May 22, 2023.
- Presentation on “Way Forward on Logistics Cost Methodology”, at meeting with the Asian Development Bank team, New Delhi, India, May 15, 2023.
- Presented at Meeting of “Task Force to Develop a Framework for Calculation of Logistics Costs”, under the chairpersonship of Ms Rupa Dutta, Principal Advisor, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, New Delhi, India, April 20, 2023.

Dr Poonam Munjal, Professor

- Invited as a speaker in Panel Discussion organised on the occasion of inauguration of the exhibition 'Banking on World Heritage', as part of the G-20 Summit celebrations, at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, India, June 30, 2023. The exhibition was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi.
- Attended meeting, as Special Invitee of the Consultancy Evaluation Committee, constituted by Ministry of Tourism, for the International Passenger Survey, New Delhi, India, June 9, 2023.
- Attended meeting and gave presentation to the Executive Committee on All-India Citizens' Survey of Police Services, under the chairmanship of IPS, DG, Bureau of Police Research & Development, New Delhi, India, June 6, 2023.
- Attended meetings and gave presentations as member of Task Force to Develop a Framework for Calculation of Logistics Costs, constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, New Delhi, India, April 3, April 20, April 26, May 2, May 15, and May 22, 2023.
- Participated in a discussion session with World Trade Centre, Mumbai, India, on the NSO Database, May 16, 2023.
- Represented India at the G20 Global Thematic Seminar on "Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy", organised by UNESCO and Ministry of Culture, which hosted around 30 speakers from G20 countries, guest countries, and several international organisations, New Delhi, India, April 19, 2023.

Dr Saurabh Bandyopadhyay, Senior Fellow

- Presentation at Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog, on Price Support Scheme and Price Stabilisation Fund, New Delhi, India, June 1, 2023.
- Presentation on the "Study of the Fishery Sector in India: An Overview of Current Supply, Fish Value Chain and Future Prospects", at the 14th Meeting of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Unit under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, through Video Conferencing, April 8, 2023.

Dr Pallavi Choudhuri, Senior Fellow

- Chaired session on "Gender Inequality in Low- and Middle-Income Countries" at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting held at New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, April 15, 2023.
- Participated in the roundtable discussion on "What is Women's Work? Challenges of Measurement for Policy Design", hosted by the NCAER-NDIC Gender Hub and FESDIG (Feminist Economics Saturday Discussion Group), at NCAER, New Delhi, India, June 12, 2023.

Dr Debasis Barik, Fellow

- Participated and presented on "Impact of Demographic Transition in Employment in Odisha", at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India, for a forthcoming *Odisha Demographic Report*, June 22-23, 2023.
- Presented paper titled, "Life Table of Tobacco Users in India: An Attempt Using IHDS Panel Data" at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting held at New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, April 13-15, 2023.

Dr Isha Dayal, Associate Fellow

- Presentation at the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog, on secondary data analysis for the study on Evaluation of Price Support Scheme and Price Stabilization Fund, New Delhi, India, June 1, 2023.

Dr Anomita Ghosh, Associate Fellow

- Paper presentation on “Persistence in physicians’ location: Long-run evidence from loan repayment programs”, at Society of Labor Economists’ Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, May 13, 2023.

Dr Piyali Majumder, Associate Fellow

- Session Chair for Track- Sustainable Development and Social Innovation in Finance and Accounting during the 6th National Conference on "Sustainable Development Goals: A Multidisciplinary Ingress", organised by Amity School of Economics, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, India, April 4-5, 2023.

Dr Chetana Chaudhuri, Consultant

- Presented paper on “Employment Consequences of Green Transition in India”, at International Conference on Structural Transformation and Indian Labour Market, Goa Institute of Management, Goa, India, June 15-16, 2023.
- Presented paper on “Employment Consequences of Green Transition in India”, at NCAER Seminar Series, ‘Dialogue Room’, at NCAER, New Delhi, India, June 21, 2023.

Dr Ruchi Jain, Senior Research Analyst

- Poster presentation on “Out-of-Pocket Health Care Expenses Among the Urban Poor in India: Implication on Universal Health Coverage”, with Dr Ajay Kumar Singh, at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting held at New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, April 13-15, 2023.
- Poster presentation on “Missing Girls: Selective Abortion of Girls in India”, with Dr Santanu Pramanik, Mr Abhinav Motheram, and Ms Jaya Koti, at the at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting held at New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, April 13-15, 2023.

Institutional News

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NCAER In the News

- The India Policy Forum paper, [India’s Debt Dilemma](#), by Barry Eichengreen, Poonam Gupta, and Ayesha Ahmed, has been discussed in detail by Asit Ranjan Mishra in an article titled, ‘Should states cough up higher interest rates for their fiscal profligacy?’ published in *Business Standard*, July 11, 2023. [Weblink](#)

- NCAER's data projections were mentioned in an article titled, "India Affordable Housing Market Report 2023: Adoption of Green and Sustainable Building Practices Presents Opportunities", published in *Globenewswire.com*, May 16, 2023. [Weblink.](#)
- Data from an NCAER report, titled, [Analysis of India's Logistics Costs](#) was cited in an opinion article titled, "DPIIT aims to get a clear picture of India's logistics cost in about 4 months: Official", published in *The Economic Times*, April 17, 2023. [Weblink.](#)

News about Our Faculty

- **Dr Poonam Munjal** has been appointed as a member of the Committee constituted by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education for the Implementation and Monitoring of the National Education Policy, 2020.

New Facilities at NCAER

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A Faculty Lounge and Reading Room have been inaugurated at NCAER for staff to engage informally with each other and catch up on their reading.



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